

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

August 18, 2023

Pause and Ponder

Let Us Build the Kingdom of God

This year the song correlated with our diocesan schoolwide theme is “Lead Me, Lord.” The title and refrain of the song remind us that we need the Lord as model and guide in our schools, families, and world on our pilgrim journey to heaven.

*Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord,
by the light of truth
to seek and to find the narrow way.
Be my way, be my truth,
be my life, my Lord,
and lead me, Lord, today.*

In our Catholic schools we strive to help students, staff, and families grow in a life of prayer, their relationship with the Lord. Like all relationships, both human and divine, prayer takes commitment, listening, responding, and waiting. We commit to a daily routine of prayer so that it becomes a habit for us to set aside time for prayer. We listen in the silence of our hearts, in the quiet of our day however brief that may be, to the message the Lord has for us. We share our joys and sorrows in conversation with the Lord and we respond to the Lord in the words and actions of our lives. Lastly, we wait patiently for the effects of our prayer life to bear fruit, knowing that God’s plan may be different from our ideas.

As we start a new school year, let us commit to growing in our prayer life beyond where we are right now.

Let Us Pray...

- + for all involved in the mission of Catholic school education, may they be blessed for giving so generously of their time, talent, and treasure
- + for new teachers in the Diocese of Wilmington, may they find welcome and support from colleagues
- + for those throughout the world suffering from natural disasters and environmental struggles, may they feel God’s presence through those who arrive to assist them

Calendar Dates

Sunday, Aug 20

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Aug 21

St. Pius X
CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am

Tuesday, Aug 22

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, Aug 23

Spirituality Day, 9:30 am,
Saint Mark’s High School

Thursday, Aug 24

St. Bartholomew
Nurses’ Meeting, 1:00 pm,
Christ the Teacher Catholic School

Sunday, Aug 27

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catholic Identity – Daily Prayer

Daily prayer sets the rhythm for each school day. In monastic life in the Middle Ages, the daily times for prayer – eight of them throughout the day – were practical in telling the hour of the day but more so spiritual in reminding the monks of their purpose for being. At these times, any work was immediately ceased so that the focus was on prayer.

In our schools the call to regular prayer times is an opportunity to cease work and draw the community together. It is an invitation to recognize the presence of the Lord among us. Now is the time to decide what those prayer times will be and how they will be celebrated both schoolwide and in each classroom. Such a rhythm is important in the prayer life of all members of the school community. Similarly, time for prayer among faculty and staff is critical to their shared mission and ministry.

This year all schools are encouraged to pray the Beatitudes or the Beatitude of the month as part of the rhythm of the school day.

Spirituality Day – August 23

Please share the following information with faculty and staff attending Spirituality Day.

All administrators and teachers are expected to be present for Spirituality Day at Saint Mark's High School. School staff members are welcomed, if the Principal expects them to attend.

Administrators or teachers who do not attend and are not ill must take a personal day.

The day starts promptly at 9:30 am; honorees should be in assigned seats by 9:15 am. The day is a full work day so no one should exit before the conclusion of the program.

Professional attire is expected.

Reminder: The listing of expected attendees from each school was due today, **Friday, August 18**, to Amanda McLain (amclain@cdow.org).

School Emergencies

When emergencies occur in a school, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) should be notified as soon as possible so that the CSO can inform the Chancery and the Communications Office. It is undesirable for the CSO to learn about a school emergency through news reports, a parent/guardian phone call or e-mail, a Facebook posting, or not at all. Thank you for your cooperation in this request. If you do not receive a response in calling the CSO, call Dr. De Angelo's cell phone (610-908- 2667) or Miss Ripken's cell phone (443-540-4299).

Administrators' Mass & Meeting

Thank you for your participation in the Administrators' Mass and Meeting earlier this week. Meeting notes will be forwarded to administrators. Two of the topics on our agenda were not addressed. Information about Professional Development Day (March 11) will be discussed at the next Administrators' Meeting (October 3) and recommendations regarding Principal goals for the school year will be forwarded with the meeting notes.

Mentoring Forms Deadline – August 25

Last week Carol Ripken sent mentoring forms and directions to all schools. The forms are due back to her (cripken@cdow.org) next **Friday, August 25**. Kindly send the forms by the due date, even if you anticipate further hiring which may require additions be made to the list.

Catholic High Schools – Open House Dates

Attached is the flier with Open House dates for Catholic high schools. Please distribute the flier to the families of students in Grades 6-7-8 at the start of the school year.

Administrators are reminded that only the Catholic high schools listed on the Open House flier may be welcomed to speak in Catholic elementary schools, to distribute promotional information through the Catholic elementary school, and to be invited for a high school fair, if offered at your school. Other schools – private, charter, public – may offer their information to students off campus. Information from schools other than the Catholic high schools is not distributed through the Catholic elementary school.

Students in Catholic elementary schools may participate in up to two shadow day visits to Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Wilmington without penalty of absence. Verification of attendance at the shadow days should be obtained from the Catholic high school visited. Students visiting private, charter, or public high schools are marked absent for the day of the school visit.

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.

BrightArrow

All Principals, who enrolled their schools in BrightArrow, have been enabled. If you wish other school administrators, teachers, or others enabled in BrightArrow, please complete a PSISJS Help Desk Ticket to request this action.

Attached is information for administrators and for parents about BrightArrow.

You may wish to set expectations for teachers before enabling them to send voice and text messages to families.

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**.

CYM Reminders

The Office for Catholic Youth, Young Adults, and Family Ministry reminds you about several exciting opportunities and events that are happening soon! Check out this brief list for more details about each:

- ❑ [Blessed Carlo Acutis Relics and Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit](#) – August 26th-27th at St. Elizabeth Church, Wilmington, DE
- ❑ [CYM Family Day at the Blue Rocks](#) – Sunday, August 27th at Frawley Stadium
- ❑ [CYM Primary Contacts Meeting](#) – Wednesday, October 4th at St. Joseph Church, Middletown, DE
- ❑ [Jesus Night](#) – Friday, October 6th at the Church of the Holy Cross, Dover, DE

In addition, registration for the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team (YLT) is open now! Find out more information and ask your young leaders to register here: <https://www.cdowcym.org/news/detail/youth-leadership-team-registration-2023/20200/>.

Welcome New Administrator

The Catholic Schools Office welcomes a recently-appointed administrator new to the Diocese of Wilmington.

Christ the Teacher Catholic School – Ashley Torelli, Assistant Principal

We thank her for accepting the invitation to a school-wide leadership role and wish her many blessings in her new ministry.

Welcome New Teachers

This past week the Diocese of Wilmington welcomed 68 new teachers into our Catholic schools at New Teacher Orientation. This number represents those teachers hired before the August 10 registration deadline for New Teacher Orientation. Schools continue to hire teachers to fill the 24 open positions in our schools. If you can recommend a teacher for any of the open positions in schools listed on the CDOW website, please do so.

We wish our new teachers many blessings as they begin this important ministry in the Church.

Economics Educator of the Year

Bethann Higley, who teaches business and economics at Padua Academy, was named the 2023 Bonnie T. Meszaros Economics Educator of the Year for Delaware. She received the award at the University's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship in July.

**THE BEATITUDES DO NOT TELL US WHAT TO DO. THEY TELL US
WHO WE ARE, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY TELL US WHO JESUS IS.**

BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR