



February 7, 2019

Dear Holy Spirit Community,

As I create the video of our 2018 5K Spirit Run, I can't help but smile and become filled with emotion as I look over all the wonderful photos of the students, parents, teachers, faculty, parishioners and our own Father O'Donohue coming out to Lake Accotink as a Holy Spirit Community. Although we had to post-pone the race due to weather, we all came together that June morning and 157 runners and walkers crossed that finish line as they were being cheered on by their family and friends. It was a blessing to be part of that Spirit Run morning.

We hold this 5K every year so we can continue to financially support and grow in our ability to serve all families who choose a Catholic Education for their child. We could not do that without the financial support of the Holy Spirit Community. We raised over \$14,000, which went directly to our resource budget. The money we raised went into increasing the hours of our reading specialist and bringing in another part-time paraprofessional who helps in the classroom as well as works in small reading groups to assist students who need reading support. The resource program at Holy Spirit School also continues to support over 30 students in our school who need resource assistance in the areas of ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and other special needs.

Last year Bishop Burbidge and the Diocese of Arlington produced a video called "Porto Charities: Integrating Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Arlington Catholic Schools," which recognizes the value of inclusion in our Catholic Schools and acknowledges Porto Charities for their generous grants which help support inclusion in Catholic Schools, including Holy Spirit School. I urge you to take 5 minutes to watch the video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_GKAqi\\_Ol4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_GKAqi_Ol4). It is truly a blessing for Holy Spirit that because of grants, donations, and the money from the Spirit Run we can be truly inclusive in our Catholic education.

This year's date for our 5K Spirit Run is May 18, 2019 at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield. As always, our goal is not only financial, but it is also to continue to raise awareness of our special education program at Holy Spirit School. There are many ways you can help. Register for the race or buy a t-shirt at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Springfield/flamesspiritrun>, become a sponsor or make a donation, pass our donation letter to a friend or business, or encourage your child to enter the t-shirt design contest. I will give house points to every middle student who enters a design!

This year's theme is "**Love one another because love is from God.**" Please watch the 2018 Race Video on the Holy Spirit School website and on our Facebook page and I hope it makes you smile. It truly shows the love we have for one another and that love truly does come from God.

Hope to see you on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Lake Accotink! Go Flames!

Blessings,

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