

May 11, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We are all humbled by the outpouring of gratitude expressed by the families and friends of St. Francis Xavier School during Teacher Appreciation Week, and would be remiss if we did not begin this letter with a huge thank you from the entire faculty and staff. We truly appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness and creativity. Your expressions of appreciation touched our hearts, and it is difficult to convey how much we value your ongoing support. It is such a blessing to be part of such a strong and vibrant community.

Last Sunday was a very special occasion – **First Communion** for our Second Grade students. The Mass was beautiful and our students did an exceptional job. Congratulations to all our students who received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. We thank their families for laying the foundation of Faith for them and for continuing their guidance and education.

On Tuesday we held our annual **May Crowning Ceremony**. This year we were honored to have our school Mass concelebrated by Father Peter Routhier, Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington. Following the Mass, the Second Graders in their First Communion robes and the whole school community gathered around Our Lady's statue for the crowning and the singing of the traditional hymn "Hail, Holy Queen". After the crowning, the community returned to the church for the rosary. We are pleased that families, friends, and parishioners were able to join us.

In addition, this week was National Nurses Week with **Wednesday** being **National School Nurse Day**. We want to take this opportunity to **thank Mrs. Charlotte Magnani**. We are so happy she is here, and we thank her for all she does for our school community.

Within our classes we had standardized testing, which always makes things a bit more stressful than a typical week. Students and faculty rose to the occasion (and worked hard to stay focused with the beautiful, but sometimes uncomfortably hot, weather) and did a great job.

We are pleased to announce the **St. Francis Xavier School Teacher of the Year, Mr. Eric Becker**. Mr. Becker was selected for the outstanding work he does in Middle School Computer and in Physical Education for all our students. He also helps coach the cross country running team, umpires the girls' softball home games when needed, and spends a lot of time helping with technical and computer issues. He has spent many an evening and weekend working in the computer lab or classrooms setting up and troubleshooting computers and network connections. Thank you, Mr. Becker for your positive attitude and your dedication and commitment to our students and our entire school community.

We are also pleased to announce that **Ms. Nicole Ruggeri** was accepted into the **Vermont Mathematics Initiative**, a unique three-year graduate program at the University of Vermont that focuses on advanced mathematics content, effective teaching practices, action research and teacher leadership. As part of this program, Ms. Ruggeri will be working with our Administrative Team and other members of the faculty to develop a "VMI impact plan" to enhance mathematics instruction at St. Francis Xavier School. Congratulations, Ms. Ruggeri.

Mrs. Martinez would like to announce that the **Kindergarten Class** is **collecting books for refugee children** as their Christian Service Project. They are asking for donations of children's books in new or good used condition to be brought to the Kindergarten classroom during the month of May. Joseph's House will be working with us to get the books to the children who need them. Thank you for your support.

Tomorrow is the fifth annual **Saint Francis Xavier School Stampede and Children's Fun Run**. The 0.2 Mile loop around the school for children begins at 8:45, and the 2.5K and 5K runs begin at 9:00. Fee for the 2.5K or 5K is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 14 and under (GMAA members subtract \$1). No fee for the 0.2 mile. The class with the highest participation percentage will receive a certificate for their classroom, and the teachers will be considered a single "class" and will be competing against the students. If you would like to volunteer, or for more information, please contact Steve Eustis at (802) 878-4385 or [Eustis@sover.net](mailto:Eustis@sover.net). All are welcome, and if you didn't

sign up already, there is no problem. Just show up! Come and join in the fun.

We are continuing our **summer program planning**. Please **submit your registration paperwork** for summer programs of interest. We will have to make decisions about these within the month. Last year we had several families who were disappointed because we canceled programs for which they were planning to register. Please don't let that happen again this year. Also, please remember that our **Extension Program is open throughout the summer**; students who take part in our summer programs can then join the Extension Program.

**The Diocese of Burlington Youth Congress 2007** is scheduled for August 4-5. The Congress “gathers hundreds of Catholic teens from around Vermont to experience their Catholic Faith to its fullest. The all-day Saturday and Sunday event is organized by the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC), who prayerfully discern how Christ is leading their generation. They turn this reflection into two days of fun and powerful experiences of Eucharist, music, awesome Catholic speakers, deep prayer in adoration and reconciliation, workshops, group discussions, great food, and creative opportunities with many other young Catholics. (from the Diocese Youth Ministry flyer). The Congress costs \$100, including one overnight and meals. Early-bird registration deadline is May 1st. Interested 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students and/or parents may pick up information and forms at the office.

We continue to be blessed here at St. Francis Xavier School. Thank you all, and have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis