

February 21,2021

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of St. Alphonsus School. As I read again the history which James Kominowski wrote for the hundredth anniversary of St. Alphonsus Parish, the image of a tree came to mind. A tree must be planted and behind the planting there must be a purpose. The purpose was to provide a catholic school for the education of the children in the parish. Many hands were involved in the planting; it was a community endeavour made up of a group of faith filled Parishioners and a Pastor who did the ground work.

Today we see a tree that took hold and grew, spreading its branches outward and upward , growing still. The growth can be attributed to the nurturing received over these one hundred years .I had the privilege of participating in this growth while serving as Principal .Looking back to those years 1978-1985 I have memories of a community who collectively were the people responsible for the nurturing that has brought St. Alphonsus School to this year of celebration: the Teaching and Support Staff; the St. Alphonsus School Board ;the Pastor and Associates ; the Parents and Volunteers ; the Catholic Women's League ; the Knights of Columbus ; the River East School Board ; the Children / Students .

When we look at a tree we see only the outside but science tells us that there is a lot of activity going on inside the tree .When we look at the school we see the outside but there is a lot going on inside .The photos displayed for your school anniversary give some idea of the activities that nourish you as a school community. They show me that St. Alphonsus School is a happy place and that you all have a part in its continued growth. May our loving God bless St. Alphonsus School with continued growth into the future.

Sister Mary Lou Harris CSJ