

GEIBEL

The Geibel Family Newsletter • October 2014
SPECIAL EDITION



"Dear Alma Mater, Great Geibel High School. Faithful we all stand, United as we sing."

Geibel Students Embrace as School is Again Designated A School of Excellence

GEIBEL ... A School of Excellence • A School of Faith • A School of Tradition •
A School of Service • A School of Joy • A School of Character • A School of Spirit

GEIBELCATHOLIC.ORG

Geibel Catholic Makes the Grade as “School of Excellence”

*Part of an elite group of
national Catholic High Schools*



Mr. Don Favero, principal of Geibel Catholic, praises the students and the school.

Since 2004 the Cardinal Newman Society Honor Roll, published every two years, has celebrated quality Catholic education throughout the United States. Schools receiving this designation are marked by the integration of Catholic identity throughout all aspects of their programs and excellence in academics.

This year Geibel Catholic was one of seventy-one schools named nationwide to receive this honor, repeating the title earned for the first time in 2012. Less than five percent of the Catholic high schools in the United States achieve this distinction. “The Honor Roll has been a helpful tool for administrators, families, and benefactors in recognizing the quality of a Catholic high school education,” said Patrick J. Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society. “The Honor Roll schools are a reminder that Catholic education is getting better every day—not only academically, but in the renewal of Catholic identity—and we are delighted to see the increased level of competition among the schools that participated in the program this year.”

Students at Geibel Catholic were notified of the honor at an assembly held on Monday, September 15. “I am crazy happy that Geibel Catholic has received this honor again,” said Don Favero, principal. “This is a great day for our school.”

Favero, who became principal of Geibel in 2011, said the 2012 designation as a Top 50 Catholic High School helped boost the school’s enrollment nearly 30 percent. Obtaining the honor is “hard to repeat,” he said. He credited the support of faculty, staff, and parents and the leadership of Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt for making the honors possible.

“This national award from the Cardinal Newman Society is an excellent indicator that Geibel Catholic is living its mission to achieve and sustain excellence in faith formation, academics and service,” Bishop Brandt said. “I congratulate Don Favero and the entire Geibel Catholic family on this well-deserved, prestigious honor.”

The Diocese of Greensburg has videos of the awards ceremony posted on its YouTube Channel, “Diocese of Greensburg.”



Dr. Maureen Marsteller,
*Superintendent of Catholic Schools
for the Diocese of Greensburg*

“Mr. Favero and the rest of the school community recognize that the Holy Spirit is inspiring and enlivening the hearts and minds of all who work and play here. We gather today to celebrate the fact that an independent organization has confirmed that the Gospel message is present in the daily life of the school community and it has affirmed the work that is being done here. Inclusion on the Catholic Education Honor Roll truly indicates a job well done by all.”

