

Ken Rasp to bcc: parents\_pk-12

10:00 AM

To Crusader Nation:

Charged with finding purposefully and meaningful ways to nurture and enhance our Catholic Identity and Mission, the Muskegon Catholic Central Catholic Culture Committee decided during the 2016-2017 academic year that MCC needed a Patron Saint. I enthusiastically agreed. As the school year ended, the Catholic Culture Committee worked with the MCC faith community to identify saints whose charism closely matched the MCC Mission and culture. After great deliberation and prayerful discernment, the list of possible patron saint candidates was narrowed to three – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta, and St. Pope John Paul II.

Under the direction of MCC Campus Minister Mr. Matt Koczur, students from the organization WINGS worked over the summer on ways to educate the MCC faith community about the three patron saint candidates. Student led presentations were delivered to the MCC faith community on each saint after all of the September school Masses. On Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, MCC students, faculty and staff were invited to choose the saint each felt most represented the MCC Mission.

On Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, appropriately situated prior to the Academic Excellence Prayer Service, the MCC faith community was informed that St. Pope John Paul II had been chosen. The news was received with great enthusiasm and excitement! During the All School Mass presided over by Bishop Walkowiak on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will formally and intentionally adopt St. Pope John Paul II as the Patron Saint of Muskegon Catholic Central.

Throughout his pontificate, St. Pope John Paul II championed the importance of youth involvement in the life of the Church. He continually challenged our youth with great conviction, to accept and live Our Lord's call to holiness and discipleship. With the foundation of World Youth Day, he stated publicly his commitment to the spiritual formation and faith life of youth.

*"Young people of "World Youth Day", the Church asks you to go, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to those near and those that are far away. Share with them the freedom you have found in Christ. People thirst for genuine inner freedom, they yearn for the Life which Christ came to give in abundance....In your hands, carry the Cross of Christ. On your lips, the words of Life, in your hearts, the saving grace of the Lord."*

~ Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day Quote

What an amazing opportunity we now have to marry and link the charism of St. Pope John Paul II with the MCC Mission! Appropriate and necessary signs and symbols are in the works. Personally, I am excited to experience in the days and weeks ahead what I expect to be an incredibly positive impact on the Crusader culture.

I especially invite you to attend the All School Mass on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am in the Cioe Gym. Please help us as we celebrate and rise up St. Pope John Paul II as our Patron Saint

Every Friday, we lift up MCC in fervent and ardent prayer in Eucharistic Adoration. Please join us in the Mullally Family Memorial Chapel at any time from 8:30 am to 2:45 pm. We welcome the opportunity to pray with you as we thank our Father God for the many blessings He showers upon Muskegon Catholic Central.

I appreciate all you do to help us fulfill our mission of excellence in Catholic faith formation and academics. Your comments and insights are important to me. I can be reached via phone at [231.291.0234](tel:231.291.0234) or via email at [krasp@muskegoncatholic.org](mailto:krasp@muskegoncatholic.org).

May St. Pope John Paul II pray and intercede for all Crusaders! Now and Forever!

Ken R. Rasp, President

Muskegon Catholic Central



*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

- John 14:27