

February 9, 2018

Dear Parents,

I have spent this week meeting with all of our wonderful faculty, connecting with some of you and meeting with the Advisory Board which I mentioned in my correspondence with you last week. I am grateful to our teachers for their profound commitment to educating all of the children in our Catholic Elementary School. I am grateful to those of you who have reached out directly to me with your questions and concerns. I understand the frustration of many of you who believe more information should be available to you, even some who have taken to social media to fill in the gaps with misinformation. We are all still members of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. The important thing is that we stay connected to each other, even if we disagree. We are always in need of God's healing; sometimes the need for healing is more apparent than others. In faith we know Christ is always present, holding us together in community.

I do want to reiterate that Fr. Zac's leaving Assumption Parish was a decision made by Archbishop Carlson after years of ongoing discernment with Fr. Zac. It is also a decision made out of love for Fr. Zac which will enable him to become an even more effective priest in our Archdiocese, for the rest of his life. Likewise, Dr. Zaleuke's resignation was a decision made by her after months of dialogue with regarding the mission of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and the mission of our Catholic Elementary School. I certainly understand many people are angry with me for not intervening in Archbishop Carlson's decision and for not being able to work more effectively with Dr. Zaleuke. Please express your concerns directly to me; and please refrain from sharing misinformation with others. And most of all, please trust your teachers to continue the excellent work of educating our students and forming them in faith. I look forward to meeting with all of you on March 1st.

Regarding the meeting of the Advisory Board, I am providing their names below. If there is an asterisk next to their name, those individuals are willing to connect with folks who wish to talk privately about concerns or questions. They are prepared to speak specifically about the Advisory Board meeting itself. My experience of the meeting is that many perspectives are represented, grounded in our faith and a commitment to work through any difficulties together. These are the members:

Sarah Edwards*	Holly Woytus*
Marcy Arrowood*	Mike Thompson*
Kelly Hewitt	Russ Clever*
Alison McCulloch*	Dr. Tom Wagner
Kevin Call*	Carl Gentry*
Melinda Kruper	Jonathan Gonzalez
Kim Harrelson	Kristine Bohn
Jeni Willis*	Shawn Gibbs*

Let us recommit ourselves to following Mary in her mission to bring Christ to the world. God bless you.

Fr. Mitch