

THE MONDAY LETTER

March 8, 2010

Whatever you are, be a good one. ~ Abraham Lincoln

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS we've celebrated significant accomplishments in our beautiful **Joan B. Kroc Theatre**. We recognized the accomplishments of our young performing artists during the **Rock the Kroc Recitals** for dance, voice, piano and guitar. We're grateful to all of our instructors for their tireless investment into the lives of our students: **Rebecca Bauman-Inglis, Daniel Crawford, Hanan Jammal, AnnaLisa Lauer-Hansing, Spencer Powell, Siobhan Sullivan** and **Brian Whelan**.

We also enjoyed the second annual production of **Broadway Spectacular!** What made this year's show spectacular was the number of performances that were directed and choreographed by the young members of our **Verge Theatre** group. Congratulations on a job well done.



RECENTLY, THE KIDS WHO PARTICIPATE IN GOOD SPORTS had a bible lesson entitled "Be an Inspiration" based upon the teaching of Hebrews 10:24, "Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds." Shortly after their lesson the four girls in the class had an opportunity to go ice skating – two of them clinging to the wall, two of them gliding across the ice like pros. It didn't take long for the two who could to help the two who were learning, and the girls spent an hour talking, laughing and encouraging each other.

Sometime during their skate, one of our skate guards also stepped in to help. The far end of the ice was cordoned off by cones for a class. In short, there was no wall to hold for the 85 foot crossing from one side to the next. Enter one of our skate guards. She wasn't present for the bible lesson, but she lived it – helping our two emerging skaters cross the great divide.

THIS STORY ILLUSTRATES AN IMPORTANT LESSON WE MUST EMBRACE. But more than embrace, it must be inculcated into the fabric of our character and culture:

We contribute to each other through a diversity of functions
that provide for a rich social unity.

An unfortunate by-product of our contemporary culture is a strong notion that it's us against them. This notion has existed since before the first century, predominantly rears its ugliness in our work relationships, and is reinforced by organizational charts: front-line versus management, management versus owners, owners versus stockholders – etc. It segregates, separates and divides. It creates distrust.

It's time to replace this old, destructive, counterproductive notion with a not-so-new idea. We need each other. We are all stakeholders in the great enterprise of humanity. We are enriched by each other. We are interdependent, intercommunicating and in community. We are appointed by God to service and dignified as God's inheritance. (Stevens)

Be an inspiration. Think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.

In Jesus,

