

Principal's Comments for the Month of November

I know you have all heard me comment on the uniqueness of our school community. The fact that we are a successful school is based in no small measure on the solid parental involvement from strong families.

I was reminded of this again when reading a new book, *Socrates in the City: Conversations on "Life, God and other Small Topics"*. This book is a series of lectures from various people who are considered experts in their respective fields. (Yes, I do live a wild life.) The essay that reminded me of how special our school is was entitled, *The Importance of Fatherhood* by Dr. Paul Vity.

Dr. Vity is a professor of psychology at NYU and a senior scholar at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences. In addition, he is the father of six children. No offense to our mothers, but Dr. Vity feels that fatherhood has been neglected. Here is what he says: "We hear a lot about motherhood these days, but fatherhood seems somehow to have gone out of vogue. We used to get happy images of fatherhood from such past movies as *Life with Father* and such TV series as *Father Knows Best* and *Leave it to Beaver*. However unrealistic they might have been, they had their fingers on the idealized essence of fatherhood. I think it is safe to say those images could be reassuring in a good way. The four decade backlash against these images sometimes gives us a contemporary view of fatherhood that on the fictional side would be Al Bundy or Homer Simpson. He further states that in his opinion, "The crisis of our culture today is in important respects a crisis in the family. At the center of the crisis in the family is a crisis in what it means to be a father. We've lost this understanding of the capstone, in my judgment of what it is to be a man."

As I read this, I wondered what Assumption would look like without your devotion and dedication to your children and to our school. The willingness of our moms and dads to give so freely of their time does not go unnoticed by your children.

You are always here for your children no matter how busy you are with all the other pressing responsibilities. It matters! The work you do as moms and dads is crucial to the health of our nation. Someone once said the qualities needed to make a great nation are the same qualities needed to make a great family. As your principal, I feel truly blessed to work with our great families.

God bless you all!

Mike Micele
Principal, Assumption School