

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

March 8, 2024

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.***

Coronary artery disease starts when fats, cholesterol, and other substances collect on the inner walls of the heart arteries. This is called atherosclerosis. The buildup is called plaque. Plaque can cause the arteries to narrow, blocking blood flow. The plaque can also burst, leading to a blood clot.

The physical buildup of plaque in the heart mirrors what sin does to the soul. As stated in the Confiteor, I have at times "...greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault..." These choices affect my relationships with God and others. They narrow pathways in my life, blocking the flow of grace in my life. Serious disruptions may even totally burst relationships that have existed.

However, just as one would seek medical attention and remedies for atherosclerosis, the same exists for the soul. On Monday, March 25, 3:00-8:00 pm, the physician of our soul – Jesus – is available to offer us a remedy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in every church in the Diocese of Wilmington. Plan for yourself and invite others to come to the Divine Healer and receive this Sacrament. Lent is indeed the time for us to realize, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."

Let Us Pray...

+ for those who are preparing for baptism and reception into the Church this Easter

+ for Catholic school educators joining together to grow professionally in their teaching on Monday, March 11

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Mar 10

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Daylight Savings Time begins

Monday, Mar 11

Diocesan Professional

Development Day

Saint Mark's High School

8:00 am – 1:10 pm

Student Holiday

Renaissance Star Assessment – Week 2

Tuesday, Mar 12

CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am

Wednesday, Mar 13

Bishop's Visit, Saint Francis de Sales School, 10:00 am

Thursday, Mar 14

CSO School Visit, Saint Peter the Apostle School, 8:30 am

Saturday, Mar 16

It's Academic, St. John the Beloved School, 8:15 am

Sunday, Mar 17

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Catholic Identity – Lenten Lesson #5

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

The Sacrament necessary for the completion of baptismal grace is

- a. Penance and Reconciliation.
- b. Eucharist.
- c. Confirmation.
- d. Holy Orders or Matrimony.

Anointing of the Sick

1. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for those who are seriously ill or in danger of death or suffering the difficulties of old age.
2. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be administered each time the believer falls seriously ill or an illness worsens.
3. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in a family home, a hospital or church, for a single sick person or a whole group of sick persons.

Important Information

Development Office Updates

Through the untiring efforts Sheila McGirl, Director, and her staff in the Development Office, the following information is reported.

Share in the Spirit Collection

- 2022 - \$446,409 received from 1477 donors
- 2023 - \$582,322 received from 1851 donors

Vision for the Future Tuition Assistance Fund

For the 2024-2025 school year, 1113 applications have been received in need of approximately \$7 million. The increased Share in the Spirit funds combined with other resources will allow for \$1.2 million to be available for tuition assistance – the most ever!

Thank you, Development Office staff!

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 23rd 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>

ARK – Assessment of Religious Knowledge

Remember to roster all of your current students in ARK, including the 2nd grade (who will be new to the system), and make sure all and faculty information is updated. Each school may choose to administer the assessment to students in 2nd-8th grades, as well as to all teachers, between the dates of March 18 – May 3. If you have any questions, please contact ARK directly through the administrator portal or reach out to Dan Pin at dpin@cdow.org. Please note that ARK is also offering **free** Zoom help sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11:00 am through the end of the testing period. Registration for those sessions can be found through the ARK Help Center on your administrator portal.

Results from the ARK assessment serve multiple purposes. They inform administrators and teachers about students' knowledge and practices / beliefs regarding the faith. This information assists in curriculum planning and student instruction. Results also provide teachers with areas for their personal growth in the faith. Administrators learn about topics that may form the basis of ongoing faith formation for the faculty through inservice opportunities or for families through school communications. Bishop Koenig and the Catholic Schools Office obtain a diocesan profile of faith among the schools.

Each school administrator should schedule now for the date on which ARK will be administered at their school so that a last-minute rush does not occur.

