



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

JANUARY 3, 2020

Pause and Ponder

January – Jesus Feeds 5000 Plus Women and Children (John 6:1-15)

Virtuous Action – Giving of All One Has

We begin 2020 reminded by this month's Gospel focus that we are called to take, bless, and share as Jesus did in feeding the 5000+. This miracle highlights that whatever is given in love will become more than enough for those in need.

Our virtuous action for the month invites us to offer all that we have and all that we are, as did the young boy in this month's Gospel. Like the Apostles in the Gospel, we may doubt that what we have will be enough or that we are up to the task. However, as the Lord demonstrates, that which is freely given and blessed becomes more than sufficient, even surplus, to the demand.

Let us start this month and this new year resolving each day in prayer to offer ourselves to the Lord for whatever He needs. Then, just watch for miracles to occur!

Let Us Pray

- + for a happy, healthy, and holy 2020 for **students, parents, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni/ae** and **benefactors** of Catholic school education
- + for the **January intention of Pope Francis – Promotion of World Peace**: We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world
- + for **St. Peter Cathedral School** and the **Daughters of Charity** celebrating a patronal day on Saturday, January 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- + for **Saint Edmond's Academy** and the **Congregation of the Holy Cross** celebrating a patronal day on Monday, January 6 – St. Andre Bessette
- + for **Mount Aviat Academy** and the **Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales** celebrating a patronal day on Friday, January 10 – St. Leonie Aviat

Catholic Identity

Christmas Season – The Christmas season continues through Sunday, January 12, the Baptism of the Lord. We help students understand the difference between Advent and Christmas by continuing to celebrate the Christmas season through its conclusion. School and classroom decorations of the season should remain in place until the concluding feast of the season. Continue to enjoy the Christmas season!

We have an opportunity at the conclusion of the Christmas season or the beginning of Ordinary Time to remind students of their Baptism and to celebrate it in prayer. Don't miss this opportunity!

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, January 1	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God		
	New Year's Day		
Thursday, January 2	<i>Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church</i>		
Saturday, January 4	<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>		
Sunday, January 5	Epiphany of the Lord		
Monday, January 6	<i>St. Andre Bessette, Religious</i>		
	CSO Staff Meeting	9:30 am	
Wednesday, January 8	Scholars Reception @ Archmere Academy		
Thursday, January 9	Year 2 Mentoring Meeting	4:00 pm	All Saints
Friday, January 10	<i>St. Leonie Aviat, Religious</i>		
	Administrators' Meeting	9:30 am	La Casa Pasta
Saturday, January 12	Admissions Decisions Announced by Diocesan and Parish High Schools		
Sunday, January 13	Baptism of the Lord		
	Scholars Reception @ Ursuline Academy		

Action Required

Administrators' Meeting – The Administrators' meeting on **Friday, January 10**, at La Casa Pasta begins at 9:30 am. Morning refreshments, sponsored by Saint Francis Hospital (Cathy Weaver) will be available after 9:00 am. Lunch will be sponsored by Rush Uniform, Inc., (Michael and Winnie Rush). We appreciate the generosity of these business partners.

Please read Chapters 3 and 4 of *Fresh Eyes on Jesus' Miracles* for our book discussion.

Administrator Intent Form – Parish, regional, and diocesan Principals will receive information regarding the 2020-2021 Administrator Intent Form. Updated information will be forwarded to Principals, posted on the CSO Intranet, and copied to Pastors during the week of January 6. The Administrator Intent Form, signed by both the Pastor and Principal, will be due by **Friday, January 31**.

SchoolMessenger – It has come to our attention that some families have not been receiving text message from their children's schools. If families have not "opted in" to SchoolMessenger, giving permission for schools to contact them via SchoolMessenger, the system will not send the message via text. This message applies only to any phone numbers that have not "opted in" previously.

