

Contact: Carol Dexter, communications coordinator  
[cdexter@vianney.com](mailto:cdexter@vianney.com)  
314.965.4853, ext. 270  
618.806.1427 (cell)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Vianney Chess Team Wins National Championship**

**St. Louis, Mo. (April 8, 2009)** St. John Vianney High School's junior varsity chess team brought home the first-place trophy from the Chess SuperNationals competition last weekend in Nashville, Tenn.

Sophomore Jonathan Schafer placed second overall, with six wins out of seven games, besting all but one of the 204 participants in the team's section. "I just play for fun," Schafer said, adding, "of course, it was fun to do so well." Schafer has been playing chess for just two years, learning the game at Vianney.

Other key members of the Vianney team are freshman Stephen Esswein, who placed fifth, and freshman Mitchell Wise, who placed 16<sup>th</sup> to boost the team to their victory. "Steve and Mitch's victories were what sealed the deal for the team," said coach Ed Bauer, a retired Vianney science teacher. The overall winner of the national competition is determined by the point totals of the team's players.

Vianney's varsity team earned a very respectable 14<sup>th</sup> place finish overall.

The event drew more than 5,200 participants in kindergarten through grade 12. Vianney has a history of chess success. In 2008, the Vianney varsity chess team placed second in the nation at the same competition.

Other members of Vianney's junior varsity team include junior Mike Viviano, sophomores Max Herrin, and Chris Kramer, and freshmen Ian Harding and Marko Polovina.

Varsity team members include seniors Aaron Curran, John Gist, Jack Haskins and Andrew Robinson, junior Michael Vierling and sophomore Alex Hart.

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### **About Vianney**

St. John Vianney High School is a Catholic all-boys school located in Kirkwood, Mo. Founded in 1960, Vianney has an enrollment of 615 students in grades nine through 12. It is operated by the Society of Mary, an international order of priests and brothers known as Marianists.

Vianney is a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a Missouri State High School Activities Association Leadership School.



### **PHOTO CAPTION for VianneyChessChamps**

**National Chess Champions!** Vianney's junior varsity chess team won first place at the Chess SuperNationals competition in Nashville, Tenn., April 3 – 5. The team includes, front row from left, Stephen Esswein, Jonathan Schafer and Mitchell Wise, who placed fifth, second and 16<sup>th</sup> respectively. In the back row are Max Herrin, Ian Harding, Mike Viviano, Marko Polovino, coach Ed Baur and Christopher Kramer. The SuperNationals is an annual competition sponsored by the United States Chess Federation.

