

Who: Owensboro Catholic High School

What: Blessing Ceremony for the new Alumni Enrichment Center and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Memorial Project

When: Took place on Friday, April 19th

Where: Owensboro Catholic High School

Alumni Enrichment Center and SCN Memorial Project at Owensboro Catholic High School

On Friday, April 19th, Owensboro Catholic High School celebrated the blessing of its new Alumni Enrichment Center and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Memorial Project. The Alumni Enrichment Center at Owensboro Catholic High School was made possible due to the generosity of alumni, Earl and Paula Fischer, class of '57. The space was blessed by Bishop William Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Earl Fischer '57 stated he was thankful for the *“faith-based education, positive experiences, and special friendships”* he received during his time at Owensboro Catholic High School. Earl was searching for a way to give back to Owensboro Catholic and to memorialize these special people in his family's lives, John M. Gilles '54, Sally A. Fischer '57, and Pat A. Hawley '61.

The purpose of this room is *“to rejoin the Alumni classes back inside the walls of Owensboro Catholic High School.”*

The room is dedicated to the thousands of students who traversed these hallowed halls in pursuit of Catholic Education!

“We are putting this room to great use,” says Natalie Hayden, OCS Director of Advancement. “We use it for our administrative team meetings, we use it for our annual appeal calling nights, and we have alumni who reserve the room for reunion planning. We even brought in alumni to watch the Girls' Basketball All-A game! This is a room we are proud to showcase! It is a beautiful space to welcome potential new families interested in enrolling in Owensboro Catholic Schools and other potential donors who visit with us. There is not a day that goes by that this room is not used in some capacity. We are grateful for the Fischer's generosity!” says Hayden.



Earl's career began at Western Kentucky Gas. He quickly worked his way up to President in 1989. By the time he retired in 2006 with 44 years of service, he was the President of the new Division – Mid Tex, a Division of Atmos Energy in addition to carrying out Corporate Sr VP responsibilities. Earl served in the capacity of President, Board of Directors, or Chair of numerous community entities.

A special memorial wall in honor of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth was placed in this space, given by alumni and friends of the school. The memorial celebrates the legacy of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and their pivotal role in establishing Catholic education in the area, and carries their legacy “Caritas Christi Urget Nos”—The Love of Christ Impels Us.

The Sisters' ties to Owensboro began in 1849 when they were called upon by priests in the area to begin educating the children of Catholic families who had migrated to Western Kentucky. The school, then called St. Frances Academy, started in an old frame building, a former hotel at 3rd and Allen Streets. The academy was established 22 years before the first public school would open.



The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Memorial committee included Sister Mary Elizabeth Miller, Elizabeth Field, Nola Courtney '63, Sister Margaret Cooper '57, and Gene Moore '57.



Pictured is the memorial wall for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth at Owensboro Catholic High School.

