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May 1, 2012

Dear Parents,

The month of May is dedicated in a special way to Mary, who is the role model for all of us who desire to give our unconditional "yes" to the will of God in our lives. Mary is the example for us of all that is faithful, noble and loyal. She is the model, in particular, for you parents as you daily confront the challenge of imparting Christian values to your children.

Mary is portrayed in Scripture as the woman who was misunderstood by the man she loved, when her precious child was conceived out of wedlock. She was forced to travel long distances on dusty roads to protect her Child. When Jesus was lost in the Temple, she was baffled by her Son's strange reply. Mary's heart was broken when her Child was tortured and executed.

Like all parents in every age, Mary experienced both the joys and pains of parenthood. To be an effective parent today, as Mary was in her time, I believe that parents must have the desire to impart Christian values at an early age, which will guide their growing children towards God. Parents must daily develop in them compassion, respect, generosity, honesty, and gratitude.

In the present day culture, it is a daunting, but an essential task for you busy parents to develop a close connection with your children, and to cultivate a climate of harmony, acceptance, peace, forgiveness, and above all, prayer in your home. In my experience, these practices are not readily acceptable to many parents in this fast-paced God-less culture. Hence, with devastating results, we are depriving our children of crucial values, which are at the core of raising sensitive, compassionate, and successful children.

Each one of us is called to respond to God and to the circumstances of our lives with Mary's deep faith, steadfast love, and abiding hope and to trust that despite pain, disappointment, and even betrayal that life is good because "God is with us." When we keep God in our lives, we model for our children confidence, trust, patience, perseverance, and security. As a result, we are enabled to guide our impressionable children towards God.

To honor Mary and to ask her intercession for our families, a special Mass will be celebrated on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and again on Mothers' Day, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 a.m. liturgy. We invite all parents to join with us in this ceremony to honor the valiant woman, Mary.

May each one of us, like Mary, respond in faith to God at work on our journey of life.

Sincerely,

Sr. Patricia McGahan  
Principal