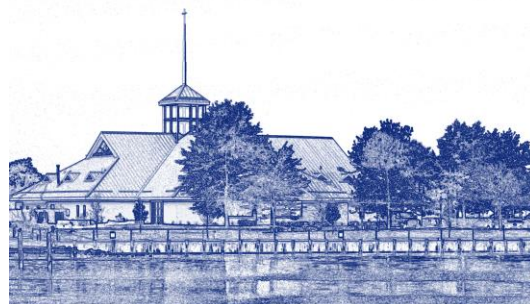


OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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January 13, 2021

Dear Families,

Christian education has always been an important part of the fabric of our American society most especially here in southern Maryland. Children who have been formed in an education system based on Christ and his Gospel have gone on several times in the history of our state and nation to lead us through difficult and troubled times.

Prior to the revolutionary war, when Catholic Schools were forbidden by law in Maryland, parents made the immense sacrifice in sending their children to Europe to receive a Catholic education. After the war many of these children returned and went on to serve in state and national government and were leaders in industry and civil society. Their sacrifice helped to form the national spirit of our young republic.

Soon, today's children, as the children of past generations, will shoulder the responsibility of our community, state, and nation. Which is why providing a Catholic education to our children now is as important as ever. An education that prioritizes, teaches, and promotes a spirit of cooperation, respect for human dignity and moral values, and a belief in the promise of the human person made in the image and likeness of God.

Our national symbol is the eagle. It is our solemn responsibility to form our future eagles today. For our children to be eagles, to soar as they do, to have their heart and eye, to navigate through the winds and storms of life, and to be citizens who can give strength and life to our national spirit we must first decide whom we will choose to carve into their souls and minds. Righteous citizens are not produced in factories or on computers or social media. But in the homes and hearts of faithful parents and guardians, and under the watchful eyes of our teachers who model Jesus Christ.

Thank you for entrusting your child to our school during this challenging school year. We believe in your child and their future. Their future is our future! As we approach Catholic Schools Week, I hope you will join with me in celebrating the gift of Catholic education, and the promise and hope it gives to our children, our families, and our nation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Gill