Women's History Month – March

Women's History Month is an excellent time to talk with students about gender stereotypes and bias, hail important women in history, discover more about women's issues and their fight for equity, read literature that celebrates women and girls, analyze sexism, and explore its causes and solutions. As with other similarly themed months, it is important not to isolate the exploration of women's history and culture into one month during the year. Women's history is U.S. history and should be integrated into the curriculum throughout the school year.

Tools and Strategies: [March is Women's History Month!](#)





Renaissance Star Assessment – Late Winter

Beginning Monday, March 4, and continuing through Friday, March 22, the late winter Renaissance Star assessment cycle will occur. This cycle marks the third of four cycles of assessment this year. All parish and diocesan elementary and high school students are to take the assessment during this time period.

Boost Scholarship Program – Maryland

BOOST Scholarship Program applications are now open and remain open until May 3. The Program link is below. It is continually so important that as many parent apply as possible while we weather the current administration's actions to reduce funding, so please encourage your schools to get those applications in for the future of the program!

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/boost/index.aspx>

School Safety Workshops

Brian Moore, Director of Safe Environments

The US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is sponsoring a series of two-hour online workshops on ways to enhance school safety using the behavioral threat and risk assessment model. This is the model we used in Delaware as we originally designed the Model School Safety Protocols. NTAC does a great job of providing timely, data driven and actionable concepts for detecting and responding to different pre-attack behaviors as well as self-harm indicators. Each session begins at noon and ends at 2:00pm, the dates are May 8th and July 11th. I believe each is the same with several opportunities to attend, but will verify. This is great for administrators, school counselors as well as disciplinary or mental health staff members. They can email me (bmoore@cdow.org) if interested in registering.

Newman Connection (for High School Administrators)

The Diocese of Wilmington and Newman Connection, a national non-profit, are uniting to continue our work to keep young adults connected to their faith in college. Unfortunately, 80% of students stop practicing the faith during college. Together, we can change this! Please see the attached letter and keep an eye out for an email from Cassie Campton at Newman Connection for more information.

Vision for the Future Fund Donation from Catholic Schools at \$2,200!

At the start of the school year, Mike Jenkins, Joe Corbi's Pizza, challenged Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wilmington. Based upon sales, a contribution would be made to the Vision for the Future Fund for tuition assistance. Currently we are just over 9,000 items sold **(\$2,200 Vision for the Future donation level)**. The promotion runs through the end of the school year, but fundraisers need to start no later than mid-April to ensure inclusion in the promotion.

FYI - The 11 Elementary Schools that have participated thus far have generated over \$60,000 in profits for their schools!

In addition, all Parishes, Early Childhood Programs, Elementary Schools, High Schools, and Private Schools are invited into the program to hopefully double our donation level in the coming months!

To speed up our connection, parish or school contacts can simply click the link below to fill out information and Mike Jenkins will be in communication with them ASAP.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/SgbaCvS>

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Congratulations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Community for raising over \$10,000 for tuition assistance at their school. Students were excited to raise funds, as they had the fun opportunity to silly string their principal, Mrs. Morroni, for meeting the school goal of selling over 1,200 products!



March Reflection

The March Reflection is attached for use with faculty and staff. Schools are encouraged to gather faculty and staff for prayer at least weekly to share their common vocation as Catholic school educators and to pray with and for each other and the intentions of the mission and one another.



**PREPARE YOUR HEART
FOR EASTER
RECONCILIATION
MONDAY
MARCH 25 3-8 PM**

VISIT A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DELAWARE OR MARYLAND'S
EASTERN SHORE DURING OUR EXTENDED CONFESSION HOURS.
VISIT CDOW.ORG TO FIND A CHURCH NEAR YOU.

Diocese of Wilmington

Answer to Lenten Lesson #5 Question – C

**GOD BESTOWS MORE CONSIDERATION ON THE PURITY OF THE
INTENTION WITH WHICH OUR ACTIONS ARE PERFORMED THAN
ON THE ACTIONS THEMSELVES.**

SAINT AUGUSTINE