

**Saint Peter  
School News  
November, 2020**

Dear Parents,

As we are now in the fall season and we reflect on the passage of the seasons in these past eight months we have experienced fear, sadness, grief, and we cling to promises of hope that we will, in time, return to normalcy. We celebrate the Feast of All Souls Day during this month and for many of us who have recently lost loved ones our grief is still ever-present. I share with you the comforting words of our Holy Father Pope Francis on the Feast of the Holy Souls: " Today is a day to *commemorate the past*, a day to remember those who have walked before us, who have also accompanied us, have given us life. To remember, to commemorate. Remembrance is what makes a people strong, because it feels rooted in a journey, rooted in a history, rooted in a people.

Remembrance helps us understand that we are not alone, we are a people: a people with a history, with a past, with a life. Remembering so many who have shared a journey with us, and they are here (in this cemetery). It is not easy to remember. We often struggle to turn our thoughts back to what has happened in my life, in my family, in my people.... But today is a day of remembrance, the remembrance that takes us to the roots: to my roots, to the roots of my people. Today is also a day of *hope*: the second reading showed us what awaits us. A new heaven, a new earth, and the holy city, new Jerusalem. A beautiful image which it uses to help us understand what awaits us: "I saw the holy city ... coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (cf. Rev 21:2). Beauty awaits us....

Remembrance and hope, the hope of meeting each other, the hope of arriving where there is the Love that created us, where there is the Love that awaits us, a Father's love. And between remembrance and hope there is the third dimension, that of the *path* that we must and do take. And how do we take the path without making mistakes? Which are the *lights* that will help me avoid taking the wrong path? What is the 'navigating system' that God himself gave us, so as not to take the wrong path? It is the Beatitudes that Jesus taught us in the Gospel. These Beatitudes — meekness, poverty of spirit, justice, mercy, purity of heart — are the lights that accompany us so as not to lose our way: this is our *present*. Life's three dimensions are in this cemetery: remembrance, we can see it there [*indicating the tombs*]; hope, we will celebrate it now in faith, not in visions; and the lights to guide us on the journey so as not to lose our way. We have heard them in the Gospel: they are the Beatitudes. Let us ask the Lord today to give us

the grace to never lose remembrance, never suppress remembrance — remembrance of the person, remembrance of family, remembrance of people — and to give us the grace of hope because hope is one of his gifts: being able to hope, to look to the horizon, not to be closed before a wall. Always look to the horizon and to hope. And may he give us the grace to understand which are the lights that will accompany us on the path so as not to make mistakes, and thus to arrive where we are awaited with so much love."

### Student Council

We congratulate our newly elected leadership team and class representatives for 2020-2021:

President: Jenhaydee Padilla

Vice President: Aloyska Gonzalez

Secretary: Iianah Pierre-Jean

Treasurer: Karen Olivares

Grade 8 Representative: Alexa Ramirez

Grade 7 Representatives: Gabriella Gomez

Hillary Mogro

Grade 6 Representative: Kima Anderson

Grade 5 Representative: Mariana Jeronimo

Grade 4 Representative: Viviana Cruz

We are most grateful to Mrs. Searfoss and Mrs. Cronan who will oversee the Student Council Activities. We look forward to a very promising and spirit-filled year in the midst of our challenges. The formal installation took place on Friday, Oct. 9th at the 8:30 mass.

### Mission Representatives

In addition to installing our Student Council, we will also install our Mission Reps at that same mass. These representatives, under the leadership of Sister Margaret, will help promote awareness and response to local and global missionary needs. We were proud to install these representatives:

4th Grade: Jaison Jordan

5th Grade: Jorge Tineo

6th Grade: Madison Carrillo

7th Grade: Yoanny Payano

8th Grade: Isiah Rodriguez

### School Picture Day

In an attempt to keep this memorable event, the photographers from Tipping Studios will be in school to take student pictures on November 9 and November 10. All virtual students are invited also to come after 8:30am to get their picture taken.

### Thanksgiving Vacation

We pray that you enjoy time with family and celebrate together the gift of family during this nice vacation time from November 25 until

November 30. We will return to school on December 1.

