



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

Rev. Michael J. Feldtz

4170 N. Amber Drive, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
216-749-0414

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Families of St. Thomas More School,

Continual Easter Peace to all of you! Not being sure who all I have been able to meet so far, there may need to be a short introduction I was assigned by the Diocese of Cleveland to St. Thomas More Parish as the Parish administrator effective July 1, 2020. The crazy year of this COVID-19 virus has prevented us from formally meeting, as it has cancelled our major events and opportunity to meet in-person.

Fr. Bill Bouhall, the previous pastor, left big shoes to fill. His dedication and service to the parish and school continues to help us vision for our future. The phrase that we are using around the parish, especially this being our 75th anniversary year, is "*Building for Our Future*". These are exciting times for both the parish and the school, and not just because of our anniversary year here upon us.

The transition between the leadership of the parish is allowing us to actively see where we have been, where we are, and where we will be going. Over the past few months, representatives from the Diocese of Cleveland, outside consulting firms, other parishes and schools, religious orders, construction companies and generous benefactors have all walked the halls of our school and even up on our school roof. The review of the facilities, the personnel, and the finances of both the parish and school have been completed. The end conclusion is that we will be moving the parish and the school forward in a very positive direction, so much so that there is excitement starting to percolate among the staff and various committees of the parish.

Over the next few months, this theme of "*Building for Our Future*" will become very evident. The construction companies are already planning their schedules and ordering material. With support from the Diocese of Cleveland, some very generous benefactors, and the parishioners of St. Thomas More, we can announce that this will be a very busy summer on our campus. The repairs and updates to the school building alone will be over a half-a-million dollars and include a new roof and upgrades to lighting, hallways and more! In addition, our hope is that funds will also be allocated for future scholarships and financial aid for students to make Catholic school tuition affordable. Various groups from our parish, including the Women's Guild, Athletics, Holy Name Society, PTU, the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council, are only a few of the groups energized by these announcements.

As you are aware, the tuition structure was adjusted and may be your most current concern at this point. However, know that this adjustment was not without consultation with others with the goal of alignment for the future. All balance sheets, staffing needs and other expenditures were reviewed by the Parish Finance Council, diocesan representatives and an outside accounting firm. The step was made for the use of a "parishioner and non-parishioner"

scale, as well as a scale for the number of students within the families. The “parishioner vs. non-parishioner” has been defined within the Annual Admissions Contract 2021-2022. If you are listed as a “non-parishioner,” please consider how you and your family can actively participate in the life of the parish through liturgies, financial support, and our various ministry groups. We are open to working with families who have questions concerning their enrollment at the school.

The cost to educate a student at St. Thomas More School is \$4,864.75, a number that fluctuates with the cost of living and other expenses. Our tuition is roughly \$3,450.00 per child. The difference between the cost to educate and our tuition, which is about \$1400 per student, is subsidized by the generosity of the parishioners and benefactors of St. Thomas More Parish.

I realize the sacrifice that it takes to provide a Catholic education for your child, and I appreciate your collective support of St. Thomas More parish and school. As I mentioned, we are working to keep future tuition increases modest as well as to find ways to provide more support to those who need it.

The future of our children being educated at St. Thomas More School is our focus. The plans for our future will continue to be reviewed, and with the hope of this pandemic slowing and ultimately ending, we are excited to be “Building for Our Future.” In addition, please look for the various 75th anniversary year events happening at the parish and join us, so that we are all moving together and growing deeper in our faith.

Sincerely in Christ’s Easter Peace,

Father Mike

Rev. Michael J. Feldtz
Parish Administrator
St. Thomas More Parish