

## SCHOOL MASS FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

Everybody has a bad conscience in some respect about the prevalence of abortion in our culture because they reflect that if they had been aborted they wouldn't be here.

This is why the bumper sticker that reads "Thank you, Mom, for having me!" tells so much. October as you know is Respect Life month and I have been slated to celebrate the school mass just before October begins so it will be no surprise for you to hear what I have to say.

As many of you know St. John Paul was so focused on the rights of the unborn child that in his encyclical, THE GOSPEL OF LIFE, he wrote:  
"The Gospel of God's love for Man,  
the Gospel of the dignity of the person  
and the Gospel of Life are a single and indivisible Gospel"

This means , as he said in THE REDEEMER OF MAN the whole focus of the Church is on Man, the Human being. As St. Irenaeus put it back in 180 A.D. THE GLORY OF GOD IS MAN FULLY ALIVE and elsewhere LIFE FOR MAN IS THE VISION OF GOD.

In this school we make a huge contribution to this vision of reality, to these amazing truths. And how do we do it? You have heard from this podium, sometimes loudly sometimes softly, and at every level of the school — classrooms, theater, church, retreat centers — HOLINESS IS your major goal in being here, GROWTH IN HOLINESS was St Benedict's goal for his monastery and growth in holiness is the primary mission for our school.

Yes, of course, growth in understanding of how our world works — Theology, the Sciences, Math, Economics, Languages — all lead you to a better understanding of what your contribution to this world is going to be in your future life in College and beyond whether it be in business or one of the professions. business — but in our Benedictine school how you live the Gospel IN your life and how you preach the Gospel BY your life, this is your and our main focus.

And doing this and being this starts with an ever greater understanding of how God's love for us, our awareness therefore of our incredible dignity and our awareness of the respect due to every human being from its conception because of this

dignity are, integral elements part and parcel of this gospel.

The truth contained in these ten words has dawned on us and we hope it is dawning on you :

God  
has  
an  
exclusive  
love  
for  
each  
person  
He  
creates

As you grow in your amazement at this truth and through grace in your capacity to live it and proclaim it you will grow in your ability to bring Jesus'

joy into the world. And this is our constant prayer.

May this mass, in which Jesus invites us to let *his* life become the central living force in our lives help this to happen in your life and mine **THIS** day. And let us take a minute to pray about this before we continue with our mass.