



## *St. Genevieve High School*

March 19, 2013

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,

For our annual spring musical, the St. Genevieve drama department and I have chosen the award-winning play, *Cabaret*. Prior to making this choice, we spent hours discussing the pros and cons as well as the lessons to be learned from staging this particular show.

During the past month, we have received calls, post cards, and letters asking us to pull the show. The majority of this opposition has been from people who are not affiliated with our school. In recent weeks, we have begun to receive more letters in support of the show, mainly from people who know our school and are familiar with our past performances.

Never did any of us imagine that there would be such controversy about our choice to perform *Cabaret*. Every member of the St. Genevieve faculty and staff view themselves as campus ministers in partnership with our Church—a Church of life.

Above all else—before academics, athletics, or the arts—we hold dear our duty to nurture the spirit of every child so that their experience at our school is one in which they encounter the spirit of Jesus Christ each and every day. We value and promote Catholic Church values and moral teachings; in fact, our highly regarded program in Character Education ensures that every member of our staff shares the responsibility of the moral development of all St. Genevieve students.

The extent to which we prize human dignity is clearly revealed in the relationships shared by our students and staff members. When students were polled in November 2012 about what they like best about St. Genevieve High School, the most frequent response was that they feel respected by their fellow students and staff. When visited in November by a five-member accrediting team representing the Western Catholic Education Association, our school received high marks in all areas of accreditation, with our strongest area being our Catholic Identity.

When we made the decision to present *Cabaret*, we certainly recognized that the play deals with serious and controversial issues. However, we also recognized its value in educating our teenagers to make positive and moral decisions in their own lives.

While some of the scenes take place in a nightclub, and some of the characters make immoral choices, it is important to note that due to these situations and behaviors, ***Cabaret does not have a happy ending.*** In fact, one of the main lessons of the play is that frivolous lifestyles and immoral choices have serious and lasting consequences.

One of the great lessons of our Church is that every life matters. Every life, regardless of how it is lived has value, and every person has a story. We are using the characters' lives to teach our students to respect life, to value above all their own God-given lives. *Cabaret* does not celebrate immorality; it is a cautionary tale about the dangers of immorality. (continued)

13967 Roscoe Boulevard  
Panorama City, CA 91402-4299  
P: 818.894.6417 F: 818.892.9853  
W: <http://valiantspirit.com>

Some modern interpretations of Cabaret can be found online. Some of the online scenes have been highly sexualized with raunchy costuming. It is necessary to note that our interpretation is not comparable to some of the explicit scenes found online.

Our staging of this play will be thoughtful and in good taste. Immediately following the show, our director is planning to have the student-actors address the audience to talk about the personal insights they have gained and the lessons they have learned.

Prior to the show, we will involve our entire student body in discussions regarding the seriousness of the issues raised by the play as well as the consequences of the characters' choices.

I believe that those of you who choose to see this production will be both pleased and impressed with our presentation. I look forward to seeing you at the show.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Horn  
Principal