



St. Joseph Catholic Church

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October 9, 2020

Dear Graduates of St. Joseph School and Friends,

“I would like in the following pages to take up and discuss **MANY NEW PATHS OF HOPE**. God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family.” Pope Francis Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, # 54, October 3, 2020.

HOPE! ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CONTINUES TO GROW. In our grades K – 8 we have 144 students, a growth of 12.5% over last year’s class of 128 students. We expect to grow further this year as some families return from COVID homeschooling.

COVID 19 has not taken away the joy or laughter from our students or our teachers. **JUST LOOK AT THE PICTURES!** Our open rural campus allows the children to run around with smiles. They study outside and attend Liturgy outside during this colorful fall.

Soon we must return inside for Mass as the weather cools. The church underwent major renewal: painting with a golden dome, resurfaced oaken floors, a handcrafted Tabernacle stand, maroon sanctuary rug, LED lighting, and new cushioned kneelers. **GOD’S HOME IS MOST INVITING.**

OUR TEACHERS ARE AMAZING. They are superior. Some teach in the Four Thought Center, the old Primary Building of 1961 that was fully renovated by Mudd Construction. This Center contains science, art and ceramics, mathematics, and the fourth room used by the parish for various functions.

The State of Ohio under **GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE** has been most helpful to us. Forty-six students are on Ed Choice Grants which pays their tuition. The cost for us per student is \$6,200. The church from its collection helps the school with \$140,000. We have a balanced budget.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL NOW HAS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS that is fully responsible for the direction of this school. The members of the Board are Larry Mudd - Chairman, Judy Knapp - Vice President, Paul Demboski, Jim Trout, Ike Holzapfel – (Principal), and myself as Administrator of the Parish.

This fall we will be building a small structure of approximately 1,100 square feet. This building will contain a cooking center especially used by the Festival and the Fish Fry, an electrical room, and restrooms. These restrooms are necessary for our students. The building will have a special name; we call it the **THANK YOU CENTER.**

Let me end this letter with Hope. Thank you for your continuing interest in the school that many of you attended. Reward a winner. We depend upon your prayers and your support.

Cordially in Christ,

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
TA/sb