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Queen of Peace Dean of Women Receives Archdiocese Heart of the School Award

Queen of Peace is proud to announce that the school's Dean of Women, Nancy Halbauer, has been recognized with the Archdiocese of Chicago's 2011 Heart of the School Award in the category of Leadership.

Halbauer joined the Queen of Peace faculty in 2000 after working at Catholic schools in California for 20 years and also won the Archdiocese Heart of the School Award for Behind the Scenes in 2006. She is the eighth Peace faculty/staff member to be named as an Archdiocesan Heart of the School winner since 1994.

During her tenure at Peace, Halbauer has served as a Physical Education and Science teacher and worked to revamp the PE curriculum, focusing on lifetime fitness and helping students find an activity that they would like to participate in their whole lives, such as yoga or Tai Chi. In her role as Dean of Women, which she assumed in 2003, Halbauer has diligently become the students' confidante, advocate and role model, as well as a liaison between parents, students and teachers.

"My educational experiences have given me more joy and happiness than I could have ever imagined," said Halbauer, who has a M.A. in Education from Stanford University and J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law. "There are so many reasons, but mostly because of the Dominican values that I have seen in action every day of my educational life: truth, justice, compassion, partnership and community. There has always been a call to 'teach as Jesus did' and an implied ministry to translate faith into action.'"

Even though Halbauer has been a dean for many years, she knows that every child is different and every student is different.

“Our young women of Peace truly do become ‘empowered,’” Halbauer said. “If I have had anything to do with it, I am grateful. I try to help the young women in my charge, in my capacity as their dean, grow from young girls to young women with voices of their own.”

A leader by example, Halbauer is always looking to place a name with a face, gain insight into her students and their lives, undertake new challenges and jobs, and live out the Dominican values.

“I really think the quote, ‘I know mine and they know me’ was written with deans in mind,” she said.

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Cutline:



Queen of Peace’s Nancy Halbauer (center) was recently recognized with the Archdiocese of Chicago’s 2011 Heart of the School Award in the category of Leadership. She is pictured with Anne O’Malley ’75 (left), president, and Mary Kay Nickels, principal.