



SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Rosary School Family Communication Newsletter

February 23, 2012

Dear Families,

We had a wonderful faculty meeting yesterday afternoon. I had the faculty re-visit their findings from last year's self-study (accreditation). It sparked some great conversation around a number of topics including our Math curriculum and the All Kinds of Minds program. We went on to discuss standardized testing and ways we can better communicate how we have and are planning to improve instructional practice. Next week, we will be working in our curriculum teams that I spoke about last week.

I would like to digress somewhat and share a story. I was reflecting on my teachers that I had in grade school this morning and thought back to my fourth grade teacher, Sister Andrea and my friends from that time. My best friend in 4th grade came from a large Irish Catholic family. We were like brothers, sledding all day Saturday in the winter, playing football with the kids in the neighborhood at all free times, whatever the weather, and taking what we thought were long bike-rides. One day as we neared dismissal, Sister Andrea asked if we would help her in the classroom after school. I have always found that boys want to help when given the opportunity, and we were no different, we jumped at the chance. This began a pattern in which we helped Sister every Friday afternoon. One Friday, after helping Sister, she asked that we come to the convent as she had something for us. When we got there, she opened the garage door and we were amazed at what we saw. I will never forget it-boxes and boxes of doughnuts, cakes, cookies and treats of all sorts. Back in those days, when the Sisters were given a \$5.00 stipend every month plus room and board, shopkeepers apparently donated food and treats to the Sisters. Sister invited each of us to pick out a whole box of donuts, which we gladly accepted. We were the happiest 10 year-old boys on the planet. I have fought a love of doughnuts every since!

I was surfing the Internet a few years back and ran into a story about a contractor who was renovating a restaurant a few blocks from the World Trade Center when it was struck. The story told how the contractor and his crew ushered people in to safety as they fled from the stricken area surrounding the towers. The contractor turned out to be my old friend from my old Catholic School. I had lost touch with him when we moved from the East coast a long time ago, but there he was, still doing good. I bet Sister would be proud of him. After that story, I guess I know what I will give up for Lent: doughnuts!

Cordially,

Michael Cantu,
Principal

CATHOLIC AND NON-CATHOLIC MARIAGES.

I have had many conversations over the years with spouses in mixed religion marriages; some are between Catholic and other religions and others are Catholic and no religious preference. Some of these marriages work fine; the spouses knew what they were getting into from the beginning and accepted life as it has unfolded. Others have not been as lucky; the marriage has had its rocky spots over religious hopes and expectations. Some spouses hoped that a partner would become active and join the church in time but did not; others hoped that at least there would be a cooperative and supportive arrangement not one that would become uncooperative, indifferent even hostile towards the faith dimension of a spouses life.

Possibly the most difficult scenario of all is the case of a marriage that began in the church with both being Catholic and then one or other became totally uninterested and disengaged as time went on; expectations that were high and then dashed must be the most difficult of all. I don't live in a marriage relationship and I obviously don't know the workings of such a relationship. Consequently it is beyond me to understand what happened to the "I love you" that in sacramental marriage means I am willing to lay down my life for you. I will do whatever it takes to invest myself in making you happy. We will stand together in all circumstances of life.

Following some extended conversations on this topic in the recent past I looked for a spouse in a mixed religion marriage to write something that might be helpful to others or at least provide some basis for dialogue. Dan Schwartz ---- a Jew in his upbringing, married to Kathy who is Catholic ---- agreed and the following is his article.

Fr John.

"Reading List"

Daniel Schwartz, Holy Rosary Parish Council

Readers of the Holy Rosary Bulletin will recall that, during the Autumn, members of the Parish Council were introduced to you in these pages. In the short paragraph about me, there was mention of my being asked to participate so as to bring a voice representative of the members of this parish who have a spouse of a different faith.

Living in harmony within the sacrament of marriage can be challenging enough, even when both partners have been raised in the same faith community. Yet, many of us have been drawn to, fallen in love with, and then married spouses whose religious background is other than Catholic. While this may be a source of tension, it can also provide an opportunity for husbands and wives to deepen their understanding of each other, and of their relationship to God as witnessed by the love they share.

