

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Faith · Family · Education



Dear Parents,

As the days continue to get shorter and the leaves change into the brilliant fall colors, I can't help but to reflect on the beauty of God's presence all around us. This is also true as I work through our school visiting the classrooms and seeing God's presence at work. We truly have so much to be thankful for! As part of our ongoing commitment to the **mission** of our school, "At St. Andrew the Apostle School, all students receive a quality education in a Christian environment, surrounded by caring people." I am pleased to report that the School Advisory Council has established and is executing against our 2016/17 goals, as directed by our B.E.S.T. Plan. I am also pleased to report that our School Advisory Council members will be participating in our first SAC retreat, entitled Getting to Greatness through Board Effectiveness and Servant Leadership, which ties our school mission to the overall mission of the Church. This retreat will help our SAC members grow in their roles as active SAC representatives while offering an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. I am excited to be one of the guest presenters and look forward to being part of a renewed, inspired and focused group of committed and faith-filled individuals.

As stated in last month's parent communication, we, as a parish family, are excited to continue to live out our Value Statement through the Virtues. Our Value Statement is:

We believe quality Catholic education calls us to integrate Gospel teachings and values with everyday life; while believing that all secular subjects need to be taught in the light of these values. These values are deeply rooted in the belief that Jesus Christ is the reason for our school, and our community lives out our faith expressing the virtues of prudence, fortitude, charity, generosity, temperance, humility, and brotherly love. All, in communion with a strong sense of hospitality and belonging in everything we do.

This month, we will be focusing on the virtue of Fortitude; which is a Cardinal Virtue. It is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice one's life in defense of a just cause. In the world you have tribulation, Jesus says, but be of good cheer, knowing that Jesus has overcome the world.

I ask that you reflect on, pray for and demonstrate the virtue of Fortitude throughout your daily lives this month. This is a wonderful way, which we as a parish family can collectively educate our children through word and deed. I also ask that you, please pray for a successful retreat for our SAC members and other committee and support personnel who will be in attendance. As always, I ask that you keep me in your prayers, and rest assured that I will keep you in mine. I encourage you to pray that you may open your heart and reflect on how God may be calling you to support our school with the gifts He has so generously bestowed upon you. Thanks again for all that you do for our school and parish; especially with bringing our children closer to Christ!

In the Loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Gregor

www.andrewcc.org

505 Kingston Drive · Romeoville, Illinois 60446 · 815-886-5953 · Fax 815-293-2016