

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 Romans 8

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

According to Romans, what is it that gives every human person his or her dignity? Why, out of all of creation, are human beings so valuable?

How can this view of the human person as a child of God effect every area of education in this school? What can change in our school so that we can better reflect this truth?



"I will never tire of repeating this: what the poor need the most is not pity but love. They need to feel respect for their human dignity, which is neither less nor different from the dignity of any other human being."

St. Theresa of Calcutta

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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.56

"The religious dimension makes a true understanding of the human person possible. A human being has a dignity and a greatness exceeding that of all other creatures: a work of God that has been elevated to the supernatural order as a child of God, and therefore having both a divine origin and an eternal destiny which transcend this physical universe."

What is it about the religious dimension of education that makes it fully possible to understand the nature of humanity? What does it have that we cannot find elsewhere?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for making us the children of your Father in heaven. Thank you for the freedom and glory that comes with being a human person.

Help us to treat our students as the precious children of God that they are. Help us to fill our teaching with the truth of the human person and dignity that they deserve. May we help them to understand, with their mind and their heart, what it means to be a child of God.

Give us the grace to live up to our vocations. Help us to endure whatever hardships may come in light of the glory that will be revealed in us.

In your holy name, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



"Our human dignity is inseparable from the sacredness of life as a gift of the Creator. In God's plan, each person is unique and irreplaceable."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI