

## Faith, Knowledge & Service: Celebrating Our Community

“How do you do it all?” A first grader from St. Malachy School summed up the overwhelming scope of serving as mayor of the town of Geneseo with one simple and innocent question. Kathy Carroll-Duda, a long-time St. Malachy parishioner and current mayor of the city of Geneseo, revealed that she relies on God for wisdom, guidance and discernment in her role as the leader of the community.

St. Malachy School in Geneseo kicked off National Catholic Schools Week by hosting Mayor Duda as guest speaker and focusing on “Faith, Knowledge and Service in Our Community.” Although she had served as alderman for the city of Geneseo, Mayor Duda shared that it had not been her lifelong goal or dream to become mayor of her hometown; but rather after encouragement from a number of individuals, she turned to God in prayer asking Him for a sign. Feeling His guidance, she ran for mayor and was elected in March of 2016.

Mayor Duda’s explanation of her practical duties as mayor generated interest and thoughtful questions from the students; however, her reliance on God’s guidance through prayer may have left a more lasting impression. Reflecting on her passion for volunteerism and its role in leading her to serve the community in local government, Mayor Duda urged the students to realize their own potential as they explore their God-given gifts and talents. Through Scripture, she reminded students that they are each uniquely created for God’s special purpose that only they can fulfill. “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”



Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda speaks to St. Malachy School students about the importance of her faith in her role as mayor of Geneseo.



Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda with St. Malachy School students (front row) Gavin Gillespie, Sabrina Smith, Viola Pettit, Keely Roberts, (back row) Aidan Bries, DeMarcus Wisdom, Camden Ball, and Joseph Venneberg