

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Faith · Family · Education



Dear Parents,

With Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent starting this week, I wanted to focus this month's parent communication, not only on the great progress we are making with our school, but to also help prepare our hearts and minds for our Lenten journey. Lent is such a special time in our liturgical calendar. Fasting, prayer and almsgiving are considered the three pillars of Lent, and will help us dive deeper into self-reflection and a deeper relationship with God

While the School Advisory Council (S.A.C.) members continue to give of their time and talents, I am honored to report that our school continues to grow and flourish, based on the goals and objectives set at the beginning of the school year. These goals and objectives are in line with our Vision Statement, which is tied to our school mission and values, which is also tied to the overall mission of the Church. Our Vision Statement, "*At St. Andrew the Apostle Parish School we are called to **introduce the world to its Savior!***" stems from what our patron saint, St. Andrew the Apostle, is noted for in the Gospel of John 1, 41 "*Then he (St. Andrew) brought his brother, Simon to Jesus*". And, as a reminder, 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 Humility, which is Capital Virtue. It overcomes the sin of pride. Humility is the virtue that recognizes our 100% reliance on God for all that we have, or ever will have. Everything on earth is on loan from God, including our good looks, our money, our house, etc. Those who think that they got all of these things on their own are in for a big surprise upon death. The devil fools some of us into thinking that we got these things due to our hard work, or our talent, or whatever, when in fact, God gave them all to us. Pride is the devil's great sin, and he wants us all to think that we are gods too, like he does. But by being humble, we beat him every time, because humility comes from the heart, and the devil does not have a heart. In Christianity, the Bible says that the first shall be last, and the last shall be first. To be humble, a man does not need to belittle his abilities. Our Lord continually urged us to humility; as when He said, "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (St. Matthew 23:11).

Let us embrace this Lenten journey together by reflecting on, praying for, and demonstrating the virtue of Humility throughout our daily lives. Collectively as a parish family, let's show each other and teach our children the meaning of the virtue of Humility; while *introducing the world to its Savior* though word and deed. Once again, let me say thank you for your ongoing prayers and support, for I am truly humbled and honored to be your Pastor. Please remember that I will always keep you in my prayers. I would also ask that you keep me in your prayers and also continue to pray and reflect as to how God may be calling you to support our school.

Thank you so very much and God be with you and your family!

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