



December 13, 2007
Feast of Saint Lucy

Dear Members of the Lumen Christi Parish and School Communities,

Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, said, "Bring the little children to me, do not prevent them." Jesus' own Sacred Heart had a special place reserved for children. This love that Christ has for children has served as the basis for seeking to educate young people in the practice of the Catholic Faith. Since the foundation of the Catholic Church in the United States, the mission of parish schools has been a vital and important aspect of what it means to be a parish and to serve those same children. Lumen Christi Parish has been blessed with a long history of strong parish schools, both before and after the merger.

In March of 2005, as SS. Cecilia & James School prepared to become Lumen Christi Catholic School, Father Tom DeVries, Pastor of Lumen Christi, asked that the school embark upon a recommitment to formally develop its identity as a Catholic school. The efforts of the Catholic Identity Committee resulted in a *Catholic Identity Statement*, issued in September of 2005. This document was to serve as the basis for all efforts in developing the Catholic Identity of our school. It also made clear the need to regularly revisit and revise the document according to specific needs and situations.

The time has come to revisit and revise that initial document. We are proud to present this up-dated *Catholic Identity Statement* to you. It will continue to serve as the foundational document for all efforts of Lumen Christi Catholic School in developing and deepening its Catholic Identity. In addition, a Catholic Identity Advisory Committee has been put into place to serve as stewards of this document and to be responsible for any future revisions.

May this statement, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, serve as a point of reference and useful tool for school administration, teachers and parents. As we once again commit ourselves to this process, we ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Lucy, patroness of light.

Live Jesus!

Catholic Identity Advisory Committee

Reverend Peter J. Berger
Mr. Matt Cesarz
Mr. Joe Duginski
Mrs. Moira Moede
Mrs. Michele Neuville
Mrs. Kathy Weiss

Our Mission

“Go out and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

This passage from the end of St. Matthew’s Gospel has rightly become known as the Great Commission. Before His Ascension, Christ entrusts this sacred mission of evangelization to His Apostles and to the Church. He entrusted the Church with

- ❖ The Preaching of the Gospel and the Teaching of the Faith
- ❖ The continuation of His mission through the celebration of the Sacraments
- ❖ Calling the world to live a life of holiness
- ❖ Guiding her faithful members on the path to eternal life

Only in light of this Great Commission can Lumen Christi Catholic School’s mission be truly understood. Our own mission as a Catholic school is rooted in Christ’s words to His Apostles. Lumen Christi Catholic School sees that inherent to His mission, we have been entrusted with

- ❖ Passing on the truths of the Catholic Faith
- ❖ Celebrating the Sacraments as part of the normal rhythm of school life
- ❖ Developing lives of prayer in our students
- ❖ Instructing our students in what it means to live a holy life of faith, virtue and service
- ❖ Helping our students to become saints

While there are many ways that this can be done, Lumen Christi Catholic School seeks to do this in particular ways. In order for its mission to be accomplished, it is in need of: parents who value their faith; teachers who model their faith; support of the parish; effective ways of teaching the Faith; the grace which comes through a life of prayer; and the grace of the Sacraments. More specifically, Lumen Christi Catholic School seeks to do this

- ❖ Through the parents of our students
- ❖ Through the example of teachers and parish priests
- ❖ Through the daily rhythm of prayer and celebration of the Sacraments
- ❖ Through developing virtuous habits in our students, especially with the example and intercession of Mary and the Saints
- ❖ Through opportunities to serve in the community
- ❖ Through the physical environment of the school
- ❖ Through a religion curriculum that effectively teaches the Faith
- ❖ Through infusing the Faith into all areas of our curriculum

*Lord Holy Spirit
Guide Lumen Christi Catholic School
As it fulfills its mission
Of bringing the Faith to the next generation.*

*Saint Thomas Aquinas
Patron of Catholic Schools
Pray for us.*

Our Goal

Faith
Virtue
Knowledge

Flowing from our mission as a school, Lumen Christi Catholic School expects to produce a certain type of graduate. Our mission is not simply to give our students diplomas, but to form the children of our parish into faithful sons and daughters of the Catholic Church. Lumen Christi Catholic School desires to produce a child who

- ❖ Is in close relationship with the Blessed Trinity
- ❖ Is devoted to Mary and the Saints
- ❖ Is committed to the practice of the Faith through the Sacraments
- ❖ Is a person of prayer
- ❖ Is knowledgeable about the central truths of the Catholic Faith
- ❖ Is able to explain the Catholic Faith to others
- ❖ Is aware of how their Catholic Faith affects all that they do
- ❖ Is committed to a life of service
- ❖ Is a model of virtue
- ❖ Is on the path of sanctity and holiness
- ❖ Is seeking eternal life as their life's goal

