

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Back to school! At the time of the writing of this letter our teachers have returned to the building and have begun preparations for the new school year. Today is a retreat day for them which started with Mass at the parish and then going offsite to be led in prayer, faith sharing, and fun. I am so grateful that we can provide our teachers with a day like today to bond together and spend time with God. There's great excitement and joy in the building as all the children return and bring life into our school halls once again. Please keep all of our teachers, students, and staff in your prayers for another amazing school year.

The late Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI said, "A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints". Our mission here on earth is to love and to serve God and neighbor so we can be with God forever in heaven. In other words, our mission is to become a saint! This is the beauty of Catholic education. Not only are our students formed academically but they are also formed in the ways of faith. As adults we know well the value of a faith foundation for life's challenges. We have witnessed people struggle who do not have that same foundation. I know how important it is to parents and grandparents to make sure that their children have a strong relationship with God. We are proud to be a Catholic school that prides itself on academic excellence but also an authentic teaching of the Gospel and example of discipleship.

The theme for this school year is a quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Do small things with great love". That is a great way to view discipleship and growing in holiness. Too often we make faith so complicated that it seems impossible. We place such high expectations on ourselves that we think our faith is not good enough or strong enough. In the end we think that we cannot make a difference. This is a lie! Each and every one of us has been given gifts to be used and an opportunity to be a disciple. It starts with doing small things with great love. Be intentional with the simplest of conversations letting the other person know they are being heard and valued. Take the extra minute or two to pray with someone when they share their struggles with you.

Our parish school family takes great pride in the education and faith formation received here at St. Mary. We all should be proud! I pray that all of us grow in holiness and discipleship by doing small things with great love.

St. Teresa of Calcutta...pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Parish Administrator