



Dear Bishop Miega Family,

It is with excitement and humility that I greet you for the first time. I would like to share with you why I am at Bishop Miega and a little about myself.

I love the Lord and will always put my Catholic faith first. I have also chosen to answer the Lord's call to serve in Catholic youth ministry or Catholic education for the past 37 years. After serving as the president of Maur Hill-Mount Academy for the past 14 years, there was really one school that I felt called to go to for the next step in my journey... Bishop Miega. The sense of "family", the excellence in athletics and activities, and the faith draw me to your community. As you learn more about me, you will see why I feel called to your school.

Here are a few things you should know about me:

1. I have been married to my amazing wife, Lisa, for 30 years, and we have 5 children. I strive to always be an honest, faithful, on-fire man of God.
2. I cannot stand mediocrity. If we are going to do something, let's do it to the best of our abilities. I will strive for this school, our students, staff, and especially myself, to always improve.
3. I am the co-founder of Life Teen, one of the largest Catholic youth ministries in the world. Many blessings have come from this, including speaking at conferences around the world, hosting a tv show, and spending time with 2 saints so far (St. Mother Teresa and St. John Paul II). Attacks have come too. More on that in a moment.
4. I come from a baseball family. My dad is in two baseball Hall of Fames in Arizona as a coach, and he, myself, and all three of my brothers played Division 1 baseball. I have been a head high school baseball coach in Arizona and Kansas, winning multiple titles (state, region, league) and close to 300 games.
5. I was raised in Phoenix, Arizona and spent most of the first 40 years of my life in the desert. Since then I have been in the promised land of Atchison, Kansas.
6. My favorite scripture is Matthew 5:11-12, "blessed are you when they insult you, and persecute you, and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in

heaven." Why? Because I have had to go through a false allegation. As one of the founders of Life Teen, I had a big target on my back. Someone fabricated a story that had no truth, yet I had to endure the persecution. I was exonerated and have continued to work in the Church. I learned through the experience that when evil attacks, God's grace abounds even more. And I also understand St. Paul's "thorn in the flesh", as even though this was a complete lie and I was cleared, nothing goes away on the internet.

7. Our son is singer/songwriter Noah Anthony. If you catch him doing music at Power & Light or other places around Kansas City with his band, take a close look at the drummer. Yep, that's me. I've played drums for years, including with Christian music artist Matt Maher, and I always enjoy playing live music.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to meeting each of you soon.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Baniewicz".

Phil Baniewicz
President