

August 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another year with Holy Family School! It's amazing to realize that this school year marks the beginning of a second decade of the 21st century. These are exciting, changing, challenging times! We are so glad that you are a part of the Holy Family tradition.

The National Catholic Education Association theme for this year is: **A+ Schools, Catholic Schools.** We are celebrating the rich tradition of excellence that Catholic education brings to the United States. Are you aware that over half of all U.S. volunteers attended a Catholic education, that the graduation rate for students attending Catholic schools is above 90%, that Catholic education excellence expectations surpasses state and national guidelines and finally that Catholic educated students have a stronger sense of faith, tradition and values. Wow! That's a lot to celebrate and more of that kind of factual good news can be found on the NCEA website www.ncea.org. Yes, Catholic schools are A+ schools.

Holy Family School Religious theme for this school year is: **Standing on Holy Ground.** Holy Family is holy ground where Jesus walks among us daily influencing our decisions and our lives. We can feel His presence in the hallways, classrooms, and cafeteria. We feel His presence in the teachers that guide our children, the parents that support our faith and the children that learn values and tolerance from each other. We stand on holy ground where many are one in God.

This school year we, along with the other Archdiocesan grade schools, are implementing a stronger math curriculum designed to improve student success in preparing for high school and college. All grades have adopted new textbooks, teachers have attended new curriculum workshops and the Archdiocese has written new learning standards for all children in math. We are very excited about the new learning standards especially since Holy Family has traditionally been among the top four schools in the Archdiocese in national math assessment scores.

This year we welcome new teaching staff to our family: Mrs. Mary Jo Brockie will teach Science to grades 5-8. Mrs. Brockie has been teaching in this Archdiocese for over 22 years with a wonderful reputation as a top science teacher. Ms. Laura Carby will have the third grade homeroom. Ms. Carby graduated from Western Kentucky University this past May with a degree in early child education. She will complete her Kentucky Teachers Intern Program with Mr. Steve Morris as her mentor teacher. Ms. Kelly Ann O'Sullivan joins our team as Spanish teacher. Ms. O'Sullivan graduated from Uof L with a degree in Spanish and has served as an interpreter and educator for Spanish speaking families. Ms. Katherine Wetterer is our fourth grade teacher. Ms. Wetterer has taught third and fourth grade in this Archdiocese and is very excited to join the teaching staff of Holy Family. Each of these people brings special gifts and talents to enhance our school community.

This beginning of a new decade is an exciting time and we are glad to have you share it with "the family". So again, let me state from the entire faculty and staff- Welcome Back!

Gayle Bauch, Principal