

Nativity BVM School  
1046 Beach Blvd.  
Biloxi, MS. 39530  
[www.nativitybvm.org](http://www.nativitybvm.org)

September 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a great first month of school we have had! Our theme for this year...CALLED...has given us the opportunity to reflect on what that means and how we can live it out. We have been **Called...to serve** this month and have had many opportunities personally and as a school family to respond to that call.

**Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath has certainly touched us as human beings, as Americans and as citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Many of us remember very clearly what it was like to walk the streets of our cities in those days and weeks following Katrina. During the month of September, as we are Called...to Kindness, there will be many ways to help those who have lost so much:**

\*Mr. George Ziz and the Disaster Relief Team from Nativity Parish are going to Rockport, Texas (the former home of Bishop Kihneman) and are taking: cleaning things, diapers, wipes, personal hygiene items, tarps, gloves, shovels and gift cards. Mr. Warren Davis and his group are joining this team so that they can caravan together as soon as outside travel is permitted.

**\*The Catholic Schools of Biloxi will be adopting Sacred Heart Catholic School in Rockport, Texas. Please see the attached paper for information.**

\*We will have donation containers in the school hallway for the next few weeks/months. As various groups travel westward, we will give them the items to distribute. Also, if you will be going to Texas or western Louisiana to check on family and friends, please let us know and we can load up your car.

\*Finally, let's continue to pray for these people and those who are helping them.. As we learned through our own experience, the thoughts and prayers of others certainly lifted us up!

You might have heard your child speak of the "Called" jar. During the course of the day, I might happen to see a child living out our "call" in a special way. I will invite that child to fill out a slip of paper and drop it into the "Called" jar. On Fridays, I will draw names... for the prayer leaders during the next week, for special treats or opportunities and sometimes even for a principal for the morning pass! This is a great opportunity for the children and for me!

At registration, each of you signed an AUP policy paper giving permission (or not giving permission) for your child to be photographed and for those pictures to be used in news articles etc. **However, with the greater use of our website, with facebook posts done by other parents etc., the likelihood of pictures of children appearing on our website or related pages is now much greater. If you do not wish** for photos of your child to appear on these very public venues, please send a note to the office and we will be sure to not include your child in photos AND we will also inform parents in your child's class that you do not wish photos of your child to be publicized. (Remember that

if you post a picture of your child on Facebook or one of the other social media avenues, it can be “liked” and thus be available to a wider audience.)

We are doing all we can to help you communicate with one another. **If you do not want your telephone number or address to be shared with other parents, please let us know in the office. We typically share directory information with other parents for birthday and party invitations as well as for the Bingo work list and volunteer lists for special events at the school.**

**Nativity School is 61 years old** this year! Please join us for our special “birthday” Mass on **Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. We are so grateful to God for the many blessings that our school has enjoyed over these last 61 years. We are thankful for the many people who have been part of our school in the past as well as in the present.

One of my favorite events happens this month...the **Biloxi Seafood Festival** featuring our world famous cakewalk. This is a great time to enjoy good music and great food, to meet people from near and far and to have some fun earning money for our school. It is no exaggeration when we say, we need cakes! We will easily go through over 200 cakes on Saturday alone! It is not too late to sign up to help with the cakewalk! This is something you and your child can do together! We are grateful to the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce for inviting us to be part of this great community event for so many years.

All of you are invited to our NPA meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. We will have our first raffle drawing (wouldn't it be great to have our winner right there?) and spend the majority of our time talking about our upcoming Halloween Carnival which will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> we will hold a special Mass and reception honoring our grandparents and “wisdom people” in our lives. Our celebrant for this Mass will be Bishop Louis Kihneman. Our Bishop has asked to come and celebrate Mass with the children of each school and we are proud to be the first school to have him celebrate with us. Our Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. Please try to attend and celebrate with us!**

At the end of last year, Nativity Parish honored me for my 25 years as principal here and surprised me with two tickets to the Minnesota Vikings/New Orleans Saints game which will be played IN Minnesota on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Nanette Burke's name was drawn from faculty/staff to accompany me. Mrs. Pennell will also join her in rooting for the Saints as I cheer on “my Vikings.” Please look for us in the stands...I plan to have an “I love Nativity” sign with me. I am so grateful to Fr. Dennis and our parish for such a wonderful and fun gift!

**School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.** An order envelope will go home later in the month. All children will be photographed for the class picture, however, it is your choice whether or not to purchase individual photos of your child. All children **MUST** be in uniform on picture day.

It has been a real delight to get to know your child this school year. Please know that all of us on staff look forward to working with you throughout the year. If any of us can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

May God bless you during the days ahead!