



St. John Vianney Catholic School

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St. John Vianney Parish School

September 2022

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Praise be Jesus Christ, now and forever. As we begin another school year it is important to remember that St. John Vianney Parish and School is still working hard to bring Our Lord Jesus Christ to the people of Flint. Our school has changed demographically, but our Mission remains to proclaim the Gospel. And it is essential that the Gospel be proclaimed to the children who always possess our future.

The City of Flint, once the second largest city in Michigan, is now a city of about 90,000 with almost 50% unemployment. Our school, once a parochial school, is now a Mission School. And the mission is simple: we will provide a first-class Catholic education to the children of Flint. Some of our children are not Catholic, but we are! And we will continue to be a Catholic school that represents what it means to be Catholic. It is important that we lead the way in this city, demonstrating that the Catholic tradition of education is second to none in producing conscientious and caring adults. This city, this state and this country more than ever needs the Truth. And He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. (Jn. 6)

The Catholic Church in Flint has suffered greatly. I have been pastor of this city and have closed during my tenure six parishes. I feel like the Angel of Death found in Exodus! But the one institution that I refuse to close is our school. Because we do not operate like most Catholic parochial schools, we must raise funds to keep our school doors open. Thus, this letter is my appeal to you to consider a donation to St. John Vianney School. Part of our school building goes back to 1948. We need financial assistance in maintaining our buildings, offering scholarships to children in need and I want to be able to hire a social worker so that we can do the necessary visitation work with some of our families of poverty.

My promise to you is my determination to keep this school open. Please know that I will make sure your donations will be used totally for our children's benefit. Teachers in our country are truly underpaid for the essential work that we expect them to perform. This is even more true when we consider Catholic school teachers. You need to have a sincere heart and religious convictions to live a Catholic teacher vocation. Like I said, we not only offer a good education, but the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. So please pray for us and if you have the financial ability invest in us for the sake of the Kingdom of God being handed on to our children. You are in our prayers and heart. Holy Mary, Mother of Flint pray for us.

Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev. Thomas Firestone, Pastor