



## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

**Principal's Letter February 12, 2010**

Dear Families,

At the end of Catholic Schools Week, there is a Celebration of Light dinner put on by the Fulcrum Foundation. This foundation, with strong support from Archbishop Brunett, was incorporated in March 2002 with the sole purpose of raising funds to ensure the excellence and accessibility of Catholic schools. The Fulcrum Foundation provides a passport to hope for many children and their families by providing archdiocesan financial aid for families in need.

The annual dinner is a wonderful celebration of our Catholic Schools and the lasting impact these schools have on its students. One of our former students, Milka Holbik, was featured in the video that was shown that evening, and there was not a dry eye at the table when she finished speaking. Milka explained what Catholic education meant to her, and how she could not have attended either St. Francis or Kennedy High School without the financial support offered by these two schools and the Fulcrum Foundation.

Milka talks about coming home when she was 7 years old and walking in on a scene of domestic abuse-her father was strangling her mother. Luckily, her mother survived; her father was deported, and Milka's mother began the journey of a single parent.

Catholic education was of utmost importance to Mrs. Holbik. I remember when she came to me in tears and said that she could not afford to pay all of her tuition. I felt fortunate to be able to say that we had financial aid through the school to supplement what she could afford. Milka's mom worked two, sometimes three jobs to support her daughter, and she never wavered in her commitment to Catholic education. She is very grateful for the love and support she received along the way.

St. Francis of Assisi School's financial aid program was started 16 years ago with the advent of the Annual School Campaign. Through the generosity of our parents, hundreds of families have been helped throughout the years. This year, we have had more financial aid requests than in any previous year, a direct reflection of our economic times. However, as you might imagine, donations are down because of the recession.

Reminder notices for the school campaign went out last week. Please prayerfully consider making a donation according to your means, or adding to the donation you have already made. Donations can be sent to the school in an envelope marked "School Campaign." We need to level the playing field so that the Milkas of this world can have access to a quality Catholic education. It has meant the world to her, and I know that Milka and her mother will continue to give back out of love.

At the end of Milka's interview at the Fulcrum dinner last week, she turned and, looking at her mother, sang "Amazing Grace." [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO\\_QMuZv81A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO_QMuZv81A). Milka now sings in our church choir. She has begun to give back. I am not surprised.

Please consider a gift to Catholic education through the School Campaign. The dividends are life-long.

*Sheila*

# Thank you to the following families who have already donated to the St. Francis of Assisi Annual School Campaign.

Brian & Michele Babcock	Craig & Nicole Ueland	Jason & Cyndee Freilinger	Edna Hooker
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