



IAAS Walks of Life 2011
Richard Clark

In 2003, Richard Clark, the first lay principal of St. Ignatius High School, left that school to take on the challenge of starting a new high school in Cleveland -- Saint Martin de Porres.

Saint Martin's, located in Cleveland's St. Clair-Superior neighborhood, is part of a national network of 24 Jesuit schools providing a quality college-prep Catholic education through a unique work/study program that places students at real, entry level office jobs. Each of the school's 430 students is

part of a team of four that works five days a month, earning \$25,500 that the school receives. The payments provide 55% of the school's support.

The mission of Saint Martin de Porres is "to transform urban Cleveland one student at a time." Clark said all of the 190 students who graduated in the last three years were accepted into college, and 75% still attend college.

This year's co-educational student body is composed of 75% African American, 15% white, and 10% Latino students, supported by 103 corporate sponsors.

Clark, a Boston native, grew up in Chicago and graduated in 1973 from Georgetown University. He earned a master's degree in religious education from Loyola University in Chicago four years later.

He taught theology from 1973 through 1991 at Chicago's Loyola Academy and was part of the founding team of Loyola's Peru trip, which took high school students to live and work in Third World Peru for eight weeks during the summer. These trips have been replicated throughout the Jesuit High School system, allowing about 6,000 students to experience life in that country.

During his 12 years at Ignatius, enrollment rose from 1,190 to 1,400, the campus added an intramural gym and a 400-seat chapel, and the school completely remodeled its main classroom building and renovated a state of the art science building.

Rich and his wife, Moira, dean of students at Magnificat High School, have three children. The family lives in Lakewood.

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