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***BISHOP MCNAMARA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL KICKS OFF
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN***

Today, Bishop McNamara Catholic High School launched the public phase of a capital campaign entitled *Building for Our Future*, an effort to secure funding for tuition assistance, construction of a new multipurpose building, and debt reduction. The minimum goal of the campaign is \$2,500,000 and to date a total of \$1,260,000 has been raised.

Funds raised in the campaign will be used to address three critical needs:

- **Tuition Assistance** – Ensuring there is sufficient tuition assistance so all families with a demonstrated financial need who desires a Catholic education for their children are never turned away.
- **New Multipurpose Building** – More than 80% of students participate in extracurricular activities that require use of the cafeteria or current gym. With high levels of participation and limited space, the new multipurpose building will ensure all students and programs have equal access to space for practices, rehearsals, competitions, and performances.
- **Debt Reduction** – Reducing debt owed to the Diocese of Joliet and increasing available income for the general operating budget in order to supplement the support provided by annual fundraising activities.

Kurt Weigt, Principal of BMCHS commented, *“The campaign is not just about facilities and financial stability. It is about providing our students with opportunities for academic achievement and for strengthening their faith. The funds raised to date ensure we are better able to prepare our students to confront the challenges of today’s world.”*

The first phase of the campaign has been under the guidance of the campaign chairpersons, Dr. Kelly O'Connor of O'Connor Dental Care, and Mr. Shawn O'Brien, President of QwickRate, Inc. Along with a team of volunteers, they experienced success with three out of every four individuals, families, and businesses saying yes to the campaign and supporting it with a gift. The average gift in the first phase is over \$30,000.

In addition to announcing the campaign goal, Dr. O'Connor and Mr. O'Brien took the opportunity to recognize campaign volunteers and donors. Also speaking at the announcement was Fr. John Belmonte, S.J., Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Joliet.

Fr. Belmonte, S. J. said, *"Tonight is an exciting night. The importance of Bishop McNamara Catholic High School to this region, to the Catholic schools and to the church cannot be underestimated...I am here to say as your superintendent, the Diocese of Joliet supports you. We want to see this project succeed."* He went on to say, *"Thank you to all of you that have already supported this campaign and I want to challenge others of you who are considering giving to give. It could not be more important."*

The campaign will be conducted throughout the remainder of 2011 and will continue to seek contributions from major donors but will broaden its outreach to all Bishop McNamara Catholic High School parents, alumni, and friends.

For additional information regarding the campaign call (815)933-7620.

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