

frequently ASKED QUESTIONS SERIES

Holy Trinity Parish School Ministry



— “ — A NOTE FROM FR. LARRY

Founded on the four pillars of stewardship – hospitality, prayer, formation and service – Holy Trinity Parish School Ministry provides a challenging academic environment for elementary and middle school students and their families. While parents are recognized and supported as the primary educators of their children, faculty and staff complement the development of the whole person – spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. Graduates of the School Ministry are servant-leaders who live as responsible, ethical and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in service to others.

Given the School Ministry’s critical role in our church’s mission, we have an obligation to do all we can to ensure its success. Working closely with Mr. Chris Nelson, principal, and the Catholic School Department of the Diocese of Sacramento, our goal is to excel in preparing our students for their future.

Although four initiatives were tested in the planning study, a fifth topic – the School Ministry – arose multiple times during interviews and from written survey responses. Comments came from current and former School Ministry families and teachers, as well as other caring parishioners.

We want to assure everyone that we heard you! Below are the most frequently asked questions that surfaced about this topic during the campaign planning study.

Should you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Larry Beck
Fr. Larry Beck

How does our School Ministry compare to and compete with other Catholic, charter or public schools?

Holy Trinity students excel in math, English, science and reading. Broken down by individual grade level, 3rd through 8th graders exceeded national averages on all 24 subtests and diocesan averages on 21 out of 24 tests. 97% of last year’s graduates earned ACT’s highest “Gold Level” designation on the 8th grade exam, indicating that they are on track toward being prepared for 93% of jobs in the workforce. The annual local school comparisons are scheduled to come in January.

What are we doing to update computer software and technology in the school?

With a recent donation, the 1st through 8th grade classrooms now have over 100 Chromebooks that students are using. We are in the process of installing a fiber optics connection for faster, more consistent Internet. Additionally, the 40 computers in the lab are being updated with the latest Windows version. As funds become available, our intention is to update teacher computers and printers and acquire tablets for lower grade students. We extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our anonymous donors.

School tuition is well below where it should be, and we feel we’re paying nothing. Is the cost of tuition being revisited?

On November 20th, parish and diocesan officials met with parents of the school community and discussed a plan to increase tuition. The final plan will be shared on January 15th.

While we need to increase tuition, our goal as a stewardship parish is to have our doors open to all so that as many families as possible can have a quality Catholic education.

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We understand our school enrollment has decreased over the last 3 years. What is affecting this?

External factors affecting school enrollment include a 10-year trend of 60% less children baptized at Holy Trinity and the reality of two new schools recently opened nearby. Internally, we have experienced some teacher turn-over and funding shortfalls that limit our ability to expand activities and update technology.

How does the school communicate results of parent surveys and keep families updated on school issues?

Parent surveys are presented at general parent meetings each Spring. Going forward, results will also be shared in our school newsletter and at student progress updates. Additionally, each family has individual on-line accounts to access their students' grades and homework in real time.

The parish and school need to do a better job marketing us to people moving into the area. What steps are we taking to get the word out?

Marketing is an area in which we need help. If you have experience and expertise in marketing and public relations, please come forward and help us highlight the many accomplishments of Holy Trinity Parish. Please contact our parish life director, Jeremy Youngers at jyoungers@holytrinityparish.org or call him at 530-677-3234.

Are we able to pay higher wages, benefits and retirement plans to recruit and retain talented faculty and administrators?

The Diocese of Sacramento has a pay scale that we are required to follow. Additionally, we provide adjustments for cost of living (COLA), years of service and additional certifications and degrees.



The *goal* of Holy Trinity's School Ministry is to help the Holy Spirit FORM YOUNG STEWARDS of *hospitality, thoughtful learning, and spirituality in action.*

