



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

AUGUST 16, 2019

Pause and Ponder

Beginning the new school year under the theme, "Believe and see the glory of God," requires two attributes in each of us – faith and vision. In the miracles described in the Gospel of Saint John, persons who were blessed by the miracle had deep faith in Jesus. They trusted him and his word; they knew that what he spoke would indeed happen. Furthermore, these miracle recipients and other witnesses were people of vision. They saw beyond the physical encounter and recognized that Jesus could not only address their physical needs but also their spiritual issues.

As Catholic educators we need to approach our sacred work with faith and vision. We need to believe that we are the instruments of the Lord and through our ministry those whom we encounter will be able to recognize Jesus as teacher, healer, friend, and God.

Are we ready for the start of the new school year?

Let Us Pray

- + for **new teachers** responding to the Lord's invitation to serve in Catholic schools
- + for **students** beginning a new school year, may they grow in wisdom, age, and grace this year

Catholic Identity

The Gospel According to John, fourth of the four New Testament narratives recounting the life and death of Jesus Christ, is the only one of the four not considered among the Synoptic Gospels (i.e., those presenting a common view). John's Gospel differs from the Synoptic Gospels in several ways: it covers a different time span than the others; it locates much of Jesus' ministry in Judaea; and it portrays Jesus discoursing at length on theological matters. The major difference, however, lies in John's overall purpose. The author of John's Gospel tells us that he has chosen not to record many of the symbolic acts of Jesus and has instead included certain episodes in order that his readers may understand and share in the mystical union of Christ's church, that they "may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name" (20:30). Because of its special theological character, the Gospel according to John was considered in ancient times to be the "spiritual Gospel," and it wielded a profound and lasting influence on the development of early Christian doctrine.

Encyclopaedia Britannica

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 18	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday, August 19	CSO Staff Meeting	9:30 am	
Tuesday, August 20	<i>St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church</i>		
	PowerSchool Administrators' Virtual Meeting	9:30 am	
Wednesday, August 21	<i>St. Pius X, Pope</i>		
	PowerTeacher Pro Virtual Meetings		
	-----For New Teachers	9:30 am	
	-----For Returning Teachers	1:00 pm	
Thursday August 22	<i>Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
Friday, August 23	<i>St. Rose of Lima, Virgin</i>		
Saturday, August 24	<i>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i>		
	Bishop's 5K Run/Walk	9:00 am	Glasgow Park
Sunday, August 25	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time		

Action Required

APB on Missing Book! – At the Administrators' meeting last Tuesday, someone received Dr. De Angelo's copy of the book, *Fresh Eyes on Jesus' Miracles*, which was distributed to each administrator. You'll know if it was given to you in error because there is highlighting throughout it. Please return the book and a new copy will be provided to you. Thanks!

Attention Needed

Spirituality Day (August 26) – We look forward to celebrating Spirituality Day with you on Monday, August 26, at Saint Mark's High School. Please assist us in "shepherding" the 600+ educators who will be with us so that the program progresses on time. Following the event, the registration roster will be forwarded to each principal so that the information may be recorded on the School Catechetical Certification Record.

Health Office News – Please review this information and share it with your school nurse.

- **Physical exams** – Students in Grades K and 9 (DE) and in Grades K, 7, and 9 (MD) are required by their respective state's Department of Health to have physical exams. All new entry students in any other grade are required to have physical exams.
- **Immunizations** – Immunizations are not in conflict with Catholic teaching. Therefore, Catholic schools will provide only for medical exemptions from immunizations. There are no religious or parental-preference exemptions granted in Catholic schools. To request a medical exemption, parents must obtain and complete the appropriate documentation available from the school nurse. All new students entering school must acquire the appropriate immunizations on the specified timeline.

School Emergencies – When emergencies occur in a school, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) should be notified as soon as possible so that the CSO can inform the Chancery and the Communications Office. It is undesirable for the CSO to learn about a school emergency through news

reports, a parent phone call or e-mail, a Facebook posting, or not at all. Thank you for your cooperation in this request. If you do not receive a response in calling the CSO, call Dr. De Angelo's cell phone (610-908-2667).

School Communications – Please add the following persons to your communication distribution list, if not already included.

- Dr. Louis P. De Angelo – Ideangelo@cdow.org
- Carol Ripken – cripken@cdow.org
- Mary Filippone – mfilippone@cdow.org

Newsworthy Information

Mark Your Calendar – The Sophia Institute Workshop, a full-day, rich content and experience inservice for PreK-12 educators, at no cost to participants, will be held **Friday, March 20**. Space is always limited so plan early to attend. Registration information will be communicated, when available.

Reasons to Celebrate

Welcome New Teachers! – This past week the Diocese of Wilmington welcomed approximately 35 new teachers into our Catholic schools. New Teacher Orientation Day was a successful endeavor in familiarizing them with the Diocese of Wilmington, the mission of Catholic school education, catechetical certification, state licensing and certification, and professionalism. Among the group were three new teachers whose mothers currently teach in Catholic schools, as well as a number of new teachers who attended a Catholic elementary or high school as a student in the Diocese of Wilmington. We wish the new teachers many blessings as they begin this most important ministry in the Church.

Upcoming Celebrations! – See the information provided about the 50th Anniversary of Saint Mark's High School and the blessing of new buildings at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish and Christ the Teacher Catholic School. Please join in celebrating these events with your colleagues and their respective school communities.

***Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander. He got involved.
Don't stand aloof, but immerse yourselves in the reality of life, as Jesus did.
Pope Francis***