

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 1 John 4

My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.

2-3 Here's how you test for the genuine Spirit of God. Everyone who confesses openly his faith in Jesus Christ—the Son of God, who came as an actual flesh-and-blood person—comes from God and belongs to God. And everyone who refuses to confess faith in Jesus has nothing in common with God.

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

Today's scripture refers to the ability of Christ's followers to test and discern spiritual realities. How prepared do you feel your students are to apply critical thinking and discernment to the challenges of their moment in history? How effective is your school at present in intellectually and spiritually preparing young people for life?

What do you feel about the overall level of academic and intellectual formation taking place within your school? What more could be attempted? What is being done really well? Which colleagues do you admire or appreciate in this area?



"Being a Christian is more like having your soul possessed by a spirit than having your mind clothed with new beliefs... It is like being haunted by the Holy Ghost."

Peter Kreeft

PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education In a Catholic School n.48

The light of Christian faith stimulates a desire to know the universe as God's creation. It enkindles a love for the truth that will not be satisfied with superficiality in knowledge or judgment. It awakens a critical sense which examines statements rather than accepting them blindly. It impels the mind to learn with careful order and precise methods, and to work with a sense of responsibility.

What could you attempt in your school to help your students learn to 'love the truth'? How can you help them filter and critique some of the messages and beliefs that impact them?

STAFF PRAYER

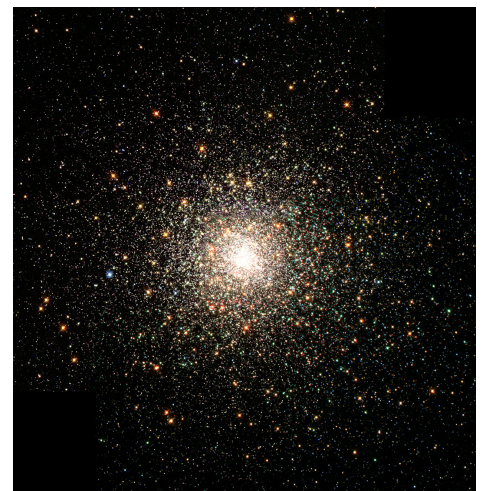
Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the chance to be a part of the community you have brought together here. Thank you for the many daily opportunities to serve each other and to serve young people.

We pray this week for a deeper grace of focus upon the intellectual and academic needs of our young people.

Help us to lead them into the fullness of the gifts you have given to them. Help us to guide them into a critical awareness of the many messages that permeate our culture. Give us the courage to be counter-cultural where necessary yet also encouraging of new movements of the Holy Spirit.

Help us to value and appreciate each other



“Once you begin to believe there is help 'out there,' you will know it to be true.”

St. Bartholemew