

**Saint Peter
School News
September, 2021**

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back to a very hope-filled school year! I know this past year has presented us with challenges, but with God's grace and your incredible support, we have all remained resilient and ready for a much better future. We look forward to resuming our pace of activities in academic competitions, sports, recreation, and social outreach. Our Diocese has declared this year as a return to Real Presence...how beautiful to re-center ourselves on Eucharistic Amazement. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in his homily on the Feast of Corpus Christi this year invites us to ponder the following message: "To celebrate the Eucharist, we need first to recognize our thirst for God, to sense our need for him, to long for his presence and love, to realize that we cannot go it alone, but need the Food and Drink of eternal life to sustain us on our journey... Our thirst for God brings us to the altar. Where that thirst is lacking, our celebrations *become dry and lifeless*. As Church, it is not enough that the usual little group meets to celebrate the Eucharist; we need to go out into the city, to encounter people and to learn how to recognize and revive their thirst for God and their desire for the Gospel... A large room for a tiny piece of Bread. God makes himself tiny, like a morsel of bread. That is precisely why we need a great heart to be able to recognize, adore and receive him. God's presence is so humble, hidden and often unseen that, in order to recognize his presence, we need a heart that is ready, alert and welcoming. But if our heart, rather than a large room, is more like a closet where we wistfully keep things from the past, or an attic where we long ago stored our dreams and enthusiasm, or a dreary chamber filled only with us, our problems and our disappointments, then it will be impossible to recognize God's silent and unassuming presence. We need a large room. We need to enlarge our hearts. We need to break out of our tiny self-enclosed space and enter the large room, the vast expanse of wonder and adoration. That is what we really need! It is what is missing in the many movements we create to meet and reflect together on our pastoral outreach. But if wonder and adoration are lacking, there is no road that leads to the Lord. Nor will there be the synod, nothing. Adoration: that is the attitude we need in the presence of the Eucharist. The Church too must be a large room. Not a small and closed circle, but a community with arms wide open, welcoming to all. Let us ask ourselves this question: when someone approaches who is hurting, who has made a mistake, who has gone astray in life, is the Church, this Church, a room large enough to welcome this person and lead him or her to the joy of an encounter with Christ? Let us not forget that the Eucharist is meant to nourish those who are weary and hungry along the way. A Church of the pure and perfect is a room with no place for anyone. On the other hand, a Church with open doors, that gathers and celebrates around Christ, is a large room where everyone – everyone, the righteous and sinners – can enter... A third image from the Gospel is that of Jesus breaking the bread. This is the Eucharistic gesture par excellence. It is the distinctive sign of our faith and the

place where we encounter the Lord who offers himself so that we can be reborn to new life. This gesture also challenges us. Up to that point, lambs were sacrificed and offered to God. Now Jesus becomes the lamb, offering himself in sacrifice in order to give us life. In the Eucharist, we contemplate and worship the God of love. The Lord who breaks no one, yet allows himself to be broken. The Lord who does not demand sacrifices, but sacrifices himself. The Lord who asks nothing but gives everything. In celebrating and experiencing the Eucharist, we too are called to share in this love. For we cannot break bread on Sunday if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters... we are called to go out and bring Jesus to others. To go out with enthusiasm, bringing Christ to those we meet in our daily lives. May we become a Church with pitcher in hand, a Church that reawakens thirst and brings water. Let us open wide our hearts in love, so that we can be the large and welcoming room where everyone can enter and meet the Lord.

Welcome, Miss Marcano and Mr. Ceccola

We warmly welcome Miss Marcano to our Saint Peter School family. She will be teaching 1st Grade. Miss Marcano is a graduate of Saint Peter School and we are overjoyed that she is returning as a teacher. Mr. Ceccola will be our Computer teacher for Grades 1-8 and will also be our IT Resource person.

Presentation of Candidates for Confirmation

There will be a special Rite of Welcome for our Candidates for Confirmation at the 4:00pm mass on Saturday, September 18.

Back to School Night

We invite all our families to come on Thursday, September 9 to meet our teachers and staff. We will begin at 6:30pm in the Social Hall and then we will come to school for you to meet your child's teacher. We wish to see all of you at this meeting so we can all be united in your child's academic and spiritual journey. The class with the best participation will have an ice cream party.

PTO Meeting

Our first meeting for this year will be on Monday, September 13 at 6:30pm in school. We look forward to re-uniting with all our faithful members as well as welcoming new members.

Skating Party

Our first Skating Party, a fun-filled family event will be on Thursday, September 16 from 6:30-8:30 at Skate-away on Lancaster Avenue in Shillington.

PTO Fall Bingo

On Saturday, Sept. 25, we will have our fall family Bingo in the Social Hall. It should be a fun family day with nice prizes and selling of refreshments such as hot dogs, funnel cakes, and other snacks.

WELCOME



B	I	N	G	O
13	29	38	51	●
4	20	32	●	65
7	19	●	55	70
10	●	34	46	72