Mr. Justin Stevenson,
English Department faculty



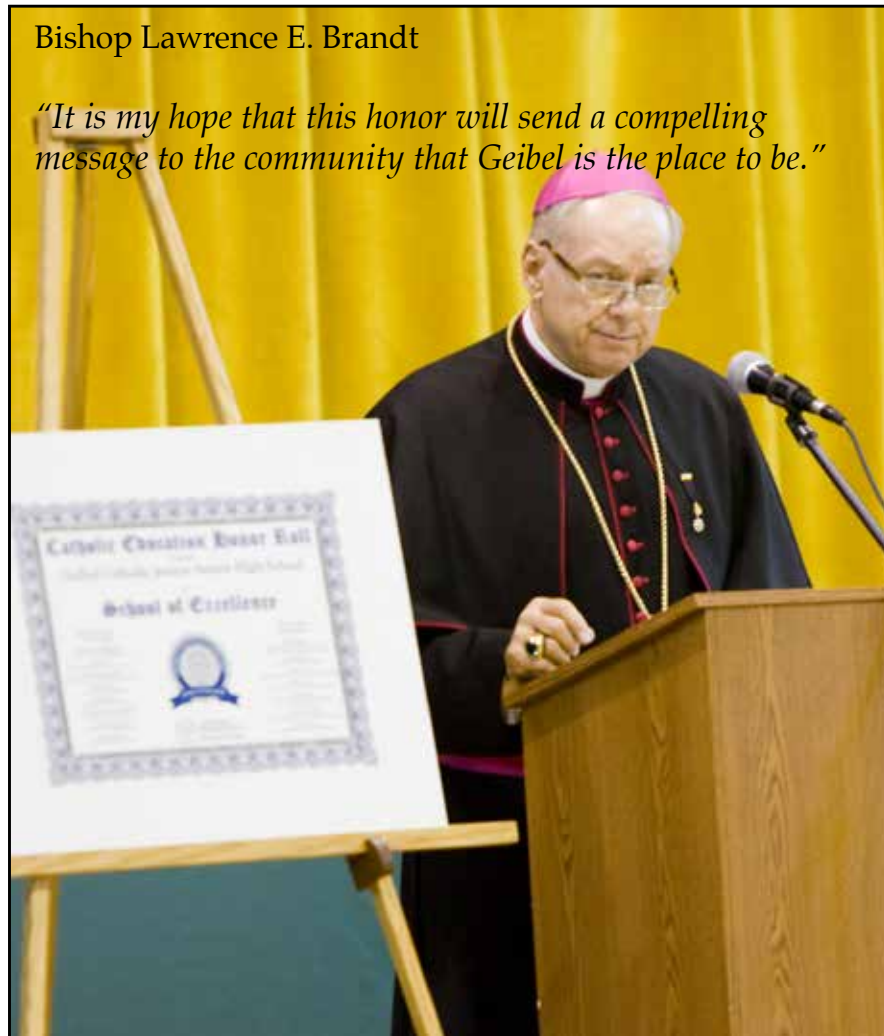
“Geibel Catholic has its own special trinity: administration, faculty, and staff; the student body; parents and families. The common denominator--at the center of all of these--is Jesus Christ.”



Mr. Nick Bell,
Master of Ceremonies

Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt

“It is my hope that this honor will send a compelling message to the community that Geibel is the place to be.”



Mr. Scott Procko,
Religious Studies teacher

“Catholic schools create legacies. They link people together in unique and often unexplainable ways. They foster a culture of spirit and togetherness that can transcend the passing years. Catholic schools create an education that set students apart from their peers in ways both subtle and profound.”

Traits of Schools of Excellence

Several traits tend to single out the best Catholic High Schools

The Catholic Education Honor Roll's research over the past eight years has resulted in a great deal of information surrounding the nature and condition of Catholic secondary education. It is apparent the best Catholic schools share several key traits in common:

- **Maintaining strong Catholic identity:** The best schools are unapologetically Catholic. The school develops and maintains policies and programs to ensure the continued expression, preservation, and enhancement of the school's Catholic identity and is prepared to address potential obstacles and both internal and external threats to that identity.

- **Clearly articulated mission and vision statements:** Essential to a strong Catholic identity, the best schools know their purpose. The school demonstrates to its faculty, administration and community in its mission, policies, teaching, actions, and associations a commitment to Catholic ideals, attitudes, principles, and teaching in fidelity to the extraordinary and ordinary Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

- **Localized responsibility:** Schools that are responsible for themselves tend to be more effective due to the ability to quickly make any necessary changes that would enable them to adapt their program to their mission and school population. Bureaucracy and a lack of clearly defined responsibilities are road blocks to productivity.

- **Wise personnel practices:** Schools that are able to retain good teachers and dismiss detrimental staff members can operate more easily and efficiently. When recruited, selected, retained, or promoted, every school leader, administrator, faculty member, and employee or volunteer with significant interaction with students is evaluated for a sincere commitment to enhance the faithful Catholic identity of the school. Every such individual is informed of the school's Catholic identity and their responsibility to respect and promote that identity.

- **Using teaching philosophy proven to be most successful:** Catholic education in the past century and a half provides a successful framework for educating and forming students in the Catholic faith. Note that this point concerns philosophy and not pedagogical technique.

- **Active sacramental life and culture:** It goes without saying that Catholic schools working to incorporate the Catholic faith into its daily way of life will include Catholic practice, prayer, and tradition. This is more than a mere edifice of Catholic cultural practices, and includes the richness of the full truth about God and humanity as revealed by Jesus Christ in His Catholic Church.

