



Dear Parishioners,

These past few weeks have been a difficult time for the teachers, staff and parents of students at Frassati Catholic Academy. It was announced that for the 2019-2020 school year all formal educational activities will take place on the Wauconda campus. This is for all grades, pre-school through 8th grade. Middle school classes have been held on the Wauconda campus since 2010-11. To be clear, Frassati Catholic Academy will be housed on one campus; the Academy is not closing.

The one-campus model is something that has been discussed as an option for a number of years as we face a decline in enrollment and an increase in expenses. Certainly this change will impact the parishioners of St. Mary's the most. I am aware of some of the feelings of disappointment that some of our families are experiencing. This was not an easy decision and it was made with careful deliberation and prayer. I do believe it was the best decision we could make to enable the Academy to have a solid future.

The educational and financial operations of Frassati Academy are administered by the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools. As one of our vital ministries, the parish does, and will continue to, provide significant funding for the operation of our school. The Archdiocese has also been providing substantial financial support for the school and is committed to continuing its support. Last year the financial subsidy of the Archdiocese for the operation of the Academy totaled \$557,000, which is in addition to the nearly \$300,000 in financial support provided by the three parishes. This level of support cannot be sustained. The one-campus model will significantly reduce the amount of subsidy needed for the operation of the Academy. The Wauconda school building is much larger than St. Mary. It is accessible to those with disabilities and offers our students better technology and an improved learning environment. Our students will have more opportunities to participate in athletic activities such as track and cross country. All faculty and staff will be focused at one location, increasing staff development and cross-curricular opportunities. Our class sizes can be "right-sized" to better meet the needs of all students and the opportunity to enhance a faith-filled sense of unity.

In order for the one-campus model to work we must work together, and student enrollment will be a critical issue. For the past four years we have been blessed by the leadership and dedication of Ms. Tammy Kleckner. Tammy has worked tirelessly to promote Catholic education and to strengthen the academic and Catholic virtues that we want for our children. I know that our parents also make many sacrifices to send their sons and daughters to a Catholic school. I am grateful for their faith and commitment to Catholic education. I remain committed to supporting the pastoral needs of our students and families. I ask for your prayers and support for this model of Catholic Education under the patronage of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Let us pray for one another,

Fr. Jerry