Notre Dame Elementary School

Nurturing Dreams, Excellence and Success

Dear Parents,

October and May are two months traditionally dedicated to Our Lady. These months are given to us to pray and to reflect on Mary's importance in our lives as Christians. As a child we understood Mary as Mother of the Savior and Mother of God. We know she was not equal to God but is an intercessor to God for us. Years later, we see Mary in a new light as a Champion of the oppressed and the disadvantaged. We know from experience the paradox of joys and sufferings that marked her life as a mother.

More than ever, it is important to introduce our children to Mary, to know her life and what she represents to us. Through encountering her courage and fidelity, they will learn how to make their own difference in today's world. Mary is Mother- she will guide us and loves us.

Mary is also a woman of prayer. Living in time, she took time to pray. The result of this prayerful attitude was that she brought forth Christ into the world. Like Mary, we are called to bring Christ into our world through our prayer, our Christian witness, and through our service. Like Mary, our daily lives must also be the living of that prayer that springs up from inside us, that daily prayer of our lives which we offer to God. May we always remember that that prayer is not an act we perform but a constant living awareness of the Spirit of Jesus within us, leading us to praise and thank God Who calls us to bear His Son to others.

Father Farrell in his book, "Prayer is a Hunger" says this about Mary:

"In the beginning God spoke to Adam but he did not listen. When God spoke His final word it was to a woman, and through her listening, man came to know God as Father.... Mary was also Jesus' gift to us from the cross. Each of us is to recognize something of her living in each of us. Each of us is an Annunciation that Jesus is here; a Visitation that makes others leap for joy; a new birth of life each day; a Presentation of Him; a Finding or Discovery of Jesus who is at work within us each day. What must have been the prayer of Mary as she heard the words of consecration, "This is My Body; this is My Blood." As the apostles began celebrating Mass. Mary's last recorded words in Scripture were, "Do whatever He tells you." He awaits our "Yes" so that He can work the miracle of Cana, the compassion of Calvary, the Pentecostal fire of the upper room.

During this month, let us thank God for Mary as we honor her as Mother, as a woman of faith, a woman led by the Spirit, a woman of prayer. Mary, intercede for us now and always. Amen.

Lovingly in Notre Dame,

Sister Carol Marie

13000 Auburn Road • Chardon, OH 44024
Elementary Office: 440.279.1127 • Admissions 440.279.1129 • Fax: 440.286.1235
www.notredameelementary.org
Preschool Office 440.286.7101 Ext. 5920