

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

October 6, 2023

Pause and Ponder

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

The word “mourn” means to feel or show deep sorrow or regret. Typically, the word conjures up images of those who may be grieving over the loss of a family member or friend through death. However, in some way, each of us should mourn over the human condition that brings us to sin. For it is through such mourning that we are brought to repentance.

If we mourn over our sin, it demonstrates the truth that we see sin the same way God sees it — wicked, vile, and evil. It also acknowledges that the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts. The Holy Spirit works inside us to cause us to turn away from sin and to accept forgiveness from God. This is the comfort promised by this Beatitude.

This week, at the end of each day, let us take the opportunity to spend a few minutes reflecting on what happened during the day. In this reflection time we may recognize the blessings that have come our way, sometimes unnoticed, and give thanks for them. The reflection time may also allow us to mourn the times during the day when we have not lived as the person God calls us to be and we recommit to change. Hence, comfort will be ours from God who has promised to be with us in joys and sorrows, in good times and bad, and in rejoicing and mourning.

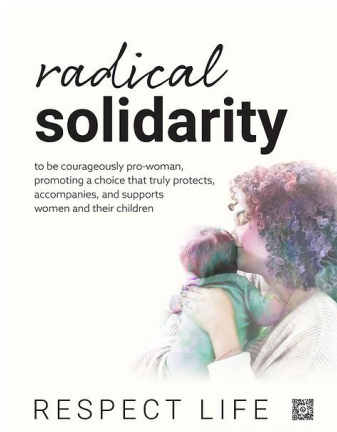
Let Us Pray...

- + for Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales celebrating a patronal day on Thursday – Blessed Louis Brisson
- + for a greater appreciation of all human life from birth through natural death

Calendar Dates

<i>Sunday, Oct 8</i>	<i>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<i>Monday, Oct 9</i>	<i>Columbus Day Diocesan Holiday</i>
Tuesday, Oct 10	CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am PSAT – High Schools Middle School Coordinators’ Meeting, 3:45 pm, virtual
Wednesday, Oct 11	Bishop’s Visit, Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 10:00 am Nurses’ Meeting, 9:00 am, virtual
Thursday, Oct 12	<i>Blessed Louis Brisson</i> Counselors’ Meeting, St. John the Beloved School, 1:30 pm Intermediate Level Coordinators’ Meeting, 3:45 pm, virtual
Friday, Oct 13	First Trimester Interim – Elementary Schools
<i>Sunday, Oct 15</i>	<i>Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

Catholic Identity – Respect Life Month Novena



October 13-21, 2023

This Respect Life Month, pray for the protection of human life, from conception to natural death.

Each day of the novena features a different pro-life prayer intention, accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

To join the novena or for other resource material, go to <https://www.respectlife.org/>

Important Information

2023-2024 Official Student Enrollment

Attached is the 2023-2024 Official School Enrollment. This year there are 118 more students in Catholic schools than last year and we have crossed the 9000 number in student enrollment! Thank you for all of the efforts directed toward enrollment management.

NCEA Databank Summary Report Confidential Family Surveys

Both the NCEA Databank Summary Report and the Confidential Family Surveys for federal funding are due this week. If you haven't completed them, please do so as speedily as possible and submit them. Both sources of information are important for diocesan and school data purposes.

Enrollment Management

Enrollment management consists of both recruitment and retention. Schools are already executing enrollment and re-enrollment strategies for the 2024-2025 school year. Early enrollment of new students followed by regular contacts from the school with new students' families builds a base from which to make budget projections for 2024-2025.

Equally important in the enrollment management process is retention. As the 2023-2024 Official Student Enrollment Report demonstrates, had we retained the numbers of students who departed from our schools between last year and this year, our enrollment number would have exceeded this year's increase by an additional 165 students.

The work of retention, like the work of recruitment, is a day-to-day task. Retention relies upon quality Catholic education and teachers lead the way in this regard. Please take time to discuss, especially with our 100+ new teachers, their critical role in the student retention process.

identoGo – New Fingerprint System in Delaware (corrected)

This information is reprinted again this week because the link in #3 last week was spelled incorrectly. Sorry for the error.

The following information provides the instructions for the new fingerprint system through a vender call identiGO that is being used by the Delaware State Police. The following steps must be taken to schedule an appointment:

1. Go to dsp.delaware.gov.
2. Scroll down to the Featured Services section and click on the fingerprints & backgrounds section.
3. Scroll down to Schedule an Appointment and click on <https://uenroll.identogo.com>.
4. Scroll down and click on Manage an existing Appointment.
5. The Manage Appointment page will appear. Complete all of the information that are required fields. You will be asked what form of identification you will use at the time of your appointment. Whatever you chose, you must bring that form of identification to your appointment.
6. You will then get to a page where you are asked to schedule an appointment. There are 9 locations where this can be done and various dates and times for an appointment.
7. Once you have scheduled an appointment, a receipt will be sent to the email with a user ID number. Bring that receipt to your appointment.
8. Be prepared to pay for this service at the time of your appointment. No cash will be accepted. You can pay with a business check, money order or a credit card (Visa, Master Card, Discover, or American express. NOTE – Your name must be the name on the credit card for it to be accepted as a method of payment.
9. The results of the Criminal History check will be sent to you.
10. You must then send a copy of the Criminal History results via email to Michael Connelly, Diocesan Director of the Office of Safe Environments, at mconnelly@cdow.org. In the email, identify the school where you are working. A clearance certificate will then be sent to the school.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Connelly at the email address provided or call the Office for Safe Environments at 302-295-0668.



Moments with Multicultural Saints National Hispanic Heritage Month

Moments with Multicultural Saints includes a saint biography, prayer, and suggested activities for different grade levels.

Check out the resources for the Hispanic saints featured in the series:

St. Laura Montoya and St. José Sánchez del Río

Legal Professionals of the Future

Thank you to the students of Padua Academy and Ursuline Academy who attended the annual Red Mass last Sunday at St. Joseph-on-the-Brandywine Church. They represented high school students interested in the legal profession and joined lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals dedicated to their work under the patronage of St. Thomas More.

Padua Academy – Ellie Drost, Abigail Sauers, Ally Whimmarsh

Ursuline Academy – Karina Gendron, Grace Klous, Allie Lundgren

**THE FRUIT OF LOVE IS SERVICE,
WHICH IS COMPASSION IN ACTION.**

MOTHER TERESA