



*Catholic Education Since 1954*

April 15, 2011

Dear St. Jude of the Lake Parents,

As you are aware, over the past few months, we have been in the process of exploring the International Baccalaureate Program for St. Jude of the Lake School. This exploratory phase was initiated after many meetings discussing the recent decline in enrollment and the importance of building the school for the future. With the strong tradition of excellence at St. Jude of the Lake School and the commitment of the parish to continue this valued and important mission of the church, the foundation is here to build a successful Catholic school program for the future.

In assessing the current situation, along with the changes occurring both for Catholic education and education across the country, it was clear that the school needed to create its own unique identity in its educational programs to enhance the Catholic identity of the school. The International Baccalaureate program was identified as a way to blend our strong Catholic mission with a proven, rigorous academic program. Together, these two identities would create an educational climate and culture that provides relevant, engaging, challenging, student-centered, instruction in a community of faith to assist each child in achieving their very best.

Our mission states: *St. Jude of the Lake School is a Catholic Community committed to assisting our families with meeting the educational and spiritual needs of children; to provide a climate in which all students have the opportunity to pursue their intellectual abilities, and to discover their unique gifts. It is through our commitment to academic excellence, worship and service to others that children achieve a deeper awareness of their responsibility to God, community and themselves.* The ultimate goal of our school is to fulfill this mission. Through our exploratory work over the past months, we have held this mission central to our work.

After the exploratory phase, a recommendation strongly supporting IB was passed on to Father Talbot. He has been carefully and prayerfully considering the information gathered as he made his decision. Attached is the letter Father Talbot has sent to the parishioners regarding his decision. We wanted to share this letter with you as soon as we received it as well.

I will include more information regarding this decision in the Laker Letter which will be emailed on Monday, April 18, 2011. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our fabulous school. We are truly blessed with amazing, passionate staff and families that help create a very special place for our students. Please continue to pray for us as we build a strong school for the future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Cassidy, Principal