

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JUNE 11, 2017

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Holy Trinity, One God but Three Distinct Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a mystery and we only know it because God has revealed it through Scripture.

Pope Francis has expressed the Mystery of the Trinity as a relationship akin to human families. When a man and woman marry, they envision family for themselves. In the Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis relates the human family to the Christian vision of Trinity.

“...The couple’s fruitful relationship becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself, for in the Christian vision of the Trinity, God is contemplated as Father, Son and Spirit of love. The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection. Saint John Paul II shed light on this when he said, “Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love.” (*The Joy of Love*, # 11).

All mothers and fathers and those that care for children want them to grow and to learn. In God’s sight, we all remain children because growth and learning never ends for us. We as families must constantly remember that we are growing and these three phrases of Pope Francis are critical for growth within our family. Those three phrases are: “Thank you, I’m Sorry, and May I (enter into your time and space).” If we use those three expressions constantly within our families, we do grow more and more like the family of the Trinity.

The School Year Ends with Great Optimism

The school has completed 184 years and we are looking forward already to next year. There will be a 7th grade as we rebuild and grow. We have 126 students already enrolled for next year which is an increase at this point of 22 students. We have confidence we will have at least 8 more. We are looking forward to issuing Chromebook laptops next year to students in 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades. We will continue to give instruction in music, physical education, art, and technology. We are planning for field trips to Columbus, OH, to the zoo, to the theater, and likely, for upper grades to see a factory in operation. We are buying 5 new electronic Promethean Smart Boards and renovating our library. All of this is included in the tuition.

On Tuesday in the New York Times Science Section there was a documented article on the importance of school lunches. St. Joseph is a leader with its program of **Food Across the Curriculum**. All students have access to our food program because it is part of the curriculum for all. While the Government has reduced the stipulation for healthy food, our school has increased the servings of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and removed the dangerous trans fats and loads of sodium. Healthy food means healthy children.

In well-designed studies it has been demonstrated that students at schools with a healthy lunch program score higher on state wide achievement tests. Healthy lunches show a 4 percentile improvement in test scores above those children in schools with less healthy meals. While this effect is modest in magnitude, the relatively low cost of healthy meals when compared to ordinary fare becomes a very cost effective way to raise learning achievement. St. Joseph School leads.

I invite parents, Catholic and non-Catholic, to examine our school and its results. We are delivering positive and superior education blended with our Faith.