

STAFF DISCUSSION

Going Deeper

PART #1

Scripture Reflection

Scripture makes it very clear that God wants to give us good things. He wants to actually give each of us the Holy Spirit to deepen our sense of vocation.

STEP ONE

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.

STEP TWO

After some time in silence, have one person read the following scripture aloud:

A Reading from the Gospel of John Chapter 8

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

STEP THREE

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

Questions for Discussion

STEP ONE

An authentic Catholic school will try to reveal to students the deep truth that they are made in the image of God, that they are loved and that are needed in the world. How effective do you think your school is at the moment in helping young people know these truths?

STEP TWO

It takes courage and effort these days to present Jesus both to the hearts and heads of young people. Do you think your school has the courage to first make Jesus a priority for staff and then proclaim Him to young people in the many opportunities of each day or is Jesus given an occasional mention? What could change and how?



“When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”

MOTHER TERESA

STAFF DISCUSSION

Going Deeper

PART #2

STEP ONE

Take a moment to read the following quote from the Church documents:

"A teacher who is full of Christian wisdom, well prepared in their own subject, does more than convey the sense of what they are teaching to their pupils. Over and above what they say, they guide their pupils beyond their mere words to the heart of total Truth."
(*The Catholic School 41*)

STEP TWO

The idea of your subject being a way that students encounter truth can be a paradigm shift. Being totally honest, do you think your school values academic and teaching excellence more in terms of rankings and its appeal to parents or in terms of leading students to truth and Christ? Could both be possible?

Closing Prayer

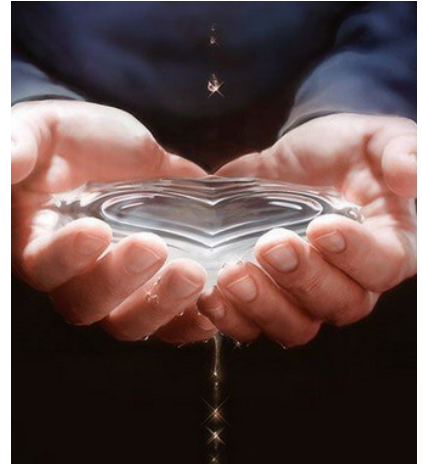
Lord, we thank you for the gift of the different subject disciplines we share with students.

Thank you for the journey of our own lives that has given us different interests and enthusiasms regarding that which we teach.

Give us a renewed energy to pursue excellence in our teaching. Help us to find an inner desire to share the beauty of art, science, drama, sport, literature and more with the young people in our care.

Help us to value our hard work, often over many years, to know our subject areas. Just as you ennobled the act of human work in a carpenter's shop, remind us always that excellence in work is a human and truly noble endeavour.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



"If we truly think of Christ as our source of holiness, we shall refrain from anything wicked or impure in thought or act and thus show ourselves to be worthy bearers of his name. For the quality of holiness is shown not by what we say but by what we do in life."

ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA