

A Message from Father Pinnisi

Over the past several years, with the challenge of enrollment in our school going down, there now exists an urgency about how to address this. When the Bishop assigned me to the parish in January, I knew of the low enrollment and asked if the school was to be closed. Bishop Checchio indicated to me that his hope and expectation was the school would remain open and we would look for ways to enhance and strengthen Catholic education in Sayreville. I participated in several meetings with the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, the Vicar General of our diocese, Fr. Murphy from St. Stan's, as well as some others to discuss how the two parish schools could share resources in hope of bolstering both of them.

In the last month or so, it seemed as if the best course of action was to consider the creation of a combined Catholic elementary school consisting of the students of both OLV and St. Stan's. In considering the idea, it was thought this new combined school community would reside on the campus at St. Stan's, mainly because their school building is newer, is air-conditioned and has a cafeteria within it. The large playground was also considered.

With all these ideas being discussed and some real progress being made, along came COVID-19 with all its complications. As you have experienced yourselves, everything seems to have come to a halt and our immediate concerns now focus on the health and safety of our families, our community, and yes, our world.

We, therefore, realize any thought of change in the middle of the pandemic is probably not wise. Therefore, God willing our school will reopen in September here as usual. I have sent a letter to all of our school parents to inform them of this and to introduce an automatic re-registration, without the need for them to come in person to do so. I'm sure this will answer some questions people have raised lately and our parish can continue to explore ways to secure good Catholic education in Sayreville for generations to come.

May God bless each of you in these most difficult times and may Our Lady of Victories watch over, and protect us.

Peace

Fr. Robert