

# Siena Circular



March 11, 2008

This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.  
Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.  
You are My friends if you do what I command you.

*John 15:12-14*

Dear Parents,

In this past Sunday's Gospel account of the raising of Lazarus, Christ said to his disciples: "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." Christ called Lazarus his "friend." Yet earlier, the Gospel related: "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was." What a puzzling statement. Did you not expect Jesus to hurry to Lazarus upon hearing his friend – "the one you love" – was gravely ill? What kind of "friend" was Jesus anyway, to let a loved one suffer when He could have done something about it? Indeed, Martha and Mary complained to Christ when He finally arrived, at least four days too late: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Why did Christ treat his friend this way? Why does God sometimes treat us as He did Lazarus, Martha, and Mary? Why does He not give us what we want so desperately? Why should parents not rescue their children from every difficulty? Christ said: "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God." God knows, as we do also, that sometimes we have to let our loved ones experience the full consequence of their actions by hitting "rock bottom."

Recently, a gentleman spoke to me about his only child, his thirty-five year old son. His son has been in and out of jail for various "minor" incidents since his twenties. Currently, he has an apartment, a car, and a job, thanks to his father. This gentleman is convinced his son has turned the corner. I did not have the heart to question him: "What makes you think your son has learned his lesson? Why should he think about his responsibilities toward himself, to you, and to God? You have rescued him every time his own actions landed him in jail – do you not think he will continue to expect you to rescue him again?"

"Tough" love really is tough. "Jesus wept" with those who mourned the death of Lazarus. God mourns over the spiritual death of every sinner; He mourns over every one of our sins. Sometimes, after doing all that is humanly possible and reasonable to help a loved one, God asks us to entrust this person

to Him; He asks us to turn to Him and say: "Master, the one you love is ill" and then allow Him to show forth His glory and love.

With prayers,

## Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- Archbishop Gregory, Father Doyle, Father Terry; our seminarians
- Our second graders as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion
- Our benefactors
- The Taylor Family
- The McNally Family
- The Conkey Family
- Kel Pirnik

## Calendar at a Glance

### Wednesday, March 12

- School Mass (5B)

### Thursday, March 13

- Stevi B's Night

### Friday, March 14

- Scrip pick-up (2:30-3:00)
- End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

### Monday, March 17

- CiCi's Pizza Night

### Tuesday, March 18

- Spring Pictures Day – *out of uniform*

### Wednesday, March 19

- School Mass (1A/1B)
- \* SCS Oratorical Contest @ 1:45 (gym)

### Thursday, March 20

- \* Living Stations @ 11:00 (gym)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report cards to be distributed
- Noon dismissal – *park and pick*
- No Snack and Yak

### Friday, March 21 & Monday, March 24

- No school – Good Friday & Easter Monday

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\* Families are welcome to join us for these events.

### **THANK YOU!**

- To our seventh grade students who hosted the parish “donuts” breakfast after the 8:30 Mass.
- To our lunch room and recess volunteers!
- To the many volunteers who are working hard on behalf of the Auction: organizing class auction items, soliciting donations, preparing invites, and much more!

### **SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**

Information and registration forms for summer volleyball and basketball camps are available on-line and at the front office. The volleyball camp is open to girls currently in grades four to seven. The basketball camp is open to girls and boys currently in grades two to seven. Please contact Mr. Shirley at 770-419-8601 ext. 1416 or [tshirley@scsiena.org](mailto:tshirley@scsiena.org) if you have questions.

### **SNACK AND YAK**

There will be no Snack and Yak next Thursday, March 20 after noon dismissal.

### **FACTS TUITION ASSISTANCE**

The first round of tuition application closed on February 28. Tuition Assistance letters will go out shortly after April 4, when formal letters of acceptance will be sent to new and re-enrolling students. Families with submitted tuition assistance applications which are missing required information and/or the \$20 processing fee will be notified by FACTS Grant & Aid; they should submit the missing information and/or fee as soon as possible. Incomplete applications cannot be processed. Families with incomplete applications are not eligible to receive tuition assistance. Go to [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com) for further information. For questions, please contact Sister Mary Jacinta or Anna Coppock.

### **FACTS TUITION PLANS**

FACTS Tuition Agreements for 2008-2009 will be set up automatically for families currently using FACTS tuition service for tuition deductions. In April when tuition rates for 2008-2009 are announced, we will send letters to each family with the new contract rate and tuition deductions for the 2008-2009 FACTS tuition account. If you have questions, please contact Anna Coppock at 770-419-8601 ext. 1418.

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*Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School unites with family and community to provide an excellent academic and religious education, developing the whole child while encouraging individual talents and abilities in a Christ-centered environment.*

*In imitation of Saint Catherine, faithful daughter of the Church, we provide a formation grounded in truth through which we engage the culture, setting the world ablaze with the love of Christ.*