- **Sound preparation:** Preparing students for vocations in the world necessitates sound academic preparation and skills to graduate through the academic hierarchy. It is of its great importance for Catholics to be involved in every aspect of our culture, to provide examples of holiness and bring the truth taught by the Catholic Church to bear on one's area of civic, professional, scientific or social expertise.

- **Cross departmental integration of Church teaching:** In a Catholic school, the faith should permeate all that a school does, not just its religion classes. The best schools demonstrate this integration.

- **Balanced Excellence:** The best schools offer more than the strong academic preparation Catholic education is known for. Rather, the best schools also have vibrant Catholic identities and offer sound civic training that help prepare students to live their faith in the world. Examining academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education provides a balanced approach that assesses a school's adherence to the Church's educational calling. These three criteria were chosen because they are the things parents most commonly inquire about when evaluating the quality of a Catholic secondary school. These criteria also represent the most substantial areas that Catholic schools, as Catholic, need to excel in.





Senior Chamber Ensemble members Kaylee Ermine, Ashley Tomasko, and Haley Thomas perform *For Good* from the Broadway show *Wicked*.



Harris Wright, Student Council President, shares remarks on the theme "We Care."



Geibel cheerleaders present a special dance routine for the assembly.



Fr. Bob Lubic '84, school chaplain, sings his rendition of "Electric Avenue": "Rock down to Geibel High School!"



Mrs. Thomasine Rose,
Dean of Operations and Mathematics Teacher
"Proverbs Chapter Three is about our attitude toward the Lord, the value of wisdom and our attitude towards our fellow men. This is similar to our mission statement, which calls us to achieve and sustain excellence in faith formation, academics and service. This award validates our mission statement. Congratulations, Geibel Catholic, on our repeat achievement of this honor – but remember to give God the glory and to give thanks to our Lord!"



Rare company

Regional Catholic high schools make the grade

Schools of excellence are in everyone's interest — students, parents, educators, society — and it doesn't matter if a quality school is public or private, religious or secular. If the results are outstanding, it deserves commendation.

Eight Catholic high schools in the Pittsburgh region have made an elite national list of high performers, and that's worth celebrating.

The Cardinal Newman Society, a church organization devoted to promoting Catholic education, has named among its 2014 Schools of Excellence the Aquinas Academy in Hampton, Geibel Catholic in Connellsville, Oakland Catholic, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Coraopolis, Quigley Catholic in Baden, Serra Catholic in McKeesport, Seton-LaSalle in Mt. Lebanon and St.

Joseph in Natrona Heights.

These schools, which represent all those in Pennsylvania that were so honored, are also among only 71 in the nation to be named Schools of Excellence.

These 71 make up less than 5 percent of the Catholic high schools in the United States. The basis for the society's distinction is excellence in academics and the integration of Catholic identity in all aspects of school programs.

With these eight, Pennsylvania led the states with the number of schools on the list, and the fact that all of them educate students in this region should be a point of pride not only for the teachers and families who make the schools work, but also for anyone — Catholic or not — who cares about quality education.



Conn-Area Catholic students help celebrate Geibel's Honor Roll designation

Class of '79 Holds 35-Year Reunion



First row, from left: Jeff Herman, Tricia (Connell) Herman, Rosemary Kozar, Kim (Murtha) Schmidt, Mary "Mickey" (Ruggieri) Dreliszak, Debbie (Kalp) Brown, and Dave Munson. Second row, from left: Michele (Santarel) Horan, Kim (Keddal) Hall, Lori (Ambrisco) Stofan, Peggy (Maloy) Tremba, Carol (Zavislan) Smith, Robin (Noss) Andreuzzi, and Norine (O'Laughlin) Spencer. Third row, from left: Dave Hudock, Mark Fierschnaller, Wally Kapr, Dave Hartz, Dave Gasbarro, Joe Hebda, and Amy (Collins) Hebda.

