

# PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

September 29, 2023

## ***Pause and Ponder***

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

We begin October with a focus on the second Beatitude. How reassured we are by this Beatitude in knowing that sin, suffering, sickness, and death – all elements of the human condition – will be overcome by the compassion of Jesus toward us. Despite what circumstances may bring our way, our fidelity to the Lord will allow us to find forgiveness, peace, healing, and eternal life in Him.

While we look to the Lord to comfort us now and in the future, we also bear responsibility to bring compassion to others by our words and actions. The Lord works with and through us to be His instrument of comfort to those in distress.

At times, we may be reluctant in moving toward another in that person's time of challenge or sorrow. We may think we do not have the words or the actions to comfort the depth of mourning the other person is experiencing. At these moments look to Jesus who has taught us the importance of presence. He has modeled for us the value of simply being there with another, when the other person needs someone to lean on. In a similar way, we may live this Beatitude by simply being present to the person in need. Our willingness to be with another may be not just the only, but perhaps the greatest gift, we can give to ease someone's pain or sorrow.

## ***Let Us Pray...***

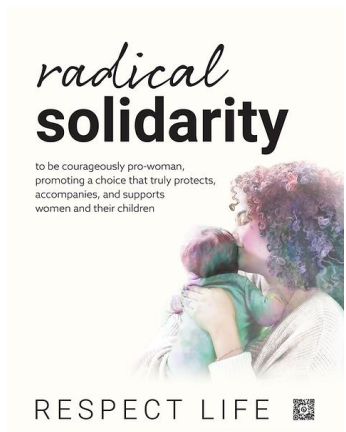
- + For the October intention of Pope Francis – For the Synod: We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.
- + for Holy Angels School celebrating a patronal day on Monday, October 2 – Holy Guardian Angels
- + for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia celebrating a patronal day on Wednesday, October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi
- + for a greater appreciation of all human life from birth through natural death

## ***Calendar Dates***

<b><i>Sunday, Oct 1</i></b>	<b><i>Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Respect Life Sunday</i></b>
Monday, Oct 2	<i>Holy Guardian Angels</i> CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am Y4 Mentoring Meeting, 3:45 pm, St. Elizabeth School
Tuesday, Oct 3	Administrators' Meeting, 9:30 am, Holy Cross School4 Elementary Religion Coordinators' Meeting, 3:45 pm, virtual
Wednesday, Oct 4	<i>St. Francis of Assisi</i>

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## 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/>

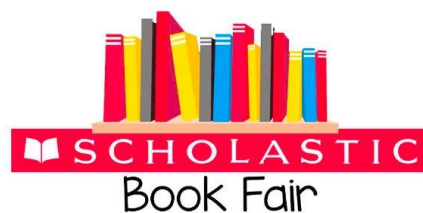
## Important Information

### Confidential Family Surveys

Confidential Family Surveys for federal funding are due **Friday, October 6**. If you haven't completed the collection and collation processes, please do so as speedily as possible and submit the information to Amanda McLain. This information generates funds for federal programs for the 2024-2025 school year. Collecting data accurately and completely is integral to the entire process.

### Calendar Dates (continued)

Thursday, Oct 5	Theology Chairs' Meeting, 3:45 pm, virtual
<b>Sunday, Oct 8</b>	<b>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<b>Monday, Oct 9</b>	<b>Columbus Day Diocesan Holiday</b>



*A number of elementary schools utilize Scholastic Book Fairs as a school fundraiser. Some publications sold by Scholastic at book fairs are not in line with Catholic teaching. Therefore, if a school uses Scholastic Book Fairs, it is important that the books available for purchase be examined to ensure that they align with what the Catholic school believes and teaches. Books that discuss themes in conflict with Church teaching should be removed from the display cases and returned to Scholastic.*

*Elementary teachers often encourage students to purchase books from Scholastic throughout the school year. Parents should be informed about the importance of reviewing the content of the selected books so that it is appropriate to what they wish their children to read.*

## ***identiGo – New Fingerprint System in Delaware***

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](http://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.identigo.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](mailto: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.



## ***Celebrate the People during National Hispanic Heritage Month***

***40 famous Latinos and Hispanic Americans  
you should know about***

## ***Junior Achievement***

The Catholic Schools Office entered into a five-year agreement with Junior Achievement last school year. As part of the CDOW/Junior Achievement of Delaware Flat Fee Agreement, students are eligible to participate in Junior Achievement learning experiences. There are a plethora of experiential learning experiences for students in K-12 that support social studies, civics, financial literacy, and economics standards/teaching goals. Learning experiences focus on three key areas of content: financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship. For a full list of JA K-12 learning experience, go to <https://delaware.ja.org/programs/index>.

More information may be obtained from Niesha Lawlert-Okonkwo, Senior Operations Office, at 302.654.4510 x. 230 | [niesha.lawlerokonkwo@ja.org](mailto:niesha.lawlerokonkwo@ja.org).

## ***NCEA Databank Summary Report – Due October 5***

On Monday, September 18, each school received information regarding the annual NCEA Databank Summary Report. This information is important to NCEA and to the Diocese of Wilmington in many ways. It provides the NCEA national report on Catholic schools and it provides the demographic information for the Diocese of Wilmington. It also establishes our place among the 195 dioceses with schools in the United States.

All numbers should be the actual count as of **September 10**. Schools are asked to complete the report by **Friday, October 5**. If you have any concerns, please contact Amanda McLain at the Catholic Schools Office.



## ***Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction***

*Mrs. Lisa Kowalski, Mathematics Department Co-Chair, Padua Academy, was recently selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction program is named for our Co-founder, Claes Nobel, a member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes. Mr. Nobel strongly believed that educators play a pivotal, and under-acknowledged, role in preparing students for success in school and in life.*

*Congratulations to Mrs. Kowalski on this recognition!*

**WE THINK TOO MUCH AND FEEL TOO LITTLE. MORE  
THAN MACHINERY, WE NEED HUMANITY; MORE THAN  
CLEVERNESS, WE NEED KINDNESS AND GENTLENESS.**

**CHARLIE CHAPLIN**