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Dear Students,

**Growing up IS a tough job.** You're faced with many options – many choices. At some point, you'll begin to see the need to set priorities. You'll also begin to realize that to become the person *you* want to become – the person *God* wants you to be – will take many types of learning or formation; for example, intellectual, emotional, physical, vocational, religious and spiritual. **Balanced formation will provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in our sometimes turbulent society.** Your Catholic faith formation is vital to helping you lead a joyful and productive life and to ultimately reach your final goal – heaven.

SO...WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CATHOLIC?

IT MEANS THAT...

“I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

*The Nicene Creed – read or sung on Sundays and solemnities*

At St. Jude, to help you fully understand The Creed and other vital parts of your Catholic faith, **we provide the very best of authentically Catholic and leading edge learning.** The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd materials we use here at St. Jude give your learning a fun, hands-on dimension which provides you with a better understanding of our special friendship with Jesus, His Father in heaven and the Holy Spirit. In the upper grades you'll enjoy some new and exciting DVD-based curriculum to bring your learning about God's love and mercy into your everyday experiences, which will enhance your growth in love of Christ and neighbor.

Our goal is to help you and your family develop a lifelong relationship of trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthened through an understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist!

If you're going into grades PreK – 7 at a public or other non-Catholic school, please ask your parent or guardian to complete the registration form (located on our website) today so you can begin classes this year! If you're in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or High School, please contact our Youth Minister, Frank Faranda.

God bless you and your family,

*Deacon Les*