

## From Fr. Michael

*In 2008-09 our parish undertook a process of strategic planning. At the conclusion of that work, we had developed a series of broad goals for the church and school to pursue over the next three years. In 2009-10, each ministry area took those goals and established more specific objectives and strategies to advance their mission. Since that time, our staff and volunteers have been working diligently to implement the plan. This summer, I've asked the directors of our various ministries to update us on their progress. This week's update is written by Lynn Volkenant, School Principal, and describes the advancements made in the areas of St. Bartholomew School.*

The school is accredited every 7 years by MNSAA (Minnesota Non-Public School Accreditation Association) and as such maintains a living document of our strategic goals. The document is added to regularly and an up-dated version is submitted to MNSAA every spring in order to maintain our accredited status. In 2009-10, the schools educational advisory committee (SEAC) aligned individual goals and strategies to overall parish ministry goals. In addition, during 2010-11 the school underwent intensive self-scrutiny and in May of 2011, submitted a three year sustainability plan to the archdiocese.

### **Our Objectives**

1. Achieve and maintain academic excellence
2. Improve the budgeting process and financial visioning
3. Increase awareness of the school
4. Update and enhance the marketing plan
5. Foster and enhance spiritual growth and Catholic Identity

**In 2010-11, the school was asked to consider four broad goals when determining our level of sustainability. Following are those areas and some of the progress being made in each.**

### **Catholic Identity**

- New religion curriculum was aligned with archdiocesan religion standards and Curriculum Mapper was used to document each classroom's participation
- Curriculum maps reflect alignment and integration with other curricular areas
- Curriculum includes resources to model and teach the Catholic Social Teachings
- Collaboration with the Parish on developing Financial Stewardship curriculum, taught in Faith Formation and the school
- All students regularly apply social teachings to service learning experiences such as: Food drives, Soles for Jesus, 363 Ministries sandwiches for homeless, sponsorship of families from Risen Christ School at Christmas, sponsorship of children in Mexico, scholarships for Father O'Dong's school in Ghana, Pinwheels for Peace project, and Feed My Starving Children. In addition, school and faith formation ministries work together to provide for those less fortunate in our community. During the 2011-12 school year, FF and the school will collaborate to choose and implement new curriculum reflecting the newly revised Roman Missal which the Church will use beginning in Advent 2011.

### **Academic Programming**

- Accreditation maintained with semi-yearly reports to MNSAA
- Professional / spiritual development opportunities for staff are well-funded and includes PD in Focus, Discovery Education, workshops from district reps, Curriculum Mapper, PD 360 and Observation 360
- Programming focused on developing the whole child and correlated to state standards in every grade
- SST (Student Support Team) meets weekly with interventions to support the needs of diverse learners and to comply with state regulations
- Development of collaborative relationship with Wayzata Public Schools, collaboration to meet student needs, write and implement IEP
- Title 1 program initiated in 2010 - serves struggling readers
- Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners, with accommodations in content, process and product, needs of gifted students addressed
- Technology fully integrated, smartboard technology in every classroom, new stationary lab, 2 mobile laptop labs, 2 airliners, SRS, new laptops for all teachers as of 2-11, plans to purchase more document cameras and begin replacing mobile labs. Plans to purchase an iPad lab in 2011-12

- Stanford 10 in grade 6 and 11-12 implementation of online NWEA/ MAP tests in K-6 twice yearly to chart individual student progress and areas of strength and challenge
- Faculty yearlong focus on assessing, grading, and reporting with design of new report card

### **Financial Management**

- New financial guidelines written and implemented April of 2011
- Use of TADs, which is a more objective method of determining financial assistance
- July of 2011, TAD's tuition management program added for more privacy and online features
- Regular projections on enrollment and tuition assistance needs are presented to Father Michael and other administration
- Budget is reviewed monthly and adjusted down as needed. John Grobe provides a monthly school financial report for members of SEAC
- Annual meeting to report financial status to all stakeholders
- Clarity added around the Annual Fund, its purpose and direction

### **Marketing and Development**

- SWOT analysis and stakeholder survey done in 2009
- New website launched 2010 and updated regularly
- A variety of print and video tools were developed such as, 3 new brochures, local advertisements, personalized postcards, collaboration with parish on mailings promoting church and school, visitor cards, baptism cards, magnets and lawn signs
- School presence at community events and school fairs
- Addition of two more open houses
- Alumni database and newsletter, first edition published winter 2011, second to come in September 2011
- Regular Parish Bulletin and *Reflections* articles highlighting the school