



Saint Martha Catholic School

440 N. Azusa Avenue, Valinda, California 91744

January 5, 2023

Dear Fr. Thomas, Faculty and Staff, Parents, and Students of Saint Martha School,

Best wishes and many blessings to every one of you during this New Year! May we open our hearts to God's grace as we admire and work during the New Year with the gifts unwrapped on our daily journey.

As we turn the page to the wonders of the New Year 2023, I pray that all of you are resting and enjoying this time with your family members and friends.

As you all know during the passed year, I had encountered several health problems. After my last heart procedure on June 13, 2022, I felt physically strong and well, but due to my medical history, I got the **COVID 19** during the month of November, and I was seriously ill. Since then, my energy and strength that are still needed to do my best as a Principal of Saint Martha School is missing. With the advice of my Superiors and Physicians, I have decided to retire from this position beginning January 9, 2023.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for all your support, and for entrusting me with your children for the past six years. I am honored and feel fortunate to have been giving the opportunity to be part of Saint Martha School Community. During my time here, I have fostered relationships with many of you, and I will cherish the memories and friendships I have made during my service here.

Fr. Thomas, during these years working with you as our Shepherd and Spiritual Guide, no words would be enough to express my sentiments of gratitude, warmth, and fond support during my staying serving at Saint Martha School Community. THANKS!

Parents, I want to thank you for bringing your children to our school and trusting us with them every day. I especially would like to thank you for raising such amazing group of people that stand before us today. Parents who have been involved in their own child's life leads them to more opportunities for success. Your children have shown so many positive qualities and we know this all commences at home. Thank you!

Mission Statement

St. Martha School strives to provide students with solid Catholic moral values, high academic standards, and a strong sense of community.

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I am also very proud and appreciative of the faculty and staff of Saint Martha School, and I know that they will continue to work tirelessly to provide a high-quality education for your children. Thank you for always keeping the students at the heart of your decisions. I am also confident of the ability of Mrs. Amelita Martinez to lead the school and to ensure that the leadership transition will be seamless for your children. I look forward to watching the success and growth of Saint Martha School as it moves forward. It has been my privilege to be the leader of such a vibrant, high-quality and hard-working community. Thank you!

And to you my dear students, always remember that your parents and teachers are there to assist you when you have difficult choices or important questions. Remember that daily prayer, honesty, hard work, friendship, sensitivity, and respect for yourselves and others are not just empty words but rather personal goals for a lifetime as productive citizens.

I just would like to say “**THANK YOU**” to all of you - **my extended family**- and I will see you. You will always be in my heart, and I will keep you in my prayers daily. May the journey of faith, love, and joy will be led by our best Friend and Brother, **Jesus Christ**. Please pray for me that I will be diligent and faithful doing God’s will.

Keep always in your hearts Jesus’ Words:

“I am the Bread of Life.” I am the Light of the World.”

“I am the Good Shepherd.” “I am the Vine... you are the branches.”

May God bless you always!

With gratitude, love, and prayers,

Sister María Carmen Fernández-Aldudo (R.A.D.)