

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Wednesday, October 31, 2018

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### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*Stop bullying, knowing that both they and you have a Master in heaven and that with him there is no partiality. (Ephesians 6:9)*

The Letter to the Ephesians was written during a period when at least one out of every three people in the Roman Empire was a slave. Slavery was an accepted institution that supported the social and economic structures of the culture. Sadly, slaves were considered tools of their masters and had few personal rights. Since slave owners exercised absolute mastery over their human property, some treated their slaves with vicious cruelty.

In his work with the church in Ephesus, Paul never endorsed slavery nor advocated its overthrow. He had a different objective: to enlighten everyone about the fundamental dignity of every human person. Since both slave and master “have a Master in heaven,” they are equal in status before the Lord (Ephesians 6:9). So Paul directed slaves to see themselves as children and heirs of God and to do their work as if for the Lord. Because it was proclaimed to both masters and slaves, this new perspective opened the way to an eventual rethinking of the institution of slavery—even as it gave oppressed slaves an immediate

sense of dignity and purpose.

Also revolutionary was Paul's assertion that within the Christian household, slaves had rights and that masters had a responsibility before God to treat them with justice and kindness. In his Letter to Philemon, Paul even appeals in love to the Christian owner of a runaway slave. He asks the master to welcome the runaway back “no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother” (Philemon 16)!

While the spread of Christianity in the first few centuries did not immediately lead to the abolition of slavery, it did set in motion the forces that eventually resulted in the widespread freeing of slaves. Pondering the gospel, Christians came to understand slavery as a grave injustice. Today in many parts of the world, slavery continues to grieve God's heart. Let's do all we can to fight this injustice. Let's also pray that more people will take on the mind of Christ, which changes the world by changing hearts.

*“Lord, please rescue all who are enslaved. Send messengers of your gospel to change the hearts of everyone who engages in slavery.”*

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### Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Blake Gollott and Mrs. Worrel!
- ★ The brothers and sisters in Christ who have been dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Michael have certainly been in our thoughts and prayers. We have received word from Superintendent Mike Juhas of their Diocese, and we understand that St. John Catholic School was heavily damaged and is in the process of relocating. Their Diocese is collecting monetary donations to help with opening a temporary school among other urgent needs. We are asking for donations to send to St. John and the surrounding damaged parishes from our St. Patrick family of faith. If you would like to contribute, please send your donations this week to your first period teacher. Checks

may be made payable to SPCHS as we will combine and send our funds together. Donations in any amount are received with prayerful gratitude.

- ★ All NEHS members should check their emails. The officer ballot as well as information about the next meeting and dues were sent to you via email. New member dues are due by tomorrow to Ms. Buckley.
- ★ St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus is seeking volunteers to serve Thanksgiving meals to senior citizens November 18 from 10:30 to 2:00. See Mrs. Collier in the front office to sign up.
- ★ Congratulations to our classroom spelling bee winners. We especially congratulate our 3rd place winner London Lafferty, our 2nd place winner Jade Agler, and our first place winner Evan Holliman! Great job!