



From the Desk of Friar Joe Bayne, OFM Conv.  
Rector/Pastor  
St. Stanislaus Basilica  
January 18, 2021

Greetings to the School Family of St. Stanislaus,

Joyous wishes for a Happy New Year! May 2021 bring us new hope, increased vaccines, healing, and an end to the pandemic. May we all experience new blessings. With few opportunities to see and interact with you, other than with our students at School Masses, and some parents briefly dropping-off or picking them up, I wanted to reach out to you and send greetings, wishes, and blessings. Words of St. Francis of Assisi, to his companion Brother Leo, came to mind:

**"Brother Leo, with Brother Francis health and peace! I speak to you my son as a mother. I place all the words we spoke on the road in this phrase briefly and as advice. And afterwards, if necessary for you to come to me for counsel, I say this to you: In whatever way it seems best to you to please the Lord God and to follow His footprints and His poverty, do this with the blessings of God and my obedience. And if you believe it necessary for the well-being of your soul, or to find comfort, and you wish to come to me, come Leo."**  
*(Letter to Brother Leo by Francis)*

On a bit of a humorous note, but nonetheless important, our Franciscan early sources from which the above letter is taken, point out that the grammar is not the greatest. Was St Francis poor in Latin or was the Saint asking for Leo to bless him? If only St. Francis had attended St. Stanislaus School. Nonetheless, it captures my message to all of you. I'm here for you. Never be afraid to come to me to share or for advice or counsel, as St. Francis said to Brother Leo. I remind all of you, that here on this wonderful campus on Front Street, we are family! I am here for all of you!

As I stated at the January Parish Council meeting, our School Administration, Faculty, and Staff have done a miraculous job at planning for and re-opening our School this current year for in-person learning. No doubt a tedious job, that has demanded extra energy and adaptation, our thanks and praise to them. May we all move forward with all the precautions and procedures and pray for and soon see "the light at the end of the tunnel." We have First Reconciliation and First Eucharist planned for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in both School and Religious Education. Please join me in lifting up these our precious Little Ones in prayer. Let's continue the spirit of community and sharing.

So I offer you all the Blessing of Francis:

May the Lord bless you and keep you! May He show His face to you and have mercy on you.  
May He turn His Countenance to you and give you His Peace! Amen!

*Friar Joe*