

The Reverend Gabriel D. Stack, O.Praem., Ed.D..
St. Michael's Preparatory School
19292 El Toro Road
Silverado, California 92676-9710

Dear Fr. Gabriel,

Three years ago our oldest son first came to St. Michael's Preparatory School at the age of twelve to take entrance examinations. It was with great difficulty that my husband and I faced the possibility of sending Nicholas away to school. His educational experience up to that point had been home schooling with his eight siblings. Although Nicholas was progressing in his studies, we felt he was capable of accomplishing more in an effort to prepare for his future.

At that time Nicholas tested low on examinations and we were advised to test again the following year. I received this news with mixed emotions. I was happy to know that I didn't have to sacrifice time with my son, but I still had to face the challenging demand of providing a sound education for him and his brothers and sisters. Prayerfully we went on for two more years, but by the end of the first semester in ninth grade, I became increasingly aware of my limitations and Nicholas' capabilities. We returned to St. Michael's for repeat examinations and this time Nicholas scored well. Again we prayerfully proceeded and that brings me to the reason I am writing to you today.

Nicholas has been attending St. Michael's Preparatory School now for approximately four months. We are so pleased with his progress. He is working harder than he has ever worked in his life. He is growing stronger in his faith. He is given the wonderful example of the priests and fraters who inspire him to live virtuously. He is motivated to do his best and he is thankful to God for the great blessing of attending this school. We are so happy we made the decision to send Nicholas to St. Michael's. All the priests, religious, instructors, students, and secretaries who work together to make the school so successful have become a special intention in all our family prayers.

We are humbled by the generosity of the priests and instructors who work patiently and tirelessly with all the boys and the people who donated their time and/or money to the Gala which St. Michael's held in October of this year. As I look back over the years of my experience in home schooling and caring for a large family, I remember many instances when I felt over whelmed with work. I would wonder how I was going to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Then interiorly I would say, "Jesus, I trust in You." St. Michael's Preparatory School has truly been an answer to my prayers.

Thank you, Fr. Gabriel, St. Michael's is everything you said it would be and so much more.

Sincerely,



Cathy and Paul Porretta