

Most Likely To Succeed

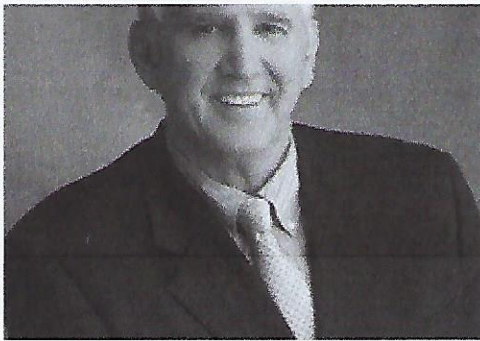
Profiles of Catholic School Alumni

Picture
Your Child
Here

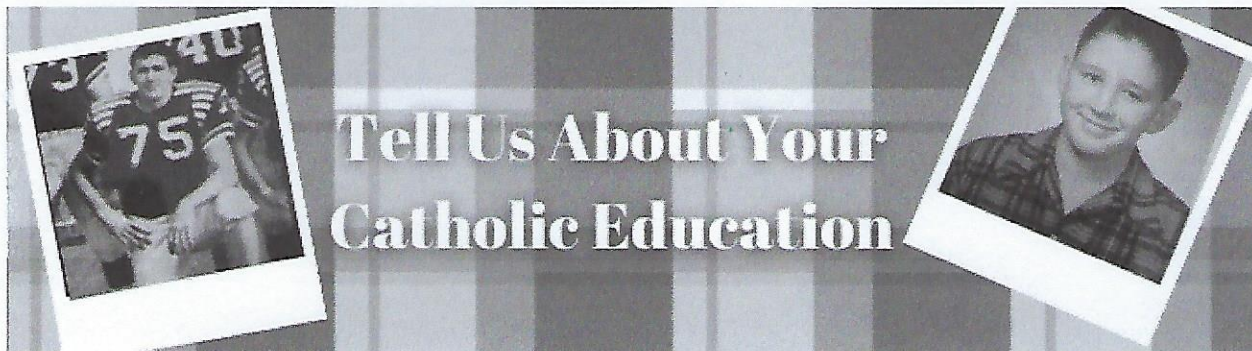
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

Catholic education doesn't stop at graduation. Our schools prepare our students to get into Heaven -- and with that mission at heart getting into an exceptional college or trade school is pretty much a given. There are so many reasons why families choose Catholic schools and the strong foundation they receive in academic excellence --with S.T.R.E.A.M programs, competitive sports and extracurricular opportunities--along with the faith, values and sense of community that empowers our students to succeed are certainly at the top of the list. But HOW does a Catholic education CHANGE LIVES? We invite you to join us as we feature some of our Catholic school graduates who have gone on to transform the world, one heart at a time.

MEET JOHN SAGE, *Founder & CEO of Bridges to Life*



St. Anne Catholic School, Grades 1 - 8, Houston, TX
St. Thomas High School, Grades 9 - 12, Houston, TX



- **How does your Catholic education impact how you serve the community?**

I think my Catholic education provided a model to be a person of service and productivity for the benefit of others. First, the daily presence of priests and nuns showed me the merits of service to others. I was taught and loved by people outside of my family unit who had no direct responsibility or gain by helping me. What a blessing it was to have this ingrained in my young heart during my formative years, from age 6 to 18! Additionally, the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church were a part of every school day for 12 straight years. During my first grade catechism class, I learned that we were made to "know, love, and serve God." And later, we were taught that we serve God by serving our fellow man and our communities. Although I was busy with work and raising a family in my post-college years, I knew in my heart that service to others was part of my core beliefs as a man searching for goodness and meaning in my life. In 1998, when I felt called to help crime victims and incarcerated men and women, I believe it was the core teachings

My experiences in Grades 1 to 12 at St. Anne and St. Thomas were the foundation for that type of faith. And that strong faith led to an organization that has well-served the community, ministering to over 55,000 inmates to show them the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness.

- **What would you say to a parent considering the investment of a Catholic education?**

Parenting is the most important task of our lives. More than anything else we do, parenting is our opportunity to positively affect the community and the future of our society. Obviously, parenting involves many decisions and there is no one answer, no precise right or wrong that suits every parent and child. Many decisions in life are about analyzing the alternatives and choosing the ones that have the best chance of producing the positive results you would like to achieve. I believe the day-to-day routine and teachings of the Catholic faith significantly improve the odds of success to raise a well-balanced adult who understands the importance of faith, hope, and love in his/her life. When life gets difficult, and it certainly will at times in your child's adult life, the foundation of faith taught in Catholic schools can prove to be invaluable. When I faced several extremely difficult situations in my adult life, I knew where to go for help. It was ingrained in my soul that faith in God is the answer to enduring pain and hardship. Faith will not make it easy, but will give us the strength to endure until the situation improves. Without that level of faith, I am not sure that I would be alive and healthy today; and certainly would not have started Bridges To Life, an organization that has positively impacted thousands of lives over the past 22 years. As I grow older, I become more and more grateful to God and my parents for the gift of my Catholic education.

- **Why do you believe Catholic schools important & relevant right now?**

We are currently experiencing historically confusing and difficult times in our country. Many of our core beliefs, including faith, are now being challenged like never before. The saturation of political and media information alone confuses mature adults, and has to be even more complex for children. The mixed moral signals we see in politics, churches, corporations, and general society is so disturbing. This certainly gives rise to concern for the children of our country.

environment of a Catholic school helps nurture and build the moral fiber of a young person. Obviously, Catholic school is not the entire answer to helping our children through confusing times, but it does provide benefits and care that may not be available in all schools. When life gets confusing, it is always best to reduce risks

CONNECT

Archdiocese of
Galveston-Houston

ADDRESS

St. Dominic Chancery
2403 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77021

CONTACT US

Phone: (713) 741-8704
Fax: (713) 741-7379

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