

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 Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
3 They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
4 Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
6 It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.



"The Blessed Sacrament is indeed the stimulus for us all, for me as it should be for you, to forsake all worldly ambitions."

St. Damian of Molokai

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

Today's scripture talks about the beauty of the physical environment that God has created. How does your school's physical environment impact your students? What is positive? What changes do you feel could make it even more of a positive physical space?

Where do you find God most easily in the created world? Share with your group a place that is special to you where you find it easy to encounter God's presence.

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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.28

Students should feel a responsibility for their "schoolhome"; they should take care of it and help to keep it as clean and neat as possible. Concern for the environment is part of a formation in ecological awareness, the need for which is becoming increasingly apparent.

What is your sense of how deeply your students respect and value the school in general and it's physical environment in particular? Can you think of any ways in which this could be deepened?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of creation.

Thank you for the physical world you have given us with all it's beauty and all the ways it communicates your presence to us.

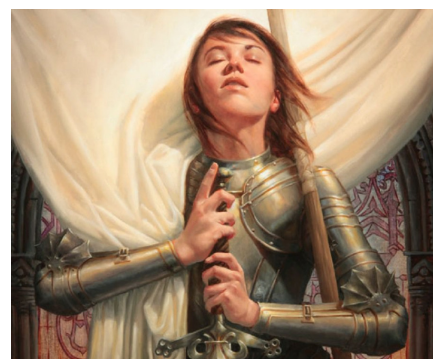
We pray for the grace to help our students more deeply value the created order by learning to value their own physical space here in this school.

Helps us to take pride in our school and to model this for each student.

Help us to expect much of them and to introduce them to the broader values of stewardship and respect for self and others.

In your name Jesus we pray

Amen



"I came from God. There is nothing more for me to do here! Send me back to God, from Whom I came!"

St. Joan of Arc