Catholic Identity Document

This Catholic Identity Document of Lumen Christi Catholic School seeks to lay out directives for the accomplishment of its mission and goals. It is meant to be closely examined on a regular basis for improvement and evaluation. In order for its mission and goal to be accomplished, Lumen Christi Catholic School will need the active support of parents, teachers, priests, and the students themselves. Beyond this, however, it is in need of the grace and help of the Holy Spirit. It is also in need of the protection of and intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and in need of the prayers of those who have gone before us. In a special way, Lumen Christi Catholic School entrusts its mission to the patronage of Saint Lucy, the patroness of light.

The Role of Parents

The Church teaches that the first teachers in the practice of the faith for children are their parents. The family forms the domestic church; the household community of faith, prayer and instruction. Lumen Christi Catholic School is committed to helping parents in fulfilling this call. However, Lumen Christi Catholic School does not and cannot take this role over from parents. In order for the school to accomplish its mission and fulfill its stated goals, it is in need of parents who have a deep love for their own faith, who practice their faith and who will reinforce at home the Catholic values that are taught in school. Lumen Christi Catholic School expects certain things from the parents of its students. Parents of Lumen Christi students are expected to

- ❖ Practice their faith through weekly attendance at Sunday Mass
- ❖ Provide an atmosphere of prayer at home
- ❖ Seek to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Faith
- ❖ Set an example of a faithful Catholic Christian adult for the imitation of their children

The Role of Teachers

The vocation of teaching has always been held as sacred by the Church. Teachers at our school have an essential role to play in the implementation of this document and seeking to fulfill the mission and goal of our school. Considering the amount of time that teachers spend with their students, they become an important witness of faith, second only to the witness of faith provided by the parents of our children. Teachers at Lumen Christi Catholic School are expected to

- ❖ Practice their faith through weekly attendance at Sunday Mass
- ❖ To be people of prayer
- ❖ To seek to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Faith
- ❖ Set an example of a faithful Catholic Christian adult for the imitation of their students
- ❖ Bring the faith into all the disciplines they teach
- ❖ Seek to live a life of holiness through good moral decision making
- ❖ Collegially relate to other members of the faculty
- ❖ Be just and merciful in disciplining their students

The Role of the Parish Priests

Those who have been ordained priests share in a particular way in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. They are ordained to teach, govern and sanctify. While their numbers have declined, they play an important role in the faith formation of our students. The parish priests of Lumen Christi are called to take an active role in the formation of students through

- ❖ The celebration of the Sacraments, especially of the Eucharist and Reconciliation
- ❖ Being available for spiritual support for parents, teachers and students
- ❖ Attendance at as many school functions as their schedules allow
- ❖ Regular classroom visits
- ❖ Accepting the invitations of teachers to attend specific events
- ❖ Through regular prayer on behalf of the school and its students, teachers and parents

The Environment of the School

Catholics are firm believers in the importance of the created world around us and the way that the created world reveals God's presence. In light of this, the very physical environment of the school plays a role in the faith formation of our students and of building a Catholic culture in our school. It is expected that anyone who walks into Lumen Christi Catholic School immediately recognizes that they are in a Catholic school. There are two aspects of this – the physical environment and the social environment.

In order for the mission and goals of the school to be fulfilled, there is a need to continue to transform the school's physical environment into a spiritual environment that reflects our faith as Catholics. Lumen Christi Catholic School will have

- ❖ A crucifix in every classroom
- ❖ An image of Mary in every classroom
- ❖ Religious artwork throughout the classroom
- ❖ Works of religious art in the hallways of the school
- ❖ Works of religious art in the gymnasiums

There also needs to be a certain social environment in our school. This is set through the appearance of our students, as well as the ways they interact with teachers, visitors and each other. This social environment begins with the appearance of our students. Students at Lumen Christi Catholic School are expected to

- ❖ Have a uniform that is in compliance with the school dress code
- ❖ Take pride in their appearance through modesty and cleanliness
- ❖ Keep their uniform clean and in good repair

The tone of the environment is also set through the interactions between students, teachers and visitors. Students at Lumen Christi Catholic School are expected to model virtuous behavior through

- ❖ Respectful conversation with fellow students
- ❖ Avoiding conversation about sinful matters
- ❖ Avoiding the use of vulgar language and name calling
- ❖ Not using the name of the Lord in vain
- ❖ Greeting visitors politely
- ❖ Speaking when spoken to
- ❖ Standing at their desks when a visitor enters the classroom
- ❖ Responding politely to their teachers
- ❖ Participating actively in school prayer and at the celebration of Mass
- ❖ Following the rules of the school

