

Board of Management/Governors and Staff Time Out

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
(St Teresa of Avila)

Before you begin the board meeting closest to Catholic Schools Week 2015, take a moment to consider how you are the eyes and hands of Christ in your school community. The theme of Catholic Schools Week this year is **Catholic Schools: Called to Serve**. Every day this week the school community will take time to think about how we are called to serve God and each other with love, kindness, joy, truth and justice so that we can be the kind of people that Jesus wants us to be and bring his love to the world. There is love, kindness, joy, truth and justice in every school but we are also a faith school, a Catholic school. This means that we are loving, kind, joyful, truthful and just because this is what Jesus wants us to do, this is how Jesus wants us to live. We are a school where faith is part of everything that we do, how we learn, how we play, how we treat each other, the kind of people we are. The two things are connected and this is what makes us the kind of school we are. Each day the students and staff of your school are being helped to do this by focusing on a daily word that reflects the kind of service that we are called to by God. The following statements might focus the board's reflection this evening.

- Love:** Is our school a place where we learn to love one another as Jesus asked?
- Kindness:** Is our school a place where we experience kindness and in turn share that kindness with others?
- Joy:** One of the fruits of a spirit-filled life is joy. Is our school a place where joy is found even in the small things?
- Truth:** Is our school a place where truth is spoken with love?
- Justice:** Is our school a place where we always stand up for justice not just for ourselves, but for our families, for our communities, and most importantly for the people all over the world who live in places where there is no justice?

Staff and board members might use these words as a basis to begin to reflect on the way the school is living up to its mission of being a place where we are all called to serve.

In early January, copies of the Catholic Schools Week resource will be sent to schools and to all priests ministering in parishes.



Prayer For Teachers

Lord Jesus,
Guide us in our work so that
the young people before us may grow to become
all that you have called them to be.
May our teaching encourage them to embrace life
in all its beauty and mystery.
May our patience with them allow them to
learn from their mistakes.
May our listening to them help them to
respect themselves and others.
Through the gift of your Spirit
inspire us to love what we do,
to be a support to one another
and to never give up on a child in our care.

Prayer For Board Members

Lord God,
We give thanks for the
opportunity to serve this school community.
May we use the gifts you have given us generously
for the good of all who are teaching and learning here.
Guide us in our work of creating a place of faith and learning
where each person feels welcome
and comes to know that they have something to contribute
to the beautiful enterprise that is the education of the young.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.