

SPICE: Special People In Catholic Education



Msgr. Sorohan, Pastor

Dear Friend of SPICE,

When I reflect on what has taken place with the SPICE program here at St. Catharine since its inception, I am somewhat overwhelmed. We began this effort just a few short years ago, and with your much appreciated support and assistance, it has been very, very successful. Here are a few of its accomplishments which you may not see written elsewhere.

The Advisory Board that has been established has been exceptionally visionary in its establishing procedures for grants, methods of fund raising, and a willingness to give of one's personal time and effort for this program. A second somewhat invisible positive effect of the SPICE program has been the raising awareness of the needs of special people in Catholic education, not only at St. Catharine, but also across the Diocese and State.

The program's name has been copyrighted, its leaders have been asked to speak at various gatherings of educators, both Catholic and public, and last but not least, other parishes have realized that they too, can begin to address similar needs in their own schools and religious education programs. Indeed, the positive effects of SPICE have been far reaching.

You have heard the saying the longest journey begins with the first step. We have taken the first step, but there is much to be accomplished in the years ahead. The needs of these special people in Catholic education are being addressed gradually, but there are more needs than funds to go around at this point. We must first concentrate on those in need in our own parish and strive to do whatever is necessary to meet these needs. Secondly, our goal must be to spread the word. Every parish has the capability of mirroring our program. There is some trepidation about beginning, as there was here at St. Catharine, but with the help of God we must help them take that first step and He will do the rest. We should be justly proud of the accomplishments of the program thus far; we must continue to support the program financially, and do everything within our power to insure its future existence. Remember, with God, all things are possible. Always keep in mind the words of the Lord. When you did it for these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.

Monsignor David Sorohan, Pastor

Monsignor Sorohan will enter his retirement years July 1, 2004. We wish you the all the best, and thank you for your all you have given to us at St. Catharine and SPICE. No program can succeed without strong direction and commitment from its leader, and we thank you for your vision, dedication and cooperation.

On not Falling through the Cracks

What parent of more than one child is not aware of the uniqueness of individual needs, gifts, challenges and talents that God has instilled in each of our children. As any good parent knows, we must learn and grow with each new addition to our families. Learning new skills, remaining flexible and creative, our task is to lovingly include each new addition to our family, while meeting the challenges to cohesively instill values of honoring each individual, respecting their unique timetable for growth, and finding the strength and skills to form the bonds of living in community that enrich our lives in Christ's love.



Barbara Northrup, Speech-Language Pathologist, consults with many St. Catharine's students.

SPICE is a logical extension of a parish family, where all are welcomed, all are known, loved and cared for regardless of their intrinsic or extrinsic characteristics; loved for their very individuality.

As within any parish, school or family sometimes the needs of the squeaky wheel are met at the expense of others. The attention they garner evolves naturally from a talent, skill, personality or an obvious special need. However, the parishioner, the family member, the student who falls through

the cracks may be struggling each day with an undiagnosed problem which is responsible for fatigue, under achievement and low self-esteem. One of the wonderful, perhaps unsung benefits which I have observed (resulting from the implementation of the SPICE program) is the positive impact of early identification and intervention through staff in-service and education through seeing a technique which worked for a student with a more severe problem being applied to another child, before they internalized a false concept I'm just not a good reader. ; I don't spell well. ; Math is too hard for me .

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Thank you SPICE!

Our family has been so thankful for the funds that we have received from SPICE. With the funds, we have been able to provide tutoring, once a week, on a year-round basis. This extra support is needed in addition to the support received at home and school. Without this extra tutoring, we don't think would be as successful or as confident. We feel very fortunate and grateful for the generosity of the SPICE sponsors. Thank you so much !!!

We have benefited from this wonderful program. Our son was diagnosed with an auditory processing problem. SPICE was able to help pay for a tutor. We see great strides in our son's work. If it wasn't for SPICE, we are not sure where our son would be. He enjoys school.

Without SPICE my child would not have had the opportunity to be tutored this past summer. My child needs to be tutored throughout his summers to keep him afloat for the next school year. The money that SPICE donated really took the pressure off our family budget. Without this program, too many children would fall through the cracks of learning because their family can't afford to have their child tutored. Without the financial help, my son would not have been tutored. Please keep this wonderful program in our parish and thank you SPICE for your help and understanding that families do need help.

We were advised to arrange for tutoring for our son throughout the summer. While he gained great strides during the school year, there was concern that the summer break could cause him to lose what he had gained. Thus help through the summer would be beneficial. We were completely surprised to find out that SPICE was available to help out with the cost. We had always assumed that the purpose of SPICE was to help out with more serious situations parents face.

As parents we strive to help our children become successful students and ultimately viable citizens of our community. At times we all need a little extra help to give each and every child that opportunity to succeed. The resources that SPICE provide, not only minimize the extra-educational costs, but it has also given my child the opportunity to gain confidence and the means to overcome his educational deficiencies. SPICE has been invaluable to my family and child. They are helping me in my purpose in life — to give my child the opportunity to succeed.

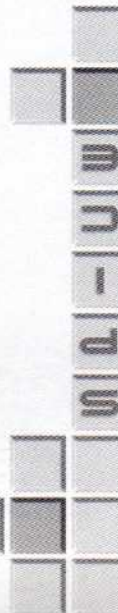
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Irish Step Dancers perform at the 2ND Annual SPICE St. Patrick's Party. SPICE supporters enjoyed a wonderful evening of live music, Irish dancers, and fabulous Irish food and spirits at another sell out night in St. Catharine School. Special thanks to Molly Baumann and her committee for all their hard work. Also thanks to Deanna Maynard, Susie Bateman and Liz Crossman for their culinary talents.

Thanks for all of your support, prayers and for sharing our vision. We continue to be overwhelmed by the support and awareness that SPICE is gathering. We look forward to your continued prayers and support.

***Thanks,
Bob & Mary Ginn Ryan
Chair People***



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Because SPICE continues to provide early intervention through screenings, evaluations, involvement, community resources, education opportunities for parents and teachers to be sensitive to the early warning signs of a problem many children are not falling through the cracks. ***They are known not by their disability but by their abilities not by their failures but by the successes. They are known by their teachers, their principal, their parents and siblings, their fellow parishioners, their clergy as full participants in their parish, in their families and in their school.***

I have recommended the SPICE program as a model for the best that education can be to many parents, educators and colleagues within the central Ohio area as well as to those in other areas of the country.

I am consistently inspired by the commitment, intelligence and compassion of the St. Catharine s Parish, Janet Weisner and the entire staff at St. Catharine s School. The SPICE Program has become a vital component to the St. Catharine s Parish Community. A gift to the SPICE program is a wise gift which truly enriches lives.

Barbara K. Northrup, M.A./CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist



Mrs. Marian Knox, "St. Catharine Educational Specialist."

SPICE Mission Statement

St. Catharine SPICE Program recognizes that each of our parish children are unique individuals with different learning needs. The SPICE Program supports serving the educational needs of these children. We believe that children have different learning styles that provide diversity in the classroom environment.

Working together with the support of the SPICE program, the parish community, pastor, administration, teachers, and parents can help to provide understanding, information, creativity and willingness to address special educational needs.