Prayer & Worship

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has found various spiritual practices that are both effective and helpful in living a life of holiness. The Sacraments, along with these spiritual practices, are our way of connecting with God. They serve as ways of worshiping God, requesting what we need from Him and sharing in His life of grace. When students graduate from Lumen Christi Catholic School, they should have an awareness of these ways of prayer and feel comfortable entering into them. Our goal is to instill in our children an authentic Catholic spirituality that will serve as the underpinning for their future lives and their guide on the path to eternal life. As stated previously in this document, the specific goals for this area in the life of our school is to produce a Lumen Christi student who

- ❖ Is in close relationship with the Blessed Trinity
- ❖ Is devoted to Mary and the Saints
- ❖ Is committed to the practice of the Faith through the Sacraments
- ❖ Is a person of prayer
- ❖ Is seeking eternal life as their life's goal

More specifically, the following is to be expected

- ❖ Students will have an understanding of the structure of the Mass and understand the Church's teaching on the Eucharist
- ❖ Students will have opportunities to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration
- ❖ Students will be comfortable with celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and see it as the primary means to encounter God's mercy
- ❖ Students will understand the importance of the Rosary and know the Mysteries of the Rosary
- ❖ Students will know how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- ❖ Students will have an awareness of the saints of the Roman calendar and the Liturgical Year and learn of the various devotions to the saints

In order for these broad and specific goals to be fulfilled, the following concrete spiritual practices will be a regular part of life at Lumen Christi Catholic School

- ❖ Mass celebrated for the school once a week
- ❖ Mass celebrated for the school on Holy Days of Obligation and other major saints' feast days
- ❖ Opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a school during Advent and Lent
- ❖ Two other opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as individuals during the course of the school year
- ❖ Weekly rosary (broken down to a decade a day)
- ❖ Instruction and Holy Week All-School Prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- ❖ Monthly Eucharistic Adoration
- ❖ Saint of the day will be announced each day
- ❖ Annual St. Joseph's Feast Day Table Blessing
- ❖ Annual St. Francis' Feast Day Blessing of the Animals
- ❖ Annual Celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, Patron of Children
- ❖ Annual Celebration of the Feast of St. Lucy, Patroness of Light

In addition to these all-school activities, teachers are encouraged to find other ways to include prayer in the classroom, to celebrate the lives of Mary and the Saints, to instruct the students on the importance of the Sacraments. Teachers are also encouraged to find other ways, using the gift of their own creativity, to continue to deepen the school's spirit of prayer and worship.

Religion Curriculum

The Religion Curriculum of Lumen Christi Catholic School is not simply one discipline among others. The reason Lumen Christi Catholic School exists is to pass on the Faith to the next generation of the parish's children. The same expectations for knowledge, seriousness and outcomes that are desired from other disciplines are to be desired from our religion curriculum as well. As stated previously in this document, the specific goals for this area in the life of our school is to produce a Lumen Christi student who

- ❖ Is knowledgeable about the central truths of the Catholic Faith
- ❖ Is able to explain the Catholic Faith to others
- ❖ Is aware of how their Catholic Faith affects all that they do

More specifically, the following are to be expected

- ❖ Students will achieve mastery over the concepts outlined in the religion curriculum of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- ❖ Students will know the history of the people of Israel as revealed in the Old Testament
- ❖ Students will know the life of Christ, His birth, death and resurrection, His teachings, and His miracles
- ❖ Students will know of the foundation of the Church, by Christ, upon Peter and the Apostles
- ❖ Students will know the history of the Church from Pentecost to the present day
- ❖ Students will know the Nicene Creed and the dogmas it teaches
- ❖ Students will know the Church's teachings on Mary and her role in the economy of salvation
- ❖ Students will know the Church's teachings on the Seven Sacraments
- ❖ Students will know the Church's teachings on moral issues
- ❖ Students will know what the Magisterium is and the religious assent that is required by it
- ❖ Students will know how to use the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ❖ Students will be instructed in apologetics and how to defend their faith
- ❖ Students will be shown the practical applications of their faith to daily life and moral decision making

In order for these broad and specific goals to be fulfilled, the following will be accomplished at Lumen Christi Catholic School