From courses I took as an undergraduate, forty years ago at the University of Chicago, I was somewhat aware of the history of the Catholic Church and its many contributions over two thousand years to the

development of our western civilization, philosophy, and intellectual traditions. Growing up in a city with a large Catholic population, I had been to Catholic churches and Mass as a guest during weddings, funerals, and confirmations of childhood friends, fellow students and then adult colleagues. Nevertheless, my knowledge of what it meant to be a Catholic, and what Catholics believe was at best superficial.

In 1999, I met my wife, Kathy. Once we started dating, on Friday evenings after work we would begin our weekends by attending either the Taize service at St. James Cathedral, or Shabbat (Sabbath) services at Temple de Hirsch. This provided us with insight into each other's respective religious upbringing. After we got married, I set out to learn more about Catholicism. I want to share here some of the reading I have done in the last few years, in the hope that other non-Catholic members of mixed-faith couples in our parish may also benefit from a deeper understanding of what their loved ones' religion is about.

A neighbor loaned me a copy of ***Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus*** by Thomas Cahill. This wonderfully readable book, by an author who had also written *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*, provides a broad panorama of the history of the peoples of the ancient world and sets the scene for the emergence of Jesus upon the stage of history. I found most interesting his account of what the Apostles accomplished in the days, weeks, and years after the crucifixion, turning what had initially been a movement within Judaism into a global religion.

Several years ago, Father John invited Dr. Tom Curran to give a talk on the Mass. I purchased a copy of Dr. Curran's book, ***The Mass: Four Encounters with Jesus that will Change Your Life***. In a compact 129 pages, Dr. Curran explains what the elements of the Mass mean, why they are important to Catholics, and the rich significance of each. While the book is good, hearing him deliver the lecture – with his animated and enthusiastic style of delivery – is well worth the time to attend.

At dinner one evening with a parishioner, we discussed comparative religious traditions, which resulted in her giving me two paperback books for further reading: ***Catholicism, The Story of Catholic Christianity*** by Gerald O'Collins and Mario Farrugia is a serious read. At nearly 400 pages, well researched and footnoted, this volume probably should be viewed as a textbook providing an impressive survey of the Catholic traditions, past and present. Accompanying this book was a small, thin yet informative ***Handbook for Today's Catholic***. In about 120 pages, it gives a concise presentation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Someone wanting to give a non-Catholic a quick checklist of what it is to be a Catholic would find this book to be a very accessible window into his or her faith.

Saving the best for last... At Christmas a year ago, Father Madigan gave me a copy of ***Triumph: The Power and the Glory of the Catholic Church – a 2000 Year History*** by H.W. Crocker III. I love history and greatly enjoy reading historical novels. This book combines features of both in a most readable, sweeping account of the two millennia of the Church and its influence upon world history. Fast moving, even exciting like a work of fiction, with sparks of humor, it provided numerous points where I thought to myself "so that's how it happened!"

Finally, in January while flying cross-country on a business trip, I read G. K. Chesterton's ***Orthodoxy***. A popular English author of short stories and novels, he converted from Anglican to Roman Catholicism and wrote this short essay of Christian apologetics, explaining not whether the Christian faith can be believed, but rather his own spiritual journey and how he personally came to believe. Chesterton is very readable and at times entertaining. To him is attributed the famous saying that "the problem with someone not believing in God is not that he believes in nothing...but rather that he'll then believe in anything!" His concise refutation of atheism alone makes this a worthwhile read.

While my purpose here was to suggest some reading for the non-Catholic spouse, it did occur to me that perhaps lifelong members of the faith may gain something from these books too. Unsaid in all of this is the necessity of reading -- or at the least listening to, at Mass, -- the compelling story told by the Bible and the Gospels.

A marriage that brings two faiths together can be a blessing. After saying the Hebrew Sabbath prayers over the wine and the Challah bread at our Friday night dinners ... and then hearing again at Mass on Sunday the eternal words of Christ from the Last Supper, I am struck by how much we share rather than by any differences in the way we approach and worship our God.

