

January 7, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school this New Year 2019. I know the start of a new year and returning to school without your beloved Sr. Mary Jo was not at all what any of us expected but everyone seems to be making the best of it amongst tears and sadness. Please know that I feel your pain and am by no means trying to replace Sr. Mary Jo. No one can take the place of another but I can love your children and help them finish their school year in a productive manner. They have all been most helpful, friendly and welcoming. They are so precious; I know we will be fine. Grieving is part of the process for healing so listen to their concerns and assure them that with time they will feel better.

I had a brief visit with Sr. Mary Jo on the morning before her passing and it was a wonderful testimony of her beautiful attitude in the face of death. She said that she was ready and at peace. She thanked me numerous times and told me she didn't want a "gloomy Gus," where the children and staff are concerned. She was quite chatty which I found uplifting. I asked her to pray for me as I lapse out of retirement for the next five months. I know she is praying because I am not anxious about being at my alma mater, Nativity. We will all make her proud!

I like to give some liturgical highlights in my newsletters each month. So I will always have a small paragraph devoted to the month's overview. January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3. The first eight days of January fall during the liturgical season of Christmas which is represented by the color white. The remaining days of January are the beginning of Ordinary Time and the liturgical color changes to green. Green is the symbol of the hope of reaping eternal harvest of heaven. We should devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety. During this liturgical season the church follows Our Lord as he gathers his apostles and announces his mission. At Cana's wedding feast, on January 20th Jesus performs his first public miracle at the request of His Mother, and his disciples saw His glory and believed in Him.

I look forward to meeting each of you and working with you and your beautiful children. Let us pray for one another and continue our mission at Nativity B.V.M. School.

I remain truly yours,

Janie Bass