

STAFF DISCUSSION JOURNAL

Going Deeper

PART 1

Scripture Reflection

As a staff, take a few moments to sit in total silence. Silence is a rare commodity and central to how God speaks with us.

Slowly read aloud this passage from the Gospel of John Chapter 16

“I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Now, take a few moments in silence and then read it one more time.

Questions For Group Discussion:

What might be our own filters, biases and limitations when it comes to the questions our students have? How does the scripture passage above suggest we might allow God to form us so that, in turn, we might form our students?

What do you feel are some of the biggest questions your students encounter at the present time? How confident do you feel in addressing them?



“It is like employing a small tool on big constructions, if we use human wisdom in the hunt for knowledge of reality.”

St. Cyril of Carthage

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PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School n.85

The specific methods and the steps used to accomplish the educational philosophy of the school will, therefore, be conditioned and guided by an intimate knowledge of each student's unique situation.

How do you feel about the invitation to deepen your own knowledge of each students 'unique situation'? Amid all the demands and expectations you face, how do you feel about this? Is it easy? Is it hard? What barriers do you face and how can they be overcome?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Lord,

We pray this week for the grace and courage to seek to know our students individual situations more completely.

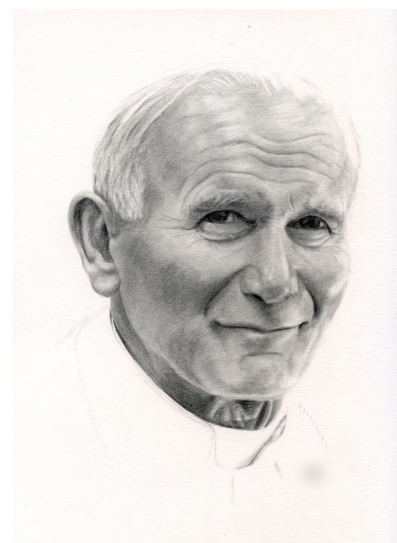
Amid the busyness and demands we face inspire us with a care, curiosity and concern for each young person.

Help us to seek first to understand before we seek to be understood.

May we come to know each student and guide them toward a compelling vision of the human person and your plan for their life.

In your name Jesus we pray.

Amen



“Although I have lived through much darkness,...I have seen enough evidence to be unshakeably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of the young...Do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son.”

St. John Paul The Great