

Missoula Catholic Schools Shining Star

This year's Shining Star nominee lives a life faith and service—indeed, it is rare to encounter someone who so thoroughly embodies this sort of daily grace. How very fortunate we are at Missoula Catholic Schools to count him among our number.

As educators, we at Missoula Catholic Schools are awed by the tenacity and dedication that this honoree has shown to 38 years of Loyola Sacred Heart students. As citizens of Missoula, we are humbled by the service and care this person brings to some of the most challenged in our midst. Through his sacrifice and consistent care, lives of dignity have been crafted for those often forgotten by society. As a community of faith, we are blessed with a guide and mentor who never loses faith in *us*.

Missoula Catholic Schools are honored to present Father George Dumais with the 2011 Shining Star Award.

Scattered throughout this room are hundreds of students—former and present—who have persisted through a Father Dumais language class. Whether we knew it or not at the time, every verb repetition, conjugation drill, and 300-word vocabulary “quiz” provided a chance to master something new and challenging. At the end of a term came the tests, and when we kept up with our homework, we were ready to succeed. If we slacked off, we paid the price. But pass or fail, we always knew that the guy behind the podium would be there day in and day out to push us to succeed the next time. Sometimes in *spite* of ourselves. And he did it all as part of a life packed with responsibility and service.

The legacy of this compassionate, giving man touches lives every day. We see this in the halls at Loyola, at the altar during mass, and on the sidewalk downtown when he is out and about with The Gentlemen. To see Father Dumais is to know that *this* is how to put faith into action.

This Shining Star is really a GUIDING STAR—and our lives are richer for having Father Dumais guiding us toward grace.

