

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

August 11, 2023

Pause and Ponder

Let Us Build the Kingdom of God

"Blessed" begins each of the eight Beatitudes, our blueprint for building the Kingdom of God in our lives and in our world. But what does it mean to be "blessed?"

"Blessed" implies both a holiness and a wholeness in our lives. Holiness invites us to live in sacred space such that everywhere we are becomes holy. Every conversation, every meeting, and every interaction is holy ground where the Kingdom develops. Wholeness assures us that in living the Beatitudes we shall have all that we need for a full and complete life. It is the fulfillment of the prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread."

As the new school year gets underway, let us commit to "blessedness" each day for ourselves and for those whom we encounter.

Let Us Build the Kingdom of God



Let Us Pray...

- + for the August intention of Pope Francis – For the world's youth: We pray that young people may live and witness the Gospel in their lives.
- + for administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students preparing to begin a new school year, may they recognize all are called to *Build the Kingdom of God*
- + for Bishop Koenig who will celebrate his birthday on Thursday, August 17

Calendar Dates

<i>Sunday, Aug 13</i>	<i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Monday, Aug 14	St. Maximillian Kolbe
<i>Tuesday, Aug 15</i>	<i>Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
	Administrators' Meeting 9:30 am, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Wednesday, Aug 16	PowerSchool / BrightArrow Admin Meeting, 9:00 am, virtual
Thursday, Aug 17	New Teacher Orientation 9:00 am, Christ the Teacher Catholic School
<i>Sunday, Aug 20</i>	<i>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

Catholic Identity – Classroom Environment

As we prepare for the start of a new school year, Catholic identity is not only *taught*, but also *caught*. The classroom environment is important in communicating our Catholic culture.

- Is there a crucifix and image of Mary in every classroom and meeting space?
- Does one bulletin board prominently reflect the theme of this school year (*Let Us Build the Kingdom of God*) in every classroom?
- Is a Bible enthroned in every classroom?
- Do other items in the classroom speak of our Catholic identity – holy water, rosary, statues or images of saints, Scripture quotes on bulletin boards, prayer books, etc.?
- Is the school's mission statement posted prominently in every classroom and meeting space?

Now is the time to set the expectation for the visible reminders of Catholic identity found throughout school.

Principal's Notes

Thank you, in advance, for reviewing the weekly memo completely to remain up-to-date on information.

Please feel free to share any information in these weekly memos with staff and families, as appropriate. Your regular communication to faculty/staff or families may need an idea for a spiritual or instructional message. You do not need to ask for permission to copy, paste, or edit.

If you have information to share with other schools, i.e., a prayer request, a professional development opportunity open to other schools, excess instructional resources to share, good news about a faculty or staff member, etc., please forward it to Dr. De Angelo.

CSO Intranet

The 2023-2024 password for access to the CSO Intranet is

Blessed2023

Please be sure to share this password with teachers and staff and direct them to this repository of information.

School Newsletters

Please be sure to include the Catholic Schools Office Staff on the distribution list for school newsletters.

Dr. Louis P. De Angelo – ldangelo@cdowschools.org

Carol Ripken – cripken@cdow.org

Mary Filippone – mfilippone@cdow.org

Dan Pin – dpin@cdow.org

Dr. MaryAnn Wallen – mwallen@cdow.org

Amanda McLain – amclain@cdow.org

Administrators' Mass & Meeting – August 15

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Koenig to celebrate the Opening Mass for school administrators on ***Tuesday, August 15***, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at ***St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 345 Bear-Christiana Road, Bear, DE 19701*** at ***9:30 am***.

Parish and diocesan schools are requested to bring one print copy of their school handbook for the file in the Catholic Schools Office.

New Teacher Orientation – August 17

All teachers, counselors, and nurses new to the Diocese of Wilmington, or returning after a gap in employment of five or more years, whose New Teacher Report was submitted to the Catholic Schools Office by Thursday, August 10, are to attend the New Teacher Orientation held ***Thursday, August 17***, at ***Christ the Teacher Catholic School, 2451 Frazer Road, Newark, DE 19702***, beginning with registration at ***8:45 am***. For teachers, counselors, and nurses whose New Teacher Report is submitted after Thursday, August 10, the Catholic Schools Office is working on a make-up workshop. Please be sure new employees are aware of this information and look for additional information communicated to them by email based upon the data submitted in the New Teacher Report.

