



August 23, 2010

Dear Parents,

I hope this summer was an enjoyable one for you and your family. A special word of welcome to the parents of our new 6th grade class! I hope to meet you and your child soon at Edge. This year marks our 7th year of having the Edge at St. Mary's and with some changes at the parish, there will be some slight differences in the beginning. As most of you know, the school building will begin being demolished starting in September (the asbestos removal began at the end of August). Life Teen has temporarily moved into the basement of the parish center until the completion of the lower church project scheduled to finish at the end of September. The school building also housed our Edge Hall. The lower church will also include a new parish hall, which is where Edge will take place once the project is complete. Due to the scheduling & facility challenges, it will effect the beginning of the semester.

Here are some important dates for you to note:

MANDATORY PARENT & CHILD MEETING FOR GRADES 6-8:

Wednesday, October 6th from 6:30-7:30pm in the Upper Church

We will then move into 3 consecutive nights for one grade only (please note, each grade will only meet once in October following the Parent/Child Meeting).

These nights will run from 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Center.

6th Grade Only Night – Wednesday, October 13th

7th Grade Only Night – Wednesday, October 20th

8th Grade Only Night – Wednesday, October 27th

First Edge Night in New Parish Hall – Wednesday, November 3rd from 6:30-8:00pm

If you have not registered yet for Edge, please do so ASAP. Registration forms can be downloaded off the website @ www.stmarysedge.com or picked up at the Parish Center.

Enclosed in this mailing you will see a couple of upcoming events for both you and your child. The **Parent Life Retreat on October 2-3** will allow for some spiritual time that you need as a parent. The importance you have in the Catholic faith is seen by sending your child to faith formation at St. Mary's, why not take a weekend and grow deeper in your own faith too? This weekend retreat is designed for parents and adults – invite a friend to come along with you!

This year, we are in special need of parents to volunteer on our Edge Core Team. We are especially in need of fathers to join us on Core. The kids benefit greatly from seeing adults (both men and women) active in their faith. Some of the dedicated parents we have had over the years have moved on when their children have left our program. We need new parents to take their

place. **WE NEED YOU TO HELP!** All that is needed is a love (and patience) for middle school youth. There is no prep work on your part! All the teaching is done by the Edge Staff. This ministry cannot be performed unless we have new parents and adults that answer the call from God – your baptismal call – to pass on the faith and to serve His people. I know there are many parents who feel that they should back off from activities because their child will not want them to be there. This cannot be further from the truth. Studies have shown that parents who remain present and active in their child’s activities, especially in their middle school years, have a better relationship because of it. Please pray about it and talk to me about it. It is a very rewarding experience and you will grow in your faith too! I have witnessed our Core members growing deeper in their faith by joining this ministry. As you find it important to sign your child up for religious education, it is important for you to take the time and see if this is something God is asking of you.

We will have a meeting for all Core members (new & returning) on

Wednesday, Sept. 29th @ 6:30pm at the Parish Center

As always, my role is to assist you in your child’s faith life. I am pretty accessible at my office in the Parish Center, in the Life House, via email or on my cell phone. If there is anything I can ever do for you or your child, please let me know. Our website is **www.stmarvsedge.com**. I can be contacted by email at **theedge@stmarvslifeteen.com**. Once again, please consider assisting us on Core Team and I look forward for another year of Edge on October 6th!

Blessings to you and your family,

Jason Deramo
Youth Minister