

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, August 20, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

If you wish to be perfect . . . (Matthew 19:21)

Many children dream of being an Olympic athlete. But that dream can't become a reality without a lot of hard work. Each day, the athlete has to wake up devoted to the exercise, diet, and mental training required to reach his or her Olympic dream. It requires an incredible amount of time, effort, and sacrifice—a single-minded dedication to do what it takes to meet the goal.

If qualifying for the Olympics requires such a commitment, how much more do our spiritual lives? The rich young man in today's reading wants to know what he needs to do to make it to heaven. But when Jesus speaks to him about single-minded devotion to God's kingdom, he walks away dejectedly because he feels the sacrifice is too great.

We know we can't work our way into heaven. But we do need to be single-minded in following Jesus. What does this mean? Single-minded is defined as "having one driving purpose or resolve." Our purpose, our dream, is to be like Christ. And that requires resolve to focus our thoughts, words, and actions—even our relationships and the way we spend our time—towards this ideal of becoming like Christ.

Each of us has a different path to get us to our goal of becoming like Christ. That means that each of us needs to develop our own "training program." Of course, there are the obvious things: exercise (prayer and reading the Scriptures) and diet (receiving the sacraments). Other things might stem from what you know about your weaknesses or the gifts and virtues you're trying to develop. Maybe when people around you are gossiping, you need to remove yourself from the situation. Or maybe you strive to set aside some of your paycheck or allowance each month to give to charity.

It takes effort to deny ourselves, but the good news is that the more you do it, the easier it becomes. The closer you are to your goal, the more enthusiasm you'll have to do what it takes to go even farther.

So resolve to be single-minded for Jesus today. You might not be an Olympic hopeful, but you can think of today as the first day of your "training"!

"Jesus, you are the prize that I seek. Help me to be single-minded in following you."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Mason McCullough today!
- ★ Attention seventh graders... Class officer applications are now available in the front office. If you are interested in being a leader in the class of 2024, Student Council is for you! Positions available are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Applications are due tomorrow at the mandatory campaign meeting at 3pm in room 200.
- ★ Interact Club sign ups and voting for officers for grades 9-12 will take place this Wednesday at 3pm in the Auditorium. Any 7th and 8th graders who want to sign up need to do so in Ms Moon's or Ms Lawson's rooms

throughout Wednesday.

- ★ There is a Key Club meeting in Mrs. Sutherlin's room 210 this afternoon at 3:05. Anyone in 9th to 12th grades is welcome to attend. Applications will be available, and we will be discussing upcoming events.
- ★ Seniors, Mrs. Shelby Rae Hamel will be in the auditorium during lunch tomorrow, Tuesday, August 21st. She will have dessert for you. Please see her as soon as you eat your lunch.