



Diocese of Charlotte

Office of Catholic Schools

Linda L. Cherry
Superintendent of Schools

February 23, 2010

Dear Parents, Teachers and Staff Members,

In this first week of Lent we focus on the meaning of the forty days we celebrate. We celebrate because we are grateful to God for the sacrifice of His Son for all of us. The words spoken on Ash Wednesday remind us that we began from the dust of God's love and will one day return to that same love. In the meantime we have the season of Lent to prepare. We give up something that is a sacrifice; we spend more time in prayer and we do something special for someone in need.

Before Lent began our students became involved in doing for others. The amount of donations in cash, food and supplies for the peoples of Haiti has been enormous. With the initial efforts of two students and their parents, the schools within Charlotte began a "Lean on Us" campaign. Walkers, crutches and canes as well as other health supplies filled the hallways of Charlotte Catholic High School. Mr. Randy Belk, Dean of Students, along with his father drove the truck full of items to Miami last week. The project assisted another area of need for the Haitians-items to help them overcome medical problems as a result of their tragic situation. Thank you to students, parents, staff members and community for assisting in this campaign and all projects of service to others in need.

You might notice something new on my letter this month. We have a new logo for the Catholic Schools Office. The cross in the center shows that Christ is the center of all of our schools.

The circular shape brings together all of the schools of the Diocese. The three phrases at the bottom are to represent:

- Faith – is first in all of our schools and is the reason for their existence.
- Tradition – we carry on the traditions that Catholic schools offer-a Catholic education that is unique and a source of great pride for us all.
- Academic Excellence – we make the obvious commitment to provide a quality education with very high standards, for all of our students.

Over the last year you heard that we are seeking District Accreditation as a Diocese for all of our schools through AdvancEd/SACS-CASI. The official review will take place from March 14-17 when a Quality Assurance Review team of administrators from throughout the country visit our Diocese. Thank you to all who completed the Diocesan survey and to the principals, teachers and staff members who serve on the Accreditation Steering Committee. Diocesan Accreditation will allow our Catholic Schools Office to work directly with our eighteen schools in monitoring and assisting with school improvement plans. Thank you for continuing to keep the visit and process in your prayers.

The Steering Committee for the Study for School Expansion completed their work and the final recommendations have been submitted to the Diocese. We anticipate a response to the final report within a few weeks. For updates and to ask questions, go to:

www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschoolsstudyupdate.html

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Work continues on the Long-Range Planning Committee of the MACS Board as they meet and work weekly on the study for a possible second high school north of center city Charlotte. Questions on the progress of the committee can be sent via www.charlottediocese.org/hsexpansionstatus.html

The Diocesan School Board will have three openings beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. If you would like more information on the board and an application, please contact me via e-mail or phone.

The MACS School Board will have four openings beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. The openings are representatives for Saint Patrick, St. Matthew and two At-Large positions. If you would like an application, please contact me.

Registration information for the 2010-2011 school year will be mailed out the second week of March. Please watch for the information and return registration information and required registration fees by the date noted, in order to ensure your child a seat for 2010-2011. After the deadline, the empty seats will be allotted to those new families waiting in the wings.

May our Lord bless all of you throughout your Lenten journey. May He increase your faith in His Son, Jesus and guide your hearts and lives to reflect the pattern of His love.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Linda L. Cherry
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Charlotte

***VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA***

Catholic Schools, founded on the person and message of Jesus Christ, provide quality teaching and learning through traditional and innovative educational programs infused with Catholic teachings. Students learn to serve and support parish life, in addition to local and global communities. They grow as persons who are spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially prepared to live and serve in a changing society, as self-respecting and responsible citizens. Catholic Schools recognize and appreciate parents as the primary educators of their children.

The mission of the Catholic Schools Office is to advance Catholic education in the Diocese of Charlotte by providing service, support, guidance, and direction to principals, pastors, teachers, board members,