



The Award

Lumen Christi means “the light of Christ” and applies to the light of knowledge, character, and truth that finds its source in Jesus Christ. The Lumen Christi Award recognizes individuals who live and practice the core values of Cathedral School. These values include faith, respect, prayer, honesty, responsibility, compassion, service, and excellence. Award recipients demonstrate through the patterns of their lives a commitment to these values, and they show a willingness to share the light of Christ with others by their lived example.

The 2018 Recipient Tom & Sandy Henning

Sandy (Gross) Henning was born and raised in Superior, attended Sacred Heart School until Cathedral School replaced it. She graduated from Cathedral High School in 1959. Following high school, she received a degree from Viterbo College in LaCrosse, which was operated by the same order of nuns that had staffed Cathedral School all those years: Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) headquartered in LaCrosse. You could say, “Catholic education par excellence.” In sharp contrast Tom Henning grew up in a tiny town near Fond du Lac, WI, called Lamartine, fewer than 200 people in the entire town and only a two room elementary school. The only church was Methodist, but Tom’s family was Lutheran. During summers growing up, Tom would attend both Lutheran and Methodist Bible Schools. High school was at Goodrich Senior High in Fond du Lac, also graduating in 1959. But while attending Wisconsin State College-Oshkosh, and with no hesitation, Tom accepted the opportunity to convert to Catholicism, baptized Catholic in 1962 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Oshkosh.

Following their respective graduations from college, Sandy and Tom first met in 1963 as new teachers at Marinette Jr.-Sr. High School, Marinette, WI; Sandy teaching English, speech, and drama; Tom teaching English, journalism, and coaching football and track. They were married at Cathedral of Christ the King less than a year after they first met, August 8, 1964. Their careers grew in Slinger, WI, until Sandy left teaching to begin a family. Four children joined the family: Joie (Suson) now residing in Wauwatosa, WI, Lynn (Lawrence) in Kimberly, WI, John in Falcon Heights, MN, and LeeAnn (Walker) also in Kimberly. Sandy and Tom are proud grand-parents of nine grand-children today.

Tom continued in Slinger, teaching English, advising the newspaper, coaching football, skiing, track, and forensics, serving as English Dept. chair, and officiating basketball. He also tended bar part-time to make ends meet.

The family made a major move in 1975 when Tom accepted his first principalship in Augusta, WI. Three years there and another move to Superior when Tom became principal of Northwestern High School in Maple. Sandy returned to the working world after all kids were in school (at Cathedral, making them third generation at Cathedral School) first teaching part-time for WITC, and later as full time librarian at Superior Public Library. While there she also served as president of the AFSCME union. She retired from SPL in 2001, but worked part-time at JCPenney’s in Duluth for five more years.

Tom retired from NHS in 1999, but taught communications at WITC part-time until 2005 when he accepted an interim principalship for one semester in New Richmond, WI. During Tom’s tenure at NHS, he was also elected state president of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators, and later served as Wisconsin Coordinator for National Association of Secondary School Principals. In retirement, Sandy has stayed active by extensively volunteering her services at the Cathedral offices and by crocheting. Using mostly donated yarn, Sandy has crocheted dozens of large afghans and donates them to the St. Vincent De Paul Society for distribution to the needy. She is also a Communion Minister, tour guide and special events usher/greeter for Cathedral Parish.

Tom’s retirement goal was to volunteer at jobs that help people. Thus, he is a volunteer Ski Patroller at Spirit Mountain, a member of National Ski Patrol and also instructs Outdoor Emergency Care, Outdoor Emergency Transportation and CPR/AED for Spirit Mountain Ski Patrol. And during income tax season, he is a volunteer Tax-Aide through the AARP Tax Assistance Program. He is also a Medical Team Captain, heading up a crew of volunteers assisting runners at the finish line of Grandma’s Marathon. And for Cathedral Parish, Tom is one of two trustees, serves on the Parish Council, the Finance Council, the Cemetery Board, mass assistant for funerals, communion minister, reader, tour guide, and special events usher. He has instructed CPR/AED for school staff and parish members, and is a member of the Diocesan Review Board.