



June 28, 2016

Dear Holy Cross Academy families,

I am eager to provide you with an update on our Expansion Project before I leave for retreat in a few days. We have so much good news, that I am not sure where to begin.

We shared our plans with Mr. Timothy Cotnoir, CFE for the Diocese of Arlington. He has given us the go ahead to request the engineer's plans so that we can solicit bids for our building. This is not approval of the final project but it is the approval to move forward. We do not have to wait until we have 50% of the cost on hand. Mr. Cotnoir has full confidence in St. Mary Parish and Holy Cross Academy. We have stellar records with the diocesan finance office. This allows us to plan tentatively to break ground in the Spring/Summer 2017. We were thrilled to receive this good news.

We also received a very generous bequest from the estate of Mrs. Paulette Lake, \$102,000. Mrs. Lake was an artist so we will be dedicating the Art Room to her. Along with what we had previously saved, our auction funds, the Community Give and several other donations, we now have over \$550,000 in our expansion fund. Our 8th grade graduating class donated \$445 and one of our first (now second) graders, Rebecca Root, raised \$50 selling lemonade in her neighborhood. Our Student Council donated \$200 and the St. Mary Council of Catholic Women sent us a generous check for \$1,000. All of these things add up to create our success. To give you a little perspective, on April 1 of this year, the fund was \$238,000. We have had a great Spring.

We are now using all Scrip funds for our Expansion. We receive about \$20,000 a year from this program. I asked our Scrip Coordinator, Mrs. Torie Baldwin, to provide me with some information that I could pass on to you. I have two examples of typical family orders to share with you.

Product Name	Ordered	Filled	Face Value	Rebate %	Rebate \$	Total \$
Panera Bread \$25	1	1	25.00	9.00 %	2.25	25.00
Walmart/Sam's Club \$100	2	2	100.00	2.50 %	5.00	200.00
Wawa \$100	1	1	100.00	1.50 %	1.50	100.00
Sub Totals					\$8.75	\$325.00
Order Total						\$325.00

Product Name	Ordered	Filled	Face Value	Rebate %	Rebate \$	Total \$
Stop & Shop/Giant Foods \$100 (NOT TOPS)	1	1	100.00	4.00 %	4.00	100.00
Wawa \$100	2	2	100.00	1.50 %	3.00	200.00
Sub Totals					\$7.00	\$300.00
Order Total						\$300.00

As you can see, these families are using Scrip for everyday purchases that we all make. If every family in our school used Scrip, we could potentially receive \$8 in rebate per family per week. This would be \$8 x 52 weeks X 300 families, which equals a profit of \$124,800. And that's without Christmas or birthday shopping! Not only would this be a good way to finance the building, but it would also pay the mortgage that we will be taking on. If you do not use Scrip regularly, please consider beginning right away. Set up an account at www.shopwithscrip.com to place your orders for 300+ retailers. Many retailers participate in ScripNow which means you can order Scrip gift cards from your computer or smart phone and receive it in minutes. Some of the great ScripNow retailers are Walmart, Target, Amazon, Starbucks and Krispy Kreme (but there are so many more!). Create an account today and start earning rebates to help fund the HCA expansion. Email scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com to Torie Baldwin for the school code so HCA gets credit for your purchase. The parish is going to start accepting credit cards for point of sale which allows you to receive credit card points and saves you from remembering checks or cash. Saint Mary Parish is also investigating a parish credit card which would benefit our expansion. We will be sure to share that news with you as we go along.

We have several fundraising opportunities planned for our Expansion Fund next year: *Chili Cook-Off and Football Tournament* in October, *Dinner with Friends* in February, a *Golf Tournament* on May 15, and a possible Disney Raffle. In addition, we will be selling bricks and stones for our new Middle School indoor/outdoor hallway and offering naming opportunities.

At our Farewell Celebration for Fr. Don on Friday, we announced that we will be naming our Music Room for Father. We are very grateful for all he has done for our parish and school, including his vision in creating the beautiful plan that we have and his assistance with the funding of the project. Father is helping us to create a brochure soliciting donations, naming opportunities and sponsors for our brick walkway. We will share all of this with you when we return to school.

I am very excited to see our expansion moving forward. These will be great improvements and enhancements for our school. Thank you for your support and encouragement. I wish you all a most blessed, peace-filled summer.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Susan Louise Eder, OSFS". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sr. Susan Louise Eder, OSFS