



Saint Maria Goretti

Est. 1954

Catholic School

October 5, 2020

Dear SMGCS Families,

Today we met (virtually via Google Meets) for our first Faith Families assembly of the school year! Our focus this month is the virtue of **Friendship** – sharing a mutual love that seeks the good of the other.

In our whole group virtual session, we learned what *friendship* means – sharing a mutual love that seeks the good of the other; other words for friendship, such as *brotherhood/sisterhood*, *companionship*, *fellowship*, and *camaraderie*; ways we can cultivate friends in our own lives, how to be a good friend to others, and that friends come in all shapes and sizes, from all different walks of life.

We then discussed three saints who especially emulate the virtue of friendship: *Sts. Benedict & Scholastica*, who were twin brother and sister and great friends. They didn't get to see each other often, so when St. Benedict came to visit St. Scholastica, she prayed that he would stay longer, and God sent a storm so bad that St. Benedict could not leave and had to stay longer. *Sts. Basil & Gregory* became friends while young boys in school in Athens. Sts. Basil and Gregory wanted to be true Christians and decided to help each other grow in virtue. Both became bishops who defended the Catholic faith and helped other bishops write the Nicene Creed. *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati* came from a wealthy family, but gave many of his belongings to the poor and helped them find food, medicine, and shelter. After contracting polio at the young age of 24, Blessed Pier died in 1925. Thousands of people-many of whom Pier had befriended and helped throughout his young life-attended his funeral. Pope John Paul II beatified Pier in 1990, calling him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes."

We concluded our whole-group discussion with a presentation by Mrs. Richard's 1st Grade music students as they shared what friendship means to them and sang the song, *A Friend to You*.

Students continued the lesson and discussion on friendship in their homeroom Faith Family groups, where teachers reviewed the virtue of friendship and discussed ways students can practice this virtue in their own lives. The topic of Veterans as friends was also discussed and students were introduced to *Operation Never Forget*, collecting letters of appreciation for a special Mail Call through Honor Flight. One of the greatest honors that a veteran receives on their Honor Flight journey is letters of appreciation from *friends*-known and unknown-from all over the country. Students created letters of appreciation and thanks, which will be sent to Honor Flight for Operation Never Forget as we approach Veteran's Day next month. Faith Families concluded by praying the Faith Families prayer together.

It is our hope that the children continue to reflect on the virtue of friendship, the friends they have, and the many ways to be a good friend to others.

Blessings,

Laura Behee, M.Ed.
Principal