

Catholic Schools Week

Celebrating our Catholic Identity

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In a perfect world we'd need neither schools nor faith. Of course, the perfect world would require that every person be born with complete knowledge, necessary to make schools a redundancy. And faith would not be required as full knowledge would reveal all things to us, including a complete understanding of God. Alas, we do not live in a perfect world, and schools and faith are essential for our coming to knowledge. The perfect world would require that the temporal and spiritual dimensions of our lives be in perfect harmony at all times. This is the sure sign that we are not living in the perfect world, therefore requiring both faith and schools.

As Catholics, we're called to develop an ongoing awareness of this oneness within our own beings, and foster that same regard in the lives of others. We are reminded constantly that our Lord took on our humanity so that we may see and understand and seek his divinity. How a parish accomplishes this task varies. Here at St. John the Baptist Parish we are blessed to be able to maintain a Catholic School where the teachings of Christ are used to form and fashion individuals as whole persons moving to that call to perfection.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I applaud our parish for its support of Catholic Education. I dream of a day when all our children can afford such an opportunity, or that we could provide such an education without cost.

At the same time, I congratulate Mrs. Sandra Stonebraker, our principal, all our teachers, and our staff, all of whom I hold in high regard, for such strong dedication to Catholic Education. We have a strong Catholic identity that is shared with our students by every person in our school. This spiritual dimension couples with a strong educational dimension. It makes for a dynamic learning experience which prepares our children for life, and moves them toward that desired gift of perfection.

I admire the parents who, some more than others, sacrifice for the sake of a Catholic education for their children. I thank those involved with various programs for their efforts to make St. John's the special place that it is.

Are we perfect? No. I'd be crazy to think so. We are human. But we are faith-filled which allows us to see the world and our own lives with a different perspective than many.

So I ask the Lord's blessings to be made known to all who hold, first to our Catholic identity, and second, to the value of a Catholic education. I invite all our parishioners to learn about our school and the valuable life tool that is changing lives.

Love and prayers,