



395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

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*Dear Friends,*

*“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”  
-St. Francis of Assisi*

As the holy season of Advent begins and we look forward in hope and love to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we, at Kolbe Academy, **are** full of hope! Our wish is that this letter, like a single candle, will bring you that same light of hope.

In a year that has tested all of our hopes and dreams, we have proudly seen our students face their struggles head-on. They continue to succeed and grow, and they, in turn, inspire us to be strong as well. We continue to remain open for full-time, in-person learning so that our students can receive the love, compassion, structure, and friendship they missed for so long. While things are different, what is most important is that we are together and our students are happy about that.

You may know that student recovery only proceeds successfully with the unflinching support that complements what happens in the classroom. To this end, weekly individual and group counseling sessions remain a cornerstone of the Kolbe Academy program. Our students continue to hear directly from people in long-term recovery who share their inspirational stories with them. We have also been networking in the community to create fun, sober, social, learning activities after school. Together, we have been go-kart racing, fishing, crocheting, cooking and even participated in a Hollywood movie as extras! In recovery school language, these are called Alternative Peer Groups or APG activities and they are another critical part of the Kolbe Academy experience. In addition, we have successfully launched our Career Awareness Program this fall to introduce the trades to one of our Kolbe graduates.

What we would most like you to know and appreciate is that our students are not isolated or alone. They are not overlooked or discouraged. They are here, where they can be themselves and share their God-given gifts and talents and come to know and follow God’s plan for their lives. Students have told us that Kolbe Academy saved their lives this year. Clearly, hope is being restored for our students and for their families.

You have made these and so many other blessings possible this past year. Your prayers and support give us hope and allow Kolbe Academy to be a light in the darkness, serving the needs of students with substance use disorder. You are our candles; and we are deeply, profoundly touched by your support for our mission.

In that spirit of hope, and on behalf of our students, I humbly ask for your continued prayers as well as for your financial support in our second Annual Fund Appeal. This appeal is a transition year to the fall for us and will occur each fall going forward. We hope to raise \$105,000 this year with this appeal. We know this is a daunting endeavor, but we believe our students are worth it. We also know things are different right now in the world. So, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider helping us, as you are able. All gifts, no matter the size, have a profound impact on our community.

On behalf of our students and staff, we assure you of our continued prayers and extend our sincerest wish for a joyful Advent and a blessed Christmas.

With warm regards,

*John P. Petruzzelli*  
Principal

*Arielle M. Kaminski*  
Director of Advancement

*P.S You will find a reply card below to use for your convenience, or you can safely donate online at [www.kolbe-academy.com/give](http://www.kolbe-academy.com/give). Thank you for giving us hope and for being a light in the darkness!*



Yes, I want to support Kolbe Academy!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, sign me up for email communications!

*Let us know if your donation is in honor of someone, or if you have any special intentions we can pray for!*



Thank you!

**Checks are payable to Kolbe Academy.  
Submit your donation online at:  
[www.kolbe-academy.com/give](http://www.kolbe-academy.com/give)**