



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 10, 2018

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful morning I spent with your children at Saint Bartholomew School! I joined with the Board of Trustees from the Hope Through Education Foundation to spend time with your children, parish priests and the school staff. We had the opportunity see the students perform a play about Our Lady of Guadalupe and her appearance to Saint Juan Diego. The play was a beautiful depiction of the story and helped us all to learn about the supernatural intervention of Our Blessed Mother in the Americas. In addition to the play, a choir of students sang. The program ended with lively folk dancing.

After the performance, I visited all the classrooms and spoke with students. I was so impressed as I watched students across the grade levels engaged in STEM activities. The youngest of students could tell me all about the task and how they were planning to complete each task. It was wonderful to be able to show our Board of Trustees that our students are not only learning, but there is great joy in the activities. It was a perfect expression of life at Saint Bartholomew School--a blending of the arts and academics. Most importantly, the day had begun at First Friday Mass. Their growing friendship with Jesus was evident to me.

I want to thank Father Walsh, Mrs. Wierzbicki, the faculty, staff and students for a wonderful day. Most importantly, I want to thank you for your commitment to a Catholic school education. I am well aware that it can be a financial sacrifice to enroll in a Catholic school, but I firmly believe it is one of the best investments you will make. As a product of Catholic schools, I know the importance of having an education that reflects the values of the home. The partnership between the home and school should form a bond that will assist you as you raise your children.

As we enter into this beautiful season of Advent, I pray that you and your family will feel the peace and love of Jesus and His Blessed Mother. I pray that you are nourished and prepared for Christmas by receiving our Lord's Body and Blood on Sundays at Mass, so that Christmas will be your best one yet! Be assured of my prayers for you, and I ask that you keep me in your prayers as well.

With renewed best wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

cc: Rev. Thomas J. Walsh
Mrs. Ann Wierzbicki