

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 Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.



“You must refuse nothing you recognize to be His will.”

St Jane Francis de Chantal

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

Share your thoughts with your group about the degree to which your school environment currently reflects truth, beauty and goodness through its artworks and environment. Does your school create a space where students can contemplate what is lovely, pure, admirable or excellent?

If you could do one thing to enhance the artistic or environmental climate of your school or classroom what would it be? What could you do that would allow students to read the Gospel and the presence of Jesus through art, music, design or another medium?

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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.26

Having crucifixes in the school will remind everyone, teachers and students alike, of this familiar and moving presence of Jesus, the "Master" who gave his most complete and sublime teaching from the cross.

In this week's video we shared how one school has begun removing it's religious art so as no to cause offence! What is your honest feeling about the role of religious art in your school? Do you feel more could be done to create a rich and meaningful religious experience for students in this way?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the wonderful gifts of art, music, design and architecture.

We thank you for revealing something of your own beauty, truth and goodness to us through the created world.

We pray this week for a deeper sensitivity to how the climate and environment we create here in your school might reach each student.

Help us to be deeply proud of our Catholic identity. Help us to love and value the rich traditions and art and music that have touched souls for centuries.

May we, in your strength, hold fast to the beauty handed down to us.

In your name Jesus we pray.

Amen



"Prayer ought to be short and pure, unless it be prolonged by the inspiration of Divine grace."

St. Benedict of Nursia