



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

Pause and Ponder

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

Virtuous Action – Listen Responsibly

We listen to many voices each day – some real, some imagined, some positive, some negative, some from superiors, some from subordinates. In the end, it is our responsibility to distinguish among the voices we hear to determine the messages which will lead us to live the holy life to which we were called on the day of our Baptism.

In the Gospel passage about the wedding at Cana, we are reminded by Mary to listen to the voice of Jesus. As she shared with the servers, “Do whatever He tells you (Jn 2:5).” The attention of the servers to this directive resulted in a miracle. Mary’s advice to the servers is good wisdom for us. Doing what the Lord asks us to do will place us in good company with others who have seen the glory of God in their lives.

Let Us Pray

- + for **Christ the Teacher Catholic School** and the **Religious Sisters of Mercy** celebrating a patronal day on Tuesday, September 24 – Venerable Catherine McAuley
- + for **St. Peter Cathedral School** and the **Daughters of Charity** celebrating a patronal day on Friday, September 27 – St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Identity

October: Month of the Holy Rosary – As we move into the final full week of September, you may wish to plan for the way your school will acknowledge the Marian Month of October. In this month, we honor Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary. According to tradition, the rosary was given to Saint Dominic in an apparition by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the year 1214. Over the centuries the rosary has undergone some changes to evolve into its current form with four sets of mysteries and the prayers we use – Apostles’ Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Hail Holy Queen.

How will your school provide information and formation about the Blessed Mother and the rosary appropriately in October? Planning ahead and communicating with teachers and parents is a way to demonstrate your role of spiritual leadership in your school.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 22	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Share in the Spirit Collection		
Monday, September 23	<i>St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest</i>		
	CSO Staff Meeting	9:00 am	
Tuesday, September 24	<i>Venerable Catherine McCauley</i>		
	Bishop's Visit	10:00 am	St. John the Beloved
	Board of Catholic Schools Meeting	5:30 pm	Saint Mark's
Wednesday, September 25	Inter-diocesan Meeting		Priest Field, WV
Thursday, September 26	<i>Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs</i>		
	Inter-diocesan Meeting		Priest Field, WV
Friday, September 27	<i>St. Vincent de Paul, Priest</i>		
Sunday, September 29	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time		

Action Required

Share in the Spirit Collection – Now is the time to participate in the 100% staff challenge to have your school staff recognized as a supporter of Vision for the Future through the annual Share in the Spirit Collection. As shared in *Principal's Notes* a few weeks ago...

Share in the Spirit raises funds to assist local students attend Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wilmington. It supports Vision for the Future, the tuition assistance fund established in 1993. This year each school is asked to challenge its staff to a 100% commitment to Share in the Spirit. Whether \$1.00 per staff member or \$100.00 per staff member, the amount doesn't matter. It is the solidarity in being able to state that your school staff offered 100% support for this important cause. Will you accept the challenge?

*Please forward your school's contributions by check to Share in the Spirit, c/o Deb Fols, Director of Development, 1925 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE by **Friday, October 4**. Include with your contribution a note that indicates what percent of your school staff participated (hopefully 100% but any percent is a compliment to your school). Lastly, if you wish, share any interesting stories about how you encouraged the staff to support Share in the Spirit.*

Attention Needed

CSO Intranet – Glad to report that the CSO Intranet (www.cdowschools.org) is again functioning with almost all files updated. There remain some areas with questions, but they are being addressed bit by bit. The Intranet serves as a repository of information, procedures, and forms. If you have need of documents, please check the Intranet first, then, if unsuccessful in finding what you need, contact the Catholic Schools Office. If you encounter any difficulty or believe something should be added to the Intranet, contact the Catholic Schools Office.

The login information requires only a password. For all areas, the password is CDOW1868. For the page noted "Principals," the password is CSO1868. Please share the address (www.cdowschools.org) and general password – CDOW1868 – with faculty and staff.

October: Respect Life Month – The annual Respect Life Program is a year-round, nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life. Throughout the month of October, let us look for ways to incorporate Respect Life themes, age and grade appropriate, into school and classroom prayer and instruction. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers resources to support schools.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/>

Youth Rally and Mass for Life – The ticket request form for the Youth Rally and Mass for Life in Washington, DC on **Friday, January 24, 2020** is now open. The deadline is firm and will be on November 10, 2019 at 4:30 pm. Please go to the [CYM webpage](#) to request tickets, to review important information, and to download the required forms. Please do not overestimate the number of tickets you request. The Youth Rally and Mass will be located at The Capital One Arena, previously known as the Verizon Center (located at 601 F Street NW). Doors will open at 6:15 am, and the Youth Rally will begin at 6:45 am. All ticket holders are to be inside or in line no later than 7:00 am.

October: Fire Safety Month – Fire safety is highlighted in October. Attention to fire safety in school and at home, as well as appreciation for fire fighters, should be planned in October. A fire drill should be among any planned emergency drills in October and you should invite the local fire department to observe the drill and offer any recommendations.

Newsworthy Information

Cyber Safety for 4th Graders – Don't forget to request a **free cyber safety presentation** from the Delaware Department of Technology and Information. Presentations are intended for students in the 4th grade. Presentations will be provided from September 15, 2019 through December 15, 2019. For more information, visit <https://cyberschool.dti.delaware.gov>.

Scripps Spelling Bee – Registration is open for the annual Scripps Spelling Bee. If the schools register on the Scripps website (www.spellingbee.com) by October 15th, the fee is \$165. The fee jumps to \$240 from October 16th to December 20th. Congratulations to St. John the Beloved School, the first Catholic school to register for the bee thus far!

The bee will be held at Saint Mark's High School on **Saturday, March 7, 2020**. Each elementary school must conduct its own bee and declare a winner by Friday, February 28, 2020. The school champion must be registered on the Scripps website by Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Reasons to Celebrate

Congratulations, Mary Filippone and Carol Ripken! – At the CDOW Employee Celebration on Wednesday, September 18, Mary Filippone and Carol Ripken were recognized for 20 years and 10 years, respectively, of dedicated service to the Catholic Schools Office and the Diocese of Wilmington. We are grateful for all they do for our schools and offer our prayers and best wishes to both of them!

Stellar Speakers for Catholic Schools! – Thank you to the priests, administrators, teachers, parents, and students who participated in the Share in the 2019 Spirit Speakers' Bureau. They generously gave of their time

and talent in speaking with parishioners at Masses to promote the annual collection. Their efforts supported the ongoing work of **Deb Fols**, Director, and the staff of the Development Office who coordinate this collection and the tuition assistance provided through Vision for the Future.

Go to the poor: you will find God.
Saint Vincent de Paul