



# *The Academy of Our Lady of Peace*

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September 3, 2009

Dear Fellow Parents,

On behalf of The Academy of Our Lady of Peace Home School Association Executive Board; Kelly Gagliano & Kerry Flood - Co-Vice Presidents, Nancy Rhines - Secretary, and Gene Buerle - Treasurer, I would like to thank you for your support and welcome you as we embark on the 2009-2010 school year. While we hope all the rewards of summer relaxation came your way, the HSA has been gearing up for what we see as another successful school year.

The 2008-2009 school year was one of excitement and change for our Academy. First we welcomed a new Principa Tom Berrios, who brought enthusiastic leadership and a strong commitment to enhancing the education of our children. The HSA is committed to continuing to work hand in hand assisting Mr. Berrios in fulfilling our common goal of providing our children with the best Catholic Education possible.

The purpose of the HSA is to provide support for The Academy through volunteer efforts; providing social activities that enhance the educational experience, and financially through various fund raising events. The HSA is a school community which enriches not just our children and but also our families and the community at large. I can't stress enough how critical the volunteer efforts are to the success of our Academy. While every family is required to volunteer for 25 hours, there is an even greater need. Several volunteers work hundreds of hours and gain much enjoyment from working together toward a common goal. A friend of mine, whose job requires 75 hours a week, once told me that he got far more from volunteering than he felt he gave in the tasks he performed. The rewards of fellowship and friendship while working together to assure that our children have the opportunity for a Christ centered education in the world today brought him great joy.

It's so exciting that given the economic challenges last year posed, we collectively worked to continue the many years of success with our Tricky Tray, while still adding to newer endeavors like Casino Night. It took everyone's effort to make that happen and I am grateful for your commitment and hopeful that we will continue that spirit of involvement and have another successful year. There are many volunteer opportunities available for whatever time is most convenient for you. If you are not sure how to get involved, please contact Kelly Gagliano, she will be happy to help you find something that fits your needs. If you are not able to volunteer the 25 hours, you will be billed for the portion of your commitment that you do not meet. But sincerely, we would rather you commit to your children and their education through volunteering than have a few extra dollars. Enclosed is the HSA volunteer sign-up sheet, which provides a description of the needs, and contact information for all committee chair people, please take a moment to review and sign up to lend a hand.

**Back to School Night** is *Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.* Please join us as we meet the administration and faculty and learn about the academic plans for this school year.