



Our very first principal was Sister Celestine Nordhus. She and her staff of two lived in the rectory while the school was completed. Father Hoheisel slept on a cot in the church. The very last Benedictine nun to serve as principal was Sister Sienna Rohlfer. From 1916 until 1980, all of our principals were Benedictine nuns.

November 19<sup>th</sup> is Catholic School Principal Appreciation Day. Actually, people here at St. Columbkille make me feel appreciated everyday. It is truly a good place to be. However, this year's Principal Appreciation Day is going to be different.

As part of our celebration for our 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, we have invited past principals to come to St. Columbkille and be recognized.

From the Benedictine Order in Atchison, Kansas, Sister Delores Dolezal will be one of our guests next Thursday. Although Sister Delores was not a principal herself, she was a teacher here and she is representing all of the Benedictine nuns that were principals during our first 64 years as a school.

Also joining us next week for Principal Appreciation Day will be Robert Voboril, the first lay principal at St. Columbkille. Mr. Voboril was hired in 1980 and served as principal for 10 years. During Mr. Voboril's tenure, the school enrollment passed 300. He also approved the purchase of the first computer for the school. One sad event during his tenure was the end of the Benedictine Sisters' service at St. Columbkille.

Sue Martin will be with us next week as well. She served as principal during the early 1990s overseeing another addition to the school.

Our longest serving lay principal was Chris Overkamp. Mrs. Overkamp presided over the greatest growth of St. Columbkille as the newest addition was completed. She has continued to be involved in our parish and our school since her retirement in 2010.

The principal who served for the shortest period of time was Mary Maguire. And although she wasn't here for very long, she came as a

healer during a time of grieving and loss. Her kind and gentle leadership was just what we needed.

In my position as your current principal, I am thankful for so many people. But, this week I want to honor my predecessors and thank them for their selfless service for our students and our school.

In His Service,  
Jim Makey, Principal