

# PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

February 23, 2024

## ***Pause and Ponder***

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

*As we continue our Lenten journey, we are called to transformation, as posited in the Gospel account of the Transfiguration. The three privileged Apostles – Peter, James, and John – returned as different people from the mountain top following the miraculous transfiguration experience of Jesus. Surely, they were changed for life by this event.*

*Through the experience of mercy – given and received – we, too, become different people. Each occasion in which we either extend mercy to another or receive mercy from another impacts us deeply so that we are no longer the person we once were. True mercy is transformative in building the Kingdom of God among us.*

*While our mercy encounters are not as dramatic as the Transfiguration experience, they are, in fact, opportunities to see the face of Christ in others. The face of one who gives or receives mercy is illuminated by what Pope Francis calls “the joy of the Gospel.”*

*During this upcoming week, if someone is in need of your mercy or if you are waiting for the mercy of another, go find your brother or sister. Allow yourself to give and receive the “joy of the Gospel” through a reconciliation with another person.*

## ***Let Us Pray...***

***+ that as Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, he will transfigure all that is dark within us***



## ***Weekly Calendar***

***Sunday, Feb 25***

***Second Sunday of Lent***

Monday, Feb 26

CSO Staff Meeting, 3:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb 27

CSO School Visit, Saint Ann School, 8:30 am

Wednesday, Feb 28

Bishop's Visit, Holy Angels School, 10:00 am

Y1 Mentoring Meeting, PreK-Grade 5, Saint John the Beloved School, 3:45 pm

Thursday, Feb 29

Bishop's Visit, Saint Peter the Apostle School, 10:00 am

Y1 Mentoring Meeting, Grades 6-12, Saint Mark's High School, 3:45 pm

Friday, Mar 1

T2 ends (Elementary Schools)

***Sunday, Mar 3***

***Third Sunday of Lent***

## ***Catholic Identity – Lenten Lesson #3***

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

Individuals who have attained the age of reason, usually the age of seven, are bound to confess serious sins

- a. during Lent.
- b. at Easter time.
- c. at least once a year.
- d. at Mass.

### **Baptism**

1. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
2. Baptism gives a person birth into new life. It is necessary for salvation and for entry into the Church.
3. Baptism seals the person's soul with a permanent spiritual mark or character identifying one as belonging to Christ. Because of this character, Baptism cannot be repeated.

## ***Important Information***

### ***End of Trimester 2 (Elementary Schools)***

Trimester 2 ends ***Friday, March 1.***

The trimester should not be closed in advance. Grades are due from teachers on ***Wednesday, March 6.*** Grades should not be expected before this date.

Report cards are issued the ***week of March 11.*** Report cards should not be distributed before this date.

Thank you for adhering to the calendar dates for Trimester 2 so that communication to parents is consistent across the diocese.

### **Annual CYM Pilgrimage**

**“Blessed are They”**

**“Bienaventurados son ellos”**

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

**Wilmington, DE**

[Registration is open now!](#)

We welcome parish groups, youth ministries, young adult groups, schools, and families to join us on March 23<sup>rd</sup> as we celebrate our faith, pray together, and prepare for Holy Week. You won't want to miss the chance to join hundreds of other young people in this blessed event!

For more information and to register, click the link or head over to

<https://www.cdowcym.org/events/detail/pilgrimage-2024>

## ***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 a delegation of Black Catholics from the Wilmington Diocese was present at the Sixth National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) to hear Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman? Sister Thea Bowman is one of the six African Americans in the process of being canonized a Saint and spoke an inspiring message on that occasion at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1987. The first Black Catholic Congress was held in 1889 and convenes every 5 years. This past year in 2023 the NBCC was held at the Inner Harbor in Maryland and a delegation of 28 people represented the Diocese of Wilmington.



## ***Pass the Word – March 14***

This year the Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations will be bringing back our ***Pass the Word Discernment Program*** for those young men who may be interested in learning more about diocesan priesthood. The Vocations Office will sponsor this day of prayer and discernment on ***Thursday, March 14, 2024***, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Bear, DE. Bishop Koenig, many of our priests and our seminarians will spend the day with the invited participants sharing experiences of the missionary zeal that drives the priestly heart in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Please invite the students ***personally***, gather necessary contact information, and ask them to fill-out the attached consent and release form.

So that the Vocations Office may have an approximate idea of the number of young men attending, we ask that the spreadsheet information be returned to the Vocations Office ([vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)) no later than ***Monday, March 11***.

Should have any further questions or need assistance in anyway, please reach out to the Vocations Office at [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org).

As always, thank you for all you do to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

## ***Teacher Tip – Thinking about Teacher Talk***

Do you ever stop to think about the informal language you use every day in your classroom? In this month's 2-Minute Tip, we invite you to start thinking about your "teacher talk" differently and learn how to use it as a powerful tool to expand your students' language development.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9d17tVd1JiM>

## ***Principal Position – Good Shepherd Catholic School***

The position of Principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School with a start date of July 1, 2024 will be posted on Monday, February 26.

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.

## ***Future City Finalists – Mount Aviat Academy***

Congratulations to the Mount Aviat Academy's Future City team which recently took first place at the Mid-Atlantic Future City regional competition in Baltimore. They will be competing in the finals this weekend in Washington, D.C.



***Answer to Lenten Lesson #3 Question – C***

**THE POWER OF JUST MERCY IS THAT IT BELONGS TO THE  
UNDESERVING. IT'S WHEN MERCY IS LEAST EXPECTED THAT IT'S  
MOST POTENT.**

**BRYAN STEVENSON**