

NEW GATEWAY *A Blessing*

On the first day of school—Tuesday, August 16, a beautiful new entry plaza was dedicated in the presence of students, faculty, staff, and distinguished guests. The school has Andy and Betty Beckstoffer to thank for this beautiful new gateway. Fittingly, the plaza bears the name: **The Beckstoffer Family Grapegrowers Plaza.**

A champion of Grapegrowers, a responsible steward of the land, and a pioneer in the valley, Andy Beckstoffer has a deep-rooted passion for the Napa Valley. Justin-Siena High School played a role in his relocation to Napa in the late 60s. For Beckstoffer, who earned an MBA from Dartmouth after obtaining an engineering degree from Virginia Tech where he was on a football scholarship, education was critically important. The Beckstoffers were reluctant to move their family to Napa unless they could be assured of a quality education for their children. Then they found Justin-Siena.

Andy Beckstoffer's approach to and regard for growing grapes and the farmers who grew them introduced a new perspective, and today he is regarded as not only a visionary in the business, but also an incredible steward of the land. The latter credit is one he holds closest to his heart.

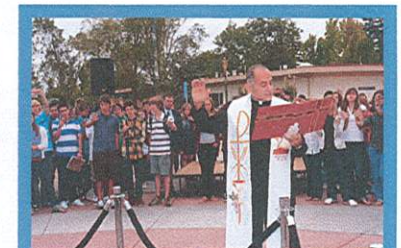
The recipient of dozens of distinguished awards and commendations, Andy's concern for the land and the people who work it aligns with many of the Lasallian principles of a Justin-Siena education. A parent of Justin-Siena alumni, he has generously lent his support to the school for several decades, including serving as a member of the Board of Trustees and sup-

porting other capital initiatives. He sites extreme satisfaction with the direction and leadership of the school and shared attitudes toward the land and its people as reasons for his ongoing partnership. President Robert Jordan comments, "as a Lasallian school we are committed to and teach our students the value of being stewards of the earth, champions for social justice and social change, and leaders of service for the greater good. And, we prepare our students to be leaders in an ever-changing world—much like Andy Beckstoffer."

With this plaza Beckstoffer hopes to instill in students an appreciation for the land, its history, its people, and to have students understand their sense of place in this Valley and in this world. There is beautiful landscaping incorporated into the plaza architecture that fittingly includes grape vines which Beckstoffer hopes will serve as a constant reminder—for students and all who pass through this plaza—of the incredible gift of labor that built this Valley.

Andy and his wife, Betty, along with family members and colleagues of the Grapegrowers Association (of which Beckstoffer was the founding director in 1975) were present at the special dedication ceremony.

President Robert Jordan: "What a great way for our students to kick off a school year—with the visible gifts and contributions of a local industry leader who gives back to his community. This message sets a nice tone. And could it be more fitting that this space is the gateway to our school?" ✨



Blessing

Loving God, Redeeming Son, and Giving Spirit, bless this new ground which serves as a gathering place and entry way for our school community and visitors. May all who pass through this place come to know You through the community that is Justin-Siena. May the spirit and tradition of the Christian Brothers and St. John Baptist de La Salle be animated in this space and the entire campus, as students enter to learn and leave to serve. May they find the presence of God here; may it be a space where respect and inclusivity for one another abound. May it be the gateway to quality education and exploration of one's vocation. Finally, may the Beckstoffer family name and the small vineyard planted here be a symbolic reminder of the importance of not only giving back, but also promoting justice and appreciating the gift of labor which has built this Valley, offered hope to thousands, and secures the future of our communities.

May this new plaza honor the past, serve the present, and sustain us in the years to come. We make this blessing in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

During the opening prayer service Andy Beckstoffer spoke directly to the students. He explained that he wanted students to have a sense of where they come from and their place in the Valley and the State. He encouraged students to follow their passions and to take advantage of the education offered at Justin-Siena, which is "an extraordinary gift that will help [them] form a strong foundation for life beyond Justin-Siena."

Pictured top at the Blessing Ceremony from left to right: David Beckstoffer '79, Betty and Andy Beckstoffer, and Kristin Beckstoffer '85. Pictured center: Students gather in the plaza in anticipation of the blessing. Pictured above right: Mr. Andy Beckstoffer offers some words. Pictured right: Fr. Gordon Kalli, Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, offers the blessing.