



Marinette Campus
Catholic Central High School & Holy Family Middle School
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St. Mary Elementary School
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January 8, 2010

Blessed Angela of Foligno

Dear Students and Parents,

Praise be Jesus Christ! Today's saint is Blessed Angela of Foligno. Blessed Angela was beatified in 1653. Although she is not canonized, her life exemplifies the path to real sainthood. She enjoyed a life of prosperity as a wife and mother but became taken up with her wealth and possessions. Upon her conversion, she began to see that what was priceless was her very soul. Her husband and children soon died afterwards, and she dedicated her life to prayer and works of charity. Blessed Angela was grateful for the Incarnation of God and served Him in thanksgiving through serving the poor.

Welcome back to school! I hope that everyone rested and rejoiced in the birth of Christ with festive celebration. Well, a week has gone by, and I believe the teachers and students are back in the swing of things. So much is happening and I am delighted to share with you the great strides we are making in student achievement. I recently attended a CESA 7 presentation for the Diocese Presidents and Principals concerning school improvement and the Support Consultant Role. School improvement is not a reactive response, but it is a proactive cycle of movement that is always concerned with enhancing student achievement. I was affirmed in our activities at St. Thomas Aquinas as Dr. Sargent indicated that it is most beneficial to have co-teaching in the classroom. It is also the most favorable use of Support Consultants and student mainstreaming. Since last year I have discussed Response to Intervention (RtI). This effort in instruction enables teachers to reach all kinds of minds with many levels of intervention. The goal is to keep students on the same learning path and not to create a slower or lower growth rate.

At the Peshtigo campus, we are blest to have Mrs. Roxanne Carlson on our team. Her expertise in the area of reading and spelling is a blessing to the Academy. Our elementary students will be seeing more of Mrs. Roxanne Carlson in their rooms as she launches the second phase of our balanced literacy directive. Please take the time to review her comments enclosed as well. This movement is a reflection of our hard work as a team of educators to collaborate for the success of EACH student. We have been meeting twice a month before school, and I am very proud of the collegiality among the team members at the Peshtigo campus. They have embraced development and adapted to change for the continued success of all aligning all things to our mission to provide each student with "a desire to reach the full potential which God has intended for them". As we move forward, you will be seeing more collaboration as we create an environment of shared learning in which students can benefit from the expertise of all.

The Marinette campus has also seen great progress. Our ACT scores revealed a three percentage jump over the prior year. Our composite scores were eight percentage points higher than the state public school composite scores. The largest increase was in the English category. Our school saw a slight dip in our science scores last year, but they were still above the state average. I hope to have these posted on our web-site within the next two weeks. Our mid-term exams will take place on January 21 and 22.

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On a more solemn note, over the holiday break the Board of Trustees voted to eliminate the bookkeeping position and replace it with a Business Manager position. The Board of Trustees is committed to providing for a smooth transition in operations. During the next two weeks the Board of Trustees and I will be preparing for our annual Corporate Board meeting to take place on January 22, 2010. I will keep you informed as soon as possible as we move forward in this second semester. Results of our Annual Giving Campaign will also be forthcoming. Thank you to all who assisted with this effort and helped with our recent phone-a-thon. All things are possible with God!

There are many events taking place in the near future. Please pay careful attention to the individual campus "News" letters. Catholic Schools' Week will begin on January 31. February 6th will launch a new fundraising activity, our Mardi Gras event. This is an adult event. More help is needed so please contact the Marinette or Peshtigo campus for details. As for my schedule, in addition to preparing for the annual Corporate Board meeting, I will be heavily involved with teacher observations and evaluations. You may not see me around campus because I will be in a classroom at either campus. I can receive all messages on my personal cell phone so e-mail or voice mail me if you wish to speak with me beyond the help of the Teacher or Lead Teacher.

We are still moving forward with our Math curriculum review. Another participant on the team is Mrs. Nannette Everson. She brings to the team experience in the pre-school/kindergarten classroom as well as strong knowledge in early childhood development. She holds a Master's Degree and a teaching license. Her contributions are extremely important as her work will help to develop the foundation for Math success with our pre-school and kindergarten programs.

This month's **President's Accolade** was given to Mrs. Nancy Pecor. Her dedication and commitment to the Academy is edifying. As with many of our faculty members, she too has given of her professional time to teach students donate her personal time around the Marinette campus. You may see her housekeeping efforts as you roam the halls. Recently, she re-upholstered our sports medial table in the coaches' area so that athletes could avoid pinches from the old cracked and taped leather. She truly embodies the idea of *communio*. Her love of the school is far reaching.

This month's principle of Faith Integration surrounds itself around spirituality. We have already introduced as a school the principles of a faith-filled environment, living together in community (communion), working together in mission, and living in the light of scripture. As we continue to move forward certain principles will be developed more. Last semester our Academy put a lot of effort into *communio* and building community. Check out the shields of honor that are located around each campus. They represent what we value as a school community and what we believe to be the ideal for community living from our individual honor codes.

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