



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Notre Dame Family,

During October, the Church celebrates “Respect Life Month”. This theme is to remind us that we are made “in the Divine image, the image and likeness of God” (Genesis 1:27) and that our value and worth comes from this objective truth: that everyone is worthy of life and that no one should be thrown away, dismissed, destroyed or used. In the Gospels, the Lord Jesus is criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:11). To be eating with a tax collector is to spend time with a traitor, a thief, someone who has rejected their heritage for money. To eat with sinners is to spend time with those who are impure, who did not adhere strictly to religious laws. To eat with them is to share in community, friendship and peace. In his actions, Jesus is demonstrating the lengths God is willing to go, in order to demonstrate his mercy, his love and his desire for everyone’s salvation.

As we celebrate “Respect Life Month”, we are reminded that Jesus sits with us, in spite of our sins. In the Book of Revelation, the Lord says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). The Lord is knocking at the door to our heart, the door to our soul and he challenges us to open the door to our hearts and souls. Every person you encounter is the Lord Jesus and in the Lord’s kingdom, we uphold human dignity and treat everyone as the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

I would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who assisted in our Girls and Boys retreat in Big Bear. Without your assistance, the retreat would not have been possible. In various conversations that I had with our students, they found the retreat fruitful and impactful. We are grateful to the faculty and staff who attended the retreat, presented and spent time with the students in their journey with the Lord.

If you were one of the 200 hundred attendees of our Fall Fling, you heard the exciting announcement of our newest project: the construction of a practice gym, additional bathrooms and a new Hall of Fame wing. This will be constructed in front and connected to the current gym, Sports Medicine Clinic and Weight Room. Not only will this beautify the campus, but it will also give us vital flexibility, not only for our sports programs, but all student organizations who utilize the gym. In addition, we will be able to honor our Hall of Fame honorees and reflect on the legacy they have left, while preparing for the next



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generation of Notre Dame honorees. We are grateful to the Shea Family Charities and all those who have already contributed to this project and we hope that you will consider helping Notre Dame grow.

If you have recently walked on campus, you will see a couple of new improvements. The first is the “Vaughan Family Courtyard of Cardinal Virtues”. This is located between the A Hall and the B Hall. This is a new area in which students can sit, study and gather. Around the courtyard, you will see various reliefs with one of the cardinal virtues associated with a saint. This is a reminder that we strive to live out these virtues in order to help us not just come closer to Christ, but to be more Christ-like in our everyday actions. We wish to thank the Vaughan Family, the Shea Family Charities, and the Meier Family for their generosity in making this project possible.

The second improvement is the “Brockton Ave.” Lounge, which is located between the Administration building and A Hall. This area has been transformed by Mr. Chris Johnson, Assistant Principal of Student Life, with the generous donations of various Notre Dame families. The Lounge has been repurposed into a space where students can gather, study, socialize or do school work. We thank Mr. Johnson and those who assisted him in funding this project.

As always, I thank all of you and know that you are in my prayers and I ask that you continue to pray for our students, faculty, staff, volunteers, benefactors and myself. May the Lord bless each one of you, your loved ones and may we accompany each other to our eternal home, the Kingdom of Heaven. Together, we are ND!

Manuel Cardoza
Principal, Notre Dame High School