

Dear Members of the SJP School Community,

I take this moment to write to our administrators, faculty, staff, and parents, after having received the very disturbing news regarding the closing of twenty schools in the Archdiocese of New York. With gratitude to Almighty God, I can assure you that SJP was not at risk of closing and will remain open to serve our children.

This sobering and sad news should serve as a reminder to us, that it takes a strong communal commitment of all constituencies to build and maintain a solid Catholic school in today's climate. While I take this opportunity to thank each of you for all that you do to support our school, I must also remind everyone that now is not a time for complacency. In fact, we need to mobilize our energies to recommit and work harder, so that SJP will thrive and not merely survive.

Not long ago, I wrote to parents and suggested that all must become "ambassadors" for SJP, especially in the area of recruitment and enrollment. We have even offered incentives for recruiting new families! If you know parents of children who had been enrolled in a school which closed, please speak to them about SJP.

Our administrators, staff, and faculty are a major element in the success of our school and I always appreciate their good efforts. I can only imagine how troubling it must be for those of you who are teachers to consider this sobering reality; so many of your colleagues have suddenly found themselves unemployed. This underscores how important it is for our faculty to see themselves as an integral part of the "success story" at SJP. Our enrollment is strong because our reputation is strong. The winning formula is simple: when a school community strives to put students first, everyone wins!

Now is the time for all of us – administrators, faculty, staff and parents and priests- to do even more to ensure that Sts. John & Paul School will stand strong, atop this beautiful knoll in Larchmont. God is Good – All the time! Let us never cease in asking Mary, Mother of the Emmanuel, to intercede for us.

Sincerely,  
Msgr. Thomas F. Petrillo, Ed.D  
Pastor