



Dear Holy Cross Academy Parents,

With our first trimester coming to a close and Thanksgiving on the horizon, my “to do” list at Holy Cross Academy is coming into focus. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly and shared your feedback about our school’s strengths and future opportunities. I have begun constructing goals that will help move our school forward and allow us to offer a better experience for our students and parents alike. I want to be transparent in sharing some exciting initiatives that I would like to implement during this current school year if possible.

Before addressing some short term projects at Holy Cross Academy, I want to make it very clear that there is absolutely an expansion in the future for our school. We have \$815,000 set aside for this initiative. Many of our current parents have given significantly of their time, talent, and treasure to help raise those funds. However, additional funds would need to be generated to make the type of campus improvements we would all like to see for our students. I'll communicate more about this as it is appropriate and definitive plans are made...we are not there yet.

Before an expansion happens, I want to make sure we are utilizing our existing space in the best way possible. With that in mind, here are a few projects that I hope to be able to complete sooner rather than later.

### **Chapel on Campus**

Adding a chapel to Holy Cross Academy’s campus came up as a critical need from virtually everyone who was surveyed or asked about our expansion project. I would rather not wait for an expansion to be completed to see this important addition to campus. I'd like to convert our existing conference room to a chapel for our school community. I think the benefits of having a chapel on campus far outweigh the challenges of losing the conference room. I cannot think of an initiative that better meets our mission than adding a chapel to campus.

Fr. Mosimann will work with Bishop Burbidge and the Chancery to gain approval for our chapel plans. I can’t wait for this space to become a chapel as it will help strengthen the spiritual lives of everyone in our school community.

### **Upgraded Security Measures**

I would like to upgrade our security measures as we check in guests. We will be adding an ID scanning device and accompanying check in system for guests which will print individualized guest passes for them. These systems have software that checks driver’s licenses against the sex offender registry to make sure we are not allowing entrance to our building for any venter or guest who should not be around children. Systems like this are in place in many public schools and are growing in use in our Diocesan schools.

Father Mosimann and I will work to allocate funds from our existing budget for this important upgrade to our campus security.

### **Gym divider in Fr. Brisson Hall**

In the original plans for the school from 1998, there were plans for a future gym divider that would allow the space to be used for different activities at the same time. I'd like to add an electric gym divider that can be raised and lowered as appropriate to facilitate activities in Fr. Brisson Hall. This will greatly enhance the functionality of Fr. Brisson Hall.

### **Additional Pair of Basketball Hoops**

With a gym divider in place, an additional set of retractable basketball hoops on the far end of Fr. Brisson Hall would allow two teams to practice on full courts at the same time. These additional hoops would be very helpful for our basketball teams, indoor recess, and Aviat Care Program.

### **Fundraising**

The upgrades to Father Brisson Hall were not budgeted in this year's school budget and we do not want to use expansion funds for these projects on our existing facility. An idea that grew out of a meeting with the Transition Team was having targeted fundraiser(s) for the divider and basketball hoop projects. Each of these projects carries a price tag in the neighborhood of \$15,000. We will be initiating a Giving Tuesday Campaign, a one-day online giving initiative launched on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, to begin raising funds for these projects. Fundraising efforts will continue with another one-day online giving campaign during Catholic Schools Week. Finally, the Holy Cross PTO is sponsoring a Casino Night in May to pay for these projects and other improvements to our campus.

We will move forward with the gym divider (priority one) and the additional basketball hoops as soon as funds are raised for these projects. I look forward to our students enjoying these upgrades to campus. When it comes to improving our school, patience is not my greatest strength!

I'd like to stress again that these initiatives do not take the place of the future expansion project at Holy Cross Academy and will not use funds raised specifically for the school expansion. These facility upgrades offer ways to better meet the mission of our school in our current facility. Thank you all for your commitment to our school and helping to make our school the vibrant, faith-filled learning community that it is.

It is an exciting time to be a Crusader!

*In Christo,*

Stephen M. Fry, Ed. D.  
Principal