

June 6, 2021
Solemnity of Corpus Christi
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Dear Parents of Holy Trinity School,

The ultimate goal of an authentic Catholic education is to lead souls to heaven. The essential reality of Heaven is *being with God*. Amazingly, we can be with God right now! The best way to get to heaven is to live *this* earthly life in intimate communion with God. We need a *personal relationship* with Jesus, and the most powerful way to have this relationship is through a sacramental life of prayer.

To this end, last year we started offering weekly Confession on campus for our students. Students who have received their first Confession have the opportunity each week for this sacrament of mercy—it was awesome to see how many students began the good habit of regular confession! We are all sinners, and we all need God’s superabundant mercy. There is no real spiritual growth if we neglect this powerful sacrament. When the goal is heaven, regular confession is essential.

Confession is one of the two regularly received sacraments in an active Catholic’s life. The other, of course, is the Mass, particularly the Holy Eucharist, which the Church calls the “*source and summit* of the Christian life.”

The Eucharist is the *source* for our life as Christians. Our desire to be close to God is nourished and satisfied when we receive Him in His entirety—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—in Holy Communion. With every Holy Communion, we have the opportunity to grow ever-closer to Christ and to each other. The Eucharist becomes the source it is meant to be by our regular reception and our developing a personal friendship with Jesus that underlies our entire life. Holy Communion leads us to prayer; prayer then increases our desire for Holy Communion; and real growth happens as these two build upon each other in a daily progression.

The Eucharist as source of our spiritual life overflows into a continual and life-long growth in virtue, holiness and closeness to Christ. As we grow, by love, in more perfect union with God and neighbor and in a more perfect imitation of the love of Christ, the Eucharist becomes the *summit*, the height, of the Christian life. When we are completely one with Christ, when our hearts, minds, and wills are in perfect union with Jesus, we find ourselves transformed by God’s sacramental grace. This transformation of ourselves into Christ begins and ends with our fruitful reception of Jesus in Holy Communion and within a life of prayer. So we begin by being *close* to Jesus as we receive Holy Communion day in and day out which leads us closer and closer to reaching the *summit* of the Christian life—*literally being one* with Christ, thinking and loving with His Sacred Heart.

Where am I going with all this, you are probably wondering? I am getting to it. Thank you for your patience.

The decline of Catholic education in our country over the past few generations is mostly due to the ever-increasing transformation of Catholic schools into public schools. A Catholic school *should* look and feel different: from a more integrated curriculum and a Catholic view of reality to teaching not just about values but about virtues and truth and union with Christ to utilizing all the treasures of the long history of the Catholic approach of education and a classical approach. We at Holy Trinity School are building up future servant leaders and bold soldiers who live and uphold all that is good, true and beautiful. When a Catholic school looks more and more *just like* a public school, it is the suicide of Catholic education. Why would anyone choose a public-school-level education in a school with lesser facilities and offerings—**and pay for it**—when they can get it for free somewhere else?

Our rebuilding of Holy Trinity School will therefore work in precisely the opposite direction—in becoming a fully Catholic school. If we expect families to sacrifice and pay for this education, it has to be worth it. *We can't afford to be as good as the public schools*. We have to be *much better* than the public schools. **Our survival as a school is dependent on our being the best school in the area.**

How can we become the best school in the area with our limited funds? We have access to a superpower—one far surpassing anything the Marvel or DC Universe has to offer! We have *God Himself* as our superpower! This the public schools do not have; in fact, they have very strict policies ensuring that God is excised from the student experience. While there are many good and faithful believers in public schools, the system is still currently designed to omit God from the student educational experience.

And it is in this very area, our Faith, that we can shine like no other type of school can! We can take the opposite approach by putting God first in our school and fostering a personal relationship with God within each student. We are not going to become the best school in the area because of our funding, facilities, families, teachers, principal, staff, or opportunities. We will become the best school in the area because we are going to fully embrace the superpower of superpowers by creating a Catholic culture and living our Catholic Faith in every aspect of our lives.

We are nothing special in and of ourselves. We become something special when we strive for holiness and foster within ourselves a living faith with the help of God's grace. Holy Trinity is nothing special in and of itself. HT is something special insofar as it lives the Catholic Faith. It is this living faith that we seek to instill and foster in all our students. This living faith is our way of tapping into the superpower that is God and His grace—His life in our souls!

OK, OK, *now* I am ready to tell you what I am getting at!

The best way to instill and foster this living faith at HT is going to Mass every day as a school! Well, actually not every day, but every Tuesday-Friday.

I started talking about having daily Mass when I was being interviewed for the position ten months ago. Our pastor Father Matt fully supports this move. It has the support of the Parish Advisory Council, and it has the support of the teachers, staff and even a number of families who have caught wind of it. That is not to say that everyone is without concerns.

The primary concern that I have heard has been lost academic time. And that is a real concern. One thing we will do to offset that a bit is to increase our day by ten minutes. Instead of starting at 8:10, **we will start our day at 8:00**. But how do we regain the other twenty minutes or so?

The answer: daily Mass transforms motivation. Let me explain, with a question: how is academic time maximized, generally speaking? Another question by analogy: how long does it take children to do their household chores, generally speaking? When children approach their chores with having to do them well and before they get to do something they are really looking forward to, like going to an amusement park, it is amazing how well and quickly it goes. On the contrary, when they are loathing the tasks, what could take them twenty minutes when they are motivated could take an entire afternoon when they are not. In a normal, average school, students generally loath the tasks of learning.

Daily Mass begins to change the motivation of the student body. Over time, as is true in my own experience at two schools, they will begin more and more to be motivated by heaven, by being good, by pleasing God. With regular confession, this process is increased exponentially. When students experience each day what matters most in life, and learn within a vibrant, joyful Catholic culture, we give them a reason to persevere. *We give them an eternal focal point for their earthly existence. We give them the highest and best motivation—pleasing God above all things.* When students start doing their best and pushing themselves to improve as a way of preparing themselves to answer God's call in their life and to please Him, they and the school is well on its way to being transformed. **We cannot be the best school in the area unless our students have the best motivation.** This is true for all of us involved with the school—parents, teachers, and faculty alike.

In my 24 years in the education field, Holy Trinity is now the 5th school in my career. Half of my previous schools had daily Mass. The other two schools would have had daily Mass if they could find the priests to accommodate that practice. What always struck me was that, at the schools with daily Mass, the number one item that the graduates would say was their favorite thing about the school was **going to Mass every day! Teenagers say this!**

At the end of the day, having Mass Tue-Fri is a leap of faith. Almost no one does it. It is bold. To many it will seem to be madness. I can't promise you that it will be a smooth and seamless road ahead. There are still many details we will need to work out; there will be unforeseen details we will need to address as we begin in the fall. But what I can promise you is that God is always

much more generous with us than we are with Him. If we step out in faith and invest or “waste” this time each day as a school by going to Mass, He will enrich us in ways we cannot foresee. Since heaven and union with God is our ultimate goal, taking time daily for students to have an encounter with Christ in the sacraments is *the most effective way* to encourage that growth. We will avail ourselves of the superabundant blessings of our Catholic Faith. That is our superpower!

God Bless!

Anthony Biese, Principal
Holy Trinity School