

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, September 11, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

In God be at rest, my soul. (Psalm 62:6)

A peasant regularly sat at the back of an empty church in Ars, France, gazing at the tabernacle. When the village priest asked him what he was doing, the peasant replied, "I look at him, and he looks at me." What a beautiful illustration of someone whose soul was at rest in God! So many of the things we seek in prayer—peace, confidence, hope—that man found as he sat quietly focused on the Lord.

Any one of us, from a contemplative religious to a parent to a teacher to a student, can be at rest in God. It starts with the kind of prayer that French peasant knew: sitting quietly. Focusing our mind and heart, thoughts and affections, on the Lord. Being content with what and where and who you are. God knows. He is more aware of the good, the bad, and the ugly about you than you are yourself. And he loves you. He is delighted when you turn your gaze on him. He is eager to meet you and sit quietly with you.

Everything in our lives, even in our lives of faith, can be

so focused on performing, accomplishing, and solving things. We might think the only measure of a good prayer time is whether we are able to focus on the Lord for ten minutes. But it's not! Remember how Jesus told his apostles to come away with him and rest. He knew their drive to produce. He knew their feelings of guilt over not producing. He knows we experience those same drives. So he calls us too to come away with him and to find rest with him.

Pick a time and a quiet place to sit with the Lord. It could be a park bench, an empty room, or an empty church. For ten or fifteen minutes, just sit quietly. If it helps, picture Jesus sitting next to you. Be still and know that he is God. Invite him into your heart, and see what happens. "One need not say much to pray well," counseled that French parish priest, who would become the patron of parish priests, St. John Vianney. "We know that Jesus is there: let us open our hearts to him, let us rejoice in his sacred presence. That is the best prayer."

"Jesus, I rejoice in your presence! Come into my heart today."

Today's Announcements:

- Happy Birthday to Chad Hilton, Clay Hilton, and Jordan Walker today!
- Let us take a moment this morning and reflect.... let us reflect on all the families who woke up 16 years ago heading to work and school without a clue that life, our country, and the world would never be the same again. We pray for healing and peace for all who remain. We pray for the souls of all lives lost during the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and we ask God to cover us in His mercy. Today marks 16 years. I pray this day of remembrance inspires us to love our family, be kind to our neighbor, and always offer a helping hand. Let us focus on what unites us. Let us never forget.

- Congratulations! The Fighting Irish varsity football team won 14 to 12 Friday night against Pope John Paul II to improve their overall record to 2-1. Go Irish!
- Homecoming shirts are now on sale for \$15. If you did not receive an order form, more are in the front office. Please return the form and payment to the front office.
- Irish Idol will be held during Homecoming Week. If you are interested in showing off your talent, please sign up by Room 200 or Room 214. Auditions will be held this Wednesday after school in the auditorium.
- High school students who plan to attend the Homecoming Dance and would like to request permission to bring an outside date must submit the form by Friday, September 15. Forms may be picked up at the front desk from Mrs. Collier or downloaded from the "Student Life" page of the school website. Approval will not be granted for forms not submitted by Friday.
- The St. Patrick Sailing Team will be hosting a Meet and Greet Party on Thursday, September 21, at 5:30 p.m. at the Gulfport Yacht Club. We would like to encourage all students and parents to attend - we will be discussing all aspects of the team and how it works. There will be free pizza and soft drinks! Sailing is open to all students in grades 7-12.
- The Interact Club meeting will take place Wednesday immediately after school in the auditorium. The Heart Walk and Cruisin' the Coast will be discussed.
- High school students (grades 9-12) will vote for Homecoming Queen and King this week. Ballots will be sent to your St. Patrick email address, so be sure to vote this week.