

Dear Parish Family,

As we begin a new school year, there is a special excitement and gratitude in our Saint Anthony community. This is not simply another school year—it is a centennial year for Saint Anthony Catholic School, a wonderful milestone that invites us to remember our history with gratitude and to look toward the future with hope.

Today's Gospel presents us with a remarkable woman who approaches Jesus with great faith and perseverance. She does not give up when her request seems to be ignored or when obstacles stand in her way. She continues to trust in the Lord. Her faith eventually receives the response she desires, and Jesus praises her: "O woman, great is your faith!"

What a beautiful lesson for the beginning of a school year. Education, like faith, is a journey that requires patience, perseverance, trust, and commitment. Our children will face challenges as they learn and grow. Our teachers and staff will give generously of themselves. Parents will accompany their children with love and encouragement. And as a parish community, we are called to support them with prayers and our presence.

For one hundred years, Saint Anthony Catholic School has been more than a place of academic learning. It has been a place where generations of children have discovered that faith and knowledge belong together, where young people have been formed not only in what they know, but also in who they are called to become: children of God, disciples of Jesus, and people of faith and service.

As we celebrate this centennial, we give thanks for all those who have built and sustained our school throughout these hundred years: pastors, principals, teachers, staff members, parents, benefactors, and, above all, the countless students whose lives have been touched by this Catholic school.

May this new school year be a new chapter in that beautiful story. May our children grow "in wisdom and grace" as Jesus did. May our teachers be strengthened in their vocation. May parents continue to be the first educators of their children in faith. And may our entire parish recognize that Saint Anthony Catholic School is an important ministry of our parish and a precious gift to our community.

The Canaanite woman in today's Gospel reminds us never to underestimate what God can accomplish through persistent faith. As we begin this centennial year, let us place our school, our students, our families, and our future into the hands of God. May the next one hundred years be filled with the same faith, dedication, and generosity that have brought us to this wonderful milestone.

May God bless you all,

Fr. Rolando