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### MEDIA NOTICE

#### **VIANNEY/WEST POINT GRAD TURNED ARMY LIEUTENANT INSPIRES SHOE DRIVE AT ALMA MATER**

**WHAT:** **Shoe collection for poor families in Afghanistan.** When **Rob Sedlak**, a graduate of Vianney, Class of 2001, and West Point Military Academy, Class of 2005, toured a hospital with others in the 82<sup>nd</sup> airborne division's Combat Aviation Brigade recently while on active duty in Afghanistan, he was shocked at the extreme poverty. Always one to help others in need, the lieutenant stationed at Bagram Airfield spurred friends and former teachers at his alma mater, Vianney, to organize a relief drive. Kevin Walsh, dean of students at Vianney and a former teacher of Sedlak's, went into action to pump his team leadership class and the rest of the student body and their families to respond generously to Sedlak's plea. **Walsh's response: A call for 1000 shoes and \$1,000 for toiletries and other essentials.** Shoes can be any size, though they must be new or gently used.

"To be a good leader, you must serve," said Walsh, who echoes this theme constantly in his leadership class. "It means a lot to help out this fine soldier who had such an impact on our community when he was a student here." Sedlak, a student council president at Vianney, also was voted the "Griffin of the Year" as a senior by students, faculty and staff—the top honor at the Catholic, Marianist all-boys' high school.

**WHEN:** **Monday through Friday, Oct. 8 through 12, 7 to 4:30.** Walsh and participating students will collect items in all week and sort/pack on Friday, Oct. 12. Monetary donations can be dropped off in the school office.

**WHERE:** **Boxes in the Vianney Commons**—entrance, near the front of campus (park temporarily in the circle drive—parking in nearby lots may be difficult with school in session). Campus is located off S. Kirkwood Rd. near Hwy. 44 or off Big Bend Blvd. just west of Kirkwood Rd.

**RE:** Video and print coverage in any format is much appreciated to get word out about this worthy endeavor. Vianney students love to serve the community: Each year they complete 20,000 hours of service in a variety of charitable capacities.

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