Spirituality Day – August 23

Spirituality Day will be held ***Wednesday, August 23***, beginning with Mass with Bishop Koenig at ***9:30 am*** at ***Saint Mark's High School, 2501 Pike Creek Road, Wilmington, DE 19808***. (Registration begins at 8:30 am.) An information letter (July 28) was provided for you to share with faculty and staff about the day. School honorees to be recognized for their anniversary years have been sent an invitation to the event.

This annual event communicates diocesan solidarity in the mission of Catholic school education. Please emphasize its importance to your school community.

Spirituality Day is a work day and fulfills one of the Initial and Ongoing faith formation requirements for diocesan Catechetical Certification.

To assist with registration for Spirituality Day, please forward Amanda McLain by Friday, August 18, an Excel listing of the educators attending from your school.

CSO Due Dates Schedule

Use this link – [CSO Due Dates](#) – to access a listing of deadlines for information required by the Catholic Schools Office. It is important to meet these deadlines since the absence of information from one or more schools prohibits the completion of reports requested by diocesan, state, and other offices. Thank you, in advance, for your attentiveness to these deadlines.

Professional Development

As you plan for your August faculty days, remember that for educators to receive clock hours for school-based professional development, pre-approval from the Catholic Schools Office is needed. Use the [Professional Development Pre-Approval Form](#) which can be completed electronically and forwarded to Carol Ripken for approval. When you receive a signed pre-approval form, you may generate the clock hour certificates at your school using the [Professional Development Certificate Template](#).

Teachers rely on school administrators to assist them in obtaining professional development for ongoing educational growth and clock hours to meet licensing and certification requirements. Please continue to provide quality professional development programs for faculty as they return to school the week of August 21 and throughout the school year on faculty meeting days.

Renaissance PD – August 25

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Muir, Principal of Holy Angels School, invites interested participants to join her faculty on **Friday, August 25**, for any or all of the following PD opportunities with Renaissance. Please contact her at memuir@holyangelsschool.org for more information.

Time: 8:30-9:30AM ET

Topic: Getting Started with Star Phonics

Time: 10:00-11:00AM ET

Topic: myON- Making Literacy Connections Through Projects

Time: 11:30AM-12:30PM ET

Topic: Accelerate Growth with Individualized Goals in Accelerated Reader

Time: 1:00-2:00PM ET

Topic: Setting Goals and Progress Monitoring with Star

PowerSchool / BrightArrow Admins Training

PowerSchool Start of Year and BrightArrow Notification System Webinar training will be held on **Wednesday, August 16**, beginning promptly at 9:00AM. This meeting's duration may be longer due to covering two topics.

Please register for CDOW - Start of Year PS Admin & Bright Arrow Notification Meeting on Aug 16, 2023 9:00 AM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6086527368202852951>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Vision for the Future 2025-2025 Applications

Applications for tuition assistance (Vision for the Future) for the 2024-2025 school year through the FACTS site open on **September 15, 2023**. The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2024**, and notification of awards will begin on **March 1, 2024**.

Professional Development Opportunities

Sophia Institute is offering this fall a new principal formation program on gender ideology. You can learn more here: <https://sophiateachers.org/courses/freeing-your-school-of-gender-ideology/>. The program will be hosted online over four weeks in September. This program is specifically designed to help principals understand the issue of gender ideology, and develop policies and practices that both protect the school as well as get teachers and parents on board with the Church's teachings on this topic. This will be a powerful, one-of-a-kind program that is desperately needed.

Neumann University is currently accepting applications for its [Instructional Coaching Endorsement program](#) to begin Fall 2023. Students will explore and practice instructional coaching techniques that focuses on professional development planning and assessment, understanding leadership and organizational change. The program is 12 credits, completely online, finishes in seven months over four mini-terms, and prepares an educator to be a professional development resource at your school. Diocese of Wilmington employees that enroll in a [graduate program](#) with Neumann University will receive a 20% tuition discount. Those interested may start an application, [HERE](#).

