



### **Our Parish Brings Forth New Life**

On April 27-29, I formally announced the establishment of Salve Regina Academy. The motivation to found this new Catholic school within our parish came from you. I have heard many of you express words of lamentation at the closure of our Catholic schools. Many others have shared their memories, organized class reunions, and some even lobbied for housing units to fill the former Notre Dame High School. Further still, there are the voices of parents speaking on behalf of their children in pursuit of the Catholic education enjoyed by previous generations. "Father, is there any way you can open a Catholic school for our children?" All of your voices reached my ears, heart, and faith. It was then time for my voice to call for an answer.

Two years ago, I formed a committee to establish the location, curriculum, and culture of a new catholic school. We surveyed parents and the results compelled us forward. The interest was strong and we were likely to have 30-40 students enroll for the first year. Parents wanted a curriculum, culture, and mission distinctly different from that of other schools. Parents also wanted a quiet location with access to the natural wonders around us--and they wanted the Faith. This and other information aided us in choosing a location that could serve the current population and economic structure of our community.

The parish has many buildings but we had to consider, among other things: (1) the attractiveness of the property (2) the cost of upgrading the building, and (3) the cost to operate the building annually. Keep in mind that after a school is closed it must be brought up to current life and safety codes before reopening. With this criteria we examined St. Michael School, the Parish Office building, St. Joseph School, St Joseph Church, St Anne Hall and Holy Family Parish Center. These examinations included onsite visits, consultation with building inspectors, fire departments, building contractors, and parents. I even looked into the possibility of leasing the Brown School once the Berlin School District announced its closing. We learned that the City is exploring other options for the Brown School property; therefore, with our research complete, we made a decision.

Holy Family Parish Center provides our best chance to start a school and watch it grow. Perhaps someday we will grow into one of our larger buildings, a new building, or grow slow enough to stay for many years. The Gorham location is quiet, has private parking, has space for a playground, is cost effective, is our newest building and thus requires the fewest upgrades, and is the perfect size for our current population.

The committee is now working to upgrade the building, finalize curriculum, hire staff, create uniforms, and develop the daily schedule and spiritual life of the school. I would like every parishioner to help, to be a part of this, to be proud of this moment when our parish brings Forth new life. Please consider

making a sizable gift to the school for tuition support, new desks, paint, supplies, and the very important life and safety upgrades. You can make a gift using Credit/Debit/Checking at the e-Giving portal on our parish website: just choose the Catholic School option at the top. You can donate by Check payable to *Salve Regina Academy* mailed to the parish office, or with cash/check in a marked envelope in the weekend collection. I am looking to raise \$75,000 for these renovations, technology installation, furnishings, etc. That amount is incredibly lower than the cost of upgrading any of the other buildings we considered, building a new building, or leasing a building we do not own.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of this historic moment for Good Shepherd and Holy Family Parishes!

Fr Kyle Stanton

Pastor