



# St. Martin de Porres Marianist School

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My dear parents of alumni,

Just last week we gathered for our Third Annual Alumni BBQ. It was wonderful to see so many graduates return and share with us their stories. I enjoyed immensely listening to the stories of their struggles and ultimately of their successes. Today we have 260 alumni from six graduating classes. Our first alumni are already half way through college. Here at St. Martin's we are all very proud of each and every one of them.

As summer progresses we are in the midst of preparing now for our 7<sup>th</sup> year. Those years have gone by very quickly. Looking back to late August of 2004, St. Martin de Porres Regional School, with financial difficulties and a declining enrollment of already less than 125, was on the verge of closing its doors. Today, six years later as we look to the coming of the new academic year in September, St. Martin de Porres Marianist School is strong and thriving! Our enrollment come September will be over 420 children in grades Pre-K to eight. There are two sections of each grade level. We have a very dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to the vocation of Catholic education.

Yes, I used the word *vocation* to describe the work of all of our faculty and staff here at SMMS. The work of Catholic education is truly a vocation. Catholic schools not only provide a qualitative education, but they offer something even far greater than that. Catholic schools are transmitters of the faith. Jesus' final words to his apostles were, "Go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Catholic schools do just that. They create an environment where the faith is lived and passed on to the next generation. Catholic schools nurture disciples of Jesus. Unfortunately as good as public schools may be in terms of academics, they cannot and do not form disciples. They do not pass on the faith to a new generation. Sadly, many of the things that do take place in our public schools are detrimental to the Gospel of Jesus. Today Catholic schools are needed more than ever!

I write to you today to ask you and your family to join us here at SMMS in making the choice of a qualitative Catholic education available to all of the families here in the Uniondale, Hempstead, Roosevelt, Freeport area and beyond. Next year the basic tuition rate for one child from the local parishes is \$4,200.00. This is an all inclusive fee which includes daily free lunch and a free after school program that runs until 5:30 p.m. The actual cost of operation is closer to \$6,000.00 per child.

Over these past 6 years generous supporters of the works of the Marianists at Chaminade High School in Mineola and Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale have taken SMMS under their wing and have helped the Marianists in their mission here at St. Martin's. I ask that you too consider becoming a co-worker of the Marianists and all of the faculty and staff here at SMMS.

Nearly 19% of the families with children at SMMS will be receiving *Tomorrow's Hope Scholarships* to help them in paying their tuition for the new academic year. Despite this many of our families are still struggling to meet tuition costs. Please join us in this great mission of Catholic education by donating to the *St. Martin de Porres Alumni Association Scholarship Fund*. The monies in this fund will be used to help struggling families keep their children here in school.

I realize that many of your families are also struggling to pay high school and college tuitions. Please reflect for a moment on how your children got to where they are today. They all have enjoyed the benefit of a Catholic elementary school education which not only has prepared them well for high school and college, but which also has deeply rooted them in the Catholic faith. Just think if each alumnus and their families donated \$10.00 that yields \$2,600.00. If it were a \$100.00 donation the yield would be an amazing \$26,000.00. Think of all the "little ones" who would benefit from your generosity.

So please join us in creating the *St. Martin de Porres Alumni Association Scholarship Fund*. Ask your family and friends to join us as well. Any donation of any amount will help the over 340 families here at SMMS.

Thank you so much for your generosity. May Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of us all, continue to watch over your family.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. John Holian  
Headmaster