



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Pause and Ponder

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

Virtuous Action – Listen Responsibly

In the Gospel account of the Wedding at Cana, we find an excellent model of listening responsibly, our virtuous action for September. As you read the Gospel, Mary simply tells Jesus that “They have no more wine.” (Jn 2:3). She offers no further directions to Jesus and does not debate his replies, “Woman, how does this concern of yours involve me?” and “My hour has not yet come.” (Jn 2:4). Mary knows that Jesus heard her request and would act accordingly. She knew that Jesus listened responsibly to her and others. The relationship between Jesus and Mary was built on listening to one another not only with the ears, but also with the heart. They heard each other’s words and knew each other’s thoughts.

We are invited to the same relationship with Jesus – to hear his words and to know his heart. Such a relationship develops over time by developing a prayer life which includes silence to distractions, intentional listening, and a spirit of openness to the message.

This week let us examine our prayer life to see whether we listen responsibly.

Let Us Pray

- + for **grandparents**, living and deceased, whom we remember on Grandparents’ Day, Sunday, September 8
- + for **Holy Cross School**, Dover, DE and **Saint Edmond’s Academy**, Wilmington, DE celebrating a patronal day on Saturday, September 14 – the Exultation of the Holy Cross

Catholic Identity

Ss. Joachim and Anne – Grandparents’ Day (Sunday, September 8) reminds us of the grandparents of Jesus – Ss. Joachim and Anne (Feast Day – July 26). Whether these are their real names or not, they represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully performed their duties, practiced their faith, and established an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remained obscure. This is the “feast of grandparents.” It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people’s greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life’s profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

Franciscanmedia.org

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 8	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Grandparents' Day		
Monday, September 9	<i>St. Peter Claver, Priest</i>		
	CSO Staff Meeting	9:30 am	
Tuesday, September 10	High School Admissions Directors' Meeting	10:00 am	1626
Wednesday, September 11	Elementary School Admissions Directors' Meeting	1:00 pm	Holy Cross
Thursday, September 12	<i>Holy Name of Mar</i>		
	Bishop's Visit	10:00 am	Saint Edmond's
Friday, September 13	<i>St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>		
Saturday, September 14	<i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>		
Sunday, September 15	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time		

Action Required

Renaissance Star – The first diocesan-wide assessment with Renaissance Star for this academic year will be during the window of **September 16-27**. Be sure to review the Renaissance Star Guidelines 2019-2020 provided.

PowerSchool Personnel Fields – All personnel fields in PowerSchool must be entered/updated by September 30. The Catholic Schools Office relies on the accuracy of the personnel information entered in PowerSchool for multiple reports. Special attention should be given to assuring the salary levels and salary amounts listed in PowerSchool are accurate and up-to-date.

Attention Needed

Catechetical Sunday (September 15) – Next weekend we thank all catechists (including Catholic school educators in their role as catechists) for sharing and witnessing the faith in parishes and schools. They support parents, the primary teachers of their children in the faith, through providing information to and formation of young people in our Catholic religious education programs and schools. Perhaps in classrooms which are shared between school and religious education teachers, school teachers may wish to write thank-you notes to the catechists for their commitment to Catholic education

Ready for a Challenge? – You may recall from the Administrators' meeting or Spirituality Day that this year each Catholic school was asked to include two commitments among the repertoire of opportunities offered for service. First, schools were asked to connect staff and students with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) during the year to unite with the worldwide Church. More information about CRS will be forthcoming. Second, school staff were asked to show solidarity with the local Church by supporting Share in the Spirit, the tuition assistance collection that occurs annually in September.

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?

Be prayerful and creative in making the request. Let's not make it a duty to be done, but an opportunity to embrace. Perhaps the collection would take place during a staff prayer service. Perhaps every contributor would offer the cost of one day's Dunkin, Starbucks, or Wawa beverage. Perhaps level or department members would combine contributions to reach \$20.19 or \$20.20, matching the numbers of this academic year. Think beyond the boundaries!

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.

Imagine what a statement it would make about Catholic school educators to say 100% of our schools reported that 100% of their school's staff made a commitment to Share in the Spirit. Let's do it!

Newsworthy Information

Culture of Life Studies Program (CLSP) – See the link below for excellent information for September promoting a culture of life. Please share it with your school's Religion coordinator or Theology chairperson to disseminate appropriately. Also, remember that each school received CLSP resources last year from the Knights of Columbus. Hopefully, you will again use these resources, particularly in October – Respect Life Month.

<https://cultureoflifestudies.com/clsp-blog-divi/back-to-school-pro-life-style/>

Reasons to Celebrate

First Day Count – The 2019-2020 First Day Count is provided for your review. The student decrease, based on the First Day Count, from last year to this year is 108. A five-year change in enrollment summary is given below.

- September 2014 to September 2015 – increase of 15 students
- September 2015 to September 2016 – decrease of 283 students
- September 2016 to September 2017 – decrease of 282 students
- September 2017 to September 2018 – decrease of 285 students
- September 2018 to September 2019 – decrease of 108 students

As was shared at the Administrators' meeting and Spirituality Day, enrollment management is one of areas of attention this school year. This year's First Day Count is very encouraging! Thank you for all you have done in the area of enrollment management – recruitment and retention.

The official school enrollment is due no later than Monday, September 30. This enrollment number will appear in the *Annual Report* published in November and submitted to the NCEA census.

***Everywhere, wherever you may find yourself,
you can set up an altar to God in your mind by means of prayer.
Saint John Chrysostom***