



## MONROE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



December 21, 2011

Dear Monroe Catholic Elementary School Families,

**Merry Christmas!** As we celebrate the great feast of Jesus' birth, let us remember that our Catholic schools celebrate Christmas all year long. Our schools are sacred places, where education is more than computers and textbooks. In our Catholic schools, education revolves around Jesus Christ, the reason for every season, where we celebrate the **peace, love** and **hope** of Jesus every day.

**Catholic schools are places of peace.** *With your support, our students walk the path of peace that Jesus showed us. Each day begins and ends with prayer, and each student learns how special it is to pray each day. As we take time off to celebrate Christmas, take time to remember to keep prayer at the center of your homes each day, just as prayer is at the center of our school day. I encourage you to bring your children to Mass each Sunday, showing them the beauty of the Eucharist, and the peace that flows from centering our lives on Jesus.*

**Catholic schools are places of love.** *Our children, with your support, are making the world a better place. They are learning to love their neighbor as Jesus taught us. Our schools have had food drives, coat drives and collections for countries across the globe. I know of older students helping younger ones with Advent wreaths; I know of teachers whose students created a "circle of love" to portray the Advent wreath; and I know of a teacher who, when she catches the children doing good deeds, has the children put straw in the manger so that, by Christmas, there is a soft bed for baby Jesus. During this Christmas season, I pray that each of you will remember the love at the heart of it all. Help your children see the needs around them and respond with the love of Christ.*

**Catholic schools are places of hope.** *The birth of Jesus brought hope to our world. Our Catholic schools bring hope to our students, our families and our world. Catholic education revolves around the truth that every child is created in the sacred image and likeness of God. When families and communities embrace the hope of Catholic education, we know that the future is bright. Jesus gives us hope, and as Catholics, we must put our faith into action and spread this message of hope in our schools, our communities and our world.*

During Christmas break the MCES administration will be working toward finalizing details about enrollment, tuition and fees, transportation options and schedules, curricular offerings, and student services for the 2012-2013 school year. We are looking forward to sharing family information packets in January when we return.

Thank you for giving your child the gift of Catholic education and allowing us to help you raise your child in a school environment embedded in our Catholic faith.

May you have a holy and joyous Christmas season!

*Mrs. Melody Curtis*

Executive Director, MCES

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