



VERMILION CATHOLIC

a legacy of Mount Carmel

VC Family,

Every time I write that introduction, I get a little bit of joy out of being able to say it. We are a family. A spiritual family of shared purpose, shared experiences, and shared history. We belong to one another above all because we belong to God but also because we belong to this network of relationships, this intentional community that we call “Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mt. Carmel.” We could choose not to belong to it, but once we have made the choice to become and remain a part of it, that commitment becomes a part of us as individuals and we become part of what makes VC VC.

This theme of committed belonging is important to reflect on. In a world of convenience, consumerism, and “do what works for you,” it can be easy to lose sight of what it means to *belong*. Belonging doesn’t come from quid-pro-quo like a contract or a purchase, but from this humble awareness that I *need* more than I can give to myself. That recognition of limitation and need helps inspire us to *commit* to something more than myself even though we know that, sometimes, that commitment will *cost me* more than it seems to give me. Human beings don’t find happiness in a steady stream of stimulation, but in finding a place to consistently love and be loved... remembering of course that love means “to will the good of the other.” We find happiness in belonging to people who want what’s good for me even when I don’t and in being committed to what’s good for others even when they don’t want it.

So, you belong to this family and I’m grateful that you do. Because Vermilion Catholic is a parochial school, it means you also belong to St. Mary Magdalen Church. By extension, you belong to the diocese of Lafayette and the whole Catholic (“universal”) Church. We also belong to our local community of Abbeville, the state of Louisiana, and the United States.

This belonging is also what’s behind the many ways we ask you to participate in things like Booster Club, Men’s Club, Alumni, and the dozens of events that require volunteers. It’s why we have policies about off-campus behavior, why we show up *en masse* even at unofficial events when one of our own is involved, and why we can sometimes get so passionate whenever we disagree about what’s best for the whole community. It’s because we know that what we do affects one another and the goal, ultimately, is to strive to let love be most, if not all, of what’s behind how we affect each other. We are not just consumers passing through to pick up our purchased product, but a chosen family willing to combine our efforts around shared values and a commitment to what is really true, truly good, and genuinely beautiful.

So, let’s continue to reflect on the ways we belong to each other, to take practical steps to strengthen that belonging, and to be grateful to one another and to God for this family. There’s always more than I can mention, but I’ll call your attention to three things for now:



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- 1) World Youth Day is August 1-9, 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. It's meant for people 16-35, but we'll need chaperones and those under 16 can come if accompanied by their own parent. We are planning to fundraise to cover a sizeable portion of the cost - if your child really wants to go, we'll find a way.
 - a) You can [sign up here](#).
 - b) VC students will be excused from anything missed at the start of school in August 2027 as a result of WYD
- 2) Please go to LouisianaCEC.org/action to sign up for ways to help advocate for state policies that benefit our school and parish family.
 - a) This group has helped divert disastrous policies and establish good ones before and you can help it keep up that good work.
- 3) Be on the lookout for the [social media pledge](#) that we're asking students in 2nd through 8th grade to sign and bring home to you to sign and return.
 - a) It is definitely good for an individual child to avoid social media at these ages, but it's three times as good if all their friends avoid it too.
 - b) I have greatly enjoyed how much livelier, communal, and *human* the students are at lunch time now that they can't escape into devices. Cutting out social media until they're older will help them foster that kind of connection in deeper ways and in more circumstances.
- 4) Dinner (or Lunch): I might be interim principal, but I'm pastor first and foremost. That means spiritual fatherhood and one of the things a pastor does is share meals with his spiritual family.
 - a) I keep certain slots in my calendar for some weeknights and lunch on some Sundays specifically for meals with parishioners.
 - b) If you're interested, you can call the parish office at 337-893-0244 and the receptionist can identify my next available slot and you can claim it. Some of y'all have already done so.
 - c) It's as simple as dinner at the house (leftovers, take out, fancy - most things work) or meeting at a restaurant (happy to pay my own way). No pressure, but I want people to know it doesn't have to always be business and events, sometimes we can just be human together.

Thank you for the sacrifices you've made and continue to make to belong to this family. May God bless our VC family and continue to draw us more deeply into the divine family of the Church.



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In Christ,

Fr. Alexander M. Albert,

Pastor & Interim Principal,
Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

Enter to Learn Christ, Leave to Serve Christ

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