

**Saint Peter
School News
June, 2022**

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I share with you Pope Francis' Pentecost message: "When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send to you from the Father..." With these words, Jesus promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit, the ultimate gift, the gift of gifts. He uses an unusual and mysterious word to describe the Spirit: *Paraclete*. Today let us reflect on this word, which is not easy to translate, for it has a number of meanings. Essentially, it means two things: *Comforter* and *Advocate*. *The Paraclete is the Comforter*. All of us, particularly at times of difficulty like those we are presently experiencing due to the pandemic, look for consolation. Often, though, we turn only to earthly comforts, ephemeral comforts that quickly fade. What is the difference? The comforts of the world are like a pain reliever: they can give momentary relief, but not cure the illness we carry deep within. They can soothe us, but not heal us at the core. They work on the surface, on the level of the senses, but hardly touch our hearts. Only someone who makes us feel loved for who we are can give peace to our hearts. The Holy Spirit, the love of God, does precisely that. He comes down within us; as the Spirit, he acts in our spirit. He is the very love of God, who does not abandon us; for being present to those who are alone is itself a source of comfort... Let us go another step. We too are called to testify in the Holy Spirit, *to become paracletes*, comforters. The Spirit is asking us to embody the comfort he brings. How can we do this? Not by making great speeches, but by drawing near to others. Not with trite words, but with prayer and closeness. Let us remember that closeness, compassion and tenderness are God's trademark, always. The Paraclete is telling the Church that today is *the time for comforting*. It is more the time for joyfully proclaiming the Gospel than for combatting paganism. It is the time for bringing the joy of the Risen Lord, not for lamenting the drama of secularization. It is the time for pouring out love upon the world, yet not embracing worldliness. It is more the time for testifying to mercy, than for inculcating rules and regulations. It is the time of the Paraclete! It is the time of freedom of heart, in the Paraclete... The Spirit also tells us, "Look to the whole". The whole, not the part. The Spirit does not mold isolated individuals, but shapes us into a Church in the wide variety of our charisms, into a unity that is never uniformity. The Paraclete affirms *the primacy of the whole*. There, in the whole, in the community, the Spirit prefers to work and to bring newness. Let us look at the apostles. They were all quite different. They included, for example, Matthew, a tax collector who collaborated with the Romans, and Simon called the zealot, who fought them. They had contrary political ideas, different visions of the world. Yet once they received the Spirit, they learned to give primacy not to their human viewpoints but to the "whole" that is God's plan.... Holy Spirit, Paraclete Spirit, comfort our hearts. Make us missionaries of your comfort, paracletes of your mercy before the world.



Celebration of First Communion

We rejoice with our students who received this sacrament on May 7: Crissandher Rosa (2) Kayleeh Avila (2) Elias Santiago (2) Alyvia Barreto (2) Damian Solorio-Corona (2) Dylan Garcia (2) Kendo Varela (2) Genesis Gomez (2) Nathan Velazquez-Torres Jaryleen Lantigua (2) Ayden Manon (3) Samantha Martinez (2) Conrado Lopez (3) Esau Pedroza-Sanchez (2) Emilio Perez (3) Jacob Pedroza-Sanchez (2) Mariangel Polanco Areli Perez (2) Jotxiel Caraballo-Santana (4) Rita Ramirez (2) Joel Vilorio (5) Benjamin Rodriguez (2) Daniel Flores (7)



Bishop's Scholarship

We congratulate Gabriella Gomez and Assyria Woods who were awarded this scholarship to attend Berks Catholic. They participated in a prestigious award ceremony at Bethlehem Catholic High School.



Nolde Forest Art Contest

We are so proud of artists who competed in the Nolde Forest Art Contest. We congratulate Mrs. Doney and the following students:

Karina Andrade (6)--3rd Place
Emily Frias (4) Jiovani Peña (5)
Carmen Jordan (4) Ennybel Mejia (7)
Liliana Santiago (4) Angel Torres (8)
Ethan Colon (5) Camila Vargas-Paula (8)



CYO Art Show at GoggleWorks

Saint Peter School proudly announces its participants and winners in the Annual CYO Art Show. The artistic masterpieces are on display at the GoggleWorks. We congratulate our very talented art teacher, Mrs. Doney and her 6th, 7th, and 8th grade winning students: Karina Andrade (6) HM Ennybel Mejia (7) TA Emilynn Guzman (6) HM Nathalie Ortiz (7) Erica Rodriguez (6) HM Rynez Otto (7) 3rd P Gabriela Rosas (6) HM Luis Alvarez (8) HM Milagros Solis (6) HM Gabriella Gomez TA Rosemeydi Ureña (6) HM Derrick Mangual TA Jovanna Zabala (6) HM Hillary Mogro (8) TA Jarieu Bah (7) HM Cristy Orozco-Vicente (8) Jonas Batista (7) Stephanie Piñeda (8) 1st P Madison Carrillo (7) Lucas Rodriguez (8) HM Jonathan Hernandez (7) Angel Torres (8)

HM =
Honorabe
Mention

TA =
Teacher's
Award

Graduation and Closing Mass

The 8th grade graduation mass will be Monday, June 6 at 6:30p.m. We are so proud of the many accomplishments of our 8th graders and we wish the many blessings as they journey to high school. Our last day of Our last day of school for K-7 will be Wednesday, June 8. All are invited to our closing mass, kindergarten graduation, and end of year awards ceremony at 9:00am. Dismissal will be at 10:30am.

