



Greetings,

Thank you to all who helped make our 2016 Shanley Deacons Dinner Auction a success; the auction is our single largest fundraiser and supports all five of our Saint John Paul II Catholic Schools. Under the leadership of Lee Hoedl, Auction Chairs: Kevin and Kari Bucholz, Dan and Pauline Dunn, Dave and Paula Ekman, Solicitation chairs: Anna Grothmann, Shar Vetter, and Julie Wilson, and our Silent Auction Chairs: Dani Johnson and Melissa Mehlisch, and the army of others, we were able to raise over \$675,000 for our schools. With the \$1 million match, that total is actually \$1.67 million! That is truly an awesome achievement.

For those of you who attended the auction, thank you for being a part of this magical night. As many of you know, we were blessed to have a surprise visit by Connor McGovern. Connor, a graduate from the class of 2011, was recently drafted by the NFL's Denver Broncos team. Whether you are a football fan or not, Connor's sincere words of gratitude for our schools was a highlight. We do need events like the auction to be a fiscally viable organization, but our hope is that deeper than the dollars raised is the display of solidarity behind our mission. Connor's words captured that sentiment very well. His success, though more visible than others, is a perfect metaphor of all of our Deacon graduates who leave Shanley to follow their dreams, work hard, and make a positive difference in the world!

This year's Special Project was dedicated to our ongoing effort of increasing our teacher salaries. Without question, it is the partnership between teachers and parents that makes our community unique. Without our teachers' commitment to our mission, we would be just another school system. As a result of the \$410,000 we raised specifically for the Teacher Salary Endowment, we will be adding the \$1 million match from our anonymous donor resulting in a \$1.4 million addition to the endowment supporting teacher base pay. By no means does this mean we are finished with the work of increasing teacher salaries. Through increased enrollment and more investment into our endowment in the coming years, we can further close the gap in compensation. The auction's success does, however, send a very powerful message to our teachers that their community loves them and supports their work. Individuals or families still interested in supporting the Special Project should contact Joelle Shewey ([Joelle.shewey@jp2schools.org](mailto:Joelle.shewey@jp2schools.org)) by June 30th.

On behalf the entire JP II Schools Community, "Thank You!" Thank you for taking the time to attend, work at, help plan, carry boxes, load trucks, enter data, make solicitations, invite friends and neighbors to attend, bid and give with a generous heart. Our schools excel because people get involved. The auction's army of workers is an example of how people getting involved can make a positive difference for our future. Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's Auction on Saturday, April 29, 2017!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Michael Smith Ed.D.  
Superintendent, St. John Paul II Catholic Schools

*...to inspire exceptional student achievement by teaching the total person and fostering the following of Christ in an environment guided by the Gospel Spirit, as taught by the Catholic Church*