Welcome to the **Puttin' on the Ritz Auction Action!** This week in the Auction Action...**Online Donations are overdue!!!**

Hey Guys and Dolls, Sugar Daddies, and Bearcats.... did you forget to make your HEART Auction Donation? There are **150 remaining families** that need to enter a donation online and we need the goods! We're not gold diggers lookin' to double cross ya, we're just part of the Holy Rosary team trying to meet that auction goal of \$230,000 and we're starting to get the **heebie jeebies** without the loot!

Feeling like you don't have an idea? "Horse feathers!"... give us a jingle at auction-procurement@holyroaryws.org and we can help you with ideas. Or, be the Big Cheese with a monetary donation. Credit card donations can still be made on the HEART auction website at <http://heart.holyrosaryws.org>, while cash and checks can be turned in to the school office...just make certain that your family name and Puttin' on the Ritz are clearly marked. Remember, the new HEART Auction family commitment is \$125/family and it takes all of us for **Puttin' on the Ritz!**

"Thanks pal" to those of you who helped us out by meeting last week's deadline!

Parents in Touch for Lent! - Looking for a way to Grow Your Faith during Lent? Besides fasting and almsgiving, prayer is a wonderful way to deepen your faith experience! Please consider joining us at Parents in Touch! We meet every Friday morning after drop off (8:30 am - 9 am) in the Chapel to

pray the rosary for the intentions of the school and parish and any other intentions for which you would like to pray. It's a great way to end the week, get to know other parents and connect with God. Please mark your calendar for this Friday, Feb. 24! If you have any questions, please email Jillian Kane. We've been praying YOU will join us!

Attention Student Musicians! The upcoming Art Show, March 13, would love to include some student musicians to perform while guests are viewing the visual art on display. Instrumentals (no vocals) would be best. A piano will be available. Auditions will be arranged on an individual basis. If your child is interested in being part of this special addition to the show, or if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mudge asap at jmudge@holyroaryws.org Thank you!

Technology Update (A Message from Mr. Barker) - Thank you all for your feedback on the technology section of the Parent Survey. In the next few weeks I will be addressing your comments and suggestions on my webpage at <http://gator.holyrosaryws.org/tech> and also in the eFC. There was considerable mention of PowerSchool and/or website updates. Holy Rosary has a two-week PowerSchool posting policy. Assignment grades should be posted to PowerSchool no later than two weeks after an assignment or test is turned in. Classroom websites should be updated weekly (by Monday afternoon) and in some cases of homework, daily. Please contact me if there are technical issues with PowerSchool or webpage. Thank you.

2012-2013 School Budget Presentation

Mark your calendars now for the 2012-2013 budget presentation. School Commission will present next year's budget on March 1 at 7:00 in the school hall. We will go over where our revenue comes from, what it gets spent on, and how things are changing for next year. I look forward to seeing you there! Childcare will not be provided. Thank you.

Sherri Chun
School Commission President

2012 HRS Father – Daughter Glow Bowl

This year's Father – Daughter Glow Bowl will be Friday, March 30th. Please complete the attached form and return to the school office no later than Friday March 16th to ensure your spot!

Looking Forward to Lent - St. Martin de Porres

Once again this year Holy Rosary students are looking forward to providing lunches and a special toiletry items to the men at St. Martin de Porres shelter on several Fridays during Lent. We will have our first collection day on Friday, March 2nd. Since lunches can be refrigerated and are often eaten on the same day, perishable items such as sandwiches and fruit are OK. We need Parent Volunteers to drive the lunches and a few students to deliver the lunches each week. If this is something you would like to do, please contact Mary W. or Janise in the main office. Thank you!

Martin de Porres lunch collection dates:

3/2 Lunch/Gloves (Men's)

3/9 Lunch/men's socks

3/16 Lunch/ toiletries (sample size)

3/30 Lunch/toothbrush/toothpaste (sample size)

HRS Track and Field

Hello Parents and families. Spring is in the air. The St. Patrick's Day Dash is on a Saturday the 17th this year! My good friends and owners of the event say, " record crowds, lots of Green and the real distance, well...never been told...!" So, join me and other CYO coaches for a good warm up race with your kids before Track Season begins.

