

## *From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...*

**January 29, 2012**

This weekend marks the beginning of a particularly significant week in the life of Catholic education. Since 1974, Catholic schools around the country have devoted a week to commemorate the unique and distinctive spirit of our schools. This tribute is prominently known as **Catholic Schools Week**. The theme for this year's celebration is: **Catholic Schools: Faith - Academics - Service**. This theme features the three most salient priorities of our educational institutions. In our school, our young people are taught to "Walk in **Faith** – not merely as an understanding of our religious creeds, but rather how to grow a relationship with our God. The second priority, **Academics**, underscores our school's daily commitment to the investment of "Excellence in Education" where each child is nurtured toward reaching his or her potential. Our final priority, **Service**, creates a culture where the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

It has often been said that it takes a village to raise a child. After seven months at St. Francis de Sales, I have come to realize that it takes a village for a Catholic school to thrive. As my colleagues and I have planned and prepared for the joyous festivity of Catholic Schools Week, I have found myself calling upon the generosity of our "village" in preparation for the many events of this week. When we decided that our building signs were in disrepair and needed to reflect the image on our updated school logo, Dennis Weller and the thoughtful employees at Clear Channel Communications selflessly arranged for three new signs to adorn our charming little schoolhouse. Furthermore, when we recognized that the windswept cold of the winter months had purged the aesthetically pleasing perimeter of our campus, Bryan LeCompte and the architectural artists of Yard Designs generously decorated the entrance way of our building with botanic beauties that serve as a powerful reminder to the magnificence of life. Moreover, while arranging a special luncheon for my faculty members and discovering a need for proper passage to and from our celebration, it was John Presburg and his associates at Bay Runner Shuttle who thoughtfully donated transportation for this event. As well, the generous funding from our own HSA has helped offset the cost of this luncheon. William Arthur Ward once declared "*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a gift and not giving it*". For the great generosity of the St. Francis de Sales "village", I am most indebted to the parishioners of SFdS and other members of our community which enable our 62 year-old school to joyfully shine during the observance of Catholic Schools Week. To each, I offer a humble gift of gratitude.

We pray in thanksgiving for those in our community whose professional generosity supports our commitment toward infusing the principles of **Faith, Academics & Service** into our Catholic education.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I would like mention a few noteworthy events:

- **On Monday, we celebrate the gift of our children. The students will enjoy an afternoon of friendship, popcorn and movie fun!**
- **On Tuesday, we celebrate the gift of our parents. We invite our parents to enjoy some tasty treats and a visit to their child's classroom.**
- **On Wednesday and Thursday, we celebrate the gift of prospective families. Our Admissions Open House will begin at 9:30am on both of these days.**
- **On Friday morning, we celebrate the gift of grandparents. Our annual Grandparents celebration begins at 10:00am.**
- **On Friday afternoon, we celebrate the gift of Catholic educators. Our faculty and staff will be honored with a special luncheon in Ocean City.**

Have a blessed and enjoyable week!

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