

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*See that you do not despise one of these little ones.
(Matthew 18:10)*

More than in our day, children in Jesus' time were expected to be "seen and not heard"—and especially in religious gatherings. So it was very surprising when Jesus used a little child to answer the disciples' question "Who's the greatest in God's kingdom?" He didn't choose a scholar, a ruler, or a wealthy man; he chose a little one no one else would call great.

This story tells us that if we want to draw near to God, we'll find him when we stoop down and put our arms around a little one. We'll get to know him better when we imitate Jesus by going out to the fringes in search of the least, the lost, and the lonely.

We tend to make allowances for little children. We don't criticize a toddler just learning to talk when he mispronounces a word. Preschoolers who don't know which way to run on the soccer field are adorable. Noises that would be obnoxious coming from a teenager sound cute on the lips of a four-year-old. Especially if the children in question are our children or grandchildren, we applaud their smallest efforts at doing the right thing.

In the same way, God the Father regards us as his children, "little ones" to be honored and loved (Matthew 18:10). We don't need to impress him in order to earn his favor. He seizes on the slightest kernel of goodness in everything we do and encourages us to develop it. He never puts us down or shames us. He always treats us with mercy.

This has implications for how we treat one another. Because we have all received God's great mercy, we should never feel overly impressed by a "great" person, and we certainly shouldn't dismiss a "lesser" one as unimportant. Rather, let's beg God for the grace to see each other as he sees us, everyone of great value.

Effective teachers try to catch each student being good instead of criticizing their misbehavior. May God help us to see where we can celebrate and encourage the smallest steps our brothers and sisters are taking on their journey to his kingdom.

"Jesus, sometimes I get confused about what really matters. Help me to value each individual as much as you do."

Today's Announcements:

- There will be a National Junior Honor Society meeting in the auditorium tomorrow, Wednesday, August 10, at 7:45.
- Students should use the crosswalk to cross the street before and after school. Please pay attention and look both ways before crossing, and do not use earphones in until you have left campus. Students should line up along the pick up so they can see their rides, not by the gate or cafeteria (parents are waiting for kids talking by the gate who are not paying attention backing up the line). Thanks for your help with this.
- Registration for cross country is still open, any student interested should talk to Ms. Alexander in room 206 before the end of the week for details.

- Schedule changes will only be made for valid reasons at this point. Switching teachers or switching class periods is not a valid reason. Students have had schedules since June 8, so we will only make legitimate changes.
- We would like to wish Mrs. Vicki Saucier a Happy Birthday today!
- All student drivers should have a parking permit by the end of the week in order to park on campus. Registration forms and parking decals maybe picked up from Ms. Dapremont in the front office. There is no charge for a parking decal.
- From Ms. Cody: Anyone who is interested in joining the art club (grades 7-12), please stop by room 101 to sign up with Ms. Cody.