

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, January 27, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Of its own accord the land yields fruit. (Mark 4:28)

Are you familiar with the Chinese bamboo tree? This fascinating plant grows to a height of ninety feet and can be used for everything from home construction to furniture, from paper to pipes. It also has a very unusual growth pattern. It takes five years for a bamboo seed to sprout, but once it does, that tiny sprout reaches its full height in only six weeks—almost overnight! During those first five years, the farmer must water the seed every single day, all the while never seeing any growth. You can imagine an inexperienced farmer wondering if anything will ever happen. He might even give up.

Just as with the bamboo tree, the same is true both in the kingdom of God and in our own spiritual life: the most important growth is invisible. In today's Gospel parable, the farmer plants a seed. But that seed doesn't become a plant overnight. It takes the right combination of soil, water, and, the most important ingredient, God's grace, to turn that seed into the "largest of plants" (Mark 4:32). In the end, it looks awfully impressive, but most of the work has already happened underground!

This is the encouraging message in the Gospel: God is always working beneath the surface. He is always providing the nourishment of his grace so that we can grow and blossom. Yes, we need to cooperate with that grace, but like the bamboo tree, the growth that we experience will far outstrip the effort we put into it.

Because most of God's important work happens unnoticed, we should be careful to water that seed of faith even when we don't see impressive results right away. We can trust that God will bring the growth in his time and in his fashion.

So imagine yourself as that bamboo farmer. Every time you pray, you're going to the well to get water. Every time you repent, you're improving the soil. You may not be seeing or feeling much growth right now. But every day that you come to Jesus, growth is occurring. God is making you holy. One day you, too, will stand tall with the saints.

"Lord, I trust you to bring about my growth. Help me cooperate with your work of grace."

Today's Announcements:

- Science Honor Society officers will take pictures after school today in the courtyard with the St. Patrick statue.
- We continue to pray for those attending the March for Life.
- Today, we will have the eighth grade invention fair.
- We want to wish our varsity soccer team good luck as they travel to Jackson and compete against St. Joseph tomorrow. If you are riding the soccer fan bus tomorrow, make sure you have your permission form turned in by noon today.

- We wish our varsity basketball teams good luck in their games tonight at Perry Central.
- New members for the National English Honor Society are posted outside Ms. Buckley's door. The first meeting will be Monday after school in room 200. Dues are \$10 and can be paid at the meeting. Congratulations!
- Attention all junior high, junior varsity, and varsity girl soccer players. Your washed uniforms are due in Mrs. Williams' room no later than this upcoming Monday. All junior high and junior varsity boy soccer players, your washed uniforms are due in Mr. Camps' room no later than this upcoming Monday.
- Any varsity or junior high student who signed up for track and has not participated in a sport this school year, please make sure you have a physical form before next week's track practice.
- Seniors, please remember to bring your signed and notarized retreat permission slips that were mailed to your parents. You may turn in senior letters to Ms. Dapremont. The deadline for accepting these are this Friday, January 27. All seniors will need to be at school next Wednesday by 7:45 a.m. The bus has to depart on time in order to make the steamboat boarding times. If you have questions please see your religious studies teacher or Mr. Creel.
- Mrs. Buckley will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, and we would like to wish her a Happy Birthday.
- The sign-up for the "Run for Ari 5k" will be extended for St. Patrick. You have until 3:00 p.m. today to register and receive a t-shirt. Forms are at the front desk.