

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 2 Peter 1

His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.

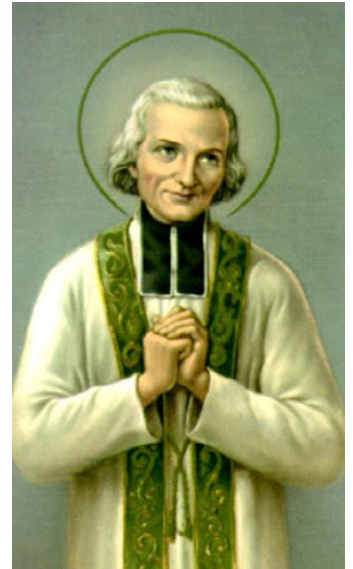
For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love. If these are yours and increase in abundance, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

Today's scripture refers to how faith, virtue and knowledge are all vitally interrelated. Is any one of these three elements missing from the way that you educate your students? How can all three be incorporated?

Which of the qualities above is most present and real in your Catholic school community at the current time? Which ones do you feel need more openness to God's grace?



"Through prayer we receive a foretaste of heaven and something of paradise comes down upon us. Prayer never leaves us without sweetness."

St John Vianney

PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education In a Catholic School n.51

"In a Catholic school, and analogously in every school, God cannot be the Great Absent One or the unwelcome intruder. The Creator does not put obstacles in the path of someone trying to learn more about the universe he created, a universe which is given new significance when seen with the eyes of faith."

How does faith give greater significance to our knowledge of the world arounds us? How does it change the way that we see the human person? How does learning about both spiritual and physical realities point to God?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for making us in your image and for giving us everything that we need for this life.

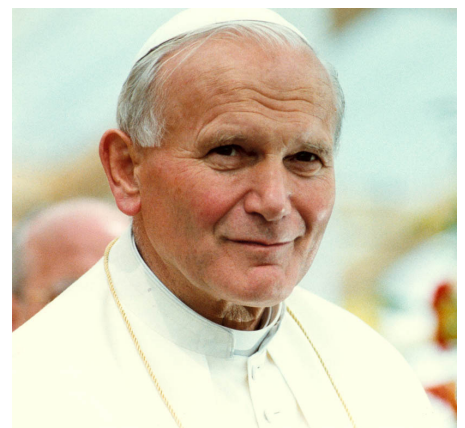
Help us to perceive you through the eyes of faith and reason. Help us to see the world as it is, created by a wonderful and omnipotent Creator.

Help us to guide our students through this culture. May we live out our vocations by informing them of the world and of your presence in it and in them.

Help us not to neglect faith, virtue or knowledge. Give us the grace to incorporate all of these qualities into our students' education experience so that they may see the relationship between faith and human culture.

In your most precious name, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself"

Pope St John Paul II