- ❖ The best religious textbooks, in conformity with the Church's teaching, will be used in class
- ❖ Regular visits on the part of the priests to instruct the students on the faith
- ❖ Monies will be made available for teachers to continue their own religious education
- ❖ Textbooks will be supplemented by other books, magazines, etc.
- ❖ Concrete applications of the Faith for life will be drawn in religion class for our students
- ❖ Each student at the end of Grade Three will receive a copy of the Sacred Scriptures
- ❖ Each student in Grades Two & Three will receive a monthly copy of Magnifikid! Magazine to help them understand the Mass and pray the Mass
- ❖ Each student upon entering Grade Seven will receive a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and be taught how to use it
- ❖ The Scriptures will serve as the primary resource for teaching the Faith in Seventh and Eighth Grades

In addition to these, teachers are encouraged, using their own creativity, to continue to find effective ways of teaching the faith to their students. It is expected that teachers will teach in conformity to the Magisterium of the Church and will never teach something contrary to what the Church teaches.

Virtue

The path to holiness is rooted in the gift of God's grace and the development and exercise of various Christian virtues. St. James in his epistle reminds us that 'faith without works is dead' (James 2:17). Lumen Christi Catholic School desires to aid the development of the virtues in the lives of our students so that the Faith taught to them becomes something which they can concretely live out in the various circumstances of life. As our world continues to change, and temptations to abandon the pursuit of holiness grow more present, it is imperative that Lumen Christi Catholic School begin at an early age to instill in our school children a love for virtue and the desire to live their lives in complete conformity to Christ's commands. As stated previously in this document, the specific goals for this area in the life of our school is to produce a Lumen Christi student who

- ❖ Is committed to a life of service
- ❖ Is a model of virtue
- ❖ Is on the path of sanctity and holiness

More specifically, the following are to be expected

- ❖ Students will know the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)
- ❖ Students will know of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, right judgment, reverence, courage, fear of the Lord
- ❖ Students will know the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes
- ❖ Students will know the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy
- ❖ Students will know the Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy
- ❖ Students will be encouraged to pray for these virtues
- ❖ Students will work to embody these virtues
- ❖ Students will be encouraged to see the saints as models of virtue to emulate

In order for these broad and specific goals to be accomplished, Lumen Christi School will provide the following

- ❖ Opportunities for the exercise of these virtues in school and through service in the community
- ❖ Students will be praised for the practice of these virtues
- ❖ Each grade will be assigned a virtue to work on throughout the course of the year and a saint who models that virtue, whose intercession they will regularly seek
- ❖ Teachers will model these virtues to their students
- ❖ Opportunities for students to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- ❖ Reading material for the students in any class that will provide the students with examples of virtuous behavior
- ❖ Movies shown in class will show these virtues in action
- ❖ Emphasis on scripture stories which provide a basis for the virtues
- ❖ Rules and discipline of the school and classroom will be used as a basis for teaching and practicing virtue

In addition to these, teachers are encouraged, using their own creativity, to continue to find effective ways of instilling a love of virtue in their students.

Other School Curriculum

A Catholic vision of the world is a vision of the world where faith plays a necessary and vital role in all aspects of life. Any pursuit of knowledge is a pursuit of truth and, as Christ reminds us, He is “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Hence, any pursuit of knowledge and truth in any discipline taught in the school will also lead our students back to Jesus Christ Himself. Seeing the Faith as important in all aspects of our curriculum does not deprive them of their rightful place, but actually increases and makes more real the beauty of the truth in all disciplines. Lumen Christi School will seek to incorporate the Faith into all the disciplines it teaches. While there are certain disciplines that more clearly lend themselves to a discussion and deepening of Faith, Lumen Christi School will seek to deepen our students’ faith through all of them.

Science Curriculum

It is a common misconception in our own secular age that somehow faith is opposed to science. The Church has always taught that such a dichotomy is illegitimate. Scientific truth will never contradict the truths of the Faith. Lumen Christi School will

- ❖ Teach our students that an understanding and love of science is not distinct from an understanding and love of their faith
- ❖ Teach our students the role of God in creation and the evolution of the physical world
- ❖ Teach our students how science can improve human life, but also how it is limited when it comes to decisions regarding life and death
- ❖ Teach our students the moral dimensions of using scientific knowledge

Reading Curriculum

The gift of reading and writing has always been held as a mark of a truly educated person. Reading is more than a skill; it can be the basis for new discoveries, worthwhile leisure, and the teaching of virtue. Certain works of literature have stood the test of time as being examples of beautiful writing, as well as stories that speak to the human heart of the noblest desires of humanity. Lumen Christi School will

- ❖ Seek reading textbooks that not only teach reading, but also teach virtue
- ❖ Base its reading curriculum on the great works of literature, appropriate for each grade level
- ❖ Avoid books with questionable content or have no real lesson to impart
- ❖ Avoid books or readers that seek to promote, in any part, a view of the world contrary to the truth of Catholicism

