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many, but none perhaps more than Father Rick Wurth, MQH pastor. "Early in my pastorate at MQH, things were a little rocky with the parish's financial health. The parish was having an extremely difficult time meeting its financial obligations in a timely manner. In fact, we were unable to even make our loan payments on our 1998 building project," Wurth recollects. Adding to the challenge was the fact that the buildings used for the church and the parish school had suffered from years of neglected maintenance. Windows and doors were in severe disrepair and bordered on safety concerns for the young student population in the school. After one meeting with Jim, things changed. "Flo and Jim Reilly took upon themselves the monumental task of paying the parish's loan payments for an entire year. I did not have another plan other than depending upon the generosity of such a faith-filled couple. To this day, I still do not know what MQH would have done without them. They have helped us in the past and are still doing so today in so many other ways," shares Fr. Wurth. The assistance from the Reillys eventually helped lead the parish to a point where bills could be handled in a timely manner and repairs undertaken for the school campus. *Congratulations to the 2009 Distinguished Knights, Jim and Flo Reilly.*

FUTURE DISTINGUISHED KNIGHTS

The following honors were awarded to students and staff members at Mary, Queen of Heaven School during the 2008-09 school year.

DIOCESAN COMPETITION

Drawing – 1st place – *Jamie Morgan*
Religion – 2nd place – *Laura Felix*
Storytelling – 2nd place – *Matt Martin*

STATE SCIENCE FAIR

Chemistry – 1st place – *Angela Grover*
Mathematical Sciences – 1st place – *Nick Croyle*

STATE GEOGRAPHY BEE

7th place – *Erin Suttles*

BOONE COUNTY CONSERVATION ART CONTEST

1st place – *Rachel Rehkamp*

CATECHETICAL LEADERS AWARDS

Outstanding Director of Religious Education – *Deacon Thomas Dushney*
Catechetical Leadership Award – *Mrs. Jackie Koop, 2nd grade teacher*



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www.mqhschool.com

There's always room for one more Knight at our Round Table.



2009
DISTINGUISHED
KNIGHTS

The Seeds of Scholarship
are planted at
Mary, Queen of Heaven School



*“You are called
by God to work:
You are the ones
whom (God)
has chosen to
help in this work
by announcing
to these children
the Gospel of
his Son and
the truths that
are contained
in it.”*

St John Baptist de La Salle,
Universal Patron Saint of Teachers
Meditations

2009 DISTINGUISHED KNIGHTS

Jim and Flo Reilly are hard-working, faith-filled, dependable people who are more comfortable with the back pew in church rather than the first. Quiet, unassuming, and big hearted ... that's the Reillys. They have a special place in their hearts for children – and not just their own. Although Jim and Flo have four sons and twelve grandchildren, their love and concern extends far beyond that immediate circle of family. Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish and School have become family to this couple who were married the same year that MQH was founded as a parish – 1955 was indeed a good year!

Both life-long residents of Northern Kentucky, the Reillys met at a dance at the Fort Wright Civic Club in April, 1954 and were happily married at the Cathedral Basilica in Covington on February 12, 1955. The blessing of children and grandchildren would soon follow and – as fate would have it – some of their grandchildren would attend Mary, Queen of Heaven School even though the Reillys were not yet parishioners in those earlier days. Eventually, this couple would come full circle and find their grandchildren's school had a special place in their hearts as well.

Jim has spent the majority of his professional life at **F.N. Sheppard & Co.** Since 1971, F. N. Sheppard & Co. has offered one of the most innovative and diverse lines of belting products available in the global market. With solutions for the most complex requirements and demanding tolerances, the company is enjoying a growing reputation and market presence as one of the most unique belting companies in the world. The company is a well-known presence both nationally and internationally. Jim is both President and CEO of F.N. Sheppard. Flo began her professional life as an x-ray technician at Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Covington, but quickly devoted her life to caring for her family as a stay-at-home wife and mother. She has also been a frequent volunteer at such well-known community organizations as Parish Kitchen and Welcome House.

Jim and Flo like to get an early start. They most frequently attend the Sunday Morning 8:30am Mass. But they have also been early starters in more ways than Mass attendance. The Reillys were among the first to contribute to the **2003 Campus Improvement Campaign** which entailed the complete remodeling of the parish church, new narthex addition, and a new roof for the church and school buildings. Additionally, the Reillys were among the very first parishioners to become members of the **2008 Apostles' Project** at Mary, Queen of Heaven, an initiative that reduced the parish's building debt by hundreds of thousands of dollars. Twelve donors took on the burden of paying a portion of the salaries for the teachers in the parish school so that the parish, in turn, could devote more dollars to lowering the 1998 building debt.

Jim and Flo's commitment to Mary, Queen of Heaven is appreciated by

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Jim and Flo Reilly

The work of spreading the Gospel to children is a task taken seriously by the Catholic Church. Parish schools, like our own Mary, Queen of Heaven School are a testimony to that task of handing on the Faith to the next generation. Jim and Flo Reilly believe in that mission. Their hearts have embraced countless children who will walk through the hallways of MQH and into a bright future.

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Fr. Rick Wurth

