



*In the Tradition of
the Franciscan Fathers and
Sisters of the Precious Blood*

Saint Mary's High School

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"Home of the Knights"

November 1, 2009

Dear Saint Mary's Families,

Many of you know by now through your parishes that Pope Benedict XVI has declared this year – 2009-2010 – the “Year of the Priest”. It provides a special time for us to thank God for our priests! We, at Saint Mary's, have been honored over the years to have many dedicated Franciscan priests, Fr. Lester Mitchell, Fr. Blaise Cronin, and Fr. Alonso de Blas, to name just three, who have blest the halls of our school in the 25 years I have been here. Of course, there were so many more who came before. These priests became lifelong friends to many of us. They were community-minded and dedicated, determined to build and promote that spirit of community that is now so prevalent at Saint Mary's. I'm sure many of you have fond memories of the Franciscans.

Last year, Bishop Thomas Olmsted decided to make the spiritual needs of the diocesan high schools a greater priority by assigning a diocesan priest to each school. That decision came just in time for us at Saint Mary's as Fr. Alonso found out that he was being re-assigned to the Franciscan Renewal Center. In 2008-2009, Fr. Paul Sullivan became the first diocesan priest to serve as chaplain of Saint Mary's High School. He is now the Diocesan Vocations Director, resides at Mt. Claret Retreat Center, and continues to be a “friend” of Saint Mary's, celebrating 7 a.m. Mass with us on most Wednesday mornings.

This year, we are blest once again with another young diocesan priest, Fr. Robert Bolding. Fr. Bolding was ordained this past June. He has jumped right into the school community life at Saint Mary's, celebrating some of our daily 7 a.m. Masses, working with our Campus Minister, visiting students in Theology classes, providing our school community, both students and staff, with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and just this past week, taking on the challenge of the Freshman Retreat. He resides at Ss. Simon and Jude Parish. Fr. Fred Adamson, Vicar General, residing at Mt. Claret, has been helping us with 7 a.m. Masses on occasion throughout the school year. And, LONG time devoted priest, celebrant of most 7 am Masses at Saint Mary's this year, friend, and football chaplain is Fr. Francis Peacock. Fr. Peacock even has a Kelly green cleric shirt! He also resides at Ss. Simon and Jude.

So as you can see, we have been blest with priests at Saint Mary's. We are grateful for each and every one of them. We are all better for knowing them and for allowing them to be a part of our lives.

What is left to speak of now is prayer. Let us always remember to pray for our priests. Their ministry is so vital to ensuring the vibrant faith communities in our parishes and our schools. Let us also pray for vocations to the priesthood—including vocations from our very own Saint Mary's High School!

Peace and Blessings to All,

Mrs. Suzanne M. Fessler
Principal