Message from Kathleen Waller

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR THE CLASS OF '65 REUNION

Dear Members of the Class of 1965, 2015 will mark the 50th year since our class graduated. There are a few of us planning to have a reunion. We are trying to contact all members of our class so that we can get your input. Please send your email address to waller.kathleen@gmail.com so that we can update the list that we have. If you have contact with any of our fellow graduates, please pass this message on. Hope to hear from you soon.

Kathleen Waller

Wedding Bells

*Congratulations
and many blessings
to these newly-married couples:*

Thaddeus Janus '90
and Elizabeth Strane,
August 16, 2014

Anne Watts '00
and Clayton Paul Tressler,
June 7, 2014

*A big Geibel "Thank You"
to
Gerry Solan
of Gerard Photography for
many of the pictures in this
Special Edition Newsletter.*



Class Notes

Michael FitzGerald '68 of Dallas, TX has worked in the oil industry for forty-two years. A 1972 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Mike is a partner at International Hydrocarbon Ventures. He was previously Executive Vice President of Exploration & Operations at Toredor Resources Corporation; was Vice President of Exploration & Operations at Madison Oil Company; held various positions at Triton Energy; was an Exploration Geologist at General American Oil Company Texas and Consolidated Natural Gas Company; and worked as a geologist at Texaco. He has traveled extensively for his work and has visited forty-two countries.



Mike writes that the foundation he received at Geibel Catholic helped make it all possible. In a recent email he wrote,

"In 1967-68, during my junior and senior year at Geibel, I took French. Poor long-suffering Sister Laura had to deal with us! Of course I knew that I would never need a foreign language and could not see the rationale in making us take this course. Fast forward to 1981: I was a geologist for an oil company here in Dallas, Texas, and the area that

I was 'exploring' was East Texas. I was called into the President's office because the company had just been granted a 400,000 acre permit, large by oil industry standards, and they needed someone to lead the exploration efforts on this permit. Oh, yes - one small detail - it was in the Paris Basin of France, and in one month I had to be in Paris working! And they weren't talking about Paris, Texas. I had never been out of the US and this began my international adventures. Somewhere I'm sure Sister Laura would have been smiling at the iro-

"I believe that the foundation that I received at Geibel made it all possible."

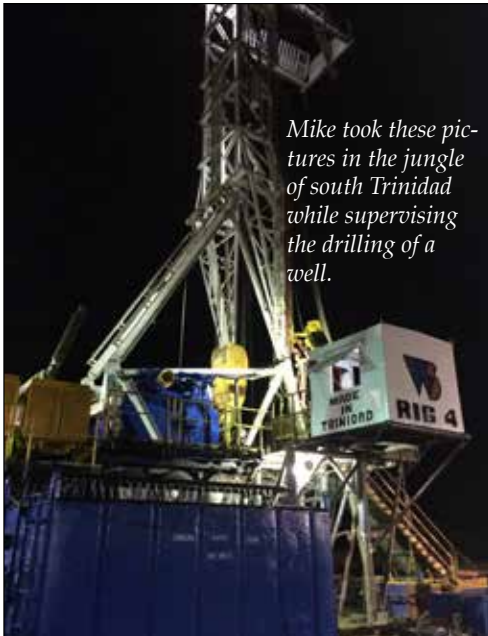
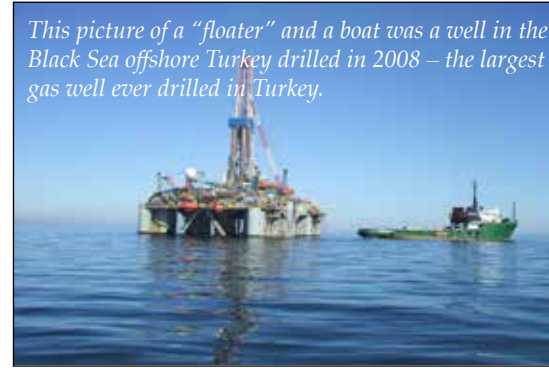
ny of the boy from Geibel who was so certain that he would never need a foreign language and who was now to be in charge of an office in Paris. The second well that we drilled in 1982 was a discovery for the Villeperdue oil field, the second largest oil field ever to be discovered in the Paris Basin.

