Howdy!

I hope this letter finds you well and excited for a great year at OLG! This school year marks my 9th year of teaching middle school Religion at Our Lady of Grace. While my position at OLG certainly helps put bread on the table and pay off the bills, I can honestly say that the reason I'm teaching religion is because I feel like it's what God has called me to do. Lucky for me, I get to spend time laughing, praying, and learning with amazing kids each and every day!

Each year I tell my students what goals I have as their Religion teacher. Every year they are always the same:

1. To help you become the saint God has called you to be.
2. To teach you a TON about our awesome Catholic faith.

In essence, I want all of my students (and myself!) to become "BIG-TIME SAINTS" and "MINI-THEOLOGIANS"!

Please keep my students and I in your prayers this year and know that you and your family will be in mine as well.

In Christ,
Greg Aitchison

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The following is a run-down of the main units covered during 7th and 8th grade Religion.

1. **1st Days of School** – Outlining our Religion class goals and discovering how to best accomplish them.
2. **The Bible Ditty** – Exploring the basic makeup of the Bible and memorizing all 73 books in order through a fun song and dance.
3. **Biblical Basics** – An overview of the Bible’s makeup and development, how it’s meant to be read, and its relevance for us today.
4. **Memory Verses** – Memorizing 10 Scripture passages and discovering the spiritual riches they provide for daily Christian living.
5. **Church History** – A look at the most significant events of history (His-Story) from creation to today.
6. **Family Life** – Seeing the importance of family relationships and friendships in light of a thoroughly Catholic definition of love.
7. **Diagnosing the Culture** - Examining the American worldview and popular culture in light of the teachings of Christ.
8. **The Existence of God** – Learning 10 arguments for the existence of God and how to respond to the most common counter-arguments given today.
9. **Jesus** – Delving into the life, death, and resurrection of the most loved, hated, and misunderstood person in all of human history.
10. **The Saints** – Examining the lives of some of the Church’s most famous saints and our own call to holiness.
11. **Catholic Social Teaching** – An overview of the Church’s social principles and how to apply them to our own lives.
12. **The Theology of the Body** – The Church’s teachings on love, relationships, and chastity through St. John Paul the Great’s *Theology of the Body.*
13. **Extras** – Bible Booyas, Christian Ear Snacks, Examining Pop Culture, Quote Dogs, Yay Gods, Service Hours, Reconciliation, Holy Days & Seasons, 7th Grade Courage Retreat, 8th Grade Lifeline Retreat.