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The Value of Catholic Education – Best Bang for the Buck! By Wayne Morse [below are excerpts from this article of January 29, 2014, as seen on the website: <http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-value-of-catholic-education-best.html>]

No doubt about it, the value of Catholic Education is constantly on the mind of school parents and families, and it's on Catholic educators' minds as well.... So what makes a Catholic School a good value?

Like any question about value – there are two sides to the equation – cost and benefit. The cost of operating Catholic schools is a fraction of the cost of public schools. This is primarily due to two things: our teachers and staff are not compensated at the same levels as public school staff, and our schools are subsidized through parish support and institutional fundraising.

Why would our teachers and staff work for less? It's because working in Catholic Education is viewed as a ministry, a vocation, a calling to serve our children and pass on the faith to the next generation.

Why would parishes and alumni continue to support our schools at such a hefty price? It's the same answer as before; it's a part of our faith, a ministry of the Church and a sign of our discipleship of Jesus Christ. Do we struggle to make ends meet? You bet we do. We're always looking for cost savings, and new funding avenues. We struggle keeping our school tuition affordable for as many as possible while providing fair and equitable compensation for our staff.

On the benefit side of the value equation,... we see that our students consistently outperform national norms on standardized tests.... These are great results, no doubt about it. Our heritage continues in strong academics. We educate the whole child as well, through challenging activities...

However, we still don't think these are the most important values of Catholic Education. That is raising our children in the Catholic faith. Teaching the Catholic faith and values, worshiping as community, and putting our faith into action through service of others, these are all part of the witness we pass on to students. People recognize our students as people with a strong moral foundation, persons of character and determination, people of service, fully prepared to assume leadership roles in discipleship of the Catholic faith throughout the world for the rest of their lives.

Across a wide spectrum, we develop talent, intellect and souls. When you put together the costs and benefits of a Catholic education, we believe the value is – priceless.

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Little Flower Catholic Elementary School is mirrored in the words above. We at Little Flower School want to **thank you parents** of our students, not just for entrusting your children to us to educate their mind, heart, and spirit, but also for your faithful support and many sacrifices you endure so you can afford the cost of a Catholic Education. LFS wants to **thank you parishioners** of Little Flower Church, **alumni** of LFS, and LFS family members in the **community** for your continual, generous support!!!

+++++ **Additional Information** for you to know: +++++

+++ All Little Flower school children and parents are invited to come to Community Prayer this Sunday in the Parish Hall from 10:00am to 10:15am. This Community Prayer time happens every 1st Sunday of the month. This is a time when both Public School children and Little Flower School children can come together in prayer/fun activities before 10:30 Mass. Parents are also invited to attend to help show their children the importance of religious education. If you have questions please call Glenn Gigandet at 776-6388 or his cell at 681-0171.

+++ Jr. High CYO is going to begin this Sunday and 6th grade Little Flower students are invited to attend! Every 1st Sunday of the month this year there will be 6th, 7th, and 8th grade CYO. If your child is in 6th grade he/she is invited to attend so that he/she may be challenged to put their faith into action. The CYO meeting will start at 9:15am and will transition into the Community Prayer time at 10:00am. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have questions please call Glenn Gigandet at 776-6388 or his cell at 681-0171. [OVER]

LFS - **Newsletter** for Friday, September 5, 2014 (continued)

- +++ Little Flower Parish annual fall supper will be held Sunday, October 5th from 4pm-7pm. The menu will be Turkey and all the trimmings along with dessert. Cost will be Adults: \$10, Children age 6-10: \$5, Preschool: Free and Family rate of \$40. The parish welcomes donations of potatoes, onions and ground beef (20lbs for dressing) which may be brought to the kitchen by October 4th. Can you give just 2 hours of your time? Please call the parish office at 776-6388 to help volunteer a shift. There are also sign-up sheets located at the back of the church.
- +++ Portraits by Misti will be taking School Pictures on Tuesday, September 23. More information will be sent at a later date!
- +++ School is dismissed at 3:15 pm. The buses will start at R.H.S., then L.F.S., & lastly at Ely.
- +++ Please save Our Family, Campbell Soup and Box Top Labels. You may send them to the office. We recently received a check from Our Family Labels for educational resources in the amount of \$55.00.
- +++ Parents, if you plan on driving for Field Trips, please contact Mrs. Mitzel in advance. There will be forms to fill out and an approval process to be done.
- +++ Weekly Wednesday Late Starts @ 9:00 AM.
- +++ Monthly tuition payments are due by the 5th of each month. Milk & Lunch can be made with one check, but please indicate how the money should be divided for lunch & milk.