

Believe and see the glory of God.



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

AUGUST 9, 2019

Pause and Ponder

Miracles! One dictionary definition explains a miracle as “a highly improbable or extraordinary event, development, or accomplishment that brings very welcome consequences.” Some people await great miraculous events such as illnesses healed, families reunited, marriages restored, debts resolved, and other situations settled that may seem improbable to imagine. While these miracles do happen, there are a number of less obvious miracles that may be overlooked in our lives or attributed to coincidence, luck, or science.

This year our focus will be on miracles – not only on the signs (miracles) found in the Gospel of Saint John or major life circumstances that are settled, but also on the small miracles that happen around us every day. We only need to look with the eyes of faith and see God’s glory in each of them.

Let Us Pray

- + for the **August intention of Pope Francis**: that families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly “schools of true human growth”
- + for **administrators, teachers, and staff** preparing to begin a new school year: that they may lead students and themselves to **BELIEVE, LEARN, SERVE, LEAD, and SUCCEED**

Catholic Identity

Catholic Checklist for the Classroom – As we prepare for the start of a new school year, our Catholic culture is not only *taught*, but also *caught*. The classroom environment is important in communicating our Catholic culture.

- Is there a crucifix and image of Mary in every classroom and meeting space?
- Does one bulletin board reflect the theme of this school year (*Believe and see the glory of God.*) in every classroom?
- Is a Bible enthroned in every classroom?
- Do other items in the classroom speak of our Catholic faith – holy water, rosary, statues or images of saints, stories of faith, prayer books, etc.?
- Is the school’s mission statement posted prominently in every classroom and meeting space?

Now is the time to set the expectation for the visible reminders of Catholic culture found throughout the school.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 11	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday, August 12	CSO Staff Meeting (9:30-11:30 am every Monday)		
Tuesday, August 13	Administrators' Meeting	9:30 am	St. Joseph, Middletown
Wednesday, August 14	<i>St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr</i>		
Thursday, August 15	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
	New Teacher Orientation Day	9:00 am	Christ the Teacher
Sunday, August 18	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time		

Action Required

Administrators' Meeting (August 13) – The August Administrators' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, at St. Joseph Parish Center, Middletown, DE. Morning refreshments will be available after 9:00 am; the meeting will begin at 9:30 am. Please bring with you to the meeting one copy of your student/family handbook for the CSO file. High schools administrators are asked to bring one copy of your course catalog for the CSO file.

At the meeting you will receive the listing of honorees to be printed in the Spirituality Day program for those celebrating anniversaries. You will be asked to review your school's listing one final time before the program is sent to the printer. Please bring your list of school honorees with you to confirm the program booklet listing.

Attention Needed

Principal's Notes – Each week the CSO staff seeks to provide information in a concise manner pertinent to faith formation, academic rigor, and the operation of our Catholic schools. Please take the time to review the weekly memo and share information, as appropriate, with board members, faculty, staff, and families. You are welcome to copy or edit information from *Principal's Notes* for your use.

CSO Office – With the departure of Sr. William Adele, SSJ, Assistant Superintendent, and Dave Bruno, Technology Coordinator, the staff of the Catholic Schools Office is greatly diminished in staffing at this time. Finances allow only the position of Technology Coordinator to be hired and the position has been posted.

In addition, the CSO intranet is not working properly since it was recently transitioned to a new version of WordPress this past week. This situation, which affects not only housed documents but also position postings, is being addressed. If you cannot access particular information from the CSO intranet, please contact Ann Stevenson and it will be forwarded to you.

Your patience is genuinely appreciated as we seek to address these issues.

NCEA Logo (revised) – The NCEA logo (revised) is provided for your use throughout the school year. This logo differs slightly from the official NCEA logo because we added the verb "BELIEVE" to the list. Feel free to incorporate both the NCEA logo (revised) in print communications with faculty, staff, parents, and benefactors and to refer to it in conversations and presentations when describing our Catholic schools. The five verbs provide a succinct "elevator speech" about the importance and value of Catholic school education.

Newsworthy Information

Bishop's 5K – Information is provided about the Bishop's 5K Run/Walk to support Catholic Charities. This event is an excellent opportunity to support the work of the Church in the Diocese of Wilmington. Consider forwarding the flyer to your school community.

Bloodbank of Delmarva – The Diocese of Wilmington has been asked to urgently support the lifesaving mission of the Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD). Hospital patients in all 19 of the hospitals in Delmarva rely on blood that is donated to BBD. This means that over 84,000 units of blood and platelets need to be donated by volunteer donors to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply. The Diocese of Wilmington continues its commitment to supporting BBD and we ask that you prayerfully consider hosting a blood drive at your location this year. If interested in hosting a blood drive, please contact Marie Forrestal (Mforrestal@nybc.org).

Reasons to Celebrate

Staff Spotlight! – Do you have a staff member who has distinguished her/himself in some way? If so, the CSO wishes to recognize the person's accomplishment/achievement/service. Please forward to Dr. De Angelo (Ideangelo@cdow.org) a brief (2-3 sentences) description about the staff member and include the person's e-mail address.

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"
John 11:40