



Dear Students, Teachers and Parents

## Welcome back!

To those who are joining our school this year, welcome to the community of St. Gregory's Parish, of which St. Gregory school is a very important part.

I also extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Erika Power and Mrs. Katherine Van Dinter, our new vice principals, to our community of St. Gregory's parish and school.

I would remind all parents with children in Grades 2, \*7 and/or 8 that, as has been the practise in our community for the past few years, final sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion, as well as Confirmation, is done in our parish hall from January to May. Registration forms will be made available in the church at announced times. Details will be published in the parish bulletin.

I am happy to announce that, with the permission of Bishop John Boissonneau, I am inviting students in Grades Seven and Eight to commence parish preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2014. \*This is the first time we offer Confirmation to students in Grade 7 and it is with the support of our local Bishop, and on a "trial" basis. This change will allow those in Grade Eight more time in their final elementary year to better prepare for high school and, hopefully, participate in a parish ministry during the same year. We will then evaluate the results based on feedback from students/candidates and parents.

Please join me in inviting and encouraging our young people to attend Mass regularly and to participate in one of the many ministries at the parish.

Let us always and everywhere encourage our young people in the words of Pope Francis: *"Faith is a flame that grows stronger the more it is shared and passed on, so that everyone may know, love and confess Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and history."*

Sincerely in Christ.

*Fr. John Bertão*



September 2013