

Definition of an Active Parishioner

People often ask me why they need to be an active member of the parish if they already are actively involved in our school. Good question. The answer is really quite simple but seldom is it really understood. Our school has been and continues to be a gift from this parish community. The school building was initially constructed and continues to be maintained, its programming developed, its quality reputation built and strengthened through the dedication of countless generations of parishioners. Quite simply, our school would cease to exist without the ongoing sacrifices that our parish community has made over countless years to allow this educational arm of the Church to thrive. The benefits of this Catholic educational institution will only continue if we are willing to support the full mission of the parish. That is why we need the support of every one of our school parents.

What does it mean to be an "active" parishioner of Lumen Christi? Here are some indications that demonstrate what it means to be an active parishioner:

- **Registering in the Parish** This is a simple act but it is an act of commitment. Faith, like love, is about being committed to God's people. This is the only way we grow in our faith rather than simply confirm the beliefs that we already have.
- **Participating in Weekend Worship** Again, a simple act, but it indicates that the education your children are receiving at Highland Catholic is being supported and enhanced by your participation in our common faith life. Your children cannot "learn" faith at school. Faith cannot be taught; it can only be "caught." *Participation* in faith is the only way we understand the role of faith.
- **Giving of your Time and Talent in Support of the Mission of the Parish & the School** We have a wonderful community here at Lumen Christi that is a vital presence of faith in the Highland neighborhood. Faith continues to spread only through believers who are actively committed to the mission of Christ. *WE* are Jesus' hands and legs, his head and heart, not only for our children, but for all members of our parish and for the wider community as well. Get engaged in the many ministries of the parish and school and your children will begin to see how important a community of faith can be to their own lives.
- **Financially Supporting the Parish** Did you know that it costs \$1500 per household per year to provide all the ministries and maintain the facilities at Lumen Christi? This figure also includes the current \$564,000 that the parish annually gives to support the mission of Highland Catholic School.

While we realize that every parishioner's financial situation is different, please do what you can to be a faithful and consistent contributor in support of the parish. A suggested minimum contribution of \$500 to the parish annually would be a minimum sign of your commitment to our community.

- **Continue to Support the Parish and School Long after Your Children have Graduated from Hi-C** The gift of a Catholic education at Highland Catholic is made possible through the generosity of generations of parishioners who "play-forward" the gift they themselves were given. Highland Catholic is a gift to you right now; your support will assure that it will be a gift to a future generation as well.

These are a few thoughts about the ways you can be an active member of our parish. While our parish and school will always support our families in faith, I also have faith that you will continue to support our mission as well.

With every blessing to you and to your family,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fr. Paul