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Schools ▶

St. Paul School celebrates a Blue Ribbon

02/08/2007

- St. Paul school really blue it this time, and has an award to prove it.

During a special assembly Feb. 1, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School received its 2006 National Blue Ribbon award.



Todd Zoellick, at right in left photo, gives the 2006 National Blue Ribbon award to St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School Principal Mary Miller and Monsignor Patrick Halfpenny. Photos by Renee Landuyt

The private



Blue ribbons make a timely accessory to St. Paul School uniforms.

prekindergarten through eighth-grade school in Grosse Pointe Farms was the only Michigan institution, and one of 250 nationwide, to earn the federal blue ribbon designation for exemplary education.

Dignitaries from federal, state and municipal government joined St. Paul administrators, teachers, 475 students and representatives of the Archdiocese of Detroit to celebrate the honor with prayer, speeches and song.

Principal Mary Miller welcomed Monsignor Patrick Halfpenny to give an opening prayer and lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Today is our time to rejoice and celebrate a major milestone in the history of



St. Paul Catholic School, thanks to the hard work and dedication of every member of our staff," Halfpenny said.



Teacher Sharon Conroy, below left, has 38 years tenure, the longest at St. Paul.

Presentations were made by members of the school Leadership Council: Shannon Mazey, Alexandra DeLoof, Molly Laudernds, Jimmy Heidt, Zachary Lahay, Andrew Seski, Maggie Blake, Amy Bodien and Tommy McBrien.

Remarks came from archdiocese Director of Education Sr. Fran Nadolny and Superintendent of Schools Sr. Mary Gehringer, plus St. Paul kindergarten teacher Sharon Conroy, a 38-year veteran of the school.

Songs were sung by students in grades kindergarten through fifth.

Farms Mayor James Farquhar and members of the city council attended the ceremony, as did Sen. Martha Scott (D-Highland Park), St. Paul TPG President John O'Shea, School Committee President Mike Cumming and Greg Leslie of the Knights of Columbus.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, while not in attendance, sent a message of praise: "Your success is the result of diligent students, devoted parents, dedicated teachers and dazzling staff working in concert to make St. Paul the wonderful school it is today. You have set an outstanding example of what all schools in our great state strive to achieve."

Todd Zoellick, regional representative of the U.S. Department of Education, presented the award.

The federal government's blue ribbon program began in 1982. It salutes schools that are academically superior and reflect high standards and accountability.

For additional school information, go to stpaulonthelake.org.



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