

Dear St. Irenaeus Parents/Guardians and Alumni:

In September of 1963, St. Irenaeus Parish School opened its doors to students in grades 1-4 for the first time. The tuition in 1963 was only \$8.00 per month. Each classroom typically had 50 or more students. Many students walked, or rode their bikes to school. Sr. Anne Broderick and many of the teachers were Presentation Sisters who lived in the convent on the parish grounds. Over the years the tuition has increased, and the school has grown to include students in K-8. Although some things have changed over the years, our mission continues to be the same. We are committed to providing our students with the best Catholic education possible. We strive to model Catholic values and the gospel message so that our students will become Faith-filled active Catholics. The children in our school have the opportunity to learn in a setting where prayer, faith, values, and Christian service are part of their school experience.

We are proud of our school's legacy in the parish and community. It is especially gratifying that many of our alumni look back on their years at St. I with appreciation and gratitude. We are also proud that many alumni have chosen St. I for their children's education.

It is time once again to ask you to participate in our Annual Giving program so that we can continue to provide our students with the best possible Catholic education. Since we began our Annual Giving Program four years ago, we have received donations in the amount of \$50,000. We have been able to upgrade the computers in our computer lab and classrooms. Last year we were able to purchase a ceiling mounted projector and screen for the computer lab. We would like to continue to focus on enhancing our school's technology by purchasing a mobile cart and a class set of laptops for student writing, and Accelerated Reading testing.

The cost of educating a student at St. I increases each year. The school is challenged to find ways to fill the gap between the amount of tuition and fees collected, and the actual cost of educating a student at St. I. This gap continues to grow and this year it is about \$800 **per student**. With an enrollment of 406 students, we are looking for ways to raise about \$325,000.

It is through generous Parish support and various fundraising projects that we fill this gap. The Annual Giving Program is one of these projects. We know that there are many other charitable organizations that are requesting your financial support. We ask you to consider giving to St. Irenaeus School. We appreciate all gifts and are grateful for those who contribute to St. I via a payroll deduction plan, or their company's matching gift program.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and especially the children of our school, we thank you for your continued support of our school and our Annual Giving Program.

Sincerely,



Darlene Hembreiker, M.Ed.
Principal

