

Dear Parents and Guardians:

**Prayers and Acknowledgements**

We will have a short prayer service on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the Church. All of our School community is invited to attend as we pause to honor and celebrate the passing of Pope John Paul II. May our beloved Pope rest in peace. May the Holy Spirit guide our Church leaders as they gather to choose a new Pope. This is certainly an astonishing time in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope John Paul II was truly a "man of the people." Many of us recall his visit to San Francisco, particularly when he embraced the HIV infected young boy he encountered while visiting Mission Dolores Church. Many of us have a personal story. I do as well. I recall *almost* shaking his hand. Actually, it was a humorous experience. At the time, I was helping organize the altar servers for the Papal Mass at Candlestick. After Mass, I was standing in front of the altar with the altar servers when the Pope started to go out to meet the crowd. Archbishop John Quinn was escorting him. Everyone was surging forward to greet him, especially the young. I stayed back. To my surprise, he was looking at me and heading my way. As I extended my hand, the Pope extended his hands. I indeed shook hands, but discovered, in fact, I was shaking the hands of the Archbishop, who cut in front of the Pope. At least for one day, the normally shy Archbishop was a man *with* the people as he escorted a man *of* the people...and I *almost* shook hands with the Pope. I invite all our parents to take time with their children to discuss the life of Pope John Paul II, watch programs together devoted to his life and times, and mostly, pray for the future of our Church as a new leader emerges.

Again, I wish to thank Mrs. Laura Flaviani, Mr. Victor Flaviani, Ms. Woodall, our parents and, of course, our students for representing our Parish and School community at Disneyland over the recent Easter break. Singing is such a beautiful gift that enlivens the world. We are grateful for all our participants. Thank you to the Men of St. Paul for their generous donation of \$250.00 toward the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner/Dance. I hope to see many of you at the walk-a-thon on Sunday. Many thanks to event coordinator, Laure Moon, and to our parent volunteers, who will be working at the event.

It is with deep respect and much sadness that I announce the retirement of two of our teachers. First Grade teacher, Mrs. Marlan Shuck, and Third Grade teacher, Ms. Lyn Barrick, recently announced to the faculty and staff that they will retire from teaching at the end of the current school year. We are extremely grateful for the many years of commitment and service to our St. Paul community. Many students have passed through their doors and have been graced by their knowledge and presence. For many reasons, the word "retirement" does not fit. Indeed, both Mrs. Shuck and Ms. Barrick have many outside interests, and will enjoy life to the fullest. Please keep both of these fine individuals, fine colleagues, and fine teachers in your prayers in the days and months ahead.

**Fingerprinting and Volunteer Opportunities**

In order to participate in any activities involving students, parent volunteers must be fingerprinted. This is Archdiocesan policy. Livescan forms, from the only fingerprinting agency allowed, can be picked up at the school office. There is a Livescan office on Church Street. The cost is \$18.00 and the turn-around time is generally two weeks.

**Tuition/Facts Agreements**

Tuition and/or Facts agreements have been sent home for your signature. **Please return these forms to the office TOMORROW.** Thank you.

REGISTRATION FEES WERE DUE BY APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>. IF IT IS NOT PAID IN FULL BY FRIDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, YOU WILL BE ASSESSED A LATE FEE OF \$25.00.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade parent meeting is tonight, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. in the Music/Art Room.

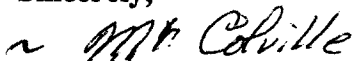
### Walk-a-thon this Sunday -- FREE pancakes for participating students!

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual St. Paul's School Walk-a-thon is this Sunday, April 10, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Archbishop Riordan High School track. The Men of St. Paul have invited all participating students to enjoy a FREE pancake breakfast before the big event! Please feel free to join them after the 8:00 and 9:15 masses in the parish center. You still have a few more days to get those Walk-a-thon pledges. Please bring any flat-fee donations to the track. When you've finished walking, you'll receive a receipt with the total number of laps completed. Then, you can go home and collect your remaining per-lap pledges. Remember, all money must be turned into the office by Friday, April 15. If you still need Sponsor Forms, or a copy of the original flyer with details of the event, please visit the school website: [www.stpaulsf.net](http://www.stpaulsf.net). Volunteer opportunities are available to meet service hours. Eighth graders are welcome to earn service hours too. This is the last event of the year to help raise money for your financial agreement to the school. Of the funds your family raises, 80% will count toward that commitment. Our goal is to have the highest participation ever in this fun and worthwhile event! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Laure Moon (415) 824-0878.

### Photos for Yearbook?

If you have any photos (sports, field trips, classroom parties, etc.) that would be appropriate for the yearbook, please send them to Cynthia Olivo, on a CD.

Sincerely,



Bruce Colville, Principal

### The Church Has 'Wondrous Variety'

Tuesday, April 5 • St. Vincent Ferrer

■ The community of believers were of one heart and mind . . . Acts 4:32

It is tempting to think the early community of Christians was so unified in heart and mind that disagreements and factions were nonexistent. Yet we know from early canonical writings that there were potentially divisive factions almost from the beginning. There was probably never a time when communities could sustain any sort of blissful coexistence for long periods of time. Nearer to the truth is that their unity of heart and mind was grounded in and sustained by the Lord, the basis of their unity. The one heart shared among them was that of the Risen Lord whom they knew was present in their midst. He was the common ground that enabled them to deal with their differences.

Our times are no different. The Church encompasses a wondrous variety. It has grown precisely because various cultures have taken the Word to heart. The process is never easy; each of us tends to look for people who think and act like ourselves. By its own history of becoming ever richer by embracing difference, the Church teaches that as its members, we are called to do the same.

Fr. James Stephen Behrens

Acts 4:32-37 • Psalm 93:1-2, 5  
John 3:7-15

School Website: [www.stpaulsf.net](http://www.stpaulsf.net)