



February 3, 2019

Dear LMC parents,

It is a blessing to have a Catholic school in our area. For over one hundred years, there has been a Catholic school in St. Joseph-Benton Harbor. In 2019, we will observe the Fiftieth Anniversary of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. When St. John's Catholic School in Benton Harbor merged with St. Joseph's Catholic School, it was the continuation of Catholic education in northern Berrien County. We are proud of our legacy and look forward to the future.

Since 2016, it has been my privilege to be the pastor of our Catholic Schools. The foundations have been well set by my predecessors. With you, we continue to build on this great edifice of Faith, with Jesus Christ as the capstone. As I look out my office, I am reminded daily the focus of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools: *nourishing the human spirit, mind, body and soul through Jesus Christ*. LMC's Vision and Values are the constant placard on my desk. It is my privilege to lead our parishes and schools.

There are many challenges that I face. Honestly, I do not consider them problems or setbacks. Instead, each challenge is another opportunity to exercise basic Christian principles and values. Our Lord has given His Church the ability to love and serve. And so, these are my challenges. With your help and cooperation, Christ will succeed and we will grow and succeed in the Lord.

Lake Michigan Catholic Schools have an annual budget of 4.3 million dollars; that is an average of \$9,328 per student. When you compare your tuition costs, it is clear to see that private donations, parish subsidies and support from the Lake Michigan Catholic School Fund reduces your costs considerably. The S.C.E.N.E. auction and rummage sales are further efforts to keep costs down.

Here is the help that I need from you. There are necessary expectations that are required of all our parents. Regularly, I am asked to assure our administration

that you are a registered member of either St. Joseph parish or Ss. John and Bernard parish. It is easy to check our roster, but it needs more than completing a registration form. By this letter, I am calling all registered LMC parishioners to enter a **PAC**. This acronym means:

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, CONTRIBUTION.

Participation means taking an active role in parish life. It can be assisting in liturgy, organization and volunteering.

Attendance means fulfilling your obligation to attend Sunday mass and Holy Days of Obligation. Going to Mass remains a Precept of the Church

Contribution means to use your envelopes to financially support the parish and the Diocese (through BAA). Your donation supports the school and helps all parish ministries. Even online/electronic contributors are asked to use envelopes; this gives a witness to fellow parishioners

Beginning in February of 2019, I will be monitoring PAC. By the end of June, I will have a better idea of your PAC.

While these expectations are presented, none of this is new. In the past, these expectations were widely accepted. Our Catholic Schools succeeded because of parental dedication. Unfortunately, it is documented and easily noticed that attendance is down, collections have dipped and participation is lagging. I am inviting our LMC parents to take leadership in our parishes. Now, it is your turn to enhance your children's Faith and future.

In July of 2019, I will report your first responses. In the meantime, take the necessary steps to do your part for growth in our parishes and enhance Lake Michigan Schools.

Sincerely in Christ,



Very Rev. Robert F. Creagan
Pastor



LAKE MICHIGAN
 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
 BUSINESS OFFICE

**PARISH CERTIFICATION
 OF CONTRIBUTION-2019/2020**

Nourishing the Human Spirit ~ Mind, Body, and Soul ~ through Jesus Christ

**In order to receive the Parish Grant, this form is required
 by all families enrolling in the 2019-2020 Academic Year**

This is to certify that _____ is a registered and
 Family Name

contributing member of _____ Parish

and qualifies for the contributing parish member grant.

Priest's Signature

Date

Family Name: _____

Children Names: _____

Address: _____

Parent Signature

Date

By signing this form, you agree that you have read and understand the PAC Letter as this letter identifies the requirements for receiving the Parish Grant for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

**This form must be signed by your pastor and returned to the Business Office,
 915 Pleasant Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085**