



November 4, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are now approaching the third full month of school at Our Lady of Peace and I am writing to you as parents and guardians in regard to the expectations of our families here at Our Lady of Peace. I am thankful to many of you for your conscientious and faithful commitment to the common good of our school and your willingness in sharing in the responsibilities that come with choosing Our Lady of Peace School for your children.

At this time I also find it necessary to recall those expectations so that we are all on the same page.

1. Parents and Guardians who are parishioners of Our Lady of Peace are expected to be full and active participants at Sunday Liturgies. This participation is part of the formation and education that you as Catholic families have chosen for your children. Not to fulfill this responsibility is a contradiction to the baptismal promises that were made by our parents to be the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. This challenge is always before us, as pastors, parents and guardians and is not an option for any of us. I personally take this responsibility very seriously as a priest and I hope you would share this with me in seeing that your children are provided with the best in becoming the children that Christ invites them to become.
2. Parents and Guardians who are parishioners of Our Lady of Peace are expected to be faithful stewards in time, talent and treasure. Depending on family circumstances and family structure that stewardship can more conscientiously be given in time rather than treasure. Likewise, there are occasions when talent can be shared rather than treasure; and for some treasure can help compensate for time and talent. But in all circumstances there is reciprocity of stewardship that each family of our students should graciously demonstrate. This appreciation to the generosity of the parish members in their stewardship in sustaining the mission of Our Lady of Peace School is one that I hope is not taken for granted as an entitlement. This sharing in the mission hopefully is seen as a privilege not a burden.
3. All Parents and Guardians of our students (whether parishioners or non-parishioners, full paying, partial paying, or on scholarship) are expected to donate a minimum of 40 hours per family toward the subsidy of the school.
4. We would recommend that all our students be active participants in their particular religious or denominational practice.
5. All Parents and Guardians are reminded that Our Lady of Peace as a Catholic School adheres to the principles, morals and values of a Christian and Catholic environment. Parents and Guardians are expected to support the above, enabling this peaceful environment. Therefore **bullying, racism and lack of respect** will not be tolerated. A mutuality of respect, both in and

out the classroom is expected toward both students and faculty and staff. Creating these relationships of mutuality and respect do not come easy and demand the cooperation and support of all. I would ask parents to remind their children of those obligations in choosing to be a part of the Our Lady of Peace School Family.

6. Tuition payments are expected to be current. While I understand the economic realities of our time I would hope that those choosing a Catholic education also understand that the economic realities of our times also has a direct effect on the mission of the parish and school. We are totally funded by tuition, parishioner support, and the sharing of time, talent and treasure on a variety of levels. There is no bottomless well from which we draw money to pay our bills. So like your family the family of our school is faced with the same challenges.

**How can you help us right now?** Right now we are in need of your help in making the “Stewards of a Lifetime” Christmas giveaway a success. These monies go directly in providing an array of services for the educational mission of Our Lady of Peace.

**How can you help us right now?** Right now we are in need of volunteers in helping to clean the Early Childhood Learning Center, Mondays through Friday.

**How can you help us right now?** Right now we are in need of volunteers in helping to establish a pre-school Sunday program for our little people during Mass on Sundays ( potty trained though K)

**How can you help us right now?** Always remains an open question.

I ask each of you to reflect on each of the above expectations and needs. Please do so prayerfully, and please know that you are in my prayer, as are each of your children.

Rev. Msgr. Lewis F. Gaetano, D.Min.

Pastor and Administrator of Our Lady of Peace and St. Paul’s in Canton