

FIELD BLESSING CEREMONY

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President William Farrell offers words of encouragement for the Raiders teams. (PHOTOS BY JODIE ANDRUSKEVICH)

Saturday, September 19, 2009, Raiders players and fans had more to be thankful for than just the glorious fall weather. Rivier students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and family gathered for a ceremony to bless the College's recently turfed athletic field. Athletes from Rivier's men's and women's soccer teams and field hockey team joined field hockey players from visiting Husson University to encircle the large Raiders logo at center field while Athletic Director Joanne Merrill welcomed all in attendance. President William Farrell spoke next, explaining some of the intricacies of the field including the new energy efficient lights that were installed as part of the field renovation project.

Rivier College Chaplain Brother Paul Demers was introduced to bless the field. Brother Paul and Mary Jane Silvia, Director of Campus Ministry, led the community in prayer. "With joy and thanksgiving, O God, we gather to bless this renewed athletic field. We dedicate it to your honor and the glory of sports...Transform this land, eternal God, into a playing field on which respect for rules and the spirit of sportsmanship abide, imbue players and coaches alike with the knowledge that the most important goal is not the triumph, but the struggle—not the victory, as sweet as it may be, but the honor of representing our college," Brother Paul said.



Above: Brother Paul Demers performs the blessing as the men's soccer and women's field hockey teams look on.

Right: Athletic Director Joanne Merrill welcomes the crowd of athletes, students, alums, faculty, parents, and friends.



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