

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

## **Dear Parents and Parishioners,**

Silence today is almost non-existent, especially among the younger set. Cicero was a Roman Statesman, orator, lawyer, and philosopher. Highly educated, Cicero noted: “Silence is one of the great arts of conversation.” It is recorded that Jesus stood before Herod and when questioned said nothing.

Here is a headline from a recent New York Times: “Under Fire, Robert Mueller Has a Novel PR Strategy: Silence.” In today’s gospel it is noted that Jesus was teaching his disciples and presumably they were listening. But even if they listened, they failed to ponder deeply and quietly. They simply got into discussion about which of them was the greatest.

The newspapers and the media today hate silence. Silence makes them no money. It is even difficult to cull facts from the media and only rarely do you find true understanding and wisdom in the press. When do we have a time in which our phones are silent, the television is off, the newspapers put aside, and the mind left to think and to ponder in silence.

Nighttime to early morning is probably the best opportunity. Jesus often is recorded going up to the mountain to pray by himself. Scripture also speaks about Jesus rising early in the morning and going off by himself. When the disciples finally woke up, they had to search to find him. If Jesus found silence necessary to give insights and energy to his work, so must we. Silence is not a waste of time but rather a key component to wisdom.

### **St. Joseph School Randolph Grows**

St. Joseph school K-8 grew by 20 students for the 2018 school year. Its preschool is full with 50 students. There's a waiting list up through kindergarten

St. Joseph has increased enrollment for the last three years. The school’s agenda as well as its mantra suggest the reason: the school is a rural oasis of superior education blended with faith.

Mr. Holzapfel, principal, is a leader who manages for growth. While the school today supports 163 students, the school will continue to grow in numbers and go forward.

Our classrooms have the latest Promethean Smart Boards, Noah’s Ark is a modern outdoor play center, and the new semicircle front driveway in front of the school adds safety and beauty. The roadway is called St. Joseph’s Way.

Teaching and learning are paramount at all levels. Even the young students change classrooms since they have a variety of teachers from subject to subject. The high school preparatory program is highly individualized to tap into a student’s special talents.

Kent State recently noted that their total enrollment was down by 3.2%. Akron University is down 7%. Universities are challenged by the decreasing number of high school students. St. Joseph school is growing against this market and will feed excellence to the university of the future.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
September 23, 2018