



Diocese of Charlotte

Office of Catholic Schools

Linda L. Cherry
Superintendent of Schools

February 18, 2008

Dear Parents, Teachers and Staff Members,

Our Diocesan-wide school expansion study continues moving along. On February 7, five thousand random surveys were mailed throughout the Diocese. Half of those were sent to parents with students currently enrolled in one of our Catholic Schools. The other twenty-five hundred surveys were mailed to registered parishioners who do not have children attending our schools. The deadline for returning the survey in the pre-stamped, self-addressed envelope is February 22. The consultants will use the information gathered through the surveys to determine where/if further surveys or information will be needed.

The random survey is only one portion of the study. At the end of this week, the consultants will complete their visits to the eighteen schools. They are very appreciative of the time given by the principals, pastors and other employees involved in their first visit. The consultants have met with two of the ten vicariates and have the others scheduled over the next two months.

As we proceed through the third week of Lent, I want to share a personal story. Thank you for all the prayers and thoughts, at the time of my sister's sudden death. She was only two years older than I and although she had health problems throughout her life, we were not prepared to lose her so suddenly.

While traveling back home I received a call from the nurse who was with her. Jean was a childhood friend of my sister and me. Jean told me she was with Theresa after they brought her to the hospital. She asked Theresa if she could hear her and was amazed as Theresa whispered, "Girlfriend Jean, I just want to go over the fence." Jean asked, "What fence?" Very calmly she answered, "Mom and dad are standing there." At that moment Jean knew what Theresa meant and said, "It's okay, you can go see your mom and dad. Let's say the Our Father together." As they began "Our Father, who art in Heaven..." Theresa passed to God.

Although our family gathered to mourn Theresa's leaving the earthly life, we were happy and relieved to know she went peacefully, with God's words guiding her last breaths.

We never know the time nor the circumstance in which God will take us home to Him. May Lent allow us reflection on the belief that every sacrifice we make leads us toward that eternal goal—life with Him forever.

May God continue to bless all of you throughout the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Cherry
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Charlotte

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