



CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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Dear Parish Family,

January 30, 2011

Today begins Catholic Schools Week. There are plenty of events scheduled - Sunday after the 11:00 am Mass at St. Mary, the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Chili Cookoff. I have submitted an entry, so come over and enjoy the chili! On Tuesday, our school students will head up to Mt. Pleasant for an area Catholic Schools Mass.

Tuesday, February 1, Bishop Cistone will be at St. Mary to confirm the young people from our parish at 7:00 pm. Please continue praying for our candidates for Confirmation as they receive this very important sacrament; and then begin preparation for Reconciliation and their First Holy Communion later in the school year.

Friday, February 11 at 7:00 pm at St. Mary, the World Apostolate of Fatima will be sponsoring the movie "The 13th Day" about the miraculous events that occurred in Portugal in 1917. Come and enjoy this FREE event.

Saturday, February 12 at 6:00 pm at the Comfortable Inn is our annual St. Mary School Auction. Come and enjoy the Mardi Gras excitement. Advance tickets are available at a discount, or get your tickets at the door.

On Saturday, February 26, join us for a Youth and Family Night at a Central Michigan University basketball game. The ticket price is \$6.00 ... as an extra discount, any parish or school volunteers or staff can get 1/2 off that price. To show our appreciation for their ministry, altar servers go for FREE. You need to pre-register to receive the extra discount. Contact the parish office to register.

The video series *Boundaries* continues on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm in St. Mary Parish Center through March 2. Please join the lively discussion!

On Monday, I played again on our men's basketball teams. I'm not much of a ball handler, but I did receive the compliment: "Good foul, Father." Come Monday nights to watch the games at His Place on Superior St. God bless you! Pray for each other!

Fr. David

The Faith Explained

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

What is Catholic Schools Week?

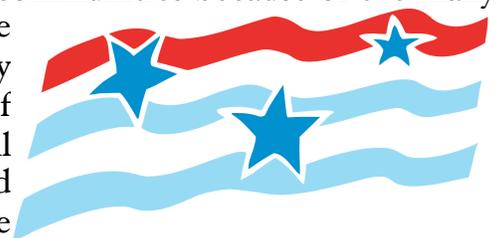
Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association, the world's largest private, professional education association, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the national public policy organization of U.S. bishops.

Explanation of This Year's Theme

The logo designed for the week displays the words Catholic Schools, A+ for America beneath a stylized banner of stars and stripes in red and blue. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2011 celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a definite, positive contribution to American society. Catholic schools give a high level of service (the A+ level) to local communities because of the many service projects students undertake. "Giving back to the community" and "helping others" are values instilled in every Catholic school student. Catholic schools give a high level of service to the nation (the A+ level) by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, serving in the government, industry, business, non-profit and educational fields.

When is Catholic Schools Week?

January 30-February 5, 2011



A+ For America
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Universal Call to Holiness and Vatican II

[In the Jubilee Year 2000] Cardinal Hickey of Washington, D.C., dedicated a monumental marble frieze on the back wall of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It depicts the call to holiness of all the baptized and pictures some representative figures—a young couple, an elderly woman, some children, of different races and cultures—along with a few recognizable faces such as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul II and even Cardinal Hickey himself! All are gathered with the Blessed Virgin Mary, receiving from the Holy Spirit the grace that makes us holy.

The teaching that all are called to holiness was one of the most important truths of the faith re-stated during the Second Vatican Council. Holiness had sometimes been considered the preserve of those consecrated by religious vows or ordained; ordinary Catholics were to save their souls but not aspire to great holiness. The Council taught that holiness is the vocation of all the baptized, which is one of the reasons there have been so many beatifications and canonizations of saints since the Council. If all are called to holiness, then the Church should recognize that holy people are found in all walks of life.

I think that, at times, the universal call to holiness got misinterpreted in the years right after the Council as a universal call to ecclesial ministry. Perhaps the clericalism sometimes found in the pre-Vatican II Church continues to operate among those who think one cannot be holy except through doing ministry. There were a few years when everything was called “ministry”, from preaching the homily to cutting the grass. The essential distinction between the generous service which is the natural outgrowth of a holy life and the various ministries and offices of the Church is part of the teaching of Vatican II. Dedicating a monument depicting the universal call to holiness in the National Shrine just at the beginning of the new millennium serves to remind us of how the Council was a remote but very real preparation for the great Jubilee [Year 2000].

All holiness, as the third Eucharistic prayer states, comes from the Father through his son, Jesus Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit. To be holy is to participate in God’s life through the gift of sanctifying grace. Full and actual participation in the Eucharist is the best way of living God’s life, which is also given and shared in the other sacraments. The ordinary actions of daily life are also occasions for grace and not just occasions of sin, as they were thought to be almost

exclusively by some spiritual authors ... As we continue to deepen our understanding of the Mass and the way we participate in its celebration, I hope we will also grow in our appreciation of Eucharistic adoration as a means of grace and growth in holiness. The two are really different experiences of the same gift, but they should complement one another because both make us holy. The words and action of the Eucharistic celebration are complemented by the vision and rest of Eucharistic adoration.

The custom of spending time with the Lord in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament so that He can make us holy ... This contact [with the Lord in the Eucharist] makes us God’s holy people and will help [bring about] genuine spiritual renewal. For those looking for ways to grow closer to Jesus ... time spent in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a privileged way. May it be a way traveled by many more of us as we ask the Lord to make us holy ...

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago



The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

The classes and duties of life are many, but holiness is one – that sanctity which is cultivated by all who are moved by the Spirit of God, and who obey the voice of the Father and worship God the Father in spirit and in truth. These people follow the poor Christ, the humble and cross-bearing Christ in order to be worthy of being sharers in His glory. Every person must walk unhesitatingly according to his own personal gifts and duties in the path of living faith, which arouses hope and works through charity.

All Christ’s faithful, whatever be the conditions, duties and circumstances of their lives—and indeed through all these, will daily increase in holiness, if they receive all things with faith from the hand of their heavenly Father and if they cooperate with the divine will. In this temporal service, they will manifest to all men the love with which God loved the world.

All the faithful of Christ are invited to strive for the holiness and perfection of their own proper state. Indeed they have an obligation to so strive. Let all then have care that they guide aright their own deepest sentiments of soul. Let neither the use of the things of this world nor attachment to riches, which is against the spirit of evangelical poverty, hinder them in their quest for perfect love. Let them heed the admonition of the Apostle to those who use this world; let them not come to terms with this world; for this world, as we see it, is passing away.