



Marinette Campus  
Catholic Central High School & Holy Family Middle School  
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December 4, 2009

### *St. Barbara*

*"I kept my faith, even when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted'" Psalm 116*

Dear Students and Parents,

Praise be Jesus Christ! Today's saint is St Barbara. Barbara lived in the 4th century and brought up as a heathen. A tyrannical father, Dioscorus, had kept her jealously secluded in a lonely tower which he had built for that purpose. Here, in her forced solitude, she gave herself to prayer and study, and contrived to receive instruction and Baptism in secret by a Christian priest. Her father wanted her to renounce her faith but St. Barbara refused. He had her tortured and even beheaded her himself. Lightning struck him dead. The life of St. Barbara is a vivid reminder that there can be much anger in our world and in our lives. Being in touch with God's presence in a very special way can do much toward relieving ourselves of our tendency to allow anger to control us. *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."* 1 Cor. 10:13.



Please take advantage of this week's holiday event for Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy. Many have gone to great lengths to create a vision of beauty within the homes of our area. The decorations are simply wonderful and worth the time. The holiday spirit is upon us as we enter the second week of Advent. The **Holiday Tour of Homes** is another fun way to experience the cheer of Christmas as it approaches. Don't forget our **Wreath Sales** to help you decorate. And finally, consider **Scrap** as excellent stocking stuffer! All these activities help to grow financial stability for our school. We cannot do it alone on tuition. Our efforts continue to provide education in the Catholic teaching tradition for all children is aided by our low tuition. So help us meet our budget needs with our school annual fundraisers. Spread the word and ignite interest. You are our best advertising. Thank you.

This week we were privileged to have an impromptu visit by Bishop David Ricken at our Marinette Campus. He had attended an ordination in Michigan and was traveling back to his residence when he decided to drop in. Mr. Aldrich prepared a quick assembly and the students welcomed the Bishop and his sister, Carol. Bishop Ricken shared his story of a school in Wyoming that he worked with and their struggles but eventual success. He prayed the prayer he composed with the children and gave us his special blessing before departing. I was honored along with Mr. Aldrich and Mrs. Bellisle to receive another blessing and words of encouragement from the Bishop. He truly is an advocate of education. 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*