

ST. PATRICK

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Show no partiality. (James 2:1)

In his biography of St. Francis of Assisi, British author G. K. Chesterton uses an analogy to show how Francis' whole way of thinking had changed as a result of his conversion. Deep in prayer in a cave outside the city, the young Francis surrendered his expectations of a worldly career with its honors and chose to live for the honor of God instead. When he came out of the cave, everything had turned upside down for him. It was, Chesterton wrote, as though Francis were "walking on his hands."

Chesterton used this image to give a sense of the joy Francis felt when, having given up all his possessions, he could see the true poverty of humanity, the poverty of a people who depend at every moment on God for existence. From this upside-down perspective, everything that seemed strong and permanent—thick walls, high towers—appeared precarious as it hung dangerously over empty space. By being turned upside down, Francis saw things right side up.

This description can help shed light on today's first reading. In a world based so much on who is in and who is out, James tells his readers to "show no

partiality" (2:1). We can no longer look at things the way society does, favoring the wealthy and powerful while disregarding people who struggle with illness or financial need or weakness. Instead, we should see things upside down. If anything, we should favor the poor over the rich, since the poor have so little and need so much.

These can be very challenging words. It's hard enough to give any of our spare money or time to the poor, let alone prioritize them as the greatest. In some ways, it's like giving just as much attention to someone we consider boring as we give to someone who is attractive or charming.

Keeping our eyes fixed on the cross is one key to flipping our perspective. The more we see the love of the One who emptied himself, the more we will see the world differently. The more we see how Jesus reached out to people in need, the more we will be moved to give generously of ourselves. Like St. Francis, we will begin to treat every person, rich and poor, with the dignity and love they deserve.

"Jesus, help me to see as you see and to love as you love."

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Today's Announcements:

- Happy birthday to Christopher Dollar!
- Today is day 2 of the advisement schedule.
- Students, this is a reminder of the school attendance policy for extracurricular activities. You must be present at least fifth, sixth, and seventh period in order to attend or participate in any extracurricular activities. An excused absence (doctor's note, etc.) does not permit you to attend; however, prior approval to attend may be granted before the absence.
- The following clubs will take pictures immediately after mass today in the gym: National Junior Honor Society, SAVE Club, Interact Club, Junior High Math Club, Spanish/French Club, Students for Life, and Science Olympiad.
- Students this a reminder that smart watches are not allowed at St. Patrick during the school day. Teachers please observe all to ensure all are in compliance.
- St. Mary Parish in Woolmarket invites students in grades 9-12 to a special study program about YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body. This 10-week program will be held on Wednesday nights from 5-7pm beginning March 4th. This may be a great way to grow in holiness during Lent. The information night to sign up is next Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) at 5 pm at St. Mary. Space is limited! See Ms. Cloud for more information.
- St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach is having a Lenten mission on March 9, 10, and 11 at 6:30 pm each night titled "Angels and the Spiritual Life." This will be presented by Fr. Mike Austin, the pastor of Holy Family Parish. All are invited to attend any or all of these evenings (other friends of yours also welcome).
- All track members are to report to the cafeteria after school today for a special guest speaker.
- For the 2nd year, Nativity BVM School will host the Saints Shenanigans - Sister Mary Jo Memorial Race - 1 Mile Fun Run & 5K Race on Saturday, March 7th. Nativity BVM School is in search of St. Patrick student volunteers for face painting and event management at the race from 7:00 to 10:00am at Biloxi City Hall. Please see Mrs. Edwards in the front office to sign up.
- The Fighting Irish men's basketball team will host Bay Springs Saturday night at 6pm in the second round of the state basketball playoffs.
- All mens golf team members need to see Coach Smith before school ends today. Also, due to weather, the course is closed today and there will be no after school practice.