



# LOURDES ACADEMY

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK – MAY 27, 2011  
THE END AND THE BEGINNING

I can't believe this year is coming to an end. It seems like just yesterday that I was telling Fr. Phil I didn't want to work in an elementary school. He still doesn't know why he called to ask me to interview, and I still don't know why I said yes! Two years earlier, when Dr. Tattner approached me to interview for her position, I remember being very clear that I wanted to stay at Fr. Lopez. I had just been promoted to Assistant Principal and was excited to work in our brand-new school. There was no part of me that was ready to be a Principal, and I knew it. Last year, when Fr. Phil asked me to interview, something made me agree, though half-heartedly.

I remember coming here to tour the school. Fr. Phil took me down to the E.C.C. and by the time we were on our way back to the big school, I had decided to apply for the job. I don't know how it happened, but I have a feeling it was the sweet smiles on our tiniest students that did me in. While it was difficult for me to end my time at Father Lopez, it was incredibly exciting to begin my new adventure at Lourdes. Here I am already at the end of my first year, and the little ones still have me wrapped around their pint-sized fingers!

The end of the year is a time of great joy for students and teachers as we enjoy some rest after a long school year. Rather quickly however, the excitement builds for the beginning of the new school year. Classrooms get decorated, school supplies are purchased, and anticipation grows as the new adventure of another beginning gets close.

In life, we experience many endings and beginnings, but the biggest of these are death and birth. Thanks to Jesus Christ, we are assured that as we end our time on earth, we will begin our life with the Father. In John 3:16, we read "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Even death is not an ending. The seasons are my favorite metaphor for the cycle of ends and beginnings. I love how fall and winter with their dead and dying trees turn into spring and summer full of green and flowers. It's cliché, but it helps me understand.

As I watch our eighth grade students end their time at Lourdes, I will be sad to see them go... and I will cry openly and unashamedly at graduation! I recall, though, that another word for graduation is "commencement" when children begin to use what we've taught them in new ways and new places. I don't have to like the end, but in August, I will meet new children in the Early Childhood Center, and the cycle will begin anew.

I thank you, the Lourdes Academy family, for making my beginning so wonderful. Thank you for staying with me during rough starts and stalls. I am looking forward already to our next beginning on August 18. God bless and keep you over the summer.