Social Studies Curriculum

Christ is the Lord of History, all history begins with Him and will find its culmination in Him at the end of the world. The Church has played a significant and active role in the history of the world. Lumen Christi School will

- ❖ Teach our students about the role of the Church in the major epochs of human history
- ❖ Select textbooks which hold up the role of the Church
- ❖ Select textbooks that do not contradict Catholic teaching in any part

Human Development and Sexuality

Many of the assaults on the pursuit of holiness come from a distorted view of human development and sexuality. Unfortunately the influences our children are subject to through books, the internet, television and movies, billboards, magazine covers, etc. project that distorted view. Lumen Christi Catholic School will teach what the Church teaches with regard to human development and sexuality. Lumen Christi School will

- ❖ Implement a curriculum that discusses human sexuality from the point of view of the Theology of the Body as soon as a quality curriculum is developed and textbooks are created
- ❖ Give parents the opportunity to ‘opt’ their children out of such education
- ❖ Teach human sexuality in the context of religion classes so that it is more clear to our students that faith and sexuality are intimately connected
- ❖ Encourage our children to exercise self-discipline and make moral decisions when it comes to issues and decisions of human sexuality
- ❖ Teach our students to rely on God’s grace and the Sacrament of Reconciliation when it comes to living a life of chastity
- ❖ Have chastity, modesty and abstinence as the foundation of our curriculum on human sexuality

Other Areas

Other possibilities for the application of the Faith in the school’s curriculum include

- ❖ Using passages of scripture or the lives of the saints to teach punctuation or writing
- ❖ Teaching students traditional Catholic hymns in music class
- ❖ Encouraging our children to produce religious works in their art classes
- ❖ Pointing out the virtues that can be exhibited in the various games played in gym class

Field Trips

Learning taken outside of the classroom can be a wonderful way to take abstract concepts learned in class and see them applied to the real world. They can also be excursions of fun and add another needed component of rest and leisure to the school year. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been blessed with an abundance of holy sites that can be destinations for field trips. Lumen Christi School will encourage its teachers to consider field trips to the following places to educate our children about architecture, art, history and faith

- ❖ Saint Francis de Sales Seminary
- ❖ The Basilica of St. Josaphat
- ❖ The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
- ❖ Fatima Shrine of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- ❖ Motherhouse Chapel of the School Sisters of Saint Francis
- ❖ The Basilica of St. Mary, Help of Christians (Holy Hill)
- ❖ Old St. Mary’s Parish Church

Parties and Rewards

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us of the importance of time for rest, leisure and fun in the life of a Christian. God Himself rested after the act of creation and our students should have the opportunity for rest, leisure and fun throughout the school year. Parties and rewards should also be a chance for our children to continue to deepen their own faith, learn about virtue, celebrate the lives of the saints and provide an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie.

Athletics

Athletics is an important part of any school and provides an opportunity for fun, as well as the chance to learn good sportsmanship, virtue and promote the proper care of our bodies. Lumen Christi Catholic School provides a wide array of athletic pursuits during the course of the school year and will incorporate the following into its athletic program

- ❖ Practices will begin and end with prayer
- ❖ Games will begin with a team prayer and end with a team prayer
- ❖ Athletes will be taught the virtues that may be exercised in each sport
- ❖ Sportsmanship and virtue will be held as more important than victories
- ❖ Athletics will be a chance for not only talented players to play, but for less talented players to have the chance to develop
- ❖ Will not tolerate foul or abusive language on the part of athletes, coaches or parents
- ❖ Will, at all times, bring honor to our school and reflect the Faith we profess

In addition to these, teachers are encouraged, using their own creativity, to continue to find effective ways of incorporating the Catholic Faith into all areas of our school curriculum.

With Trust in the Power of the Holy Spirit

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Apostles are said to have prayed for the power to preach the Word of God with ‘all boldness’ (Acts 4:29). While the goals laid out in this document are bold, it is with faith in the power of the Holy Spirit that they are proposed and with which they will be enacted. Lumen Christi Catholic School has been blessed with plentiful resources, dedicated teachers, and faithful parents. It will take the investment of all of these gifts for these goals to be brought to fulfillment. Deepening the Catholic Identity of our school is not an ‘add-on’ to the mission of Lumen Christi School, but at the center of its very essence. It is in deepening our commitment to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ that we can truly become the Light of Christ. And so it is with trust in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that we now begin the great task to which we have been called, trusting that God Himself will bring it to fulfillment.