



March 26, 2007

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers and Staff Members,

We celebrate the blessed season of Lent as we reflect on the sacrifice of Christ. With each personal sacrifice we prepare for the great celebration of Easter. As proclaimed on the St. Ann school choir shirts, "We remember, we celebrate, we believe."

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Pastors and Parochial Vicars of the diocese, as well as the retired priests and other diocesan clergy, who have visited our schools during Lent. By providing the sacrament of Reconciliation, they have prepared our children in a very special way for Easter.

Congratulations go to:

- The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Varsity Girls' basketball team and coaches on winning the 1A State Basketball Championship for the second year in a row.
- The 6th grade Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School band for the first-ever Superior Rating at the State Band Contest.
- Maisy Meakin, 5th grader at St. Michael Catholic School (Gastonia) for her art work, "My Favorite Sport." Maisy's art was selected as the winner from NC to be displayed at the Arts Olympiad in Washington, DC. Over 300,000 entries were received from 100 countries.
- Olivia Myrick, Charlotte Catholic High School senior, who was named a Morehead Scholar for 2007. This prestigious award includes a full 4-year scholarship, a computer and summer educational travel programs from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Billy Lech (St. Mark Catholic School), Joseph Joyce (Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School), Maria Shea (St. Patrick Catholic School) and Will Larsen (St. Patrick Catholic School). These four students won first place at the Charlotte Regional Science Fair and qualified for the State Science Fair.
- The Charlotte Catholic High School Band on their excellent performances at two Cathedrals in Ireland, as well as their march in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day parade.
- All of the State Athletic Champions from Charlotte Catholic High School.

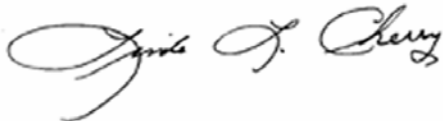
It is a proud moment when I pick up the newspaper and read wonderful stories about our children. Thank you to the teachers who go above and beyond to enable our children to live their Catholic faith. Throughout the school year many of our students visit nursing homes. Their youthfulness and zest for living inspire the elderly to look forward to another day. At the same time, the stories from the elderly bring history alive to the students. Special congratulations to the fourth grades at St. Gabriel Catholic School for their project on Elderly Ministry. The article was published in the March 24th issue of the Charlotte Observer.

Throughout our 18 schools, in grades K-12, similar projects are occurring. Service to others and living out the Corporal Works of Mercy are examples of our faith in action. As I have stated many times, our schools are not private - they are Catholic. To say it is one thing. To see it being lived is another. We are proud to be Catholic schools in North Carolina.

The MACS School Board will have four openings beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. A representative will be selected for Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Ann, St. Matthew and St. Patrick. If you are interested in a position, please e-mail me and I will forward information and an application. My e-mail is llcherry@charlottediocese.org. Deadline for applications is April 23, 2007.

As the month draws to a close we anticipate Easter and spring break. May Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday bring hope and peace to you and your families. God bless all of you who may be traveling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda L. Cherry".

Mrs. Linda L. Cherry
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Charlotte