



Shannon Rovers help honor Saint Viator Supporters

April 12, 2010



The dinner guests try to figure out what to tell the police before they arrive.

A North Barrington couple who normally work behind the scenes to support Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, found themselves feted by the Shannon Rover bagpipers no less, as they stood front and center Saturday night at the Night of the Lion fundraiser.

Dan and JoAnn Murphy were honored for their “deep and lasting commitment to Saint Viator,” and for “truly exemplifying the Viatorian spirit.”

The 340 guests in attendance gave them a standing ovation as members of the Shannon Rovers marched into the ballroom to honor the couple.

Their two sons, Dan and Jim, both attended Saint Viator, graduating in 2004 and 2008 respectively, leading the couple to serve on the board of trustees, with the Booster Club, and make significant contributions to its facilities and tuition assistance program.

“Your energy is contagious, your commitment unwavering, and your generosity is difference-making,” said the Rev. Thomas von Behren, C.S.V., provincial.

The evening took place at the Intercontinental Chicago O’Hare hotel in Rosemont, where parents, alumni and former parents gathered with administration members, trustees and several members of the Clerics of St. Viator, who operate the school.

Proceeds from a live auction and subsequent paddle raise were all earmarked for the tuition assistance program, which school officials said will serve 26 percent of its student body this year.

“I’m in absolute awe at the generous commitment and dedication to Saint Viator High School, in this room tonight,” said the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president. “Your generosity will make a real difference in the lives of our students.”

Dan Murphy said he and his wife were “honored and humbled” to receive such attention. He then reflected on his own parents who sacrificed to make his education possible, and he pledged to pay their love forward.

“They couldn’t have done it without help from others like you who supported them,” Murphy said. “We want to make it possible for other families to have access to this kind of education.”