

**May 2010**

Dear St. Francis Senior Parents,

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, and our students are completing yet another milestone in that journey with Christ. Graduation is here and four years of adolescence has come and gone. As we prepare for the Graduation events for the **Class of 2010**, here are some important reminders:

1. Graduation Requirements: Only those students who have completed all academic, attendance and behavioral standards will be allowed to participate in graduation. Diplomas will be available in the front office on May 24<sup>th</sup> after 10:30 a.m.
2. Accounts Payable: All accounts must be paid in full (tuition, testing fees, lunch accounts, athletic fees and uniforms, graduation fees, etc.) prior to graduation.
3. MBS Direct Online: (Book turn in by mail): Book "Buy Back" for Seniors will start at Noon and end at 2:00pm on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> following the weekly school Mass. The MBS website is <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/sfchs.htm>
4. Dress Regulations for Senior Awards Night, Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation: All events are formal ceremonies and require proper and appropriate dress. Please see the following:
  - For **Senior Awards Night (Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in the SFCHS Gymnasium)**: Very nice dress (see General Dress guidelines below)
  - For **Baccalaureate Mass (Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm in Queen of Peace Church)**: Gowns only, no caps worn – with very nice dress under gowns (see General Dress guidelines)
  - For **Graduation Day (Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2pm in the University Auditorium at the University of Florida)**: Caps and gowns with very nice dress under gowns (see General Dress guidelines)
  - General Dress Guidelines:
    - i. **For the gentlemen** - Button-down shirts, ties, dark dress pants and dark brown/black dress shoes - NO HATS.
    - ii. **For the ladies** – Dresses; blouse and dress pants; black or brown shoes/sandals (for all Graduation events). NOTE: Shoes/sandals must have a back/strap to keep it on the foot with a low-to-medium height heel. Students will be navigating stairs at all locations.

**NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT ALTER CAPS OR GOWNS.**

5. Graduation Photos:
  - If you prefer to use a professional photographer, information from the photographer will be emailed to you and posted on the website as well under "Class of 2010 Graduation Information".
  - If you must take a picture during the Graduation ceremony itself, step into the aisle. Please kneel and respect those around you while taking your photo.

## **GRADUATION WEEK EVENTS**

**Wednesday, May 19** Seniors report to the gym at 9:50am for Graduation Assembly followed by Mass. Mass begins at 10:23am. Dress Code – Appropriate to attending Mass, no flip flops  
Senior Awards Ceremony in the SFCHS Gym @ 7:00pm

**NOTE: Seniors should arrive by 6:45pm**

Following the presentation of awards, refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

**Friday, May 21** *Baccalaureate Practice* at Queen of Peace Church @ 8:30am. Seniors then proceed to *Graduation Practice* at University Auditorium at the University of Florida  
Baccalaureate Mass – **Queen of Peace Church** @ 7:00pm

**NOTE: Seniors should arrive by 6:30pm**

The pastors of the Gainesville Catholic churches will concelebrate Mass. We are eager to return and celebrate Mass as a community one final time together at Queen of Peace Church where the Class of 2010 received their bibles as freshmen four years ago.

**Saturday, May 22** Graduation at University Auditorium @ 2:00pm

**NOTE: Seniors should arrive by 1:15pm**

Graduation will be at the University Auditorium on the University of Florida's campus. **Please have students there no later than 1:15pm.** Our Graduation Ceremony will begin promptly at 2:00pm.

- **University Auditorium** is located at the corner of Union and Newell Drive, next to Century Tower on the University of Florida campus.
- **PARKING** is available on the University of Florida campus at Union Road off SW 13th Street (200 yards from the Auditorium), and in the PARKING GARAGE at Newell Drive and Museum Road off SW 13th Street (400 yards from the Auditorium). *Please plan to arrive early.* University staff will be on hand to direct drivers to lots. Please remember that University Parking rules are in effect at all times.

**Graduation is a ticketed event** and all extra tickets should have been requested by this time. Graduation tickets will be given to each senior when caps and gowns are distributed at Graduation Practice on **Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**. Seating is on a "first come, first serve" basis for parents and families. ***University Auditorium doors open at 1:30pm.***

In keeping with the dignity of the event, we ask our families and their guests to please be considerate of each and every graduate as they process across the stage by displaying the proper decorum due each student. ***You are reminded that, per University Auditorium event policy, no balloons or objects that can obstruct views; air horns; whistles or other noisemaking devices are allowed.***

These will be exciting and uncomplicated times in our young peoples' lives as they move on to adulthood. Please keep in mind that this week is a celebration of ***every*** student at ***each*** of the events (Senior Awards, Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation). We look forward to seeing every family in attendance to congratulate the members of the Class of 2010.

God Bless our students and your families on a job well done as they move on to bring the Good News with them on the next part of their journey.

Peace,

*Ernest D. Herrington, Jr.*

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Principal