

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*We always give thanks to God . . . when we pray for you.
(Colossians 1:3)*

Huddled in a cramped, filthy concentration-camp barracks, Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie tried to thank God for their circumstances. It was the height of World War II, and they had been sent to Ravensbrück for sheltering Jews. Life in the camp was miserable, but the sisters thanked God they were together. It was overcrowded, but they thanked God that more women could hear them read their treasured Bible.

But the fleas! It was hard to be grateful for them. That is, until Betsie realized the flea infestation kept the guards from coming into their barracks and discovering their Bible!

Corrie and Betsie's attitude of thankfulness changed their perspective. They realized that God was with them; he was at work even in the most awful situations.

This is what St. Paul is talking about when he tells the Colossians he always gives thanks to God for them.

The church in Colossae was in confusion. Some believers emphasized ceremonies and penances. Others focused on angels and heavenly powers. Paul knew the

Colossians risked forgetting the freedom they had received in Christ. But he was in prison and couldn't visit them to help them sort things out. So he decided to pray for them and write to them.

Instead of fretting over the dangers of false doctrine or misleading rituals, Paul reminded the Colossians of all the great things God had done in them so far. He gave thanks that God was already working. He rejoiced that God was already present in their challenging situation, and he invited them to rejoice with him.

This attitude can help you when you're interceding too. Like Paul, you can give thanks and look for the ways that God is present in the people you are praying for. Like Corrie and Betsie, you can lift your eyes off their suffering and see the ways the Holy Spirit is already working things out for them. As you thank God, you won't be so caught up in their problems; instead, you'll find your hope and trust growing. You'll be confident that he can bring good out of even the most difficult situation, even something as unpleasant as an infestation of fleas!

"Thank you, Lord, for your presence in the situations I'm praying for. Show me your positive action in each circumstance."

Today's Announcements:

- Happy Birthday to Chloe Cooper and Camille Pitre today!
- First quarter progress reports will be issued on Friday.
- The last day to sign up for Interact Club is this Friday, September 8.

- Please keep the victims of Hurricane Harvey in your prayers. Nativity's disaster relief group will be traveling to Rockport, Texas (the former home of Bishop Kihneman) Saturday. Items needed are cleaning supplies, mops, bleach, Walmart gift cards, and all hygiene products. You may drop any donations off at the front office. These will be picked up on Thursday, September 7.

Also, all of the Catholic schools within the Diocese of Biloxi are working together to adopt Sacred Heart Catholic School in Rockport, Texas. We will be collecting donations all this week for Sacred Heart Catholic School. Please turn in your donation to your first period class by Friday morning.

- On Saturday, October 28, USM is hosting School Day at the Rock Game. All tickets for students and teachers plus family are only \$10 each. Flyers for this are available in the front office.
- Art Club will meet in Room 101 immediately after school.
- All students should now have an official St. Patrick email address. Students, you will use the email address to communicate with your teachers and for school business. Each email account also comes with unlimited storage on Google Drive including docs, spreadsheets, etc. Be sure to check your email at least once per day.
- Students for Life is continuing to accept nominations for officers. If you would like to run for an office, please see the sign-up sheet on Ms. Cloud's door, Room 110. \$5 dues must be paid in order to run for office.