"Second, what I consider to be one of the most important learning experiences at Geibel, really wasn't a class at all but an extracurricular activity. I was in the NFL—not the football version – the National Forensic League, from freshman year through senior year, and I did quite well in

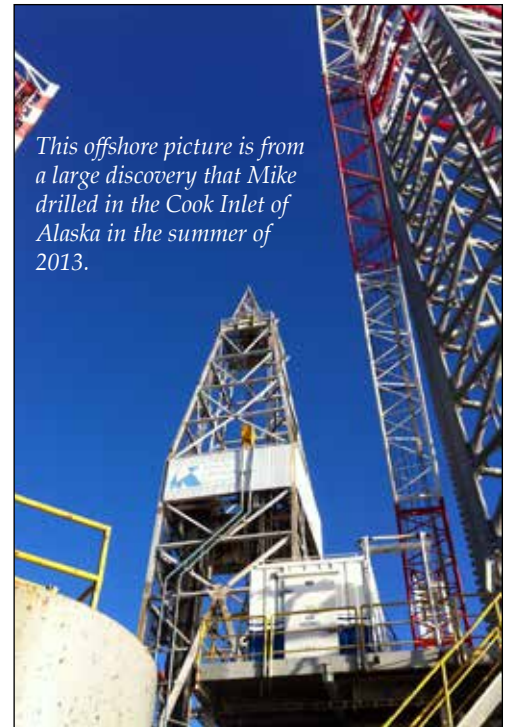
debate and 'extemp'. The ability to be able to stand up before one or two of my peers gave me the confidence that I would eventually need to present at a convention with a thousand other industry individuals. This was one of the most valuable lessons that I took from Geibel. I have often said that I may not be the smartest geologist around, but I have always been able to effectively get my point across, and that ability to communicate has benefitted me tremendously! Geibel gave me the opportunity, and exposed me to disciplines that, at the time, I didn't realize how incredibly important they would be to me later in life—and it was done in a supportive Catholic environment. So yes, I feel that my achievements most definitely had their origin at Geibel."

Editor's Note: Mike and his wife have three children and four grandsons.

This picture of a "floater" and a boat was a well in the Black Sea offshore Turkey drilled in 2008 – the largest gas well ever drilled in Turkey.



Mike took these pictures in the jungle of south Trinidad while supervising the drilling of a well.



This offshore picture is from a large discovery that Mike drilled in the Cook Inlet of Alaska in the summer of 2013.

Class Notes

David Herman '72 and his wife **Colleen (Carbonara '75) Her- man** reside in Katy, Texas. They have four children and five grandchildren. The grandchildren – 2 boys and 3 girls— range in age from 9 to 2 years old. Dave remarks that he and Colleen do a “really good job” of spoiling their grandchildren and “family gatherings are pretty crazy!” Dave claims to spend more time in “time out” than his grandsons!

Dave retired temporarily from BP in March 2013. His role at that time was in external reporting. When he retired, Colleen went to work full time at the local Y. She loves fitness and teaches many different classes including Tai Chi, Yoga, and spinning. She has accepted the position of Wellness Director at the Y.

Dave returned to work at BP as a consultant in July 2013. His current role is focused on simplifying the legal entity structure of BP America. He writes that “the legal entity structure is quite a mess following the Amoco and ARCO mergers. We had over 700 legal entities operating in 45 countries at the start. It’s challenging but fun to figure out how to eliminate entities through merger, dissolution or sale to BP in the UK.”

Dave and Colleen enjoyed a 3-week vacation in Europe last year and they are looking forward to traveling again once they truly retire.

Eileen (Gallo '90) Beveridge has been named director of the Carnegie Free Library in Connellsville. Eileen received her Master of Arts degree in library science from Clarion University and has been a substitute teacher at Geibel Catholic and in the Connellsville Area School District. In the past year, Eileen worked as youth and teen librarian at the Carnegie. **John Malone '79**, president of the library’s board of trustees, said “We are most pleased that Eileen has decided to accept the position as director. Her expertise and knowledge in the educational area will prove beneficial to our student patrons.”

