

*Information Meeting with parents and principal of Sister Annata
Brockman Catholic Elementary-Junior High School*

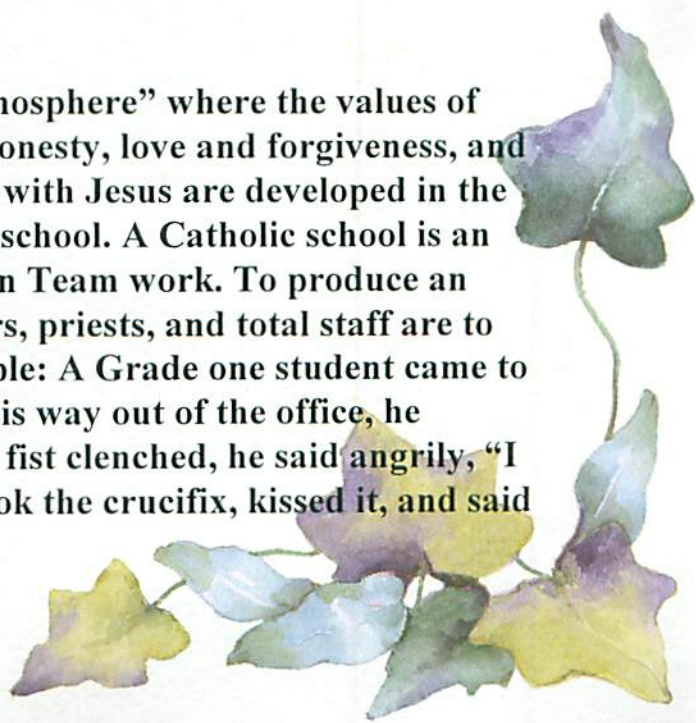
Thank you for the opportunity to meet you, and to speak with you. You are very special because you are the parents and family of the children who will be attending the Sister Annata Brockman Catholic Elementary-Junior High School in September, 2010.

What qualities, values, vision, programs, etc. could we expect in this - a Catholic School? First and foremost, we can expect to witness the transcendent dignity of each student. Scripture tells us that we are created in God's image and likeness, that we are sons and daughters in God's family; therefore, all students belong to God first, and you, the parents, have been entrusted by God to love and care for them as best you can. YOU are the first educators of your children.

The teachers are really messengers sent by God to assist you in the education of your children. They are invited by the Father, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry on the ministry of Jesus. The total self-giving of Jesus Christ in love and forgiveness is the model of a truly Catholic school.

The mission of Edmonton Catholic schools is to provide a Catholic education that inspires and prepares students to learn, to work, to live fully, and to serve God in one another. In other words, it is to prepare students to be future agents for the transformation of the world and for future membership in the Kingdom of heaven.

The school should embody "a family-like atmosphere" where the values of dignity and respect for each person, where honesty, love and forgiveness, and a healthy relationship of love and friendship with Jesus are developed in the home and are re-enforced by the teachers in school. A Catholic school is an educational community of persons engaged in Team work. To produce an intimate spirit of family life, parents, teachers, priests, and total staff are to help one another. Let me give you one example: A Grade one student came to my office with a book from his teacher. On his way out of the office, he noticed the crucifix on the wall, and with his fist clenched, he said angrily, "I hate him!" Without a word, I reached up, took the crucifix, kissed it, and said



to him, "Do you know who this is?" He said, "No, but my father hates him!" I said, "Your father was probably hurt one day, and he blames him, but he didn't do it." The little boy went back to the classroom feeling a little better. That very day I asked the priest if he would see the dad to help him through his problem, and after several visits from the priest, the father's whole attitude changed, thanks to "Team work"!

Students should know that they are understood, listened to, and loved. To enable the teachers to "Call forth the best" in each student, the school building should include the following:

- a classroom for each class Kindergarten to Grade nine inclusive
 - a library
 - a gymnasium
 - a music room
 - an art room
- and a science room.

Sometimes students who do not excel in subjects like Mathematics, English, Science, or Social studies, are very talented in Instrumental music or art. Their needs should be taken into consideration and should be developed.

In closing, I renew my promise made on September 15th, 2008, "that I will do all in my power to cooperate with the staff, students, and parents to assist you in your efforts to make this a truly great school."

Thank you, and may God bless you and your loved ones today and always!