

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

August 25, 2023

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

In St. Matthew's Gospel (MT 19: 13-15) we read how Jesus rebukes the Apostles who try to prevent children coming to him. Jesus instructs his Apostles, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

As we focus in September on the first of the Beatitudes, perhaps the same qualities that Jesus saw in the young children are the very attributes of being "poor in spirit." Children freely place all of their trust in their parents with the certainty that their parents will for them only that which is good. They believe intuitively that no harm will come to them if they stay close to their parents. They are not afraid of darkness, monsters, or anything else when in the presence of their parents.

In a similar way the Lord asks us to place our trust in him, knowing full well that what he offers us will only be goodness. He assures us that if we stay close to him, no harm will come our way. He instructs us to "Be not afraid." for with him no darkness or evil can overcome us.

This "poor in spirit" attitude, reflected by young children, is at the heart of the first Beatitude. Like them, if we can live "poor in spirit," we shall find ourselves in God's kingdom. Are we willingly to place our fate and faithfulness with Lord?

Let Us Pray...

- + for the September intention of Pope Francis – For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.
- + for a successful start to a school year of faith formation, academic rigor, and service



Calendar Dates

Sunday, Aug 27	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, Aug 28	St. Augustine CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Tuesday, Aug 29	Passion of St. John the Baptist
Sunday, Sep 3	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, Sep 4	Labor Day Diocesan Holiday

Catholic Identity – Silence

In a world filled with important and unimportant noise, silence is often an overlooked opportunity. In many religious traditions silence is revered as a means of prayer, which is opening one's mind and heart to God. Monastic orders and religious congregations have long recognized the value of silence in their prayer and in their lives.

In our schools silence can serve the community well. Allow it to settle the body and the spirit of both students and teachers. Use it as a preparation for prayer or as prayer itself. Model it so students see its value. Start small and build to longer periods of silence.

Let us borrow from the monks and religious allowing ourselves to be clothed, if only briefly, in the prayer of silence.

Important Information

First Day Count

Please submit the First Day Count on the template that was provided to all schools – parish, diocese, and private. The next count will be due on September 29 and becomes the official registration for 2023-2024 used for all reporting purposes throughout the school year.

Mentoring Forms

Mentoring Forms were due back to Carol Ripken (cripken@cdow.org) today, **Friday, August 25**. Any additional new hire who needs mentoring will be added to the list after CSO receives the New Teacher Report.

Termination and New Teacher Reports

Termination and New Teacher Reports (along with a copy of the educator's resume) should continue to be sent to Mary Filippone (mfilippone@cdow.org) immediately after a resignation or hire.

HSPT

Attached is information about the High School Placement Test (HSPT). Please review the information with eighth grade teachers and eighth grade students and their families.

Registration for the HSPT begins Monday, August 28. Please remind students and parents regularly that the deadline for registration, although in November, comes fairly quickly.

Ask teachers to consider challenging students weekly (or even daily) with an HSPT teaser question. Encourage teachers to model thinking through HSPT questions and to offer regular practice exercises. If, as the saying goes, practice makes perfect, then practice!

Monthly Reflection

Attached is the monthly reflection for use with faculty and staff.

September Due Dates

Please check [CSO Due Dates](#) to be sure you are timely with information due for September.

Vision for the Future 2024-2025 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**.

Spirituality Day 2023

Thank you to Bishop Koenig, Sr. Mary Madeline Todd, O.P., the CSO Staff, the staff of Saint Mark's High School, and all involved in making Spirituality Day a success for the 550+ Catholic school educators present this past Wednesday.

Congratulations to the 88 educators and staff members recognized for celebrating anniversary years serving Catholic school education.

St. Elizabeth School Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Sister John Elizabeth Callaghan, OSFS, Principal of Mount Aviat Academy, selected to be entered into the St. Elizabeth School Hall of Fame in the fall. Her recognition is a tribute to her faithful witness to the Lord and consecrated life of service to others.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS, I PLACE MY TRUST IN YOU.