

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 8, 2020

## **Dear Parishioners and Parents,**

**SIGNS:** Officer, I didn't see the sign. Was it speeding, a curve, or a red light? Whatever, it generally costs.

There are other types of signs beyond warning signs. I call them Opportunity Signs. A sale, a party invitation, a telephone call, a picture. Often these signs bring joy, inspiration, and advancements.

God places around us signs, warning signs and opportunity signs. Do we miss the signs?

God's signs are often subtle and require reflection. What does this event mean beyond its simple happening? Coincidences are often a sign from God. Sickness or death are signs for the living. A child's question to the parents is a sign. A thought in the middle of the night that wakes you up may be a sign.

Throughout the Gospel Jesus was constantly giving signs. Many of the leaders and intellectuals missed them. Many of the ordinary persons often read them correctly and grew. God's signs are seldom like a sledge hammer. God cautions and invites more often in whispers than in the shouting TV. Think back to your week and ask yourself if there were signs the Lord gave to you and you simply never saw them or never understood them. Accepting God's signs can transfigure you.

## **Next Year's School Enrollment**

St. Joseph School has at this time 195 students registered for next year. Pre-school has 43 students and K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade has 152 students. It is my understanding that the classes are full in kindergartens, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. There are some openings in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Our High School Preparatory Program which encompasses 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade has some openings. This program is known for its individualization for each student, leadership training, advanced classes, and academic results that show our students' grade levels beyond their age group.

There is still room in our pre-3 and pre-K because we opened up and additional classes. All these figures combined will mean at least a 15% growth and likely will result in even more as recruitment continues. I thank you for supporting the school.

## **Health Concerns Because of Flu and Coronavirus**

Last Sunday I spoke with you about health concerns in our church. We have not offered the chalice for over a year because of medical concerns that are with us year round. We were proactive prior to the Diocese's announcement.

I also spoke to you about a particular Asian greeting in which people fold their hands in front of them, bow to the person they are greeting, and say the words *Namaste*. That Sanskrit word means 'I bow to you' and includes the godliness within you. Our Bishop has just recommended that we do this same type of greeting but use the words 'Peace be with you.'

My other suggestion: Be not afraid. Let not the press overwhelm you but rather let common sense and your confidence in the Good Lord sustain you. Peace be with you!