



From Mr. Stoltenow's heart

Hi! My name is Curt Stoltenow. I served on the teaching staff at TLO from 1967 to 1984. I was invited to share some thoughts at the recent celebration of TLO School's 140 years of ministry. As is often the case when a speaker sits down after sharing, additional comments come to mind which could / should have been included in the message. I have one.

I referenced how special it was to have received the support, encouragement and the forgiveness for my shortcomings which the congregation gave me during my years at Trinity. I was a rookie teacher/principal, fresh out of the Army and a recent graduate from Concordia College in St. Paul. I knew only what my college courses tried to teach me about being a teacher/principal

I also shared how much my wife and I appreciated the mentoring which parents, both those who had children in the school, and those whose children were not in the school, gave to us. We, as all new parents experience, knew little or nothing about being a husband and a wife, and a dad and a mom. Again, the solid families of the congregation showed us how marriage and parenting should look.

My purpose in sharing this is not only to acknowledge the importance of the aforementioned support, encouragement and forgiveness which we received, but also to encourage you, the members of this vibrant church and school, to offer the same to your current staff and their families. God calls and prepares workers to labor in His field. He also calls you to share in that labor by walking hand-in-hand with them; uplifting them in difficult situations; showing appreciation for their efforts, even when the results may not be what you expected; inviting them to share in your lives so that you can be a team whose members really know each other. **PRAY FOR AND WITH THEM!**

Our years at TLO prepared us to move on into areas of ministry which our Lord has blessed. I pray His blessings on you as you continue to use those blessings in your service to Him and His Church.