

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

October 27, 2023

Pause and Ponder

***Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.***

November ushers in the third Beatitude with its emphasis on meekness. Meekness is sometimes difficult to understand because it is confused with weakness or timidity. However, meekness enables a person to do good in response to evil. While it may seem more natural to be angry when one is assaulted in some way, meekness allows one to take the higher road.

Perhaps meekness is best exemplified in the passion and death of Jesus. While hanging on a cross, Jesus' response to the pain and taunting is, "Father forgive them." He does not allow adversity to overcome him but instead takes self-possession of the situation.

Often we are presented with stories where tragic actions by a person or group are responded to with forgiveness and respect. Classic examples exist where prisoners and perpetrators forgave those who hurt them. Such circumstances remind us of the goodness that exists in people when they strive to live the third Beatitude.

As we begin a new month, let us take possession of ourselves in the difficult situations that may come to us. Let us pray and practice to be in control of our emotions and reactions rather than the reverse. In such ways we can become blessed by the Lord, for we will have taken the higher road.

Let Us Pray...

- + for the November intention of Pope Francis – For the Pope: We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- + for the faithful departed, especially those who have served in the ministry of Catholic education
- + for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life
- + for the repose of the soul of John Turner, husband of Kaddy Turner, nurse at Saint Edmond's Academy

Calendar Dates

<i>Sunday, Oct 29</i>	<i>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Monday, Oct 30	CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am
<i>Wednesday, Nov 1</i>	<i>All Saints</i> Bishop's Visit, 10:00 am, Salesianum School Board of Catholic Schools Meeting, Christ the Teacher Catholic School
Thursday, Nov 2	<i>All Souls</i>
<i>Sunday, Nov 5</i>	<i>Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Vocations Awareness Week Daylight Savings Time ends

Catholic Identity – Vocations Awareness Week – November 5-11

*But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone to preach?
(Romans 10:14)*



Vocations Awareness Week reminds us that each of us is called to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Lord speaks through us to His young people by our words and example.

This week, let us resolve to do three things: 1) pray for vocations, 2) instruct about vocations, and, most importantly, 3) invite someone to consider a vocation.

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 of the registration deadline and test dates.

Important Information

Faculty/Staff Prayer

The November Faculty/Staff Prayer is provided as one source of shared prayer. As the spiritual leader of your school, prioritize prayer with faculty/staff each week.

SchoolMessenger

Access to SchoolMessenger ends Monday, October 30.

November Is Black Catholic History Month

In 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States voted to designate November as Black Catholic History Month. Black Catholic History Month provides opportunities to learn and share the whole history and rich heritage of our Catholicism.

The Catholic University of America provides resources that can be used during Black Catholic History Month at

<https://cultural.catholic.edu/resources/bchm.html#:~:text=The%20decision%20to%20designate%20November,Nov.>

For assistance in planning instruction or celebration of National Black Catholic History Month, contact Brenda Burns, Director, Office for Black Catholics, at bburns@cdow.org.

If your school plans any special celebration, contact Jo Owens, Editor, The Dialog, at jowens@thedialog.org.

Pre-employment Drug Screen Requirement – Suspended

Our drug screening provider is undergoing a merger and we are having difficulty obtaining a new agreement and process and the cost is expected to be higher. They now have no locations outside of New Castle County, DE.

Because of this, for the foreseeable future, we are suspending the pre-employment drug screen requirement until we can secure a new vendor/process. The Human Resources Office will keep you updated on this information.

Office of Child Care Licensing – Delaware

There are no updates at this time in the ongoing negotiations with the Office of Child Care Licensing in Delaware regarding Catholic and private school requirements to be met by July 2024. At the recent meeting of the Delaware Association of Independent Schools (DAIS), Joe Fitzgerald, lobbyist, and David Kubacki, DAIS Executive Director, reported that they continue to work with the OCCL and state legislators to address school concerns. It is expected that additional information will be available in November.

Clearly this situation is very frustrating to school administrators. Please be patient until some sort of confirmation has been received regarding next steps.

Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Award

Shine a light on the Catholic school student who is changing the world.

Walking the halls of your school are unsung heroes, community champions—students who go above and beyond their daily routines to exemplify a missionary discipleship in service to others. One of them might be an honoree of the NCEA [Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Award](#). With NCEA, [Archangel Education + Technology](#) is excited to sponsor the 2023 – 2024 Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Award.

[Nominate](#) that student who best illustrates the virtues, valor and vision of Christian service. Nominations are due by **Friday, December 8, 2023**. Awardees will be notified by mid-January.

NCEA 2022 - 2023 Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Award Winners

https://www.ncea.org/NCEA/NCEA/How_We_Serve/Awards/Youth_Virtues_Vvalor_and_Vision_Award_Winners.aspx

Lesson Targets (Objectives)

In his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey focuses on timeless principles of fairness, integrity, honesty, and human dignity. One of the most compelling books ever written, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, has empowered and inspired readers for over 30 years.

Habit #2 is “Begin with the End in Mind.” Put simply, define clear measures of success and a plan to achieve them. While such a habit is valuable in life, it is equally important in classroom instruction. As teachers, we must know what our lesson goal is, communicate it to students, and check that they have accomplished it.

This habit of presenting a lesson target or objective, verbally and visually, to students in language they understand provides them with the “end in mind.” They know where they should be going in the lesson, even if they don’t reach the destination by the lesson’s end. With a clear target presented at the start of a lesson, the entire body of instruction with all its strategies develops the target. At the conclusion of the lesson, formative assessment of some sort – a question, a summary statement, an exit ticket, a key word – circles back to see that the target has been reached or that further instruction may be necessary.

Consistency in practice will teach students to listen and look for the target each day. Monitoring instruction will assist teachers to include the target each day. The end result will be more effective teaching and learning.

Opportunities

- Service Project with Sister Diocese of San Marcos
See the flyer about supporting Catholic education in our sister diocese.
- University of Delaware Study – See the flyer from UD about a stuttering study for eligible students.
- Yamaha Grand GC1 for free!
E-mail: Anna.martinez9083@gmail.com

**HUMILITY MAKES OUR LIVES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD,
MEEKNESS MAKES US ACCEPTABLE TO MEN.**

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES