



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

OUR LADY OF PEACE CAMPUS

To the Beloved of God: Principal, Faculty and Staff,

While reflecting on the beginning of a new academic year I wanted to share the following with you, so that you know where I am coming from as pastor of Christ the Servant and Our Lady of Peace School. My hope is that this provides my vision and expectations for every child that walks through the doors of our school.

It is my belief as a Roman Catholic minister of the Gospel that every child is a beloved child of God. This becomes the foundational premise for all of our lives as Catholics in the ministry of education; having serious implications for us as a Community of Disciples. It is with the conviction of faith that we acknowledge that every child has the God given potential to become the person God intends. There is an old saying “God doesn’t make junk”; therefore no child is excluded from that possibility, every child is unrepeatable and no one can take their place in God’s providence.

Our Catholic teachers are formed and dedicated in the understanding that these irreplaceable children may not be what we might have created in our image; but after all they are created in God’s image, not ours. That makes all the difference.

Therefore, we share a responsibility as Catholic educators to cooperate with God’s Spirit in facilitating the discovery of each child’s potential, often hidden deep within. This demands a radical perspective as educators in being able to go beyond the “surface” of race, gender, ethnic, socio-economic, and religious background. Seeing through the eyes of faith we will find that which intrinsically lies deep within; the image and likeness of God – the Beloved of God.

Every child instinctively knows whether they are loved or not, knowing exactly what is in the heart of the teacher - the eyes are the mirror of the soul. Therefore as parents, teachers, and pastors we have been entrusted with figuring out a way for every child to experience their innate dignity and value. This can only happen when we teach our children to recognize their love - ability by God.

Without this worldview or transcendent perspective, we merely become enablers of a Darwinian philosophy of elitism- the “survival of the fittest” - that allows for a God who discriminates and shows partiality or makes mistakes.

My prayer is with you as you begin this new school year, knowing that the greatest challenge we will share this year is in welcoming with love and care God’s beloved sons and daughters.

Sincerely in Christ the Teacher,

Msgr. Lew Gaetano