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SAINT MARY – SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL - WILLIMANTIC, CT
A MAGNET SCHOOL FOR VALUES!
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE

January 25, 2012

Conversion of St. Paul

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Dear Boys and Girls: St. Paul is one of the greatest saints of the Catholic Church and of many traditional Christians. He thought he was doing a good thing by persecuting and even ordering the killing of anyone who followed Jesus Christ. He thought this was the right thing to do, because he was a very devout Jew and he thought Jesus was leading people away from the Jewish religion. Jesus showed St. Paul, who was called Saul at the time, that he was persecuting Him when he persecuted the followers of Jesus. I suppose if you got knocked off your horse and was struck blind, you'd probably pay attention to what was being told to you. And that was exactly what God did to Saul. Saul listened to Jesus, turned his life around and came to realize that Jesus, who was also a Jew in His human existence, was helping all Jews to know that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. God had to do something really radical to help Saul, persecutor of the Christians, to become Paul, preacher of the Word of God to Jews and non-Jews alike. St. Paul wrote many letters to church communities and individuals and we find those in the New Testament of the Bible. These letters help us to understand the teachings of Jesus as proclaimed in the Gospel accounts. We are grateful that Saul listened to God because now we can have a deeper understanding of our Faith. How often do you listen to God? Does He have to do something really radical to turn you into a saint? Doing the will of God to the best of your ability will keep you on your horse through life. Happy riding!

Enclosures (9): **Pancake Breakfast Flyer**, "Change for Change" event, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Carnation Order forms, CSW brochure, Parent luncheon flyer/order form, NED Show, Catholic Book Fair flyer, Healthy Beat (Big Y), Willimantic Poster Contest

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATION—JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 3RD
THEME: FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE
(Check out our events in the yellow brochure.)

Thank you, Jenn Bennett for a terrific job in putting together the brochure. All events are posted there. We are asking for parent volunteers to help with the ice cream sundaes on Friday. Please contact the office if you are able to come and scoop, squirt and sprinkle.

Pancake breakfast at Applebee's in the Eastbrook Mall from 8-10 a.m. **this Saturday, Jan. 28th**. Tickets for this event are in the school office. Please reserve a place at this event by purchasing your tickets ahead of time. Let's make this a real FUN-raiser. **Take your family out to breakfast on Jan. 28th**.

Parent/special person luncheon and book fair, a CSW tradition. Please order your meatball grinders ahead of time to help us prepare (see enclosed flyer).

Haitian Health Foundation Presentation is this Friday at 9 a.m. in the gymnasium. All are welcome.

Do you appreciate your children's teachers? You can show them by ordering a carnation for them. See enclosed flyer.

A big thank you to Mrs. Janet Nuhn for getting our library up and running electronically. Thanks to all parents, grandparents and students who helped put the bar codes on the books.

Art Show at St. Bernard School in Uncasville during Catholic Schools Week. Several of our students will have their art displayed at the Show. Times for viewing are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 30-Feb. 8th.

Silpada fundraiser: Thank you for your support! Profits will be announced when all sales are finalized.

Proposal for a school uniform change—Meeting this evening at 6:30 p.m. Please come and give your suggestions.

Art Fee: Thank you to those who have responded to the memo regarding the \$10 art fee. Please be sure to get this in as soon as possible so we don't have to keep reminding you.

Basketball Schedule: Jan. 25---No girls' practice; 5:30 JV Girls away at St. James; 6:30 Varsity Girls at St. James. Jan. 27—Boys JV & V vs. Sacred Heart away at 6:30/7:30 p.m.

Recycle reminders: We collect used cartridges from copiers and printers and receive coupons from Staples worth quite a bit of money. Also, we collect water bottles, soda cans, etc. for redemption; we also collect Box Tops for Education and juice pouches, empty glue sticks, pens, markers, empty glue bottles. Bring'em on!

Thought for the Week

Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.

Jan Goldstein