



CARDINAL RITTER HIGH SCHOOL

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Thanksgiving Message from the President

On October 3rd, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, at the bequest of Sarah Josepha Hale, set aside the last Thursday of November “as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise”. Mrs. Hale, a 74-year old magazine editor, had for fifteen years written to previous presidents requesting the recognition, as a national holiday, a day of thanks similar to those that occurred independently in many states. At the time of the request, our nation was in the midst of a bitter civil war. Regardless, it was well understood in the mind of the President that there was still much to be thankful for. Despite the horrible bloodshed and hardships on families, the country was continuing to grow and was providing the opportunity of true freedom to more people. In the year 2011, we too are faced with many discouraging events, life changing crisis and serious concerns of what the future will hold for our children. In the course of these trials, it is easy to lose sight of what is important and fail to appreciate the gifts that are bestowed upon us. However, here at Cardinal Ritter High School, we have the constant reminders of those bountiful gifts often visualized through the enthusiasm and excitement exhibited by our students. These include the gifts of faith, wisdom and knowledge that are brought to life through the efforts and dedication of our teachers, staff and benefactors. In sharing these gifts through our Catholic education, we are building meaningful foundations for students to be life long learners and contributors to their community. While this list is far from complete, it is easy to see that the gifts we will truly value are not materialistic but rather are those that emanate from the Father and enhance the very essence of life. Similarly, in his proclamation, President Lincoln reminded everyone that the accumulation of wealth and freedoms were only significant because they did not originate from human hands but rather were the gift of a gracious God to be gathered and shared for the benefit of all. As we approach this holiday season, we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for these and all of our gifts that provide us the opportunity to fulfill our educational mission. It is also our wish that everyone may have a blessed Thanksgiving Day and that it is warmly shared with family and friends.

Gregory Perkins
President
Cardinal Ritter High School