

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

December 8, 2023

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.***

As we continue our reflection on the third Beatitude, our Advent focus for meekness this week is Saint Joseph. Pope Francis offers us seven attributes of Saint Joseph, all of which provide a clear definition of meekness.

- Hard working
- Tender and loving
- Obedient
- Accepting
- Creatively courageous
- In the shadows
- Beloved

While each attribute would need a full essay to describe it, let us consider just one trait of Saint Joseph at this time. To be obedient to the will of God is to recognize one's humility and to act with meekness. Saint Joseph was a dreamer who received no fewer than four messages in dreams from God. He was asked to marry Mary, already pregnant with the Messiah. In three subsequent dreams he was told to move Mary and the Christ Child to Egypt, then back from Egypt, and eventually to Nazareth. In each of these instances, Saint Joseph recognized the will of God and submitted to it.

This week, let us listen to the will of God spoken in our hearts and pray for the grace to act on it. In this way, we, like Saint Joseph, will grow in meekness.

Let Us Pray...

- + *that the season of Advent will bring about peace in our family, community, nation, and world*
- + *for the hospice care of Barbara Gilbert, mother of Dr. Trisha Medeiros, President of Ursuline Academy*
- + *for the repose of the soul of Sharon Hodges, former Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School.*

Calendar Dates

<i>Sunday, Dec 10</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
Monday, Dec 11	Renaissance Star Assessment Week 3 CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Tuesday, Dec 12	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
Wednesday, Dec 13	<i>Saint Lucy</i> Nurses' Meeting, virtual 9:00 am Bishop's Visit, St. Anthony of Padua Grade School, 10:00 am
Thursday, Dec 14	<i>Saint John of the Cross</i>
<i>Sunday, Dec 17</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>

Catholic Identity – Greccio at 800

Francis of Assisi is credited with popularizing the nativity scene with a live re-enactment at Greccio 800 years ago. In his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile signum*, Pope Francis reflects on Greccio in 1223, while considering the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. Channeling the spirit of Saint Francis, the Pope reminds us, *“The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became human in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.”*

Attached to *Principal’s Notes* is a resource designed to help us make this spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas by bringing together both the inspiration of Greccio and the O Antiphons. In turn, these can help to assist us in our coming to a deeper consideration of how better to live the social teaching of the Church in our world today. In short, it is Franciscan “prayer in action” that strengthens our relationship with God and others, through moments of silence, movement, song, and reflection.

Important Information

Administrators’ Retreat

The deadline for returning the Administrators’ Retreat registration form is **Friday, December 15**. Please be prompt to assist with retreat reservations and planning.

Vision for the Future Tuition Assistance

Applications and all required documentation for the 20243-2025 school year must be received by FACTS no later than **January 31, 2024**. Tuition assistance through the Diocese of Wilmington is provided to children attending **Grades K-12**. Families currently receiving tuition assistance from the diocese must reapply. Assistance is **not automatically renewed** from year to year.

I.D.E.A.

The Diocese of Wilmington Board of Catholic Schools recently sent information about the **Innovate. Develop. Educate. Award (IDEA)**. Please share the nomination form - <https://forms.gle/MARBrhshQPgZ4FYz7> - with teachers, since some teachers reported not receiving it. Please remind teachers about the opportunity to nominate a colleague for this recognition by the deadline of **January 12, 2024**.



Group Movie Licensing

It is important for schools to abide by copyright law when it comes to showing movies and educational films in group settings in our facilities. Christ the Teacher Catholic School will again be coordinating the movie licensing this year. Christian Video Licensing International (CVLI) covers over 1,000 movie studios, including major studios such as Disney, Pixar, Sony, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Paramount, along with the list found here: <http://cvli.com/producers/total-package/>. The license also covers streaming services when a teacher streams from their own account to a class, as long as the producer is found in the list linked above. (Netflix, Hulu, etc.).

Based on the enrollment of the schools which purchased a license last year, the licensing company quoted us **around** \$0.80 per student, if all of the same schools sign on.

This year, the schools that were licensed last year will automatically renew. If you are interested in removing yourself from the license or adding on to our group license, please e-mail Tina Gallagher (tgallagher@christtheteacher.org) no later than **Friday, January 12**. Invoices will be sent to schools by late January.

**IF WE HAVE NO PEACE, IT IS BECAUSE WE FORGOT THAT WE
BELONG TO EACH OTHER.**

ST. TERESA OF KOLKATA

