

Holy Cross School

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*~A Catholic School Committed to Spreading the
Good News of Jesus Christ~*



January 30, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you register your children for the next academic year, it is in the midst many changes affecting the Diocese of Cleveland. Many parishes are being closed. Others like St. Christine and Holy Cross are being merged to form a new parish. As you know well, this new parish will be called Our Lady of the Lake.

When parishes merge, however, it is as if a ripple effect occurs. There are many, many practical consequences which are easy to overlook at first. Some of these are incidental and easily dealt with. Others like the name of the new parish and the name of the school are more highly charged, and as a result are more significant for us.

Such I have discovered is the case with what the name of our school will be next year. Some have suggested that it makes sense to retain the name Holy Cross School. This would permit name recognition and a sense of continuity for present and former students. It would bolster the true and important perception of the role Holy Cross School plays in our community.

And yet there are more compelling reasons for changing the name of the school to be consistent with the newly merged parish. Perhaps the easiest way to say this is that the parish has a school, not that the school has a parish. In other words, the school exists as one very important way in which Our Lady of the Lake Parish will carry out its mission to form our children in the Catholic Christian faith. Not only do school parents, but all parishioners share in the responsibility to carry out this mission and support the school. As time goes on this support of the school by all parishioners will be an increasingly important factor in its ability to continue to provide a very good and affordable Catholic education for our children.

With this in mind, at the *end* of this academic year, what we now know as Holy Cross School will be known by a new name, Our Lady of the Lake School. But this name change will continue the ripple effect. We will have to consider a host of practical issues like school colors, uniforms, gym uniforms, mascots and others. Perhaps these can be dealt with easily, but I suspect they will be of strong interest and feeling to many. I suggest that it would be a good idea to form a working committee of parents and guardians to address them. Your input and feedback will be crucial in helping us to make the best and well received decisions possible.

I know very well that for many, changing the school's name will be a hard thing. I want you to know that this decision was not taken lightly, but in consultation with the School Advisory Committee, the Merge Transition Team and the Diocese. I believe that although there have been differences of opinion among some, the decision to change the name will in the long run be best for both the new parish and the school.

Thank you so very much for your commitment to our school. I've only been here a little over a week as of this writing, but already it is clear to me that it is a school of which we can be proud.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph J. Fortuna
Administrator, Holy Cross Parish