



Former Assistant to Cardinal Bernardin Headlines Saint Viator Speaker Series

September 9, 2011



Monsignor Kenneth Velo.

Monsignor Kenneth Velo knows a thing or two about the value of quietly serving others. He learned from a master, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, for whom he served 14 years as executive assistant and was his trusted friend.

Velo will deliver the keynote address at 7 p.m. Sept. 20, when Saint Viator officials host the final installment of their Shaping the Future Speaker Series. Admission is free.

The provocative evenings are part of the school's 50th anniversary celebration. The last topic examines the theme, "Awakening the Servant in Young People."

In 2003, Velo accepted the role of president of the Big Shoulders Fund, whose mission is to support Chicago's inner city Catholic schools. Under his leadership, the fund provides 5,000 scholarships to needy students, provides operating and capital grants to underfunded schools, as well as professional development for its teachers.

A panel of speakers will join Velo, including Will and Mary Beth Beiersdorf, founders of SALUTE, Inc. which supports military families across the country; Illinois State Sen. Matt Murphy; the Rev. Scott Donahue, president and CEO of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls; and Sean Sanford, president of Center for FaithJustice in Lawrenceville, NJ.

"An element of service has always been an integral part of the Saint Viator High School experience," says the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president. "Our goal has been to not only require service hours from students during their four years here but to influence a lifetime of service after they leave."

This forum follows up the two earlier speaker series events, which examined the value of fine arts in a well-rounded education, as well as innovation in preparing students to contribute to a global society.

The speaker series takes place in Saint Viator's Jeuck Auditorium and is open to the public. For more information visit: www.saintviator.com.