

SETON SCHOOL  
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November 6, 2024

Dear Gala Attendees:

I wish I could thank each of you individually for joining Seton's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on All Saints Day. Each one of you added to the beauty of the evening, and I was grateful that I had the chance to talk to so many of you. I know that when the Gala Committee began planning the evening, they did not expect that the response would be so magnificent.

"Overwhelming" is the word that keeps coming to my mind. My mind and my heart were so filled with the joy and the love that I experienced that I just could not function normally for days afterward. I'm close to coming back to earth now, but I know that the memories will continue to be vivid into the future.

The theme of the evening was gratitude to God for blessings without number and mercies without end. Each of you is one of those blessings. In my little essay in the program, I stressed that we began Seton with nothing, but that God made something out of nothing. My experience Friday night revealed to me exactly how He brought our school from nothing to the point where Bishop Burbidge could call Seton a gift to the Diocese and to the Church. God's instruments were the people He sent us, exemplified by all of you who were a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

Families: The pioneers who took a chance on a school that had little to offer, others who came during the growing process and helped us grow, and families up to the present who choose Seton over educational options that have much more in the way of facilities and other attractions. Students: Young people who through the years put up with cold buildings, a carpeted and undersized gym, old textbooks, and classes taught without screens, but have always impressed visitors with how joyful they are and have made friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Teachers: By any worldly standards underpaid and overworked, but somehow happily giving of themselves to the students and providing them with a quality education in the truth and in the Faith, some staying for decades and sending their own children to Seton. There were benefactors and supporters who helped us in so many ways. And there were four bishops, all truly good shepherds, and many priests who provided for our spiritual needs.

As I look to the future, I know that if we maintain our Christ-centered vision, God will continue to send us blessings without number and mercies without end. We are blessed right now with the leadership of Bob Pennefather, who has this vision in his mind and in his heart. He puts the spiritual welfare of the Seton community first and foremost, and he leads by example, an

example that reminds me of the paradigm of Catholic manhood, St. Joseph. Mr. Pennefather also has the leadership skills that I never had and has guided Seton through several difficult challenges during the five years that he has been Director. I have no doubt whatsoever that Seton will stay strong and focused on its mission under his Christ-centered leadership.

I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. I will have a novena of Masses said for the Gala Committee, all those who played any part in the Gala, and all of you who attended. The Mass is of infinite value and will make up for the inadequacies of any thanks I can offer.

Gratefully, with love in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Anne W. Carroll