A Message of Gratitude from Bishop John King Mussio Elementary

On behalf of Bishop John King Mussio Elementary, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and your commitment to Catholic education. Although you were unable to join us for our Crusader Donor Appreciation Evening on October 15, please know how much your support means to our students, families, and faculty.

When I stepped into the role of principal this school year, I was struck by the tremendous work, dedication, and thoughtful planning that had gone into building a strong foundation for our school. I inherited a community with so much to be grateful for, and I am honored to continue the mission that so many have worked so hard to advance.

My own journey into Catholic education began when I was introduced to its beauty and purpose through my experience student-teaching at All Saints School in downtown under the guidance of Candy Humienny (CCHS '67). That experience helped me recognize that Catholic education was where the Lord was calling me. Today, I see that same mission alive at BJKM: forming young people not only academically, but also in faith, character, and love of neighbor.

Your generosity has helped make that mission possible in tangible ways. Legacy Hall has given our students and teachers a beautiful, comfortable environment in which to learn and grow. As you walk through its halls, you hear the sounds of children learning, teachers praying with their students, and young people developing the skills they will carry with them throughout their lives. Even the simple, essential work of learning handwriting continues in our classrooms. These everyday moments are part of the extraordinary gift you have helped provide.

Beyond Legacy Hall, improvements throughout our campus continue to enhance the experience and safety of our students. Our new turf project, improved fencing, and replacement windows in our preschool building are further examples of how the generosity of our supporters is making a difference.

Yet the greatest gift of Catholic education cannot be measured in buildings or improvements alone. It is found in the hearts of our children.

Recently, I was sitting in the gymnasium watching students play kickball when a fourth-grade boy came over and sat beside me. He asked how I was doing and what I had done over the weekend. When I asked him why he had come to sit with me, he explained that I looked like I was alone, and he didn't think I should be alone. That simple act of kindness spoke volumes. We strive to create a school where children learn to recognize the needs of others, treat people with charity, and put their faith into practice. These are the lessons that shape not only good students, but good people.

We see this faith in action in moments of difficulty, too. When our longtime staff member Leslie Basich faced a cancer diagnosis, our school community responded with prayer. We invited our students to pray for her as she underwent testing and surgery, asking God for healing. We were overjoyed when she later learned that she was cancer-free and would not need radiation or chemotherapy. Experiences like this remind us that faith is not simply something we teach; it is something we live together as a community.

In the Gospel of Luke, our Lord promises that the measure we give will be returned to us, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing. I have seen the generosity behind that promise in the many people who have stepped forward to support BJKM and the Legacy of Faith Campaign.

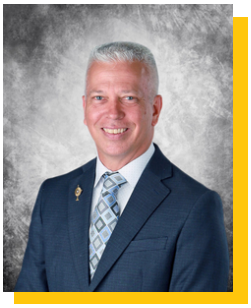
So often, a relatively small number of faithful people carry a tremendous responsibility, giving of themselves to make something beautiful possible for others. The story of Gideon in Judges 7 reminds us that God does not need great numbers to accomplish great things. With just 300 men, Gideon was reminded that victory comes through the Lord's power, not merely through human strength. Our school community may be small compared to some, but we have witnessed what God can accomplish through people willing to step forward in faith and serve the next generation.

Thank you for being among those people. Your generosity is helping ensure that children in our community have the opportunity to receive an education rooted in faith, academic growth, and Christian charity. You are making an investment that extends far beyond our campus and into the lives of our students, their families, and generations to come.

I would also like to extend a personal invitation: please come visit us at BJKM! If you have not yet seen Legacy Hall, I would be delighted to welcome you and show you what your generosity has helped make possible. Simply call the school, and we will be happy to arrange a visit.

Thank you again for your generosity, your faith in our mission, and your commitment to our children. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family abundantly, and may our students always grow to know, love, and serve Him.

With sincere gratitude and prayers,



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