



From the Pastor's Desk:

"Catholic School Dividends for Life" – How true this statement is and how proud you must be to be a part of supporting the work of preparing God's children to forge the future for our nation and the world with a solid spiritual and moral foundation to build the future.

If you asked me, who were the great leaders you met and worked with while on active duty in the U.S. Navy, I can sincerely and honestly tell you that they were the men and women whose lives were formed in Catholic Schools or with a strong Religious Education and Family. They were men and women who were strengthened by their daily prayer, their daily or weekly attendance at Mass, their deep moral convictions, incredible compassion, wisdom and vision.

Two buildings south of OLPH Church is OLPH School, a building that produces graduates of excellence no matter what scholastic position they conclude their academic studies. Each child is offered the attention and room for personal growth necessary to make them fine young men and women. The classroom is a constant challenge to bring out the best in each student. Discipline is clear and just taking into consideration that students are children growing up in a world with many problems that the administration and teachers always take into account when making a final call or judgment.

Our parishioners have been very supportive of our School. I ask everyone to encourage families to send their children to OLPH School. Our School Board and Parents' Association are eagerly focused on developing new professional marketing, strategies and fund raising ideas. **Parents must become more involved in these efforts especially in the area of fundraising. Every parent must step up to the plate and become an active part of building the future of Catholic Education by creating a strong financial base to support the operational need of the school.**

The Diocese has made it clear that **closing any school that has a sustainable enrollment is not going to happen.** We have that sustainable number, but we have a lot to do. We are working to increase enrollment at OLPH and to meet the need for funds from successful fundraising to pay for the daily operational expenses of our school. Through the investment of new windows in our school annex this past year we have already cut heating cost in that portion of the facility by approximately 50%. Thanks to a \$10,000 "Technology Grant" from Bishop Murphy, three classrooms will receive "Smart board" technology in the next few weeks. In addition we will renovate one classroom as the model design for all classroom renovations.

The parish will support the school with 22% of our Sunday collections and we will continue monitoring spending based on parish and diocesan guidelines taking advantage of continued and new best buying practices. I need all school families to join the efforts in fundraising to meet the weekly expenses of the school.

Please pray for all of our OLPH School teachers and administration who work so diligently and generously to make our school the best it can be. Join us today as we honor Mr. Burt Koza who has dedicated 40 years of teaching in our school. God bless you Burt! Thank you our School Board and much thanks to our Parents' Association for all you have done and will continue to do. I know, it's not easy, but we all believe that Catholic School Education gives our children all they need to be "Dividends for Life" and our hope for the future.

May God +bless you, and yours, now and forever.

Father Anthony