M Mercy tradition serves community

Our Lady of Mercy school board chairman C. Thomas Bienvenu, Jr. thinks the major goal of this St. Martinville Catholic school has changed little in the past 100 years.

"Mercy has always attempted to provide a quality education in a religious environment," Bienvenu said.

Bienvenu said recent curriculum revisions and staff additions have been instrumental in assisting Mercy keep alive the tradition of quality Catholic education.

"We've also appointed a committee to begin looking into the process of long range planning in the areas of curriculum, school facilities, finances and other areas," he added. "This will not only help us to meet the needs of today's students, but also to prepare us for a bright and solid future.'

Bienvenu said one program he is especially pleased with at Mercy this year is a new French program. This is the only French program offered at any school in St. Martinville.

A Mercy school board member for the past three years, Bienvenu is a lifelong resident of St. Martinville and has been one of the 16th Judicial District judge's since 1976.

As a long time resident of the community, Bienvenu said he can personally see some of the positive effects Mercy has had on the community besides providing quality Catholic education to the young women of St. Martinville.

"This school has been a part of our community for 100 years now, and I really think that it has added stability and good moral values to our adult population," Bienvenu said.

Bienvenu has one daughter who recently graduated from Mercy and another daughter who is now enrolled in the school, but he said his decision to involve himself with the school board is due to other reasons.

"I want to see Mercy flourish because of what it means to the community and the fact that this is the only Catholic high school in St. Martinville," Bienvenu said. "So, if we want to see a good thing like Mercy continue, we as Catholics and community members must be willing to get involved."

Bienvenu said the makeup of the present Mercy school board includes people who have the ability to assure that continued improvements will be made at Mercy.

"We have people on this board who have shown great energy and dedication towards Mercy," Bienvenu said. "And with people like this, it can only mean good things for Mercy."