

Boylan Catholic High School Striving to be Saints. Scholars. Champions.

Today's world seems to thrive on what the media call sound bites. A vision statement could be considered the written version of a sound bite purporting to capture the essence of the institution it describes. But like most sound bites there is more to the story.

According to Webster's 1828 Dictionary, to **strive** means "to endeavor with earnestness; to labor hard." This meaning has not changed much in intervening years for the *Merriam Webster On Line Dictionary* gives this meaning: "to devote serious effort or energy." Adding the *ing* ending communicates that we recognize that this effort must be continuing and continuous; renewed each day, each week, each year. We hope to instill in our students the understanding that to do one's best - to seek excellence - that sainthood, scholarship and championing are life long endeavors.

The word **saint** may conjure up an image of an ascetic removed from everyday life. This ideal could certainly be accurate and something to be emulated. But perhaps John Cardinal Newman describes in his *Meditations and Devotions* what our vocation in life to be a saint could also mean: "God has created me to do Him definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes . . . I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place . . . if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling."

A **scholar** is defined by Merriam Webster as a "learned person" or "a person who has done advanced study in a special field." We realize that upon graduation our students have only begun what we hope will become a life of learning. We work to provide the tools, and the motivation to gain knowledge. Moreover we work to have each student develop an appreciation for learning; to use knowledge for good; to become a seeker of wisdom and truth.

The word **champion** is almost always associated with sports. A champion by definition is someone who holds first place in a competition, but it also defines a person who supports or defends a cause, a principle or another person. A champion is a person who wants to make a difference, who never gives up, who gives everything he or she has no matter the circumstances and according to Dot Richardson, "A true champion works hard and never loses sight of her [or his] dream."

The ideas expressed above are the introduction to the Boylan story. It is told through each of its members who are Striving to be Saints. Scholars. Champions.