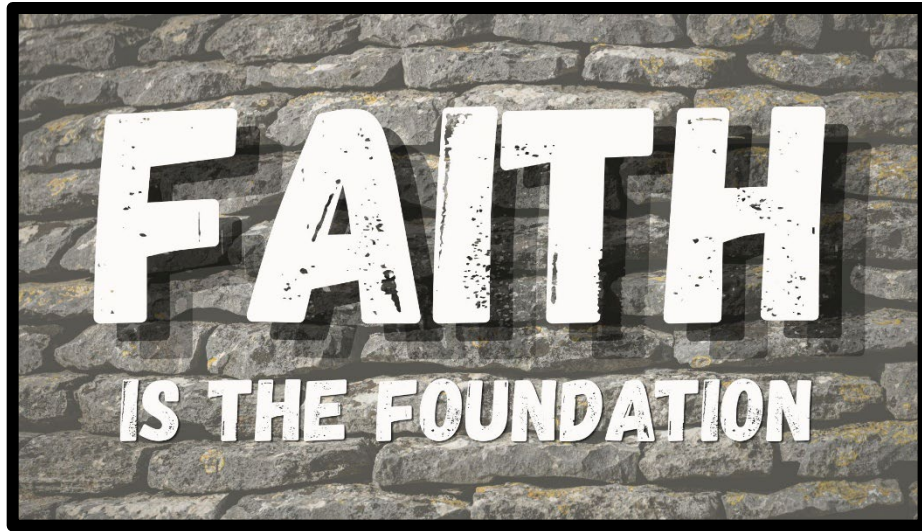




Dear Friends,

On September 1st a new school year begins. I am inviting you to pray for all students, parents, teachers, administrators, and school staff. The beginning of a school year is always a time of new opportunities and new hopes, but also new challenges.

We know that learning is an important part of our growth as human beings. Education helps our young people develop their minds, discover their talents, and prepare for the future. Through the study of mathematics, science, history, and many other subjects, students learn how to understand the world and how to use their gifts, not just for their own benefit, but also for the benefit of others.

However, we cannot forget that education is about more than gaining knowledge. As Catholics, we believe that the formation of the whole person is very important. Along with the development of the mind, there must also be the formation of the heart and soul. Faith formation teaches our children and young people who they are - the beloved children of God, created in His image and called to know, love, and serve Him. Through prayer, the Sacraments, Scripture, religious education, and participation in the life of the Church, young people learn that true wisdom begins with a relationship with God.

In a world filled with many voices and influences, faith gives direction and purpose. Education helps a student answering the question, ***“What will I do in life?”*** Faith answers a deeper question, ***“Who am I, why am I here and what is my***

ultimate goal in life?" We cannot forget that our ultimate goal in life, entering heaven, will not be achieved by success in academics or sports, but by our following the footsteps of Christ. Let us remember the words of Jesus, ***"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"***

Parents are the first teachers of their children, especially in the ways of faith. As families prepare backpacks, school supplies, schedules, and activities, they should not forget to make time for Sunday Mass, family prayer, religious education, and conversations about God. Faith should not be something left behind when the school year becomes busy. Rather, faith should be the foundation that supports everything else we do.

As we begin this new school year, let us pray that every student grows not only in knowledge but also grows closer to Christ. May Jesus Christ, the greatest Teacher, guide our students and families every step of the way.

May God bless a new school year!

Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis