



La Salette Parishioners,

Becoming principal at La Salette is truly a dream come true for me. My family has been at La Salette since 1951, when my grandma and grandpa moved to Berkley. My grandparents were faithful parishioners in every sense of the word: attended mass, donated time and money, and sent all of their children to the school. I come from a family dedicated to Catholic education and I certainly hold these beliefs. I am a lifelong La Salette parishioner and proud La Salette graduate. In fact, my 10 month old daughter Addison was baptized here last October.

One thing I learned while being the assistant principal this year is that in order for La Salette to be successful it takes a total team effort. And by team, I don't simply mean the teachers, parents, and students at the school. I need the parishioners' help and support as well. One thing that makes La Salette such a special place to learn is the sense of family. For Our Lady of La Salette Parish to accomplish its mission, both the school and church need to thrive. One cannot survive without the other. We can't view the church and parish as "us" or "them" because we are all La Salette. I'm not just talking about financial support and weekly offerings, which are critically important, either. I'm talking more about volunteering your time and talents. We have many parishioners here, but only a handful of very dedicated volunteers. Aside from my work in education, I coach 11 year-old travel hockey, volunteer much of my time to the City of Berkley, and have a wife and 10 month old baby at home. I understand how busy life can be, and maybe there isn't a lot of spare time to donate to the parish. But I ask that you please take some time to think about what you can offer the church and school, be it technical knowledge, manual labor, or anything in between. Specifically, I am looking for 7-10 parishioners to donate an hour or two a month to be part of the School Committee. I value the input of those that are not parents, but care about our school.

Another element of support that parents can offer is sending their children to our parish school. To parents who do not currently do that, I ask two things: The first is to simply take a critical look at our school and all that we have to offer. I could speak for days on the merits of La Salette and the small class sizes, differentiated instruction, sacramental preparation, high standardized test scores, etc. But I'm not going to do that right now. Secondly, if you could, as honestly as possible, tell me why you are not choosing La Salette. The reason that I ask this is so I know what I need to work on to get our own families back. If we can't retain our own parishioners, then something clearly needs to be fixed. Feel free to call the school to talk anytime at 248-542-3757, ext. 22, or email me at [Dan.Terbrack@lasalette-school.org](mailto:Dan.Terbrack@lasalette-school.org).

This isn't just a job for me. La Salette is part of my life. I'm tired of hearing about Shrine, or Guardian Angels, or St. Mary's. If we're not better than those schools right now, I promise you that I will do everything in my power to make sure that we are by the time I leave here. I am a proud La Salette parishioner, I will do everything I can to spread the word about what a great place La Salette is to learn, love, lead, and live on. I ask for your prayers and support.

Thank you,

*Dan Terbrack*

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