



PALMA HIGH SCHOOL. AN EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
ACCREDITED BY THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES/WESTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

• OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL •

October 1, 2008

Dear People of Palma,

Gratitude. I am grateful for so much, but I must not forget to show it more. One can never be filled with too much gratitude. Any disposition to gratitude (sincere or even disingenuous) has enormous implications for the way we express ourselves and the relationships we cultivate in community. A simple note of gratitude has tremendous power to influence the flow of a person's day. A smile of gratitude can disarm all defenses premeditated by a person wallowing in self-deprecating frustrations of being under appreciated. The very notion of disciplining the self to be more grateful is capable of changing a person's tendency of response to conflict and sudden disappointments, even changing a person's entire attitude and relationship with others. School principals could learn much from gratitude.

I am filled with gratitude for our Church. There is something so human and so divine about the pageantry and reverence for life that flows from our devotions, music and worship. I love cultural expressions of faith that celebrate the divine in the ordinary simplicities of what is human. I am grateful for the long history of service and suffering that religious and clergy have offered with their lives to build Catholic schools in America – including our very own Edmund Rice Christian Brothers. I am inspired by the challenge to fulfill that mission of the Church as a lay man. However tainted recent history of American scandal has pervaded her, I am grateful for our Church and her leaders—for the ministers of Truth who dedicate their entire beings to our salvation.

Although I have so much yet to learn, I am grateful. God has blessed me with a rich and storied history of experiences in leadership, service, learning, teaching, athletics, and so much more. I am grateful for my faith and for my family and friends who nurture it, and continue to, in me. I am grateful for Catholic education – especially here at Palma, for the family of families it is, where intimate communities of highly committed professionals, volunteers, sacrificing parents and eager students come together with a common mission to become more like Christ as we grow in faith and reason. I am grateful for Mini-Schedule nights and Meet-the-Faculty/Staff Potluck Dinners, for Monte Carlo Nights and athletic events, for parents who volunteer and boys striving daily to mature into young men of character in mind, body and soul. We renew and reaffirm our common Mission in this school when we show gratitude for one another in Christian fellowship. When times get tough, and when we forget, let's remind one another to be grateful!

Yours in Blessed Edmund Rice,

David J. Sullivan
Principal