Janelle Buchheit '97 operates New Heights Coaching, which guides adults and students as they develop greater self-awareness and make positive changes in their lives. Based on Pittsburgh’s South Side, Janelle’s work is done primarily by telephone or online via Skype or Google+. More information is available at www.newheightscoaching.com

Janelle received her Master’s degree in counselor education from California University and worked as a school counselor for eight years, two of which were at Geibel Catholic. In addition to being a K-12 certified school counselor, she is an International Coach Federation (ICF) Certi-



fied Life Coach and a nationally certified counselor. She co-authored a book, *My Snack Size Skills: 8 Life Lessons for a Happy and Healthy Me*, a book designed to empower children in grades K-5 to live happy and healthy lives, and she is currently working on her second children’s book.

Max Kovalchuk '10 received academic and soccer scholarships to attend Point Park University in Pittsburgh, where he majored in Sports, Arts, and Entertainment Management. While attending Point Park, Max took advantage of the music opportunities by working for Stage AE, Promo West, Live Nation, Cursive Creative, and Drusky Entertainment. He also worked for Sony Music Entertainment as their College Marketing Representative for the Pittsburgh area. He is the current tour manager and booking agent for the Philadelphia-based band Legs Like Tree Trunks as well as the tour manager for Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter Kevin Garrett and Philadelphia-based indie rock band Cold Fronts. He is also the manager, songwriter, and musician for the Pittsburgh-based



band Nevada Color. His band was formed in 2012 and is comprised of five members. Nevada Color has gone on two tours across the East Coast and Midwest United States. They released a 6 song EP (*Sharkey Lewis*) in March 2013 followed by a full-length 10 song LP (*Adventures*) in May 2014. Songs from *Adventures* have been featured on 91.3 WYEP-FM, 105.9 WXDX-FM, and 102.5 WDVE-FM. In June 2014, Max founded, organized, and booked talent at the first-ever Mountain Top Music Festival which featured thirteen local and regional bands from Pennsylvania. The Festival was held at Grandview Park on Mt. Washington overlooking the city of Pittsburgh. Max graduated from Point Park in May 2014 and is currently employed by Drusky Entertainment and Live Nation while his band is in the midst of signing a record deal.





"Let me see your alligator!"

Stay in Touch.

Please use this form to update us about yourself so we may add your information to the upcoming issue of the Geibel Alumni Newsletter, or just email your updates, births, weddings and news to newsletter@GeibelCatholic.org.

Name (include maiden name) _____

Class Year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Position _____

Is your Spouse a Geibel Alum? yes no Class Year _____

News for the Class Notes section of the next newsletter (attach separate sheet if needed).

I would like to receive the Geibel Alumni Newsletter electronically. Please send me an e-mail reminder when the latest issue is available on the Geibel Catholic website.

Print and mail to:
Development Office
Geibel Catholic High School
611 East Crawford Avenue
Connellsville, PA 15425

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
came at the evening, cold and gray,
to a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
through which was flowing a sullen tide,
the old man crossed in the twilight dim –
that sullen stream had no fears for him;
but he turned, when he reached
the other side,
and built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength in building here,
Your journey will end with the ending day;
you never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
a youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
to that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Will Allen Dromgoole



REMEMBER
the place that gave you a start in life?

share the opportunity

MANY GRADUATES SAY THAT GEIBEL – WITH ITS DISTINGUISHED FACULTY, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS AND TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE – TRANSFORMED THEM INTO WHO THEY ARE TODAY. WHY NOT CONSIDER GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO YOUR LIFE-CHANGING ALMA MATER? PRINT OUT THIS FORM AND SEND IT WITH YOUR GIFT. YOU CAN ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE YOUR FILE FOR OUR DATABASE.

SUPPORT THE 2014-2015 ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM!

Take advantage of this opportunity to help make great things happen at Geibel! Please consider matching or increasing the amount of your last gift. Simply print out the form below and send it with your gift.

You can also take this opportunity to update your file for our data base.

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School 611 E. Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425

Name(s) _____ Class of _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Alumnus Parent of Alumnus Parent of Current Student Friend of Geibel

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ Payment Method: Visa MasterCard Check
(payable to Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School)

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Employer (for Matching Gifts): _____

Become a regular visitor to GEIBELCATHOLIC.ORG