Our first practice is Tuesday, April 3rd and this will also be the **ANNUAL BROOKS TRUCK LOAD EVENT**; shoes for kids and adults at slashing great prices. Sale starts after practice at 5:30 ish to 7 PM.

All practices there after will be Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6 PM. Track is for 4th thru 8th graders only. Fee is \$25.00 per athlete.

Our coaches are John Slee, Paul Moseley, Larry Swegle, Geralyn Bertolotti, and Katie Cunningham. We could always use more for field events too: long jump, turbo jav, shot put, high jump (I'm desperate) and relays...Please don't

hesitate let me know if you can help us at practice.

All meets are on Saturdays in May, except the 8th grade Pentathlon (8th grade only 5 events) which is Mother's Day! Yes, they are long but there are only 4. It is very similar to High School Track meets or Swim meets. We cheer each others events and learn how to race ourselves with time to visualize and really think about strategy. It is great sport for kids who want a more individual aspect rather than playing on a team. (except relays, of course)

Hope to see lots of kids turn out this year. We pride ourselves in our positive and energetic program where kids love practice as well as the purity of the sport of running.

Concerns or ?? Again, please let me know.

Shelley Neal, Head Track and Field Coach, CYO Sports Holy Rosary/West Seattle

HRS families and supporters,

The 7th/8th grade Drama Elective invites you to enjoy their fantastic rendition of the Magical Land of Oz! We have been working since September to bring this production to you and I promise the acting, dancing, music, and set design will not disappoint!

Performances take place Thursday March 15th and Friday March 16th at 7 pm in the School Hall. Tickets are free so bring as many friends/family members you'd like! Yummy treats will be served during intermission.

We look forward to wowing you!

Miss McLaughlin and the 7/8 Drama Elective.

Community Postings

Tuesday March 6th: ALIENS ON PLANET TEEN & TWEEN

Dr. Anthony Wolf, best-selling author and teen psychologist, provides a survival guide for parents on adolescents and new rules for effectively communicating with today's teens and tweens.

Town Hall, Seattle, 7-9pm. \$20. Use discount code LSSCH12 to get \$3 off!

Visit www.parentmap.com/lectures for details and tickets

Wanted: Good Home for Mature spayed 9-year-old male cat. Owner passed away and the cat is used to being in a single cat household. Interested? Call Vil Slee at (206) 935-1097.

7th & 8th Grade Dance @ Kennedy Catholic Saturday, February 25 7–10 pm

Eleven local Catholic Schools are invited and entry is by special permission slip

only that will be passed out in the students' classrooms. The cost is \$10 and \$8

with two cans of food for Northwest Harvest. Water, snacks and glow necklaces will be available for purchase. This dance is a fundraiser for Kennedy students going on a mission and immersion trip to Vietnam in June. Contact Kennedy teacher Ms. Vanderplas at vanderplasc@kennedyhs.org with questions. We promise a fun and safe time!

Archbishop Murphy High School presents its Spring Musical "Annie Get Your Gun": Friday, February 24, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 25, 7:00pm; Sunday, February 26, 2:00pm; Friday, March 2, 7:30pm; Saturday, March 3, 2:00pm. All shows at PUD Auditorium 2320 California St., Everett. Ticket Prices: Adults: \$13; Seniors 62+, Students, Children under 10: \$11. For more information and to order tickets, visit the school website www.am-hs.org.

West Seattle Girls Softball Sign ups

Register online at www.westseattlegirlssoftball.com

H.Y.P.E. Basketball – Spring AAU League Tryouts

2nd and 3rd Grade – Mon 2/27 & Wed 2/29 5:30 – 7:00pm

4TH, 5TH, and 6th - Grade – Tues 2/28 and Thurs 3/1 5:30 – 7:00pm

7th and 8th Grade -Tues 2/28 and Thurs 3/1 7:00 – 8:30pm

Salvation Army CC

9020 16th Ave SW
Seattle WA 98106
(206) 767-3150 ext 108

Mar 1	Budget Presentation
Mar 9	End of Second Trimester
Mar 13	Art Fair
Mar 15 &16	Magical Land of Oz Play
March 16	St Patrick's Day Mass
Mar 22	Report Cards go home
Mar 23	Deanery In-Service meeting – NO School