

V + J

17 January 2019

Dear Holy Cross Academy families,

Thank you for your support and all you do for our school community throughout the year. Our faculty and staff are extremely grateful for your prayers and your words of encouragement, and the help you give in so many ways.

Pope Francis encourages the Church to embrace Catholic education because it “*gives soul to the world*” and “*radiates the promise of Christian salvation.*” At Holy Cross Academy, we are dedicated to educating the whole child so that each student is ready to **transform our world** by *Living Jesus* in the tradition of St. Francis de Sales.

Registration for the coming school year opens today. We are pleased that we have a moderate increase, just enough to cover our raise in salaries and utilities. Along with the continued commitment of Saint Mary Parish which subsidizes each of our students at \$500 per child, our tuition increase allows us to balance our budget. The tuition information is attached to this email and is on our website.

Although this increase is low, we recognize that it may be difficult for some families and strongly encourage those who need financial assistance to complete the financial aid application which can be found on our website. This is a confidential process, handled by FACTS Grant & Aid with the final distribution managed through our school business office. We promote this program for those families who could not provide their children with a Catholic education without it. Please note that the forms must be filled out completely and submitted by January 22nd if you have a high school student and March 15th if your children are solely in elementary school. Please complete all forms at least one week in advance of these deadlines for them to be processed fully. We cannot give aid to any family who has not completed this process. Mrs. Halsey will assist anyone with questions.

We are implementing a paperless registration process this year – no blue form to complete. Your reregistration will be automatic as of February 8, unless you contact Mrs. Jeffers at hcasecretary@holycrossweb.com to inform us that you will not be reregistering. The reregistration fee of \$100 per student will be withdrawn with your March tuition payment. If you have a child starting kindergarten, please email Mrs. Jeffers and she will send you the necessary forms. If you have a child starting preschool, please email Mrs. Castellarin at preschool@holycrossweb.com. The registration fee for preschool is \$85 per child.

Every family must enroll through FACTS by March 1st. The FACTS fee is \$20 for one payment and \$50 for multiple payments. This fee has changed because FACTS has added an Incidental Payment Platform which will allow families to make other payments, such as field trips and Aviat Care, through FACTS. We are excited about this enhancement that many of you have been requesting.

In the same spirit of our paperless reregistration, we are working toward upgrading our technology this year with the purchase of a class set of Chromebooks and new laptops (also Chromebooks) for our teachers. We hope that you will help us to accomplish this important goal during *Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools*. From 12 noon on Jan. 29th until 12 noon on Jan 30th, we encourage you to log on to our HCA website, www.holycrossweb.com and help us to reach our exciting goal of \$30,000. We are ready to take another step forward with our students! Please spread the good news to family and friends as well and ask them to contribute to our project. Last year, Holy Cross Academy received the highest number of donations of the elementary schools in the nation. That's right, we were #1. We are hoping to keep that winning streak alive.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. We are always happy to speak with you and to answer your questions. Thank you for your support of our school and your participation in ministry of Catholic Education.

May God continue to bless all we do in his name,
Sr. Susan Louise, OSFS, principal