



My name is Diane Spencer and I am the mother of five Caritas students. At least one of them has been here since the first year, beginning in the fall of 2001. We have been a homeschooling family and Caritas was an unexpected provision for the education of our children and came about through the prayers, sacrifices and diligence of two families, the Bleeckers and the Lams. As they waited on the Lord, He gathered a teaching staff and parents willing to send their children to Caritas in a remarkably short amount of time. Trinity Church in Bolton gave Caritas a place to be born. On the evening when the elders voted to let Caritas use Trinity's building, there was a spontaneous laying on of hands, commissioning Tim Bleecker and Tom Lam to take up godly leadership roles at Caritas, and offering a blessing from God our Father for the beginning of our school.

Caritas has been a place of possibility for students who have come through our doors--students are encouraged to attempt more than they think they can. Art, music and drama are very important aspects of a Caritas education and are definitely areas that stretch young people and increase their confidence. I have seen the benefits with my own children. There is an atmosphere of camaraderie that blurs the barriers of age in a school that includes the eighth through the twelfth grade. The small class size provides an opportunity for students and teachers to get to know each other in a special way. And most importantly, we are thankful for a school where Jesus Christ is honored and welcomed in our midst.

We cannot forget what happened just a few days after Caritas opened its doors, on that beautiful eleventh day of September in 2001. This was a real baptism by fire for the beginning of a small Christian high school, considering the financial reverberations of that day. And yet, eight years later, Caritas is still here and continuing to grow, even through international financial setbacks. I have served on the board for the previous six years and I have seen some very lean financial times and gaping needs for teachers in order to begin a new school year—and then my faith was strengthened time and again by seeing all of these needs met by our providential God.

Right now, the Lord is providing for us abundantly in the person of Lisa Sequeira, who faithfully stepped into the position of interim headmaster, to guide the school through to the end of our eighth year, as the board and many parents prayerfully seek out a new headmaster for the next stage in Caritas Academy's history.

God fulfills the educational needs of our children in many ways. Some here are homeschooling their children, some have children in public schools, even others have a stake in a different private school—and some are here without children of their own and are very committed to supporting Christian education at Caritas and elsewhere. Let me thank you all for your interest in and support of Caritas—God has worked through you over the years and the fact that you are here tonight shows that He is continuing to do so.