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January 22, 2010

*St. Vincent Pallotti*

Dear Students and Parents,

Praise be Jesus Christ! Today's saint is St. Vincent Pallotti. He was born in Rome in 1795 and began studies for the priesthood very early. Although he was very bright, he was not attracted by studies, even though he was ordained a priest at twenty-three and earned a doctorate in theology soon afterward. He was given an assistant professorship at the Sapienza University but resigned it soon after to devote himself to pastoral work. Before long, his zeal was known all over Rome. He organized schools for shoemakers, tailors, coachmen, carpenters, and gardeners so that they could better work at their trade, as well as evening classes for young farmers and unskilled workers. He is the founder of the Pallottine Fathers and Pallottine Missionary Sisters.



This has been a very full week with semester exams. Sadly, however, I must address an issue of great concern. Some of our students were drawn to participate in "cyberbullying" this past week. Although the internet is off school grounds, the situation began in our school and carried over. I have been addressing the student body by grades and individually if the student was directly involved in this cyberbullying. It is important for parents to know the legal ramifications that are associated with this type of activity. There are Wisconsin statutes that place this type of harassment under a Class B misdemeanor. In addition, lawsuits can be filed for such harassment. Check out the McGruff site on cyberbullying <http://www.mcgruff.org/Advice/cyberbullies.php>, and browse the internet for more information. This is a very serious issue that the school administration cannot control outside of its doors. The Diocese of Green Bay is drafting a policy to address all future incidents of cyberbullying in Catholic Schools. I will keep you posted. For now, please talk to your children about internet safety and internet virtue. Please help to stop this form of bullying from continuing.

May the Peace of Christ be with you and your family. St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us!

I remain yours,  
Joyful in the service of Christ,

Mrs. Jennifer A. Elfering  
*President of Systems*