

## Non-Catholic and Multi-Faith Families at Holy Spirit Preparatory School

*This...dynamic of communal identity - to whom do I belong? - vivifies the ethos of our Catholic institutions. A university or school's Catholic identity is not simply a question of the number of Catholic students. It is a question of conviction - do we really believe that only in the mystery of the Word made flesh does the mystery of man truly become clear (cf. Gaudium et Spes, 22)? Are we ready to commit our entire self - intellect and will, mind and heart - to God? Do we accept the truth Christ reveals? Is the faith tangible in our universities and schools? Is it given fervent expression liturgically, sacramentally, through prayer, acts of charity, a concern for justice, and respect for God's creation? Only in this way do we really bear witness to the meaning of who we are and what we uphold. Remarks by Pope Benedict XVI, The Catholic University of America, April 17, 2008*

In accordance with *The Declaration on Christian Education: Gravissimum Educationis* proclaimed by his Holiness Pope Paul VI Holy Spirit Prep welcomes to its educational and faith community non-Catholic and Multi-Faith families that freely embrace and support its mission: *“All men of every race, condition and age, since they enjoy the dignity of a human being, have an inalienable right to an education that is in keeping with their ultimate goal, their ability, their sex, and the culture and tradition of their country, and also in harmony with their fraternal association with other peoples in the fostering of true unity and peace on earth. For a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share.”* Holy Spirit Prep is committed to the

As an authentically Catholic institution, Holy Spirit Prep incorporates the teachings of the Catholic faith and its disciplines throughout the life of the school and, except where required by the disciplines of the Catholic Church, (e.g. participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the reception of the Holy Eucharist) does not modify its curriculum, program, practices or expectations for non-Catholic students. To quote again from *Gravissimum Educationis*: *“The influence of the Church in the field of education is shown in a special manner by the Catholic school. No less than other schools does the Catholic school pursue cultural goals and the human formation of youth. But its proper function is to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity, to help youth grow according to the new creatures they were made through baptism as they develop their own personalities, and finally to order the whole of human culture to the news of salvation so that the knowledge the students gradually acquire of the world, life and man is illumined by faith. So indeed the Catholic school, while it is open, as it must be, to the situation of the contemporary world, leads its students to promote efficaciously the good of the earthly city and also prepares them for service in the spread of the Kingdom of God, so that by leading an exemplary apostolic life they become, as it were, a saving leaven in the human community.”*

The Catholic Church teaches that *“Parents must possess a true freedom in choosing schools”* and parents enrolling their child at Holy Spirit Prep do so freely and with foreknowledge of the school’s Mission and Charism therefore Non-Catholic and Multi-Faith families should only enroll their child at Holy Spirit Prep if they understand and are welcoming of the fact that their child will receive an education in the teachings and disciplines of the Catholic faith, *firmly grounded in the principles of Catholic Doctrine* and will (except where prohibited by the traditions, teaching and disciplines of the Catholic faith) be required to actively and freely participate in faith based activities including but not limited to religious education classes, religious services, retreats and faith based ceremonies.

April 2008