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GUERIN PREP TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL LIE-IN MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIRGINIA TECH KILLINGS

RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS—Guerin College Preparatory High School will mark the first anniversary of the shootings at Virginia Tech April 16 by praying for non-violence and by staging a “Lie-in,” similar to those taking place across the country to call attention to the need for tougher gun laws.

During the school’s morning advisory period, 37 students will “lie-in” to represent one of the 32 students or teachers who were killed at Virginia Tech plus the five people who were killed most recently at Northern Illinois University.

“We accepted the invitation to participate in this action from one of our alumni who is the founder of a grassroots group of NIU parents and friends working for stricter gun control in reaction to the shootings at NIU,” explained Terry John Malik, the president of Guerin Prep High School.

“As a Catholic school and one whose sponsors, the Sisters of Providence, are particularly dedicated to issues of nonviolence, we thought it incumbent upon us to mark this day in some way that would call attention to the need to protect our children.”

2—Guerin Prep Prom Program

ProtestEasyGuns is the group who is actually organizing the national lie-ins. The group's goal is to increase public discourse on gun laws and to discuss and explore what must be done in order to protect children and the citizens of this country.

At approximately 9:30 a.m. at Guerin Prep, the academic community will first join in prayer for the victims of Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and the many students who have been killed in the Chicago area since school began this year.

Following prayer, 37 students, dressed in black and wearing VT and NIU-colored ribbons will lay on the ground in the school's courtyard and remain silent for three minutes signifying how little time it took for the shooter to buy his gun. All students and faculty and staff will be asked to remain silent during this time.

These 37 students will wear ribbons with VT and NIU colors, and each student will carry a card with the name of one of the victims printed on it.

The only other lie-in taking place in Illinois is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the James R. Thompson Center, State of Illinois Building.

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