



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Pause and Ponder

November/December – Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)

Virtuous Action – Helping Others in Need

Reread the healing described in our Gospel this month. A few items of interest emerge. First, notice that Jesus doesn't comment on the man's faith or lack of faith prior to or after the healing. The man shows no sign of faith in Jesus. Apparently, Jesus' healing depends on neither the quality nor quantity of the person's faith.

Second, doesn't it seem strange, especially in this month with Thanksgiving on our minds, that the healed man expressed no gratitude to Jesus? Unlike other passages in Scripture where a person who has been blessed in some way announces what the Lord has done for him, the healed man tries to divest himself from Jesus, if we read further in the passage. Apparently, Jesus actions are freely given with or without gratitude from the recipient.

Finally, with all of the people sitting around the pool at Bethesda, Jesus selected this one man from among many to be healed. Why him? No reason is given in the Scripture passage. Apparently, Jesus doesn't have pre-requisites in determining who will receive the healing gift.

The bottom line is Jesus welcomes us however we are – with or without faith, with or without gratitude, with or without any special characteristics. He accepts us as we are. What a relief for us! This week, let's pause a few times to think about this great gift that Jesus gives us.

Let Us Pray

+ for the **faithful departed** whom we remember in this Month of the Holy Souls

+ for **veterans** whose service to the nation has preserved our freedoms

Catholic Identity

Advent – With a few weeks remaining before the start of Advent (December 1), schools are encouraged to review the school-wide plan for this season which begins the new liturgical year.

- **Theme:** Is there a unified theme that will be present throughout the classrooms and school? Examples would be "Watch and Wait" or "Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus."

- **Image:** Is there a single image (photo, artwork, etc.) that will be visible in the classrooms and throughout the school connected to the theme?
- **Advent Wreath:** Will this traditional symbol be prominent in the school lobby or other site where people gather? Perhaps the Jesse Tree may be appropriate for older students?
- **Prayer:** Will the school community pray together daily or weekly utilizing the Advent wreath and/or the Jesse Tree??
- **Worship:** Will the school community celebrate special Advent days in some way (St. Nicholas, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy)?
- **Service:** Will a particular service activity be planned to expand students' understanding and action?
- **Environment:** Will the school community celebrate Advent not Christmas? Perhaps Christmas decorations could be held off until the week of December 15 which begins with Gaudette Sunday?

If we expect students to understand and appreciate Advent at all grade levels, then through our message, community, worship, and service, the tone of Advent must ring clear in our Catholic schools.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 10	Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	Open House @ Saints Peter & Paul High School	2:00 pm
Monday, November 11	<i>St. Martin of Tours</i>	
	Veterans Day	
	CSO Staff Meeting	9:30 am
Tuesday, November 12	<i>St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr</i>	
Wednesday, November 13	<i>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin</i>	
	Renaissance Champions Meeting	9:00 am Saint Mark's
Saturday, November 16	Salesianum School Entrance/Placement Exam	
	Ursuline Academy Admissions/Scholarship Test	
Sunday, November 17	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	Salesianum School Entrance/Placement Exam	
	Ursuline Academy Admissions/Scholarship Test	

Action Required

Renaissance Champions Meeting (November 13) – The first of two professional development programs using Renaissance Flow 360 will occur this week at Saint Mark's High School. Renaissance Champions received a communication about the meeting. Corrections to the Champions listing and lunch orders were due today. If the Catholic Schools Office has not received your information, please submit it now. Lunch orders will be placed by 12:00 noon on Monday, November 11.

Attention Needed

January Administrators' Meeting – The next Administrators' meeting will be held **Friday, January 10**, instead of Tuesday, January 7. Thank you for noting this change in your calendar.

High School Placement Test – November is the final month for eighth grade students to register for the High School Placement Test. Elementary schools are asked to remind students and their parents or guardians weekly of this upcoming deadline in school communications and on the school website.

High School Recommendation Form – Please remind teachers that the Diocese of Wilmington Confidential Record Form should be completed and available so that when requests come in early December, the form can be copied and forwarded to secondary schools. The form may be found on the CSO intranet under General Resources>Admissions.

NCEA Census – Thank you for the submission of the NCEA census information. Our diocesan report has been submitted to the NCEA.

Reasons to Celebrate

Share in the Spirit – Good Shepherd Catholic School was omitted from last week's listing of schools that supported the Share in the Spirit collection. We are grateful for their participation.

Vocations Awareness Day – Vocations Awareness Day welcomed approximately 500 sixth grade students this year to Holy Cross Parish. Through the efforts of administrators and teachers in our schools, Bishop Malooly, the Vocations Office and the Catholic Schools Office, Father Rich Jasper, speakers on the panel, seminarians, and Mrs. Linda Pollitt, principal, and the faculty and staff of Holy Cross School, the students who attended were provided a worthwhile and enjoyable opportunity to reflect on vocations.

***I will go anywhere and do anything in order to communicate the love of Jesus
to those who do not know Him or have forgotten Him.***

Saint Frances Cabrini