

Believe and see the glory of God.



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIocese of WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

Pause and Ponder

September – Jesus Turns Water into Wine at the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

Virtuous Action – Listen Responsibly

We know from the Gospel of Saint John that the only people who knew how the water turned to wine were the servers at the wedding. They had drawn the water to fill the six stone water jars (comparable to the size of six large trash cans). They were certain that only water filled the containers.

Imagine their amazement when they realized what had occurred. “Incredulous” hardly captures how they must have felt. These witnesses to the first public miracle of Jesus speak nothing in the Gospel passage, but surely they were not closed-mouthed about the event with family and friends. Wouldn’t we be telling everyone far and wide about what we had witnessed, if we were in their sandals?

Each day we see remarkable happenings in our schools by staff and students. Their “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another” (Col 3:12-13) are daily miracles. We witness the glory of God in our school communities.

This week, let us act as the servers probably did in the Gospel after experiencing a miracle. Let us acknowledge to others their goodness and thank them for being in our lives.

Let Us Pray

- + in gratitude for all **catechists** this Catechetical Sunday who give of their time and talents so generously in schools and parishes
- + for the return to full health of **Steve Snively**, husband of Barbara Snively, Principal at Holy Angels School

Catholic Identity

Catechetical Sunday – Each year the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday recognizing those designated to serve as catechists. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. It is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Every Catholic school teacher is a catechist by word and example. Perhaps a brief re-commissioning prayer can be offered the week of September 16 to remind students of the important ministry of their teachers.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 15	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Catechetical Sunday		
Monday, September 16	<i>St. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>		
	Renaissance Star – Assessment Window opens		
	Staff Meeting	9:30 am	
	Meeting for Y2 and Y3 Mentors & Mentees	4:00 pm	St. Anthony of Padua
Tuesday, September 17	<i>St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>		
	CSO School Visit	8:30 am	Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, September 18	CDOW Employee Appreciation Day		
Thursday, September 19	New Castle County Consortium Meeting	9:00 am	Holy Angels
	Bishop's Visit	10:00 am	St. Peter Cathedral
Friday, September 20	<i>Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs</i>		
Saturday, September 21	<i>St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i>		
Sunday, September 22	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		

Attention Needed

NEW Employment Posting Procedures – In restructuring our employment posting process a **NEW Employment Posting Google Form** has been created to streamline the process. This new form can be found on the CSO intranet under Personnel Resources – Hiring Needs. If someone on your staff is responsible for submitting employment posting requests, be sure s/he is informed of this new process.

New Teacher Reports for Late Hires – Please be sure a New Teacher Report has been submitted for all new teachers, especially those hired after New Teacher Orientation on August 15. It is imperative for the planning of Initial Faith Formation and mentoring and the integrity of the permanent personnel records.

Pre-employment Drug Testing for New School Employees – As a reminder, all new school employees must complete pre-employment drug testing and receive clearance from the diocesan Human Resources Office before beginning employment. This is important to remember when filling unexpected last minute vacancies.

School Religion Leaders' Meeting – Please remind your School Religion Leader (Curriculum Coordinator or Department Chair) about the meeting on **Wednesday, October 2**, at the Catholic Schools Office. Elementary Coordinators will meet 1:00 – 3:00 pm; Secondary Chairpersons will meet 2:00 – 4:00 pm. From 2:00-3:00 pm a presentation will occur for all School Religion Leaders – elementary and secondary. Please remind your School Religion Leader about this annual meeting.

Level Coordinators' Meetings – Elementary Principals are asked to share the following dates with level coordinators so they can attend their annual meetings. All meetings are at the Catholic Schools Office beginning at 1:00 pm.

- **Middle School Level – Tuesday, October 1**
- **Intermediate Level – Tuesday, October 8**
- **Primary Level – Tuesday, October 15**
- **Early Childhood – Thursday, October 24**

High School Admissions Process – Beginning this year the High School Admissions Process will parallel the college level admissions process. High schools will be requesting parents or guardians to upload the following requested items for admissions consideration:

- Final grades for Grades 6-7
- Trimester 1 grades for Grade 8
- Renaissance Longitudinal Report for Reading and Math

The Confidential Recommendation Form will continue to be submitted **only** by the elementary school **directly** to the high school, when requested by the high school.

Since you will receive requests from parents for this information, you may wish to consider preparing one student packet for each child applying to any of the eight Catholic high schools (parish, diocesan, private) in the Diocese of Wilmington so that the parent or guardian has the information needed without interrupting the work of the school office multiple times for this information. The Confidential Recommendation Form is not included in the student packet.

Newsorthy Information

Facts about Catholic schools...

- 99% of students who attend Catholic high school graduate. Of those, 86% attend 4-year colleges. (NCEA)
- The minority population accounts for 19.8% of the Catholic school population (15% Latino; 8% Black/African American; 5% Asian American; 5.6% Multiracial). (NCEA)
- Catholic schools provide over 24 billion dollars a year in savings for the nation. (NCEA)
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to vote. (Cohen & Chafee, 2012)
- Catholic school graduates enjoy higher earning potential than public school graduates. (Neal, 1997, p. 108; Owyang, and Vermann, 2012, p. 4)

Reasons to Celebrate

50th Anniversary Celebration – **Saint Mark's High School** opened its golden jubilee year with Mass celebrated by Bishop Malooly and a number of concelebrants on Friday, September 6. The presence of former administrators and teachers, along with parent, board, and benefactor participants, created a welcoming spirit to the occasion and the start of the new school year.

Blessing of School Expansion – **Christ the Teacher Catholic School** dedicated its new classrooms and gymnasium on Sunday, September 8. More than 700 guests were present as Bishop Malooly blessed the cornerstone, classroom, and gymnasium. The additional classrooms have allowed the school to expand its enrollment to 624 students.

Charity will be the whole syllabus.
Saint Robert Bellarmine