

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

February 16, 2024

Pause and Ponder

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Sometimes it seems difficult to accept a gift. We may feel that we do not deserve it, it seems way too much for us, it creates a fuss that we would rather avoid, or some other reason prevents us from welcoming it. We hold tightly to the belief that it is better to give than to receive.

However, such behavior may actually disappoint the giver who has offered a sincere gift, sharing something special. Not accepting a gift may even hurt a relationship.

When it comes to mercy, we may be more comfortable as the giver than the receiver. We may delude ourselves into thinking how magnanimous or humble we are in extending mercy to someone who has offended us in some way. Such behavior is neither generous nor lowly.

We are offered the gift of mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Especially during Lent we are called to open ourselves fully to the breadth and depth of the Lord's forgiveness.

What is our response to this generous gift? Are we willing to place aside previously-held ideas about receiving this gift and simply allow our hearts to respond? Perhaps the answers to these questions will determine the kind of Lent we experience this year.

Let Us Pray...

+ in appreciation of the service and care of school counselors, as we belatedly recognize National School Counseling Week (Feb 5-9)

+ for commitment to the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and works of charity



Weekly Calendar

<i>Sunday, Feb 18</i>	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>
<i>Monday, Feb 19</i>	<i>Presidents' Day Diocesan Holiday</i>
Tuesday, Feb 20	CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Wednesday, Feb 21	Bishop's Visit, St. Peter Cathedral School, 10:00 am
Thursday, Feb 22	PowerSchool Admin Meeting, virtually, 9:30 am
Friday, Feb 23	Deadline for Professional Development Day Registration
<i>Sunday, Feb 25</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>

Catholic Identity – Lenten Lesson #2

Follow-up from last week...The answer may be found at the end of this memo.

The Eucharist is

- a. the source and summit of the Christian life.
- b. the memorial of Christ's saving life, death, and Resurrection, made present.
- c. Jesus Christ, fully present under each form of bread and wine.
- d. all of the above.

Penance and Reconciliation.

1. The risen Christ gave the Church the ministry of forgiveness of sins through the Apostles on Easter night.
2. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation involves a conversion of our hearts to God, a confession of sins to a priest, the forgiveness of our sins, a penance to make some amends for sin, and reconciliation with God and the Church.
3. Individuals who have attained the age of reason, usually the age of seven, are bound to confess serious sins at least once a year. In addition, the frequent and careful celebration of this Sacrament is very useful as a remedy for venial sin.

Important Information

Professional Development Day

Registration information for the Diocesan Professional Development Day on Monday, March 11, was distributed this past week. Please communicate the information promptly to educators in your school and remind them to register for sessions by the deadline – ***Friday, February 23.*** Registration allots session seats on a first-come basis. Educators who do not register by the deadline will be assigned sessions to attend.

Every educator should receive confirmation of registration following the registration process. If a confirmation receipt is not received, the registration has not been done properly.

Bearing Witness 2024

The Bearing Witness™ program provides professional development and resources that empower Catholic-school administrators and educators of students in grades 6—12 to teach about Jews and Judaism, antisemitism, the Holocaust, Catholic-Jewish relations, and related contemporary issues around media literacy, challenging hate and understanding extremism.

The three-day program will be held July 29-31 at Daylesford Abbey.

See the attached flyer for more information and registration directions.

Black History Month – February

February is a time to focus on Black Catholics. Here is a “Did You Know?” provided by Brenda Burns, Director of the Office for Black Catholics, Diocese of Wilmington.

Did you know that African American Catholic, Augustus Hazeur, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Wilmington had two of his sisters join the religious order founded by Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille, one of the six African Americans who are being considered for sainthood? Henriette DeLille founded the order of the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1836 and Augustus’s sisters became lifelong members. One of his sisters even became the Mother Superior of the order for two terms.



Damascus Catholic Youth Summer Camp

The CYM Office has partnered with the Archdiocese of Baltimore Institute for Evangelization, which have graciously offered space on their trip to **Catholic Youth Summer Camp**, run by Damascus. “A week at Catholic Youth Summer Camp is a chance for students in grades 6-12 to step away from the distractions of daily life and experience high-adventure activities that lead to a high-adventure faith.”

- Connect with God and a supportive community - Form new friendships and deepen old ones.
- Grow in confidence in a secure environment - Activities designed to challenge while keeping safety the highest priority.
- Discover the adventure of life in Christ - Authentically Catholic teachings hit home through the witness of dedicated missionaries.

You can find more info using the QR code in the attached flyer or by visiting...

<https://sites.google.com/view/damascus-x-aob/home>

PowerSchool Administrators' Meeting – February 22

Every school utilizing PowerSchool should be represented at the T2 PowerSchool Meeting on Thursday, February 22, 9:30 am. Please register for CDOW End-of-Term (T2) at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3479142200043002709>

Principal Position – Holy Cross School

The position of Principal of Holy Cross School with a start date of July 1, 2024 will be posted on Tuesday, February 19.

In accordance with Policy 4120 and the Principal Search Process for a Parish School, current diocesan principals are notified of the vacancy by the Superintendent. If a current principal is interested in being considered for a transfer he/she must contact the Superintendent within ten days of the notification. At the same time, he/she must inform his/her current Pastor of the request. (If applicable, the principal must also notify the President/Board Chair.) Upon receiving the transfer request, the Superintendent will notify the hiring Pastor and a determination of one of the following will be made:

- An interview will be granted to the current diocesan principal with the hiring Pastor; if a transfer is deemed acceptable and agreed upon, the Principal Search Process is concluded.
- The current principal will be invited to participate in the full Principal Search Process with other candidates and will be granted an interview with the Principal Search Committee.

A current principal who applies for the vacancy after ten days, but before the deadline, will be interviewed with other candidates as part of the full search process.

Answer to Lenten Lesson #2 Question – D

MERCY IMITATES GOD, AND DISAPPOINTS SATAN.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM