

## *Principal's Message*

### *Dr. Charles E. White*

Beginnings are exciting even when we have begun a number of times. In fact, while some things are familiar, the beginning of the school year is always different. The classes have wonderful new students who are contributing to our school their sense of newness and anticipation. Have you seen how the kids have grown over the summer, how they have matured? It's a new year for sure.

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Christine Radich our new fourth grade teacher. I am sure that her students will be proud to be the center of attention for a while. Oh, and we have a new pastor, Father Greg Sandman. And Father Jim Henry is still with us. They have arranged an unusual relationship, Father Greg is the pastor and administrator, and Father Jim is the "senior priest" with Father Edwin as Pastoral Associate. What that means to us is that we will have three wonderful priests this year.

This is also the year that we will renew our accreditation. Many of you know that we are fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. We are also accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association. Faculty and Staff and Advisory Board members have produced narrative overviews of our school that will be the basis of a visit by representatives of both organizations that should take place in February. Look for more information as the year progresses.

As I visit each class this week, I am inspired by the children's enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Talking to some of my colleagues around town, whose schools are not so blessed, I am reminded that we have something very special here. Children are safe, they feel loved and they are able to be children. They are getting a superior academic education and it is the atmosphere that makes it all possible. I am also reminded that although this is my twenty-first beginning at Madonna del Sasso, and life has changed quite a bit, our students are still learning values that are basic and fundamental to success as adults. It's going to be a great year at Madonna del Sasso School.

Let me share our faculty prayer with you and encourage you to join us in prayer for our children.

***Lord, you who taught ...you call us together to become prayerfully aware of our task. You invite us to work with You in letting Your beloved children grow in joy to Christian maturity. At the beginning of this school year we come together to ask Your blessing for our work. We are convinced that only with Your help can we fulfill our important but difficult task.***