

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL...CHANGING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AT A TIME.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parents of children in St. Bernadette School,

Within the first two weeks of my arrival here as Pastor, it was necessary to determine tuition rates with a view to the future. Fortunately we -- the Business Manager Deacon Frank Burke and a very viable Finance Council -- met the needed goal.

Due to the Parish Tuition Adoption Program and the recent "All School Alumni" gathering, funds were available to offset what would have been a tuition increase. Access to these funds helped to keep tuition for this year the same as last year. For your information, details about the tuition rates for the 2009 - 2010 school year can be found on the school website.

However, the Finance Council and I discovered 25% of the school families have contributed nothing for the past year. Another 17% have contributed less than \$100 for the year. The parish subsidy to the school (25%), about \$225,000, must come from contributions.

After surveying the area parishes, it was determined that a minimum of \$15.00 per week is essential for each family with children in St. Bernadette School, St. Bernadette CCD and in an Archdiocesan High School. Already 40% of our school families contribute the minimum of \$15 per week.

Everyone is mindful of the challenging economic situation. The Finance Council had this in mind in striving to keep tuition the same. If a family has a hardship, they need to contact the rectory, and everyone will do the best they can in responding.

Additionally, an appeal was made to try and recruit more students for our school. More students will mean a healthy tuition.

I am grateful to the Finance Council and all the hard work they did. I am grateful to all the families who support Catholic Education by sending their children to Catholic school and to all who generously support the school. Keep in mind the \$15.00 per week is the basic minimal offering.

My prayer is one of gratitude for all God does for us, and I ask his blessings upon you for all that you do.

In Christ Jesus,+

Rev. John J. Kelly