

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

**January 8, 2012**

During the final seven days of the calendar year, our American culture shrewdly promotes the concept of overindulgence. From the materialism of Christmas to the hedonistic immoderation of New Year's Eve, our society has discovered a profitable means to promote excess. Since both "holidays" have become part of the fabric of our nation, our celebration for these occasions tend to focus on the societal message of gluttony.

Independent of the excess of these two popular celebrations is the unassuming observance of the Feast of the Epiphany. As compared to the materialism and overindulgence of Christmas and New Year's, the brilliance of this feast day is represented in the minimalism that embodies Epiphany. The Magi (the Wise Men) faithfully followed the star to the East. Though regal and noble themselves, these men journeyed to meet the newborn Christ - the King of kings. Along their journey, they discovered that when we shed the cloak of extravagance and reveal our unpretentious humility, we are then invited to witness the glory of our Lord. The Magi set their journey on the star of the East, and we too are called to seek our own star which lights the way to Jesus Christ.

One of the traditions associated with the Feast of the Epiphany is asking for God's blessing upon our homes. Should you choose to offer a prayer for your own home, you may consider the following reflection:

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us;  
and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.*

As I consider our own school home on Camden Avenue, I am grateful for the charm of our existing building and the growing potential that lies within the attached Parish Center. I have great faith that the classrooms and office spaces in the unfinished portion of this building will be completed through the great generosity of our community members. Moreover, I find great joy in knowing that the light from our own "star" here in the East(ern Shore), radiates majestic splendor within the classrooms and hallways of our school home. It is within this charming building that the light of the magnificent star resides in the gentle spirit of each St. Francis de Sales student.

We pray in thanksgiving for the unpretentious humility of our students as they serve as a guiding star for all to cherish. May you hear the Lord's call to faithfully follow your "star".

As we begin the twenty first week of school, I would like mention a few noteworthy items:

- **On Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Francis Malooly will preside over our Eucharistic liturgy and visit each of our classes during his yearly trip to SFdS.**
- **On Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, our top geography students in Grades 4-8 will participate in the SFdS National Geographic Geography Bee. This event is scheduled to begin at 1:30pm in the Parish Center.**
- **On Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, students are invited to participate in the "Dress like Your Pet Day". Each student is asked to donate pet food items in support of our local Humane Society.**

Have a blessed and enjoyable week!

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