

November 12, 2009

Brothers and Sisters in Catholic Education,

For such a tiny school I find myself asking myself a lot of questions that I do not know the answer to. For example, I wonder if you parents are satisfied with the *Catholic* part of the education we are giving the children. Is going to Mass one day a week, teaching the children to begin each day with a prayer, praying before lunch and, of course, the religious education offered enough? Do you have other religious activities we should be considering? Should we be saying the rosary, as a school, each Friday, for example? Should we make Wednesday a “dress up” day (for Mass attendance)? There is a special reason *you* have chosen to send your child (ren) to a Catholic school. Are we addressing that reason?

On a different topic, have you gotten over to the nearest U.S.Cellular store and registered for one of those ‘codes’ so you can vote for us in that \$100,000 give away? Have you contacted your relatives in Arizona and in Maine, or wherever, and told them about how they too can help us by getting a ‘code’ and ‘voting’ for Our Lady of the Lakes in Random Lake? This is a winnable endeavor if we all get creative and reach out to friends and relatives for their support. There is no purchase required and no obligation (except for signing up for a ‘code’).

This next topic is aimed more at the 6th & 5th grade parents, but I believe everyone should be aware of what I am proposing. Next week, when the parents of the 6th & 5th grade students are in the building for conferences I will be attempting to speak to everyone one of them about their thoughts about Our Lady of the Lakes offering a 7th grade next year and a 7th & 8th grade the following year. Most of the parents I have spoken to thus far ask me questions about the logistics of such an idea (and that is still developing, although a strong foundation is known). Most are supportive. After I spend time speaking with each family I can I will send a formal survey asking for a commitment to see if I have a strong enough interest in providing this opportunity. I sincerely believe we can offer a quality 7th (& 8th) grade experience for our students. However, I will not do it if this isn’t something our students and their families are interested in.

We still have a week and a half in our “Teaming up with Jesus to feed the hungry” campaign. All food donated will go to our **local** food pantry. We have been receiving calls asking for our help.

I look forward to seeing each of you in the building next week during conferences.

Your Servant,

Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator