

Dear St. Clare Family:

What a fantastic first semester! As I reflect on all the hard work of parents, teachers, and volunteers, I am extremely proud to be a member of the St. Clare Community. It was awesome to see the community come together for all the events since the beginning of school, especially our response to Hurricane Harvey.

For this final message of 2017, I want to share a message of hope, encouragement and promise. Whether you just visit St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School, ask about registration and admission, come to school for the first time, or need daily assistance and support, the St. Clare staff works at providing you with outstanding service. Our Administration, Faculty and Staff, and Support Staff, ALL make a significant impact on the quality of what makes up St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School. I am very grateful for how we were each placed within our areas of service to care for your students.

When I think about what makes a school effective, I first think about the people who work and volunteer there. One could have a brand-new school with all the latest in technical gadgets, but it would mean very little without highly trained people who care about the emotional lives of children. You need people who can establish an effective rapport with a child and create a classroom environment where a child feels comfortable. St. Clare has so many well-trained faculty and staff members who can do just that!

Thank you to our teaching faculty. These are the people who are literally "doing God's work" in His calling for them to be teachers. I consider the term "teacher" an honor. I feel that it is a high calling, and the lives that our teaching staff reach are lives that are touched forever! The St. Clare teaching faculty envisions a school where every student reaches the potential that God has given them and that Christ will work through each of their hearts to be a shining light in every student's life.

Thank you to the parents who have helped, volunteered, given hundreds of hours in time to support students and staff. These are the parents and volunteers that contribute back to the school what they feel God has given their children through our academic and spiritual development, our activities and programs, and the positive interactions with all areas of campus life.

And a special Christmas thanks to our students. What incredible joy they bring to our lives! It is exciting to see the look in a student's eye when he/she masters or understands a concept. What greater calling could we have than to work with students? Some have unique challenges. Some are talented in music or athletics. Some of our students are academically gifted, and some are given to live the Word of God through everything they do and say. All our students receive a great education, all are exposed to Jesus, and all are a blessing.

My point is a simple one and appropriate to make during a season of Christmas. The success of our students at St. Clare is as much dependent on the emotional support they receive as the academic support they receive. I am thankful for working with so many staff members and parents who embrace this belief.

I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,  
Al J Varisco