

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **MOELLER CELEBRATES FOUNDER'S DAY, ANNOUNCES THREE AWARDEES**

CINCINNATI, January 29, 2009 – The Archbishop Moeller High School community recently celebrated Founder's Day and awarded three of its long-time supporters: Patricia Buckley, Sheila Munafo-Kanoza, and Sr. Judy Klei, R.S.M.

The Founder's Day Award honors Moeller Family members who have given support over the years to the school's Marianist philosophy of education. This philosophy is grounded in five primary characteristics: (1) faith formation; (2) a quality, integral education, meaning a holistic mind-body-spirit-heart education; (3) Family Spirit; (4) service, justice, and peace; and (5) adaptation and change.

The founder of the Marianist vision of education was the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, who created the Society of Mary in 1817. He used Mary, Mother of Jesus, as his inspiration; for he believed she was a living model of the Gospel. Currently, there are 18 Marianist high schools and three Marianist universities, including the University of Dayton. There are 570 Marianist brothers and priests working in 176 countries throughout the world, with 61 Marianist communities in the United States.\*

All three women who received Founder's Day Awards have been exemplary advocates of Moeller's educational philosophy. Bro. Robert Flaherty, S.M. was the presenter for Sr. Judy Klei. He said, "We presented the Founder's Award to Sr. Judy to recognize her untiring efforts at Moeller to implant the vision of Blessed Chaminade to form faith communities committed to the multiplication of Christians who will faithfully live and spread the gospel message, especially among the young and marginalized in society."

Sr. Judy Klei is the chairperson of the local Marianist Effectiveness Team. "As chair, Sr. Judy has successfully implemented the characteristics of a Marianist education," said Bro. Flaherty. "She has worked tirelessly to see that these characteristics permeate every aspect of our lives at Moeller. This award recognizes all the efforts Sr. Judy has exhibited since she began her ministry here some 24 years ago — as a religion teacher, technology specialist, administrator, and minister for prayer services for the faculty."

Pat Buckley and Sheila Munafo-Kanoza are actively involved in Moeller's bereavement group, which supports students who have lost a loved one. "Pat and Sheila walk people through the difficult grieving process that surrounds death," said Jim Elfers, a Pastoral Ministry director. "They recognize that grief is not something that leaves you a week, month, year, or decade after a loved one dies. Grief is ever changing. They help others gain the tools to respond to the changes which grief brings about."

In addition, both women are actively involved with their parish's bereavement committees, and they facilitate 19 grief support groups, including eight high school groups in Cincinnati. "Sheila's husband, Vince, died 15 years ago," said Elfers, "and Pat Buckley's son was killed 13 years ago. It was out of their own grief that they reached out to others."

Sheila and Pat started their first Grief Group at Moeller after attending the canonization of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade in Rome. They were inspired by Chaminade's devotion to Mary and his desire to follow her example of giving birth to Christ in all corners of the world. "Sheila and Pat chose to give birth to Christ in the lives of those who are in some of the darkest places of grief," said Elfers. "They guide others through the pain of experiencing the death of a loved one and provide hope to others by focusing their message on the resurrection of Christ. They both embrace the Marianist characteristic of faith formation by providing a close knit community where young men can openly share their low points, high points, and everything in between."

Pat Buckley has eight children (six boys and two girls) and seven grandchildren. Her sons were at Moeller for a time period of 21 years. Sheila Munafo-Kanoza has five children (four boys and one daughter), with her 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild on the way. Her four boys all attended Moeller for nine years.

\* Source: [www.marianist.com](http://www.marianist.com)

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**Photo Attached:**

**From left:** Sheila Munafo-Kanoza, Pat Buckley, and Sr. Judy Klei, R.S.M. pose for a photo by Britt Raymond, yearbook advisor, after the Founder's Day Award presentation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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