



St. James Elementary School
Education in the Catholic Tradition - Preschool to Eighth Grade
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Mrs. Janet P. Dolan, Principal Rev. Msgr. Philip A. Lowery, Director

March 14, 2011

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Miss Rhodes, I thank you for your overwhelming generosity and kindness in support of your child's donation to the dress down held today with her in mind. Although the delivery was being made at this writing, I can assure you that she is most appreciative and deeply touched by the outpouring of care and concern our school community has displayed in this time of need. I know I am. Over \$10,000 was tallied. From gracious monetary donations, gift cards, offers of dwelling places, household goods, to clothes shopping, bedding and furniture the same message was reiterated...that's why *we're here!*

I must tell you about a most beautiful experience that took place in our cafeteria during the fourth and fifth grade lunch on Friday. I felt it important that I told the students about the events in Ocean Grove that occurred that morning. I visited 3A and 3B to tell them about the fire and assure them that Ms. Rhodes was safe and unharmed. They had many questions as only 8 and 9 years do. I proceeded to the cafeteria to speak to the fourth and fifth grade. When I finished relaying the story, they began to prepare for dismissal to recess. Over the chatter, one little girl raised her. I called her to me. She placed two crumbled dollars in my hand and asked that I give it to Miss Rhodes. The boy sitting across from her saw what she did and followed. One by one fourth and fifth graders left their seats and deposited the remains of their lunch money before me...without a word. Upon counting the dollars and coins there was over \$100. The leadership of one child stirred the others to respond. That, my friends, is why *they are here!* They get it!

Thank you again for your goodness and raising your children as you are.

Sincerely,

Janet P. Dolan
Principal