



David Burrow

Burrow to be honored

By Mindy Baker
Editor

The 14th Annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Education will celebrate Catholic schools and recognize David Burrow, teacher at Bishop Garrigan High School. Burrow will receive special recognition from The Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless along with a \$1,000 honorarium in recognition of his work at Garrigan. The annual dinner is Sunday, October 10 at the Sioux City Convention Center.

Burrow is the math and gifted and talented program teacher at Bishop Garrigan High School. In addition to teaching, he has led the school's quiz bowl team, speech, student council and serves as the webmaster. He began teaching in Catholic schools in 1983.

"I come from a family of teachers. My mother taught country school during World War II, and my dad was a physics professor," explained Burrow. "While I considered other careers, I chose teaching

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because it allows me to directly help other people and to see the results of my work.”

He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Northern Iowa with a major in mathematics and minor in Spanish and then earned a master’s in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi. Burrow completed other graduate courses at Morningside College, Drake University and the University of Iowa.

Burrow is an active member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, and is grateful for the opportunity to teach in a faith-based school setting.

“Like most teachers in Catholic schools, I see my work as a calling rather than a job. It’s a calling that has kept me here for more than a quarter of a century, and today I really can’t imagine myself anywhere else,” said Burrow. “Father Friedmann, who hired me years ago, often spoke of ‘the Garrigan family.’ I’ve found that those aren’t just words. The students, staff, parents, and alumni really are like one big family.”

As a teacher, Burrow sees his goal not to just teach the subject matter, but to help students grow to become responsible adults.

“While I’m definitely pleased that a number of my former students have used specific things I taught them in their jobs, I am truly delighted when I see people I taught who are good parents,

generous neighbors, and active members of their community,” said Burrow.

The Bishop’s Excellence in Education Award was established in 1999 to recognize diocesan teachers who exemplify the teachings of Christ and excellence in education. Recipients of this award must have been a teacher in the Diocese of Sioux City for at least five years. They are to have expressed a clear, integrated philosophy of Catholic education and be held in the high regard by their peers, students and parents.

“I was especially pleased that the Garrigan students seemed genuinely happy that I was receiving this award,” explained Burrow. “Dan Ryan, Superintendent of Schools for the Sioux City Diocese, made the announcement at an assembly, and when the students heard my name, they gave me a standing ovation. I definitely didn’t expect that. It was a real honor to see them react that way.”

The Bishop’s Dinner supports more than 6,000 students who attend Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Sioux City. Tickets are \$125 per person with \$80 of each ticket going to Catholic schools within the Sioux City Diocese. Last year, nearly \$100,000 was distributed to Catholic schools because of the success of the Bishop’s Dinner. Contact the office of Stewardship and Development to purchase tickets at 712-233-7513.

David Burrow, math and gifted/talented program teacher at Garrigan High School in Algona, is a recipient of the teacher award. In addition to teaching, he has led the school's quiz bowl team, speech, student council and webmaster. Some of Burrow's accomplishments have included the development of new courses in mathematics for advanced and learning disabled students and the development of the school's award-winning website. He has also taught adult education mathematics at Iowa Lakes Community College. He began teaching in Catholic schools in 1983.

He earned his bachelor's at the University of Northern Iowa with a major in mathematics and minor in Spanish and then earned a master's in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi. Burrow completed other graduate courses at Morningside College, Drake University and the University of Iowa.

Burrow said he was absolutely thrilled to learn that he received the award.

"I was particularly pleased that all my students seemed genuinely happy for me," he

said. "When Superintendent Dan Ryan announced I would be receiving the award, the students rose in a standing ovation. That was most unexpected and really gratifying."

In a letter of recommendation, Garrigan Principal Michael Stence, said, "His rapport with his students is outstanding and he maintains an excellent learning atmosphere in his classroom."

Like most Catholic school teachers, Burrow said he sees teaching as a calling, rather than a job. Working at Garrigan, he said he has the opportunity to help people in every aspect of their lives. As a Protestant working in a Catholic school, he acknowledged that he sometimes feels an even greater responsibility than other staff members to focus on the religious aspect of the school.

"I don't just teach math, I help people mature into responsible young adults," he said. "While I am pleased that a number of my former students have used specific things I taught them in their jobs, I am even more pleased when I see people I taught who are good parents, generous neighbors and active members of their community."

From the Sioux City Diocese *Globe*