

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

October 13, 2023

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.***

Unbelievable! That's the reaction to some investigation about world conflicts sparked on by recent events reported in Ukraine and Israel. In researching nations in conflict throughout the world today, there are 110 armed conflicts among the 193 countries in the world. Conflicts exist in the Middle East and North Africa, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

From a very real perspective there are many who "mourn" as noted in the second Beatitude. They mourn for the tragic loss of life experienced among family and neighbors. They also mourn the passing of what they owned, believed, or dreamed.

We mourn with them because each conflict that is reported in the media shows the tremendous damage cause to body and spirit by sin. It appears at times that evil not only exists, but also is on the rise.

Yet, in the midst of the disturbing news we hear and see, we believe. We believe that those who mourn will be comforted (restored and renewed) as promised by the second Beatitude. We believe that prayer, perhaps the only gift we can give to these troubled spots in the world, will transform hardened hearts. We believe that the resurrection follows the cross. Why? Because Jesus showed and told us that was so and that's all people of faith need to believe.

Let Us Pray...

- + for peace in nations experiencing conflict throughout the world
- + for a greater appreciation of all human life from birth through natural death

Calendar Dates

Sunday, Oct 15

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Oct 16

CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
Y1 Mentoring Meeting, PreK-Grade 5, 3:45 pm, St. Mary Magdalen School

Tuesday, Oct 17

St. Ignatius of Antioch
CSO School Visit, 9:00 am,
St. Francis de Sales School
Initial Faith Formation Meeting, 4:00 pm, St. Francis de Sales School

Wednesday, Oct 18

St. Luke
Bishop's Visit, 10:00 am, Christ the Teacher Catholic School
Y1 Mentoring Meeting, Grades 6-12, 3:45 pm, Saint Mark's High School

Thursday, Oct 19

Ss. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues, and Companions
Initial Faith Formation Meeting, 4:00 pm, St. John the Beloved School

Sunday, Oct 22

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catholic Identity – Assessment of Religious Knowledge

For the past two years elementary school students in Grades 2-8 have taken the Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK). At the October Administrators' Meeting, diocesan level results were shared with schools and individual school results, available through ARK to each school, were distributed for review. The purpose in taking ARK is to identify areas of strength for students as well as areas in which they may strive to grow. It is hoped that this national assessment opens a conversation about knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors throughout schools in the classroom, at faculty meetings, and with families.

Average Student Score – 60th percentile

Knowledge Score – 49th percentile

Average Belief & Behavior Score – 70th percentile

The knowledge score assesses ***what students know*** based upon the pillars of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The knowledge of the *Catechism* is developed through the approved religion textbook series of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops used in schools of the Diocese of Wilmington.

The belief and behavior score assesses ***how students demonstrate their beliefs by their behaviors***. While students may not be able to label content, they may understand and live its message. They learn beliefs and behaviors in school and at home through the witness of educators and parents.

Overall, based upon the results of students who took ARK last year, they were ***strong in Prayer*** and ***need to focus on Virtue***.

Important Information

Safe Environment Forms Due

The Asbestos Report (all elementary and secondary schools) and the Environmental Issues Management Report (parish and diocesan elementary and secondary schools) are due ***October 31***. Forms may be found on the CSO intranet under Administrator Resources> School Environment Reporting Forms.

High School Placement Test

November 11-12 are the High School Placement Test dates for Padua Academy, St. Elizabeth High School, Saint Mark's High School, and Saints Peter & Paul High School. Elementary schools are asked to remind students and their parents or guardians weekly of the registration deadline in school communications.



Introductory Period Reviews

Introductory Period reviews of new staff members, as described in Policy 111 in the *CSO School Personnel Handbook*, are to be completed within the first 90 days of employment. Please check the hire date for new employees and complete the reviews in a timely fashion. All reviews should be completed no later than before the Thanksgiving break.

Introductory Period reviews are retained at the school level with a copy given to the new employee. A document listing the school, new employee, and position of each employee reviewed is due to the Catholic Schools Office when all reviews are completed, but no later than the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving break.

New teacher reviews should be based upon one formal observation, one classroom walk-through, and one beyond-the-classroom observation. Other employee reviews should be based upon the job description of the role of the employee.

The review may be completed in narrative form. For teachers, it should address the headings of each section found in the Professional Standards for Teachers. For other employees, it should address the major responsibilities of the position.



Explore Stories from Hispanic and Latino Authors

Explore stories written by Hispanic and Latino authors. The organization Teaching for Change has curated [collections of books](#) that shine a spotlight on stories from Spanish-speaking authors around the world.

Thank you for celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month this school year.

New Castle County Consortium – Title I Referral Forms

Unused Title I funding may be available for schools in the New Castle County Consortium, but in order to access additional Title I services, a school must submit referral forms. If there are students needing services in your school, submit the referral forms, even if you believe you may have used all of the funds available to your school. Sometimes, funding surprises occur!

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

Attached Is the Notice of non-Discrimination Policy for the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wilmington. This information is required to be forwarded to schools annually.

Meeting Reminders

Information about meetings – Level Meetings, Mentoring Meetings, Initial Faith Formation Meetings, etc. – is sent to the appropriate teachers by the Catholic Schools Office at least a week in advance of the meetings. The meetings are also listed on the first page of *Principal's Notes* under Calendar Dates.

If possible, please remind teachers of these meetings so that they attend them. If a teacher is unable to attend a meeting, s/he should notify the meeting leader in advance of the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Information to Consider

Please see the attachments that may be of interest to your school.

- Respect Life Month Prayer 2023
- Pro-Life Essay Contest 2023
- St. John Paul II National Shrine

- New Castle County Science Fair Memo to Principals
- New Castle County Science Fair Flyer

- Bishop's 5K

**COMPASSION AND JUSTICE ARE COMPANIONS,
NOT CHOICES.**

WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN