



# St. Paul School

## Educating the Mind, Body, Spirit

October 10, 2017

Dear Families,

Fall is upon us and we are working hard to learn new things and create opportunities for our students' success every day. We thank you for choosing to be part of our school family and for being part of the exciting transition to our new Lumen Christi Academies! This month we write to update you about what this change means for our **mission and Catholic identity**.

Pope Francis recently tweeted that *"The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful."* Indeed, while all of our schools have a strong reputation for academic excellence, the foundation we all share is our faith. This will not change as we move to become a part of Lumen Christi Academies.

Our mission and our Catholic identity will remain the same and will guide our actions and our decisions as we move forward together in the Lumen Christi Academies. Our school will still have the same name, and our school will still be a Catholic school in the Diocese of Oakland. We will still teach religion, implement the Diocesan curriculum standards, adhere to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guidelines, celebrate our faith daily, prepare our students for Sacramental life, engage in service to our community, participate in the WCEA/ WASC accreditation process, and strive to implement social justice in our world. Our principal will still be the chief instructional and spiritual leader of our school, and will partner with our Pastor, local clergy, all of our faculty and staff to support the faith formation of every child and adult in our school family.

With our partner schools in Lumen Christi Academies, we will begin to collaborate with our colleagues to support our own faith development through experiences like shared retreats and shared professional development. We will work together to discuss and design learning experiences for our students that help them to grow in knowledge and expression of their faith - our teachers will get to share their best ideas and best practices with each other to benefit all of our students! Our marketing team will work hard to share the stories about all of the good work that our teachers and children are doing in our schools to spread the light of Christ.

With all of the challenges and suffering in our world today, it is a gift to join together and celebrate the hope and light that our children bring into our lives. We know that through our collaborative efforts, our children will grow into faith-filled, bright young people who will illuminate a more just and joyful future for us all. We thank you for joining us on this journey.

With Sincere Blessings,

Natalie Lenz-Acuna, Principal