



Today is an important milestone in the lives of your children and also in your lives as parents and grandparents.

Childhood, however brief, forms a person's character and lays the foundation for the future. The greatest and most important lessons are learned during this time.

You have given your children the love, care, and the environment so they can become the people they're meant to be. If there is one thing that helps all of us to succeed and fulfill our missions in life, it's faith and spiritual richness. Your children have come this morning filled with anticipation and joy to make their first conscious decision to join this community of the faithful. It is our responsibility as their parents, family, and educators to support them and encourage them to grow mentally, physically and spiritually.

At Conchita they will be beginning a most challenging and exciting period. As pre-adolescents and adolescents, they will grow from elementary to upper elementary and middle school and from a position of young children to leaders in their school. These are vital and important years where children develop their sense of self, independence, responsibility, loyalty, and develop the traits of service and leadership by example.

The next time we gather to celebrate an important milestone will be four years from now at their 8th grade graduation mass.

May the Holy Spirit bless us with the wisdom to guide our young. May the light of Jesus shine forever in their hearts. And may God, the Father, bless us all.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael G. Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.