

Good morning:

I want to take a few minutes today to thank you, and not to ask you for money! For those who may not know who I am, I am Mary Ann Margrey, the principal at Augustinian Academy but I have also been a member of the St. James Parish my whole life. And, I truly am here to thank you! In order to do that, I need to give a little background information

As most of you know, Augustinian Academy has been a large part of the Carthage community for 137 years. We currently have 136 students in grades PK- 3 through 8th grade with 11 classroom teachers and 19 support staff. Our per-pupil cost is \$6450 and our tuition is \$4000 per student with a discount for Catholic families. We count on scholarships and fundraisers to help keep our tuition affordable to all families. We have worked very hard through the years to maintain the quality education the Sisters of St. Joseph began, and the Augustinian and Diocesan priests supported, to educate the whole child, academically, spiritually, socially & emotionally. Part of each parish's mission is to provide for the faith formation of its children; and we are fortunate to be able to do that with your help at Augustinian Academy.

Recently we sent out a State of the School Report, much like the State of the Parish Report Fr. Todd sent out last spring. It gives you a brief overview of what we offer: faith formation, academics, community service, Music, Art & PE classes, before & after school care programs, state of the art technologies, and the list goes on and on. We work hard to be engaged in community and parish events especially during the 200th anniversary of St. James. In fact, we will be hosting a Business-After-Hours with the Carthage Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 16th.

As you may be aware when we put a budget together in June we have to anticipate income and expenses...some of this is easy because it is predetermined but there is always the element of the unknown. The State of the Parish showed a subsidy to the school of \$221,000 which is an anticipated budget number. But, we work hard to lessen that amount each year...in fact at the end of the 2022 school year the parish subsidy was \$0. Over the last three years, we have been awarded over \$523,000 in grants, tuition assistance, Catholic Cost Sharing, and government reimbursements; more than \$467,000 in donations and bequests; and from Advancement which includes our fundraisers and annual appeals, over \$508,000. The advancement and donations are from the community, the alumni, and **you**.

That is why I am here to thank you....you are helping to instill the faith in these young children. You help to provide them with a safe place to come every day to learn and grow. Please know that the students and staff keep you in our daily morning prayers and love to celebrate Mass with you. When I share what we have going on at school or in the community, please accept that as our invitation for you to join us. It is a very small way we can thank you for all you do for us!

If you are interested in our State of the School Report, there are some located at the entrance to Church along with a small brochure which shares personal reflections on the impact of Augustinian Academy. Again, thank you and God bless!

Mary Ann Margrey