

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

April 5, 2024

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.***

The seventh Beatitude of focus this month is most appropriate in this Easter season for peace is the gift of Easter given by the risen Lord to those who witnessed his resurrection. This concept of peace in its truest form comes from the Hebrew word "shalom." The ancient Hebrew meaning of shalom was "to make something whole." It did not simply refer to the restoration of what was missing or lost, or the cessation of troubles or frustrations, or even the elimination of war. The peace that the risen Lord gives us is not the end of something, but rather that which completes us.

Peace, as the Lord gives it, is the fulfillment of our lives, our work, and our relationships. It is the desire for our well-being, the totality of being one with God and with others. It is the same peace that flows from the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation wherein we are restored to the wholeness that is God's design for us.

As we look to these weeks of Easter, let us pray that we may be witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus by bringing this gift of peace into our immediate and extended worlds. Jesus commissioned his Apostles in his appearance on Easter night, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." That same commission is ours so that by our words and actions we help to restore the world and its people to the wholeness God desires for each of us.

Let Us Pray...

+ for the April intention of Pope Francis – For the role of women: Let us pray for the dignity and worth of women in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world

+ for the gift of peace in our homes, schools, and communities



Weekly Calendar

<i>Sunday, Apr 7</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday</i>
<i>Monday, Apr 8</i>	<i>Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Tuesday, Apr 9	Y1 Mentoring Meeting, Grades PreK-5, 3:45 pm, virtual
Wednesday, Apr 10	Nurses Meeting, 9:00 am, virtual
Thursday, Apr 11	<i>Saint Stanislaus</i> Y1 Mentoring Meeting, Grades 6-12, 3:45 pm, virtual
<i>Sunday, Apr 14</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>

Catholic Identity – The Paschal Candle

The Paschal candle is the largest candle in the worship space used in liturgies; it is blessed and lit every year at Easter, and is used throughout the Easter season and then throughout the year on special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.

The candle displays several common symbols:

- The cross is always the central symbol, most clearly identifying it as the Paschal candle
- The Greek letters alpha and omega signify that God is the beginning and the end (from the Book of Revelation)
- The current year represents God in the present amidst the congregation
- Five grains of incense (most often red) are embedded in the candle (sometimes encased in wax "nails") during the Easter Vigil to represent the five wounds of Jesus: the three nails that pierced his hands and feet, the spear thrust into his side, and the thorns that crowned his head.

At the opening of the Easter Vigil a "new fire" is lit and blessed. The Paschal candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from this sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world. This represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death). Typically, the worshiping assembly then processes into the church led by the Paschal candle.

It is worthwhile to remind students about the significance of the Paschal Candle which they will see lit at all liturgies during the Easter season. Where possible, bring them to church to see the Paschal Candle.

Civics that Empowers All Students Program

Delaware teachers of 4th grade U.S History & Civics, 7th grade Civics & Econ, and 8th grade U.S. History are invited to apply to be part of the 2024 Civics that Empowers All Students (CEAS) program. Selected teachers will have the opportunity to engage in a weeklong CEAS Summer Institute at the University of Delaware (Aug. 5th-9th) to connect with scholars and colleagues to deepen their understanding of civics knowledge and skills via the We the People program. This program is coordinated by the Delaware Center for Civics Education and participants will be provided a FREE set of [*We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution*](#) textbooks, have their summer institute expenses covered, get a stipend for participation, and get an additional 16 hours of PD support during the 2024-2025 school year, including registration and hotel costs to attend the 2025 Middle States Social Studies Conference in Lancaster, PA.

[Click here](#) to apply now, [click here](#) for more information, or email Delaware CEAS Coordinator [Scott Abbott](#) with questions.

International Students

I-20 Signatures for Returning Students – International students returning home for the summer who intend to return to CDOW schools in September will require the Superintendent’s signature on their I-20 documents to permit the students to re-enter the United States. The Superintendent’s signature must be on the original I-20 that has been signed by the students and the student’s parents. Requests for the Superintendent’s signature should be received by ***Friday, May 17***.

I-20 College Transfers – Students planning to transfer from a CDOW high school to college will need their I-20 documents transferred. The receiving college generally provides a form requesting the transfer. The form should be forwarded to Dr. De Angelo by ***Friday, May 17***. Please contact Dr. De Angelo with any questions or concerns about this process.

Asbestos Semi-Annual Report

Please remember that the Asbestos Semi-annual Report is due by ***Friday, April 26***, to Amanda McLain (amclain@cdow.org). The Catholic Schools Office complies with EPA requirements in filing these reports twice each year. The form may be found on the CSO Intranet>Administrator Resources. Any questions or concerns may be directed to Dr. De Angelo.

Congratulations NCEA Presenters from CDOW!

Anna Alinda, Director of Development, and Leslie Fundakowski, former Assistant Principal, at Padua Academy, presented a session this past week at the NCEA Convention, Pittsburgh, PA entitled *The “Why” and “How” of Meaningful Generational Mentoring Relationships*, helping participants walk through the individual and institutional arguments for investing in generational mentoring relationships.

Patrick Tiernan, Principal at St. Mary Magdalen School, was a presenter at the National Catholic Educational Association Convention. Mr. Tiernan’s session was entitled *Beyond Fundraising: Building a Culture of Philanthropy in Your School* and offered Catholic school leaders both the art and science of development, “an emotionally engaging endeavor.”

We are always proud to recognize educators who represent our diocese as presenters at conferences.

**CHRISTUS RESURREXIT! (CHRIST IS RISEN!),
RESURREXIT VERE! (HE IS RISEN, INDEED!)
TRADITIONAL EASTER GREETING**