

# PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

February 9, 2024

## ***Pause and Ponder***

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

*As we read the Gospel accounts, we are overwhelmed by the presence of mercy in the teaching and actions of Jesus. If you took a few minutes of silence, you could probably list 10 parables of Jesus where he taught about mercy, such as the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Unforgiving Servant. Similarly, in looking at the life of Jesus, you could find a number of times where he extended mercy, healing of mind, body, and spirit, to those who sought him. Think about the woman with a hemorrhage, the cure of Bartimaeus who was born blind, and the healing of the centurion's servant. Finally, mercy is shown in the greatest of miracles where the dead are brought back to life - the raising of Lazarus, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and the raising of the widow's son. Mercy was the heartbeat of the mission of Jesus.*

*These Gospel accounts and many others demonstrate for us this primary act of charity to which we are called this Lent. Throughout the upcoming forty days we are challenged to live this mission of Jesus as we show mercy in a variety of ways toward family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. At the end of each day, let us take time to reflect on the way(s) we have brought mercy into the lives of others and to be grateful for the ways others have given us the gift of mercy in our lives.*

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

***+ that our Lenten pledge of prayer, fasting, and charity may help us build the Kingdom of God***



## ***Weekly Calendar***

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>Sunday, Feb 11</i></b>    | <b><i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>  |
| Monday, Feb 12                  | CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am   |
| Tuesday, Feb 13                 | Initial Faith Formation, Southern Cohort, Saints Peter & Paul High School, 4:00 pm |
| <b><i>Wednesday, Feb 14</i></b> | <b><i>Ash Wednesday</i></b>  |
|                                 | <i>Valentine's Day</i>   |
|                                 | Bishop's Visit, Ursuline Academy, 10:00 am   |
| Thursday, Feb 15                | Initial Faith Formation, Northern Cohort, Saint Elizabeth School, 4:00 pm          |
| <b><i>Sunday, Feb 18</i></b>    | <b><i>First Sunday of Lent</i></b>   |

## ***Catholic Identity – Lenten Lesson #1***

As you may recall, last spring educators in Catholic schools in Grades 2-8 participated in ARK (Assessment of Religious Knowledge), a religious education assessment administered in Catholic schools across the nation. Our diocesan results highlighted a number of strengths among our teachers and administrators. As always, we are grateful to them for their commitment to teaching and witnessing our Catholic faith.

The Average Faculty Score in the diocese measuring Belief & Behavior and Knowledge was at the 69%. Faculty are strong in Living Discipleship and need to focus on Sacraments and Liturgy. Each week during Lent we shall consider topics where further understanding may be helpful to faculty.

### The Eucharist

1. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. Why? Because in the Eucharist is found the entire treasure of the Church – Jesus Christ.
2. The Eucharist is the memorial of Christ's saving life, death, and Resurrection, made present for our salvation by the action of the liturgy.
3. At Mass, the consecrated bread is Christ's Body. The consecrated wine is Christ's Blood. Jesus Christ, whole and entire, is fully present under each form of the Eucharist. He is substantially present in a way that is entirely unique by the power of the Holy Spirit through the ministry of the priest acting in the person of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer.

## ***Important Information***

### ***Professional Development Day***

Registration information for the Diocesan Professional Development Day on Monday, March 11, will be distributed during the week of February 12. Please communicate the information promptly to educators in your school and remind them to register for sessions by the deadline. 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.

## ***Board of Catholic Schools Annual Parent Feedback Survey***

The Board of Catholic Schools Annual Parent Feedback Survey is an opportunity to gauge the pulse of parents and guardians regarding Catholic school education in the Diocese of Wilmington. Aggregate results, as well as individual school results, will be provided to each school after the survey window closes.

Please encourage participation in the survey since the greater the participation, the greater the validity the data will have.

The survey window closes on Friday, February 16.

## ***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 St. Joseph Church on French Street in Wilmington was founded by the *Josephites* in 1889? The religious order of *St. Joseph’s Society of the Sacred Heart*, otherwise known as the *Josephites*, “is a religious community of Catholic priests and brothers, committed to serving the African American community through the proclamation of the Gospel and [their] personal witness.” While the *Josephites* no longer serve here in the Diocese, St. Joseph Church in Wilmington remains a vibrant community of predominantly African American Catholics.



## ***NLGA (National Lieutenant Governors Association) STEM Scholarship Program***

See the attached information regarding an opportunity for your school to receive STEM scholarship funding.

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE FACE OF THE FATHER’S MERCY.**

**POPE FRANCIS**