

Mary Scaccia Picked for Golden Apple  
By Kevin Smiley, Sunday News Staff Writer

Apples are good for you, but for Mary Scaccia, this one is especially delicious. Mrs. Scaccia, who teaches second grade, was among seven Catholic school teachers who won the Golden Apple Award at a ceremony held last month at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

She has been teaching for 17 years, including eight with her current school, Resurrection Catholic School at 32 W. Vine St. The award goes to teachers who have shown excellence in their profession; leadership qualities; and a commitment to Catholic values and to teaching in Catholic schools.

To be eligible to win the award, teachers had to be nominated by a parent, student or fellow teacher. Along with a nomination, an essay was submitted with the teacher's resume.

"I enjoy the enthusiasm of the children," said Mrs. Scaccia. "They are always excited about learning, and life in general."

For her accomplishment, Mrs. Scaccia received a golden apple with a 24-karat gold cross, a golden apple pin, a photo of her with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and a cash award.

Since she was a child growing up in Lancaster, Mrs. Scaccia had an interest in teaching. She recalls playing "make believe" with her friends, and would even create her own tests for the "students" to take.

This passion led her to success not only in the classroom, but in the community, as well. Recently, Mrs. Scaccia organized a "mini-relay" at the school, as part of the Relay for Life events that took place locally. The school raised approximately \$2000 in donations for the fight against cancer.

What's next?

" My goal is to just continue teaching," she said, "and try to be worthy of the award that I received."

Family: Husband, Peter; children, Jon, 26; Matthew, 23; Mark, 22; and Catherine, 19; three sisters and a brother; father Hubert Fitzgerald; mother (deceased) Nancy Fitzgerald.

The most rewarding thing about being a teacher is: Seeing the excitement in my students' eyes as they are learning; also, the spontaneous hugs.

People might be surprised to know that: I have run the Red Rose Run for the past 12 years.

My hobbies include: Gardening, walking and running.

My dream vacation is: Visiting England and Ireland

The person (living or dead) that I admire most is: My mother and my father. They taught me the importance of family.

My favorite type of music is: Oldies.

My favorite food is: Anything Chocolate!

My favorite movie is: "Rear Window."

What winning a Golden Apple Award means to me: I feel very honored. It is recognition for what I put into my teaching and of the importance of Catholic schools. I love teaching at Resurrection.

When I first found out that I won the award, I: Was very surprised and was excited and happy for Resurrection. My students wanted to know where the golden apple was. They were excited when they saw the golden apple I got at the awards ceremony.

Advice that I tell my students: You are special because God made you. Always do your best.

My goal in life is: To continue to be a good role model to my students and to see my own children happy in their careers and lives.

If I won a million dollars, I'd: Pay off my bills and then do lots of traveling.

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