



St. Raphael Preschool

1154 Chislett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

March 20, 2020

Dear Parents of Saint Raphael Parish Preschool and Inquirers,

May I begin by expressing my prayerful hope that you and your families are well and healthy. I encourage you to continue taking all the important precautions that we are asked to make during the Coronavirus pandemic. These measures are the best way for us to help contain the spread of the Coronavirus in our local area. They are intended to keep you and your children as safe as possible.

I am writing this letter as part of the Saint Raphael Parish Preschool registration packet. I am pleased that we have opened registration for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Thank you for your patience. As your Administrator (Pastor), I am completely committed to our Preschool. Parents and families at Saint Raphael love our program and our faculty, so I know many parishioners want to invest in making sure our Preschool not only continues but thrives, even in these times of uncertainty. I am happy that we can work together as one family towards that goal.

I wish to take this opportunity to also share with you another way that we might move forward with our important parish preschool ministry. Ever since I returned to Saint Raphael Parish, I have heard from numerous young families at both Saint Raphael and Sacred Heart Parish, a strong interest in providing early childhood care, preschool formation, non-traditional elementary educational options and the extremely popular and effective Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. I want to explore all these possibilities in the year ahead. The Saint Raphael campus is an ideal location for each of these initiatives to become realities. As a firm believer in the importance of early childhood formation, I want the best for every child in our Grouping and beyond. We could very well become a nucleus or hub for these endeavors.

Towards this end, I am pleased that Carlow University has tentatively expressed a desire to partner with our Grouping in some ways to explore over the next year how we might create a comprehensive plan to make this dream come to life. We would need to start small but with confidence to keep building for a bright future of Catholic Early Childhood Care and Development.

I will host an Informational Gathering in which our Preschool Faculty, representatives of Carlow University and I share with you more about this direction. I am sorry that we needed to postpone such a Gathering due to the circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus.

In the meantime, please consider enrolling your children in our Preschool. You will find all the information pertaining to the application elsewhere in this packet.

Thank you for considering enrolling your child in our ministry. I personally can attest by my visits in the Preschool the past few months, you will be extremely happy with your decision to join us.

Sincerely yours in Christ, I am

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Joe Mele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Reverend Joseph M. Mele