Please inform families that sometime in the next week they may receive a text message from short code 67587. The message will read, ""Your school's text alerts. Reply Y to confirm, HELP for information. Message and data rates may apply." If they wish to receive text messages, they should "opt in" by replying "Y." If they choose not to "opt in" by not answering the text, they will not receive any text messages their school sends via SchoolMessenger.

Advancement Seminar – In the fall Advancement / Admissions / Marketing Directors participated in a worthwhile afternoon related to their responsibilities offered by Megan Famular, consultant for the Healey Education Foundation. At its conclusion participants requested another session to meet and share ideas. A winter seminar for elementary and secondary school leaders in Advancement / Admissions / Marketing will be held **Wednesday, January 15**, at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Center, Newark, DE. The Healey Education Foundation will sponsor lunch at 12:00 noon followed by a presentation, "Communicating Your Mission Across Generations." Shana Rossi, Advancement Director at Padua Academy and Partners in Mission consultant, will offer the presentation. (Last year Mrs. Rossi offered this presentation to school administrators.) Discussion will follow the presentation. The Board of Catholic Schools and the Catholic Schools Office encourage the participation of your school's Advancement / Admissions / Marketing Directors or representatives of your school in this meeting and idea exchange. Register at the link below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DOW_Jan15

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – In what way will your school acknowledge the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebrated on **Monday, January 20**? While service is a key theme of the message, you also may wish to address the topic of racism, age-appropriately. For your own understanding of the Church's statement on racism or to share all or portions of the United States' Bishops' document on racism with middle and high school students, read *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the USCCB Pastoral Letter.

Culture of Life Lesson – With the upcoming Rally and March for Life on **Friday, January 24**, administrators are asked to arrange for one lesson from the *Culture of Life Studies Program (CLSP)* to be taught the week leading up to the rally/march to raise awareness about this important cause. The lesson may be taught in any discipline, where appropriate. Resources from the CLSP were distributed to every school last year by the Respect Life Committee and may also be found at www.cultureoflifestudies.com.

Attention Needed

A New Decade! – The start of the new year (and decade!) is an opportunity to guide teachers and students to refresh goals, expectations, procedures, and routines. Encourage staff and students to review, revise, and recommit to the mission and business of Catholic education so that we begin with a clean slate for 2020 ready to *Believe, Learn, Serve, Lead, and Succeed*.

January Reflection – The January reflection for faculty and staff is available. If you are not already doing so, perhaps a commitment to using these monthly reflections will keep the diocesan theme, *Believe and see the glory of God*, present for your faculty and staff.

Pass the Word (Secondary Schools) – See the accompanying letter regarding Pass the Word, the annual Diocesan Vocation initiative that seeks to introduce our young men in high school to the possibility of a voca-

tion to the Priesthood through a daylong program with the Bishop, priests, and seminarians. Please note the date – **Wednesday, February 19** – on your school calendar so that your high school does not plan other events that conflict with a young man's opportunity to attend this event.

School Calendar 2020-2021 – The official school calendar will be distributed under separate cover by the end of January. The monthly master calendar (diocesan events, meeting schedules, secondary school graduations) will be distributed by the end of March. Parish, regional, and diocesan school calendars are required to align with the diocesan calendar. The Catholic Schools Office holds the Principal accountable for the integrity of the school calendar. A committee consisting of CPO officers and two secondary school representatives will meet to propose the school calendar.

Student Immunizations – As registrations and re-registrations for 2020-2021 get underway, you are reminded that all students seeking admission to your school are **required** to have appropriate immunizations. This requirement is a health and safety issue for the entire school community.

There are two types of exemptions to immunization requirements – medical and religious – permitted in Delaware and Maryland. If a family provides documentation for a medical exemption to immunization, please review it with your school nurse before an exemption is granted. There is **no religious exemption** for students attending a Catholic school since immunizations are not in conflict with Church teaching. In addition, there is **no parental request exemption** available in Catholic schools. It is important that all schools adhere to this diocesan policy (#5110).

