



# saint dominic parish + new orleans

October 17, 2018

Dear St. Dominic School Parents,

First and foremost, I want to thank each and every one of you, with the wholeness of my heart, for the tremendous support you have given and continue to give to Catholic education and to St. Dominic School and St. Dominic Parish. Whether it be in the form of monetary support, hours spent volunteering at the school, or in-kind donations, I profoundly appreciate the sacrifices you make to ensure our community is continually so warm, loving, and successful. Please know how very deeply we all value your hard work, dedication, and donations.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify remarks I made during this past Sunday's Masses that may not have come across as I intended and to dispel a rumor that has resulted from those remarks. Firstly, please understand that the school and the Parish operate completely independent of one another financially. Though St. Dominic Parish is currently showing a budget deficit, this does not reflect upon the school and will have absolutely no impact on the excellent quality of education that your children receive.

Additionally, let me state for the record that the rumor that the Parish will no longer support the school is not factual. Historically, the Parish has paid for the insurance for the school and this arrangement will continue for the remainder of this year. Due to our current Parish deficit, the school will take on the responsibility for that insurance beginning with the 2019-20 school year. This is but one small part of the school's and Parish's budgets and the Parish does and will continue to support the school in numerous other ways.

I also want to convey to you how deeply I understand and recognize the commitments you have to the school as well as those of your daily lives. I thank you for what you have done and for what you continue to do. I only aim to offer you complete candor in the current financial situation of the Parish and to ask for your partnership in attempting to rectify this. My intentions are good and, if my words conveyed otherwise, I profusely apologize. I spoke them with a loving heart in the spirit of transparency.

Scripture speaks to us several times about the importance of tithing – the traditional practice of offering 10% of our income – to show our love, respect, and honor to the Church and its ministries. Tithing is the recognition that God has graciously bestowed blessings upon us and our sacrifice of thanksgiving for those blessings. The Code of Canon Law states, "The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for apostolic works and works of charity, and for the decent sustenance of ministers" (CC 222).

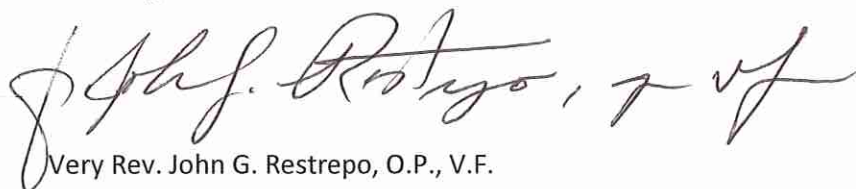
Tithing can take many forms – financial support, donation of your talents or professional goods or services, contributions to our special events or to classroom projects, volunteer hours, or valuable time taken off of work in order to make our school or Parish a better place. Your tithing may also be divided up – whether it's 5% to the church and 5% to the school or 1% in monetary donations and 9% in your time and talents or whether you are giving in the form of acts of service, quality time, etc. – it is all welcomed and appreciated. Only you can determine what is enough for you to give and in which manner.

Some of our families may be able to give more in this current situation and I ask that we all collectively pray as to whether we are fortunate enough to make additional contributions. If you are able to do so at this time, please know that you will be doing a great service to the church in this time of need.

This additional tithing is in no way obligatory – if you have prayed upon this and you cannot give more than you are currently giving, then blessed be God. I understand that many of you are doing all that you can and I am grateful for all that our families contribute, in whichever ways you can.

I thank you all for your love and understanding and pray daily for each member of our school community. I am honored to be able to partner with so many kind, generous, and loving families in service of our Parish and school. May the Lord bless you and keep you all.

Sincerely, in the Peace of Christ and St. Dominic,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John G. Restrepo, O.P., V.F." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Very Rev. John G. Restrepo, O.P., V.F.

P.S. Please pray for me that I may guide this community with the example of the good shepherd.