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July 6, 2023

Dear Colleague,

Let Us Build the Kingdom of God. Our diocesan-wide theme for the 2023-2024 school year invites us to take up the words we pray in the Our Father, "Thy Kingdom come." This school year we shall focus on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the blueprint of how to build God's reign in our schools and in our world. Each month we shall study one Beatitude and a corresponding virtue so that we may become "blessed" in the Kingdom of God.

Bishop Koenig will celebrate Mass to initiate the new school year for school administrators **Tuesday**, **August 15**, at **9:30 am** at **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church**, **345 Bear-Christiana Road**, **Bear**, **DE 19701**. All school administrators – president or head of school, principal, assistant principal or those who serve in a role comparable to an assistant principal – are invited to join Bishop Koenig. Following Mass, all are invited to enjoy light refreshments in the parish hall prior to our Administrators' Meeting.

The agenda for our Administrators' Meeting is provided for your review. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting by Yay Lunch! In order to prepare appropriately, please complete the <u>reservation form</u> by **Friday, July 21**. Please distribute this memo to each administrator in your school whom you wish to invite to the opening Administrators' Meeting. We are grateful to Rev. Norm Carroll, Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and Anthony Valente, Yay Lunch! for their generosity in hosting our Administrators' Meeting.

New Teacher Orientation for all teachers, counselors, and nurses new to the Diocese of Wilmington, or returning after a gap in employment of five or more years, will be held Thursday, August 17, at Christ the Teacher Catholic School, 2451 Frazer Road, Newark, DE 19702, beginning at 9:00 am. Please remember it is imperative you submit the <u>New Teacher Report</u> and a copy of the educator's resume to Mary Filippone (<u>mfilippone@cdow.org</u>) for each new hire at the time of employment. The information provided in this report allows us to contact new teachers directly about New Teacher Orientation, review their licensing/certification status, plan and order the appropriate materials for mentoring and Initial Faith Formation, as well as ensure they are placed in the proper sessions that day.

The Catholic Schools Office leads, serves, and supports the school communities of the Diocese of Wilmington to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We partner with our schools to develop leaders for the Church and the world by fostering faith formation, promoting academic rigor, encouraging service, and planning for a vibrant future for Catholic education.

Spirituality Day will be held **Wednesday, August 23**, at **Saint Mark's High School**. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Koenig. Anniversary year recognitions and a keynote presentation will follow Mass. More information about this occasion will be forthcoming.

Know that the partnership between the Catholic Schools Office and you in the mission of Catholic school education is greatly valued. If we can be of service to you in any way throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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As we look forward to the new school year, may you continue to enjoy the blessings of summer and return rested and renewed for the work that lies before us. Together this year *Let Us Build the Kingdom of God*.

Sincerely,

Louis P. De Angelo

Louis P. De Angelo, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools