



Saint Viator Runners Hit the Streets with a Sole Purpose

March 16, 2011



Over 400 runners and walkers participated in Saint Viator's second annual Run with the Pride 5K. (Photo by Chris Santicci '12)

A seminary student was the overall winner of Saint Viator's second annual Run with the Pride 5K run/walk on Saturday in Arlington Heights.

Chris Honig, 27, of Oak Park and a student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago was the first to cross the finish line with a time of 17:36. On the women's side, Saint Viator history teacher Kristen Jordan paced the field with a winning time of 21:06.

Jordan ran track and cross country at Palatine High School before her teaching career, and she formerly coached girls' cross country at Saint Viator. In recent years, she has concentrated on her busy course load and raising her family, which hasn't left her enough time to train, she

said.

"But it was good to get out," Jordan said. "The course was challenging, with lots of turns, and of course it's always fun to come in first."

Among the top 10 finishers was last year's overall winner, senior Billy Krawzak of Palatine and Spanish teacher John Fuja.

In all, nearly 400 participants lined up for the event, including students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff. The field ranged from the oldest participant, 74, down to the youngest who was 6.

For alumna Patty Joyce of Arlington Heights, who has children at the school, this was her first 5K. "I finished," she said. "I'm thrilled."

Alumni in other parts of the country and around the world also participated in solidarity with their alma mater. The furthest reported graduate to register, officials said, was in Australia.

Among the student runners were members of the baseball, softball, lacrosse, girls' soccer, and boys' and girls' water polo teams.

"This event brings our community together," said the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president, "which makes it a great kick-off to our Lenten journey."

Members of the school's Campus Ministry department organized the event, billing it as the "sole purpose" of its Lenten campaign, since proceeds went to Samaritan's Feet, an organization that works to make sure every child in the world has a pair of shoes.

Along with the race proceeds, students and their families are trying to collect enough money to purchase 1,500 pairs of new athletic shoes to donate to the organization. For more information or to donate to the campaign, contact Ms. Betsy Fons, director of campus ministry, at 847-392-4050, ext 268.