

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, August 19, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Do not follow their example. (Matthew 23:3)

Pope Francis is the first pope in modern history to visit an active conflict zone. Last November, he traveled to the Central African Republic, where violence between Christians and Muslims has claimed thousands of lives. But the danger didn't stop Francis from preaching at a mosque in a besieged community there and proclaiming, "God is peace." He also visited a refugee camp where he blessed the displaced children. Francis strongly believes that "faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others," no matter where they are.

The scribes and Pharisees Jesus speaks of in today's reading could learn something from Pope Francis. They were very knowledgeable teachers, yet they remained distant from those they were hoping to reach. They were too caught up in the trappings of their office—in being called "rabbi" and sitting at the head of the congregation. They told everyone what to do, but they didn't lead by example. As a result, their teaching was hollow.

We can't make the same mistake that Jesus' enemies made. We can't assume that people will pick up the faith automatically and then condemn them or give up on them when they don't. Instead, we need to follow Pope Francis' lead and reach out to encounter people. We need to find creative and tangible ways to show them the love of Christ.

For some of us, this could be a challenge. We might be very busy, very shy, or caught up in lots of activities that don't bring us close to people outside of our immediate circle of friends. But instead of thinking of it as taking up a challenging call, maybe we could consider just straying from our normal way of doing things once in a while. That's not so intimidating, is it?

Take a little extra time to listen to someone who's distressed. Give up an hour or so to visit a friend who's in assisted living. Or make a quiet offer to pray with (or for) someone going through a difficult time. That's the thing about encounters. They don't have to be earth-shattering. They just have to happen; Jesus will take care of the rest.

"Lord, help me to reach out just a little today. I want to be a vessel to help just one person encounter you."

Today's Announcements:

- There will be an Arts and Crafts Club meeting next Wednesday, August 24, at 3:05 p.m. Juniors and seniors need to see Ms. Cody if you are interested in running for an office.
- Coach Bloomfield is looking for someone to help as the team statistician and manager for the varsity football team. If you are interested, please see Coach Bloomfield during lunch.

- Attention seventh graders: class officer applications are now available in the front office. Applications are due Monday by 3:00. A campaign rules meeting will be on Monday after school in room 200.
- NJHS members - dues should be turned into Mrs. Gollott as soon as possible. Don't forget to vote for officers in room 102 before the end of the day today.
- Members of the robotics need to see Mrs. Worrel some time today for information regarding an event called the Red Stick Rumble in Baton Rouge on August 27. We will travel as a team to this event and compete with all of our robots from last season. The purpose of this event is to give new members an idea of how the season will evolve as we begin our 2016-2017 season. We will be providing help for the Baton Rouge area flood victims through this event. Along with school supplies, we implement our Pillowcase Project. Members need to see Mrs. Worrel to help with putting our pillowcases together.
- Junior high volleyball intramurals will be at 3:15 p.m. today.