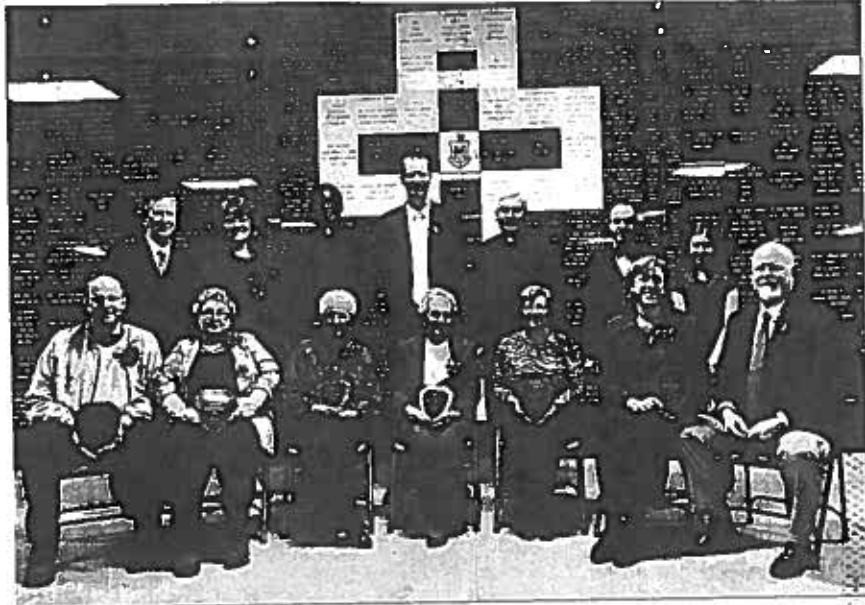


## MANISTEE CATHOLIC CENTRAL HALL OF FAME

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Photos by Eric Sagonowsky/News Advocate

The recipients of the Manistee Catholic Central Hall of Fame awards pose after the dinner Saturday night.

### HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Patti Ennis

Virginia Niesen

Sally Schubert

Mike Skocelas

Phyllis Wissner

the Manistee Intermediate School District

# HALL-OF-FAMERS

## Manistee Catholic Central honors 2013 inductees

By ERIC SAGONOWSKY  
STAFF WRITER

It was a night of unity and appreciation as members of the Manistee Catholic Central community came together for the school's 22nd annual Hall of Fame Awards Dinner on Saturday. The hall inducted six new members and Matt Bauman, MCC class of 1998, was the keynote speaker.

"When I come down here, I always say to myself 'this is a community that values (MCC) so much that they just said 'we're always going to have this,'" said Charles Taylor, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diocese of Goylord.

"It's not like it's any easier down here, and in a lot of ways it's harder down here, so when I come to this event what's great for me is that I learn those names, I learn why this school is still open. I walk

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Matt Bauman was the night's keynote speaker.

away from the evening and have some faces, names, and beautiful stories about why this school is still here."

The school honored Virginia Niesen, Mike Skocelas, Sally Schubert, Patti Ennis, Phyllis Wissner, and the Manistee Intermediate School District in the ceremony. Several of the inductees have been life-long contributors to the MCC community, and the stories shared were often emotional.

"We are very pleased with the award. I'm sure my dad is looking down, very happy, very pleased, and probably asking what took you so long," said Richard Niesen on behalf of his mother.

"Often times it's the guy who gets his picture in the paper, or is the president, but it is the women behind the scenes that make it all work. I'm so proud of my mother and I know she was very reluctant to take any credit for it, but she deserves it."

Virginia Niesen was honored by the alumni association for a lifetime of commitment to the betterment of MCC, then the presentation turned toward Mike Skocelas. Skocelas was honored by the athletic association for his volunteerism and involvement

with multiple MCC sports.

"Thank you very much, I'm very proud of his," he said.

The award ceremony turned next to the foundation award, presented to Sally Schubert for her persistent help throughout the years.

"On behalf of our family, we would like to thank the school for this award," Mike Schubert said. "If this was a trip to the casino I'm sure she would come up (and accept)."

Next, Patti Ennis was honored for her contributions to the Harvest Festival.

"When I received the letter from Mary-Lou I was totally surprised," she said. "This is such an honor. I am humbled being in this group of people receiving the awards. I would also like to thank my son Ben and his girlfriend Melissa who came from southern Michigan, you know how much I appreciate this."

After Ennis came the award for Phyllis Wissner in the Home & School category for her vast array of contributions to the MCC community over several decades.

"You can count on the people that are supporters of Catholic Central," she said. "And believe me there are

many many people that can't afford big bucks to put into this school, but the last dime and dollar goes to Catholic Central. Thank you."

Lastly, the Manistee Intermediate School District was given the staff award for its partnership with MCC, helping with special education, speech pathology and general education services.

"This partnership between the ISD and MCC is strengthened because we all believe that meeting the needs of all students is paramount," said MCC Principal Jan Bigalke. "If we were allowed only three words to describe this partnership, we would choose collaborative, synergistic, meaning the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and caring. We are truly blessed to have MISD and its employees on our team."

After the award presentations, Bauman talked to the crowd about the importance of the Catholic education system. Father John McCracken then gave the closing remarks.

"I'm so proud of this community," he said. "I'm proud to be a part of this school, and God-willing, I'll be a part of it for a long, long time. God bless all of you."