



August 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to you and your family as we begin another school year! The Diocese of Phoenix marks its 40th Anniversary and continues to be blessed with a team of dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff members who are committed to making sure your child receives the best education possible in a loving, faith-filled environment.

As you know this summer our Church ended the year long celebration of St. Paul and began, appropriately, the “Year for Priests”. During the past year we were fortunate to have the time to reflect on our Church’s beginning and foundation, and with this new year, we will have the opportunity to pray for and celebrate the priests who lead our parish and school communities. I invite you to join me and Catholic schools around the diocese in remembering our priests in prayer and thanksgiving for their special vocation.

Each year opportunities exist for all of us to explore and celebrate our own place in today’s Church. In the years since Vatican II, the laity has taken on a much larger role in the life of our schools and parishes, fulfilling their baptismal commitment by responding to the call of “full, active, and conscious participation.” We see this every day in our schools. Parents contribute countless volunteer hours—in the classroom, on the playground, and beyond—setting a shining example of what it looks like to be a selfless Child of God for all to see. I thank you for answering that call.

In the words of Vatican II, “In the Church there is a diversity of ministry but a unity of mission.” We are all joining together this year, from different backgrounds, neighborhoods, and communities, in the vital mission of teaching our children to live out the message of the Gospel. What an incredible opportunity we all have to change the world, one child at a time!

Thank you for entrusting your family’s education to us. We are blessed to have you here in our Catholic schools, and I look forward to a fruitful year of academic and spiritual growth for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'MaryBeth Mueller'.

Ms. MaryBeth Mueller
Executive Director-Division of Education and Evangelization
and Superintendent of Schools

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