

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Faith · Family · Education



Dear Parents,

With the Thanksgiving Holiday upon us, this is a special time for us to reflect on all the blessings and gifts we have received. As your pastor, I am so humbled and thankful for our growing school, the academic excellence, and the Peace of Christ that is exhibited daily by our students and staff. Truly, this is an amazing gift, and I am so grateful to be able to share it with you. I am pleased to report that the School Advisory Council continues progress towards achieving our 2016/17 goals, as directed by our B.E.S.T. Plan. Recently, our School Advisory Council members, along with some staff members, participated in our first S.A.C. retreat, entitled **Getting to Greatness through Board Effectiveness and Servant Leadership**. The retreat was very informative and inspirational and fostered a shared and renewed commitment for our school by all those in attendance. I look forward to building on this experience and sharing it with you all in the future.

Part of this experience reconfirmed our Value Statement and the importance for us to continue to live out our values through the Virtues. Our Value Statement is:

We believe quality Catholic education calls us to integrate Gospel teachings and values with everyday life; while believing that all secular subjects need to be taught in the light of these values. These values are deeply rooted in the belief that Jesus Christ is the reason for our school and our community lives out our faith expressing the virtues of prudence, fortitude, charity, generosity, temperance, humility, and brotherly love. All, in communion with a strong sense of hospitality and belonging in everything we do.

This month, we will be focusing on the virtue of Charity, which is a Theological Virtue. It is the virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. St. Paul tells us that love is the greatest of the three theological virtues. Jesus left us two commandments – to love God with everything we have, and our neighbor as ourselves – and if we do these two things, then charity toward everyone, even our enemies, becomes second nature to our wills.

As we approach this Thanksgiving and Holiday season, I ask that you reflect on, pray for, and demonstrate more deeply the virtue of Charity throughout your daily lives this month. This is a wonderful way we as a parish family can collectively educate our children through word and deed. I am so thankful for your ongoing commitment to our Value Statement through living out the virtues. I want to especially thank you for your current and continuing display of Charity with all that you do for our school and parish community, especially by bringing our children closer to Christ. Please note that I too am thankful for your ongoing prayers, and always remember that I will keep you in mine. I would ask that you continue to pray and reflect as to how God may be calling you to support our school with the gifts He has so generously bestowed upon you.

Thank you so very much, and God be with you and your family this Thanksgiving!

In the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Gregor

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