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## CHRIST THE KING PARISH

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Dear Parents of Christ the King School,

By now we are all wondering everything from “getting back to normal” to “it will be a whole new normal;” from “expect the worst” to “hope for the best.” Then, of course, there are also the virtues of faith and hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.

As I think about our school, and how we are doing “at-home learning,” right now in this crisis, the most important thing to you, and to our teachers, and to myself, is love for your children.

As I hope for the best, I look forward to the first day of school next fall, trusting that “social distancing” will be relaxed enough, so that we can have regular classroom teaching, in some way or other.

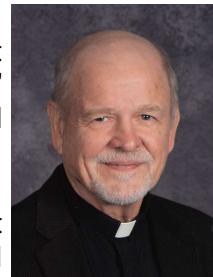
And we all have faith in God that whatever the conditions, Christ the King School will be here for your children. This is our mission, and a mission calls us forward, even into uncharted territory.

With that in mind, I want to introduce Mr. Ivan Branson as our new Principal. He is from Detroit, an accomplished educator in Detroit for many years, as a classroom teacher and a principal. He comes highly recommended. I give you Mr. Branson:

Hello. My name is Ivan Branson. As we look forward to the upcoming school year, we might be worried about how “school” will look. But change is a basic law of nature. When Charles Darwin proposed evolution, it is not the strongest species that survives. If that were true, we would still be hiding from dinosaurs. The ones who thrive are the ones most adaptable to change.

Schooling is a great example – evolving from sounding out words to reading books, from adding and subtracting, to long division, to algebra. Advances in technology and science require an evolution of modern education as well, far more rapidly than we would have imagined. And if COVID-19 hangs around for a year or two, the very way we do schooling will have to adapt – like wearing face coverings and using computers. With that being said, I want to introduce myself as a proponent of change, an insightful leader, helping our children to take accountability for their learning.

As your new principal, I want to assure you that the faculty and I will be preparing all spring and summer for these unprecedented times. I have already seen how the teachers



here at Christ the King, along with yourselves as parents, are creative and resilient in the way you all have met the challenges that have come our way during the quarantine. Our teachers, and I myself, are very excited to provide a challenging and positive academic environment for your child.

As a lifelong Detroitter I was given the opportunity to attend Catholic and public schools. My parents wanted me to gain an advantage on life by ensuring that I have an excellent education, so they analyzed the pros and cons of public and private education. They discovered that the Catholic private schools gave me an advantage academically over my counterparts who attended public schools exclusively. In the Catholic schools I attended the culture and climate was more conducive to learning, the curriculum they taught was ahead of what was being taught in public schools, and the class sizes were smaller, which allowed the teachers to give me more individual attention and present me with more small-group instruction.

This was possible because my parents made the financial sacrifice, which wasn't easy coming from modest means, but they had foresight and wanted the best for me, which all parents want for their children. After going to Catholic Schools from grades pre-school to 8, when I went to public high school I found myself two grade levels ahead of the vast majority of my public school counterparts.

My experiences in Catholic schools ultimately led me to become an educator. Besides my parents, I was influenced by all my teachers at Gesu, Presentation and U of D Jesuit. The teacher that impressed me the most was my English teacher at U of D named Mr. Hall. Mr. Hall spent time working with me every day, one-on-one after school. He taught me how to speed read, increased my spelling, reading and writing vocabulary and my reading comprehension. He was tireless in his efforts to see me succeed and excel. Teachers like this are very rare, but Christ the King has many staff who have this extremely high level of commitment.

In addition to all of the academic learning opportunities that a Catholic school provides, the teachings of morality and Catholic Christian values are priceless. As a student in Catholic schools I was part of a faith-based community in which we had daily prayer and mass, and witnessed inspirational words, images and frequent reminders of Jesus' message for all of us.

Children need to know the importance of experiencing religion firsthand. Their experiences mold them and give them a sense of morality which gives them focus enabling them to be productive citizens of the world. I have seen how giving children a sense of religion can give them a firm sense of values and faith, enabling them to go boldly out into a world in need of help – and make a difference.

I look forward to meeting you personally, and working with your children in the coming year.

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Rev. Victor Clore, Pastor  
Christ the King Parish

*Ivan Branson*

Mr. Ivan Branson, Principal  
Christ the King School