Professional Development Opportunities (continued)

Widener University is beginning a master's program in nutritional science. Please see the attached information for more details. Diocese of Wilmington employees that enroll in a graduate program with Widener University will receive a 20% tuition discount.

Viadel Consulting Group offers a variety of workshops to challenge and build individual and group potential through creative play, self-reflection and relationship building. Please see the attachments for more information.

CYM Youth Leadership Team

The CYM Office is looking for two dynamic young leaders (age 9th-12th grade) from each parish and school to join the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team (YLT) for the 2023-2024 school year! Leaders should display first and foremost a desire to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and a willingness to learn the skills to bring their faith into active roles in their parish and community. No prior experience necessary!

YLT members will engage in team building exercises, engage in leadership training, design and implement faith-sharing activities, and assist with the annual CYM Pilgrimage, Recognition Dinner, and Diocesan youth events. Any young person in the age group can sign up, but must be approved by their pastor or principal. Returning YLT members must still submit a new registration. The cost is \$50 per student leader, ordinarily paid for by the parish or Catholic school that the student represents.

The deadline for the Youth Leadership Team application and all appropriate forms is **Sunday, September 17, 2023**! Interested young people should register themselves at

<https://www.cdowcym.org/forms/youthleadership-team-registration-2023/>

Questions? Contact Dan Pin at dpin@cdow.org

CYM Pilgrimage – March 23, 2024

The annual CYM Pilgrimage will be held Saturday, March 23, **2024**.

Please remember that no elementary level or high school sporting events may be scheduled for this day.

The Dialog

The Dialog is ready for another great year with our school partners. We remain grateful to our elementary schools for making *The Dialog* part of the take-home package for every Catholic school family every other week. It is a major part of how we complete our ministry of evangelization and get our story to as many people as possible. As you know, if we don't tell our story, no one will.

We send copies to high schools as well and stand ready to help you use the newspaper in curriculum, if desired. We will resume delivery of the newspaper with our August 25 "Back to School" issue. We realize many of you may not be back in school at that point. We would ask that you hold onto that edition for delivery to families at your first opportunity. Please let us know at any point if the distribution number needs to be adjusted.

Also, always remember that we are happy to share stories from your particular school and the best way for us to know about it is for you to tell us. Feel free to let us know when you have something you find newsworthy in your school. And always feel free to take pictures and send them to us anytime you believe you have something you'd like to share.

Thank you for your work and have a blessed school year.

Joseph P. Owens

www.thedialog.org

The Dialog

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PT Coordinator, Diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life

The part-time (10-15 hours per week) Coordinator of the Office of Marriage and Family Life supports and strengthens the efforts of the Marriage and Family Life programs and ministries of the Diocese of Wilmington. Essential functions include (but are not limited to) coordinating the marriage prep program, marriage enrichments, and marriage support programs; communicating with content providers and developing and analyzing the effectiveness of family-related resources and programming for use by the Diocese.

The preferred candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing, able to witness to and regularly participate in the sacramental life of the community. A strong understanding of and commitment to Church teachings on marriage and family life, and the ability to educate and communicate Church teachings both positively and compassionately, are required. Strong computer skills and ability to effectively use virtual meeting software are a must.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to jobs@cdow.org. Please reference Coordinator, OMFL in the subject line.

Welcome New Administrators

The Catholic Schools Office welcomes two recently appointed administrators new to their roles or to the Diocese of Wilmington.

Nativity Preparatory School of Wilmington – ***Altina Herbert***, Principal

Saint Mark's High School – ***Stephen DiGennaro***, Interim Principal

We thank them for accepting the invitation to a school-wide leadership role and wish them many blessings as they begin their new ministry.

EVEN WHEN THEY CALL US MAD, WHEN THEY CALL US
SUBVERSIVES AND COMMUNISTS AND ALL THE EPITHETS THEY PUT ON US,
WE KNOW WE ONLY PREACH THE SUBVERSIVE WITNESS OF THE
BEATITUDES, WHICH HAVE TURNED EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN.
SAINT OSCAR ROMERO