

August 2010,

Dear Parents of Holy Family School,

Last year I was using an old IBM Selectric typewriter in the front office at St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish when a boy and his mother stopped by. The boy, about 10 years old, exclaimed, "Wow! How can you type without a screen in front of you?" He's part of a generation who grew up with many electronic devices that have a screen. He did not know that I even typed my entire papers with a tiny Olivetti *manual typewriter without a correction tape*. Now, more than 20 years later, I am writing this message for the school website – a progress that we have taken for granted.

Time changes and technology advances constantly, but our mission as a Catholic school is basically the same: "we strive to promote the spiritual, intellectual, and social development of our students." It's the holistic approach to education that we should never lose sight of. Academic excellence is desirable in today's competitive world but it must be rooted in faith and values, and lead to service.

Holy Family School has strived to be an environment where students come not only to learn, but also to believe in their ability and achieve their potential. The majority of graduates from Holy Family have been accepted in their preferred high schools. This is an achievement we should be proud of. This is not possible without the participation and support of their parents and families. I encourage parents to be partners in education and formation of their children, especially spiritual formation. Pray with your children at home; celebrate Mass with them in church; teach them values by example.

Seven years ago, I was assigned to Holy Family Parish as a parochial vicar. I was delighted to visit our students and to interact with them. When I left the parish in 2005, I did not imagine that I would be returning to Holy Family School and Parish again one day in the future. Yet, here I am once again, this time as Pastor, to serve Holy Family with this school which is an integral part of the parish. Fr. Tito, my parochial vicar, and I will have several chances to visit, to celebrate and to pray with our students and school community. Together and with God's help, we can help our children grow in knowledge and wisdom, in faith, love and hope.

- Fr. Hao