

*The Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), formerly the Archdiocesan Annual Fund Drive, is an annual effort by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to spread the Gospel through informing and engaging the faithful with important regional ministries that benefit thousands of people throughout nineteen counties in western and southwestern Ohio. We invite you to share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to participate in the life of our local church through these ministries.*

## **ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

*Give thanks for God's gift of communication* by supporting the liberating work of St. Rita, which provides children with the specialized education they need to hear and be heard. Day and residential services at St. Rita School are assisted by your gift to the CMA.

This is just one of the ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. To find out more, visit [www.CatholicAppeal.info](http://www.CatholicAppeal.info).

**Always  
Everywhere**

**Give Thanks**

# **EVERYDAY MIRACLES: Katie's Story**

My first day at St. Rita School for the Deaf, I walked onto the campus and was greeted by a myriad of friendly faces. A priest led us to a chapel up on the second floor of the school. Doors were opened wide and long rows of wooden benches beckoned us to enter. The chapel was radiant by the sun reflecting through the stained glass windows surrounding the room.

An angelic figure was kneeling in front of the benches holding up her hands into two I love you signs. The priest walked to the altar and kissed it. I noticed that there too was an I love you hand sign engraved on it. The priest signed the entire mass. From that day, I felt I actually belonged here, unlike the other public schools I had gone to in the past.

Many people aspire to witness miracles, and claim that it is extremely rare to see one in their lifetime. I believe I am extremely lucky because I witness miracles nearly every day. They take place within the aged walls of St. Rita School for the Deaf. Students who don't have English as their first language, and even students with very little language at all, transfer to St. Rita School and emerge as high school graduates with dazzling futures. I will feel so honored to stride onto the stage in my cap and gown to receive my diploma as a St. Rita graduate. I'll always remember the miracles that occurred here every day, and the symbols that remind us of God's unconditional love.

(from an essay by Katie, a St. Rita senior)