

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Pope Francis has said: "The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects — because development is the result of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on. And together, these elements enable us to grow and help us to love life, even when we are not well, even in the midst of many problems. True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life."

Did you know that among the thirty three catholic elementary schools in the Diocese that we are among the least expensive 15% relative to tuition rates? Did you know that even after next academic year's slight tuition increase that this percentage remains the same? That is the gap between what we charge and what other Catholic schools charge. That is the incredible value that we provide for you here at St. Rose of Lima School. I know that to be true because I am present in our school on a daily basis teaching Latin and participating in a number of special events.

The value that we offer extends way beyond the realm of the financial. Our faculty and staff sacrifice higher pay in order to share the love of God with your children. We tell the children that they are loved and they know it. Our parishioners sacrifice and subsidize the school over \$100,000 each year in order to create a Gospel centered environment where the mind, heart, and soul of your child can be nourished. However, despite such substantial monetary support from parishioners, additional funding is required in order to meet our school's operational budget. In past years, we have organized numerous small fundraising events in an attempt to meet an annual shortfall of approximately \$70,000 and we have relied heavily on your continued participation and support. Having come to realize that conducting many, small fundraising efforts is both time consuming and burdensome to parents, teachers and volunteers, we have decided to alleviate your task of meeting such obligations and instead will be assessing each family an annual, tax deductible fundraising fee of \$250. Although this fee will not completely cover the \$70,000 needed for our budget, I am confident that the remainder of our goal can be met with various donations and larger events such as the 8 Month Club.

We trust that you understand our school's needs and share our concerns for providing your child(ren) with the best possible instructional tools and education. From the classroom, to drama club, to music lessons, to robotics club, to cooking classes, to vines, to opportunities for prayer and reflection, to character development and even to moments of fun with Fr. Matt on the playground, we at St. Rose provide you with a value that enables your child to love life and to appreciate what is truly good and beautiful in the world.

Upon registration for the 2017 - 2018 academic school year, each family will continue to receive a complimentary 8 Month Club membership. For this current school year we are starting the 8 Month Club later than usual due to the Gala we held this past fall, but the number of \$50 drawings will be consistent with the past as they will be bi-weekly from February to June. Members will once again be treated to a complimentary brunch, which will be celebrated at the Quidnessett Country Club on Sunday, April 30, 2017. You may want to consider purchasing additional memberships for extended family and friends as we anticipate this event to be a lot of fun yet again for everyone involved. Single brunch tickets may also be purchased and there is a special reduced rate for children.

Finally, thank YOU for the sacrifice that you make in giving the gift of a Catholic education to your child. Our school community promises to do all in its power to help raise your children in the faith of Jesus. That, my friends, is hopefully our gift back to you.

Please look over the enclosed packet, which contains all the necessary forms to register your child(ren) for the upcoming school year. Current students have the opportunity to enroll January 13<sup>th</sup> and the registration of new students will begin at Open House on January 29<sup>th</sup>. To assure yourself of a seat I would advise you to register early because our school population continues to grow.

We look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely,

Fr. Matt