

November 17, 2016

### ***President's Remarks***

Yesterday morning, I along with our Principals, received an email message from Dave Faber, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. During these post-election days, I found his message to be incredibly poignant and wonderfully Catholic. I like it so much; I felt it was important to share it with all of you in the Muskegon Catholic Central faith community:

*During these days of transition in our country, we are hearing a lot from the media about increased uncertainty, fear, and even mistreatment within schools nationwide. I know that all of you and your faculties are being vigilant, as always, to ensure that all students feel safe and loved in your schools. What we often don't hear popularly is much about the power of prayer. I am confident that all of you were praying within your communities before the election and have been praying since the election for our country and its leadership. This is the most powerful tool in our toolkit to bring unity and peace. I know that you know this, but I thought I would offer this simple reminder and encouragement. Prayer is transformative at all times, but it is especially helpful in times of division! I'll let the scriptures speak for themselves:*

*Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. (MT 5:44)*

*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (LK 6:27-28)*

*The power of prayer to transform not only the hearts of those we pray for, but also our own attitudes and perceptions, is amazing. I encourage you, members of your faculty, and students to pray specifically by name for those with whom you may struggle, do not like, or may even mistreat you, and watch the positive results of your persistent prayers.*

*Peace in Christ,*

***David A. Faber | Superintendent of Catholic Schools***

These are certainly turbulent times. Over the past week we have experienced some instances where campaign speeches or political platforms have caused some uneasiness in student interactions. Over the past several weeks during the Listening Sessions, I have heard many comments extolling faith and family as positive value descriptors for the MCC experience. The foundation for these values can only be nurtured and enhanced via the transformative prayer Dave is calling us to participate in. Let us pledge as a faith community to pray – to pray that we find ways to show and

promote kindness, tolerance, inclusivity and safety throughout our school community. I believe positive results will occur through persistent prayer. I have experienced the power of persistent prayer in my own life. Please join me in prayer!

May God bless you and your family!

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