Be sure your school's application for admission includes the requirement for documentation of immunization and the notation that a student is accepted **conditionally** until the documentation is provided.

School Closing/Delay – 'Tis the season! In order for the Catholic Schools Office to have current and accurate information in the event of a school closing or delay due to weather, please add the following contacts to your communication system.

- Catholic Schools Office – 302-573-3133 (voice message)
- Dr. Louis P. De Angelo – 610-908-2667 (voice and/or text message)
- Carol Ripken – 443-540-4299 (voice and/or text message)

National Catholic Schools Week 2020 – CSW '20 is just around the corner – January 26-February 1! Visit NCEA's website to help you plan. This week is a marketing highlight for your school. The events you plan should speak of the five areas celebrated in the theme – ***Catholic Schools: Believe. Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.*** Please look seriously at the week's events to be sure they present the image of your school that you wish to display. Is the week balanced in meeting the five aspects of the theme? Simply repeating the same activities each year because we always do them may not necessarily serve the purpose for which they were originally designed when Catholic Schools Week began in 1974! Be intentional! Be creative! Be Catholic!

The *Dialog* will be looking for interesting and exciting features planned by schools scheduled during Catholic Schools Week. The more the event is **unique to Catholic school education** and **different from the regularly scheduled happenings**, the better the chance it will be newsworthy. Schedule now with Joe Owens, Editor (jowens@thediolog.org), to be sure your CSW '20 event gets coverage!

Noteworthy Information

Vision for the Future (VFTF) – VFTF tuition assistance application information is available through the parish, regional, and diocesan seventeen (17) elementary schools and five (5) high schools. Applications are submitted online to FACTS, an independent agent assigned to evaluate the financial need of those seeking assistance. Low- to middle-income families struggling with tuition expenses are encouraged to apply. For School Year 2020-2021, the deadline to apply is **March 4, 2020**. Please communicate this information to parents/guardians now and regularly over the course of the next few months.

Sophia Institute Workshop – The Sophia Institute Workshop, a full-day workshop rich in content and experience for PreK-12 educators, at no cost to participants, will be held **Friday, March 20** at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Center. Space is always limited so plan early to attend. Registration information may be found at <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/workshops>.

Wellness Program – Please remind staff who receive diocesan medical benefits that the deadline for returning the health physical form to avoid a \$100 monthly fee for benefits in the following year is **March 31, 2020**.

NCEA Convention 2020 – Information has been posted about the NCEA Convention 2020 to be held in the Archdiocese of Baltimore from **Tuesday, April 14, through Thursday, April 16**. Early-bird registration fees are available. Go to <https://www.ncea.org/NCEA2020> for information.

Census 2020 – See the accompanying information about the 2020 Census. Free resources are provided for students in Grade K-12 to participate in this once-in-a-decade event. Don't let your students be left out.

Bearing Witness – Bearing Witness is a program for Catholic-school educators and administrators addressing Jewish-Christian relation, the Holocaust, and Anti-Semitism. It is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in cooperation with the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Bearing Witness* is a recipient of NCEA's 2000 SPICE (Selected Programs for Improving Catholic Education) award.

This year's summer seminar will be held **Monday, July 20, through Thursday, July 23**, at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, PA. The cost for the four-day seminar, including lodging and meals, is \$100 per person (registering before April 30). Expenses will be underwritten by various local Catholic and Jewish foundations. Space is limited so early registration is strongly encouraged for administrators and teachers of students in Grades 7-12. DEEDS hours will be provided to participants.

Reasons to Celebrate

Thank You! – The staff of the Catholic Schools Office is very grateful for the cards and gifts received from our Catholic schools at Christmas. Your kindness to all of us now and throughout the year is always most appreciated. Please be assured of our remembrance of you and your intentions in our prayer at weekly staff meetings.

When we work for God, nothing is small.
St. Leonie Aviat