

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

January 5, 2024

Pause and Ponder

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

The start of the new year brings with it a great challenge in the fourth Beatitude. We are called to strive for righteousness. Righteousness results in relationships that are just. In so many areas of our lives we face situations where injustice leads to all kinds of prejudices about which we hear, read, or experience – race, sex, age, ability, nationality, economics, social, and others.

The fourth Beatitude is very explicit in our call to justice. It is not only a desire, a hope, or a wish. We are not asked to think about justice or talk about justice. Reread the first part of the Beatitude. Those who are blessed “hunger” and “thirst” for righteousness (justice). It is written in the strongest language which must be felt in the depths of who we are. We must commit to justice with purpose and intensity.

As we move through this month, let us first become more cognizant of situations where we find ourselves that speak of a need for justice – large or small. Then, let us look for opportunities to begin to address a circumstance that requires our attention.

The fourth Beatitude doesn't call us to measure the grandeur of our actions. It simply asks us to root out the hurt that another experiences because we have been less than the people we should be – righteous.

Let Us Pray...

- + for the January intention of Pope Francis – For the Gift of Diversity in the Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church
- + for the repose of the souls of
 - Barbara Gilbert, mother of Dr. Trisha Medeiros, President of Ursuline Academy
 - Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. McGlynn, pastor emeritus of Holy Cross Parish
 - Lori Conrad, former teacher at Christ the Teacher Catholic School and St. Elizabeth Elementary School
- + for Mount Aviat Academy and the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales who celebrate a patronal day on Friday, January 12 – St. Leonie Aviat
- + that the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. may inspire Christians to work for equity and inclusion among all members of society
- + that we may respond to our call to be a holy people by respecting and protecting all human life

Saint John Neumann

Today we celebrate the feast day of Saint John Neumann credited with establishing a system of Catholic schools in the United States. Read what Fr. Jack Kolodziej, OSFS, Provincial, Wilmington-Philadelphia Province wrote about this great bishop and educator in the attached essay.

Catholic Identity – Open Wide Our Hearts

"But racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts."

Open Wide Our Hearts
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Bishops of the United States write, "Racism is evil because it attacks the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. The persistence of racism demands our attention now. Racism emerges in the actions and inactions of individuals; and it is embedded in our institutions and public policies. Our faith calls us both to personal conversion and to transformation of our society." This call is one that is important for all Catholic school educators and requires attention in the classroom at every level. As we look to commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let us commit to prayer and instruction this week or next week to address this evil in our society.

Teaching Resource

[Martin Luther King, Jr. and Civil Rights: Relevancy for Today](#)

In commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, this curriculum for grades 3–12 offers grade-specific lessons, resources, and extension activities to provide your students opportunities to examine civil rights in the United States past and present.

Weekly Calendar

<i>Sunday, Jan 7</i>	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
<i>Monday, Jan 8</i>	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i> CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Friday, Jan 12	<i>St. Leonie Aviat</i>
<i>Sunday, Jan 14</i>	<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<i>Monday, Jan 15</i>	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> <i>Diocesan Holiday</i>

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:

January 12, 2024.

Vision for the Future Tuition Assistance

Final Month to Apply for 2024-2025

Applications and all required documentation for the 2024-2025 school year must be received by FACTS no later than January 31, 2024. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Schools are asked to recommend that all student families apply for tuition assistance. This enables the Development Office to meet emergency needs that may arise during a school year. Often, a family will reach out to the Development Office when their circumstances change. The Development Office may only assist families if they have applied previously to FACTS.

2022 W2 statements are accepted. A family does not need to wait for the 2023 W2 statement.

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.

Award notifications will begin as of March 1, 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.

Catholic Schools Week – January 28-February 3

As schools begin to prepare for Catholic Schools Week (CSW), plan carefully to communicate the best message about your school.

- Do CSW activities reflect faith formation, academic excellence and community building in your school?
- Are CSW activities in your school meaningful to students? families? faculty and staff? the community?
- Are CSW activities planned specifically for this year or are they simply repeated from year to year?
- Do CSW activities reflect the image you wish to portray to the larger community about your school?

Please forward to Dr. De Angelo (ideangelo@cdowschools.org) the attached schedule of activities at your school by **Thursday, January 18**, so that we share them with the broader diocesan community and *The Dialog*.

Interested in a Yamaha Grand Piano free-of-charge? Contact Sarah Smith at sarahsmith5982@gmail.com.

Belated Prayerful Best Wishes

At the start of the new year, we missed extending prayerful best wishes to the following schools and congregations.

- + **St. Peter Cathedral School** and the **Daughters of Charity** who celebrated a patronal day on Thursday, January 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- + **Saint Edmond's Academy** and the **Congregation of the Holy Cross** who celebrated a patronal day on Saturday, January 6 – St. Andre Bessette

Champions of Bishop's 5K

Team Spirit winning schools competition for most registered participants:

Saint Mark's High School	42 participants	\$1,000
St. Edmond's Academy	39 participants	\$ 500
St. Ann School	16 participants	\$ 250

THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.