



*In the Tradition of
the Franciscan Fathers and
Sisters of the Precious Blood*

Saint Mary's High School

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"Home of the Knights"

April 1, 2010

Dear Families and Friends,

Our Business Office: The Difference Between A Job And A Vocation

This year we have tried to profile more of the good things happening in our classrooms. In this issue we focus on a very important group at Saint Mary's, a group dedicated to serving families who need help in making a SM experience possible for their children. I speak of our Business Office, with Liz Hansen, Alycia Benites and Esther Roman.

In addition to the typical accounting functions of any business – budgets, paying bills, collecting revenues, etc. – these three staff members are primarily responsible for administering our financial aid program, and it is in this arena that they distinguish themselves and in which they deserve the highest praise and thanks from all of us. The time and effort devoted to families in need is extraordinary, and the care and compassion they show families under stress is a great example of Catholic caring. Hundreds of families each year benefit from the financial aid seminars and one-on-one counseling provided by the trio. A similar number personally meet with them to discuss changes in circumstance and to request additional assistance. The phones are constantly at work and emails fly like snowflakes in a blizzard, often into the evenings and on weekends.

The support of the Brophy Community Foundation, outlined above, was made possible because Liz Hansen refused to give up her search for additional funding for our families. She had the courage to "think outside the box," using her considerable people skills to forge a relationship with BCF. Then together with her colleagues, she worked extraordinary hours to assist families in completing BCF applications.

Despite the workload they bear, and the stressful situations with which they deal on a daily basis, the women in the Business Office group maintains a calmness and positive demeanor with everyone it they serves. We cannot always satisfy a family's needs because of our limited resources, and some parents will be disappointed in decisions made from time to time. That is inevitable. Each of these occasions is cause for disappointment, but they are by far they are outweighed by the successful attempts to keep a child enrolled at Saint Mary's.

Thank you Liz, Esther, and Alycia – from the Saint Mary's Administration, Faculty and Staff, Students and Parents – we truly appreciate all you do for us!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Suzanne M. Fessler
Principal