



Ash Wednesday March 9, 2011

To the community of the Parish and School of Saint Mary of Milford,

As we begin the season of preparation to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we bring you news of Saint Mary Parish School. With the approval of our Pastor, Father Cronin, at the end of this school year, and for the school year beginning in 2011-2012, we will be moving the kindergarten classes from the convent building to the school proper. This move is brought about for several reasons, all of them positive.

- First, the demand for places in our preschool classes grows, and we need to look to the future with more space availability in mind.
- Second, it will provide greater academic continuity between kindergarten and first grade, allowing greater cooperation and hands on activities between the kindergarten and the rest of the school.
- Third, it will allow for economies of operation that will positively affect our budget. It should please all of us that so many young families want to be part of our preschool programs, and this can only help our parish to grow in a positive way.

We also would like to announce that due to the efforts of many, including the Saint Mary School Board, the finance committee of the Parish Council, the staff of Saint Mary School, and of course the generosity of so many of you, that:

- ***The tuition for the coming school year may not have to experience an expected increase, but remain the same as it is this year.***
- ***That we may be able to reduce the fund raising load on our parents.***

We feel this news is also extremely positive, and speaks to the very real shared sacrifice of so many. We hope this step allows families to see us moving forward in a positive manner, sensitive to their financial concerns in this difficult economic time.

Please know that our students are well cared for and nurtured in our faith as Catholics, that monies you contribute are used wisely and prudently, and that all of you who support Saint Mary School in any way are always in the prayers of the school community. We seek support from many different avenues. For instance, your support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal results in direct scholarship aid of over \$15,000 each year for needy families to continue their affiliation with Saint Mary School.

It is with humble gratitude we share this news with you. Our prayerful reflection is that the Lord Jesus, living among us still, will continue to bless our school and parish, and all those who are generous to both. You are all in our prayers each day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deacon John Hoffman

Frank Lacerenza, Principal