



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY STEWARSHIP IN ACTION

SHARING THE STORIES OF PARISHIONERS TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO USE THEIR TALENTS AT IHM TO HELP GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST.

Rennie & Joe Madden: Sharing Passions with IHM Students

Are you a star-athlete? Mathematician? Expert in sewing? Love to read? These might be some talents you wouldn't necessarily expect to come in handy within the parish. Well, good news! Whatever your talent or skill set, there is likely an opportunity for you to share it by volunteering with Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish or School—just like Rennie and Joe Madden have done...

The Maddens' decades-long journey with IHM began when they moved here from Maryland after Joe's retirement from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in 1997. Their daughters were in fourth and seventh grade, and they wanted to continue their Catholic education here in Lansing.

Soon after getting settled, Rennie began volunteering in the first grade and was hired as an aide. She worked at IHM for 20 years, 10 of which were in the library, until the pandemic led to retirement. When school opened back up, Rennie was thrilled to volunteer her time, returning to the library.



"They'll come into the library, and they're just so excited," Rennie says. "Just getting that love of reading—that's going to stick with them and make them successful in whatever they do."

While Rennie has the library covered, Joe, a microbiologist, jumped in years ago to share his passion for science with the students. He started by helping with dissections. Later, he played a key role in making the science lab what it is today.

"I was on the committee that helped design the lab, and what was needed, all of that," says Joe. "I took them to where I was working and showed them the lab, what it should look like, and that's how I got started in the lab."

And Joe's dedication to the school continues today as he has been helping with a Crime Scene Investigation class since his second retirement in 2013—using his science background to give back even more.

Whether it's in the science lab or library, the Maddens are grateful to play a role in the students' lives at IHM.

"With our kids having gone through Catholic school, it's kind of a way of giving back after all the things that we've been given," says Rennie.

Rennie and Joe remind parishioners that regardless of what your field of expertise or talents may be, there's a way to get involved.

Dave Weber: Spreading the Word on the Streets

“How are you doing? How is your walk with God going?”

That’s the typical start to a conversation long-time parishioner Dave Weber has with complete strangers out on the streets of South Lansing and Holt, but the start of those conversations go back decades...

You likely know Dave—he’s been a part of IHM his entire life. It’s where his parents were married, and where he was baptized. Through the years, he’s been involved in many ministries, including Eucharistic Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, and Evangelization Ministry.

“I always thought I was a devout and faithful Catholic, coming to Mass every weekend, but I really didn’t know I could have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,” explains Dave.

It wasn’t until tragedy hit that he felt God calling him closer. His mother was battling cancer and was in the hospital after having a stroke.

On the fifth day of hospitalization, Dave went to Mass and brought the Eucharist to his ailing mother.

“I said, ‘Mom, Body of Christ,’ put it in her mouth, and she sat up and started reciting the rosary. She died that night.”



Shortly after, Dave felt the power of the Holy Spirit upon him.

“Hands were laid on me. I felt that whole burning sensation throughout my whole body, felt the presence of his love and his comfort and mercy in my life,” shares Dave.

“Since then, I’ve been on fire.”

Today, he helps others throughout the community find that same love, comfort, and mercy in their own lives as a part of St. Paul Street Evangelization—something he felt God calling him to do for over a year.

“I knew God was calling me, but I didn’t listen. I didn’t listen to what He was saying,” says Dave. “Finally I gave in.”

Dave has been evangelizing on the streets ever since. It’s a ministry he says he will continue for the rest of his life.

“There are so many people out there seeking God and wanting Him in their lives. A lot of people don’t know how to do it. A lot of people are scared to do it or they see adversity against it. They don’t want to be ridiculed because they follow God or don’t have anybody to guide them or know the Gospel.”

Dave’s message to parishioners who are interested in getting involved with St. Paul Street Evangelization or any other ministry at IHM is simple—remember every single one of us were given the power to preach His name.

“I’m a sinner. I fail every day, but God still wants to use me. He has purpose for me, and He sees me as His son, so even if we don’t think we’re worthy or can’t do those things, God has another plan for us. He wants us to do his work. He wants us to go out and evangelize in our own way with the gifts he has given us.”