

The Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School System

“Walking on the Water in Faith”

2006-2007



May 25, 2007

Dear Parents, Students, and Friends of the Oratory Schools,

During the school year, I have spent much of my time promoting and raising funds for the construction and campus needs of our schools in Pharr. As projected, our needs, which include the infrastructure for operations, security, and technology, will come to approximately six million dollars. And so, you can imagine how busy the administrators and I have been. As committed as we all felt to completing another successful school year, we also found ourselves visiting the construction site and imagining and preparing for all the possibilities that would be available to our students in the very near future. During this time in our history, it is no wonder that we often reached out to Our Lord, and without fail, He lifted us up. Together with Him, "we walked on water in faith" and did the impossible.

I, with twenty-four years as a co-founder and part of the faculty and administration of this beloved institution, know how important the community and parent support has been. We would not be at this juncture in our history with a state-of-the-art campus and a liberal arts dual language curriculum to include online curriculum and distance learning opportunities, without your prayers, love, and financial support beyond tuition. It surprises some parents to know that tuition and fees, together with campus fund raisers, do not cover the total cost of a student's education. It is the catalogue sales, and the fall festivals, and student projects that help the operations going and the tuition from rising. The development fund raiser projects and campaigns (Annual Giving, Prophet of J.O.Y. Capital Campaign, Major Raffles, Grants, Noche de Alegría,) are primarily what help with the cost of construction and many of the needs that follow to include landscaping, fencing, play grounds, sacred spaces, infrastructure for educational technology and school management systems, security, new furniture, etc, etc., etc. For this I say with a humble heart, thank you.

Next year, be prepared for a great 25th Anniversary Celebration! We will be having banquets, a fabulous Open House and Tour, an Alumni Homecoming, our first Fashion Show, and many more surprises and activities to celebrate at school and in the community. Watch your mailbox and school web site, www.oratoryschools.org, for the calendar of anniversary activities, one for each month of the year. Until then, my prayers and my heart are with you all during the summer months. Stay well, pray often, and keep in touch.

Yours in Christ and St. Philip Neri,

G. Yvonne Pérez, President