



Campus Ministry Online

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Mater Dei, a Catholic diocesan regional high school, nurtures the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional and social growth of young men and women. In a caring environment, respectful of individual differences, her comprehensive program educates, fosters faith and develops gospel values.
(Mater Dei Mission Statement)

Prayer for a New School Year

O God, we long to know you and to love you, but the busyness of life often gets in the way. As an important part of our education, help us to recognize the ordinary, daily ways that we can learn about you and grow closer to you. We know that you are with us, leading us, guiding us and lifting us up when we need help on our way. Always keep us open to your presence. Amen.

“Never be men or women of long action and short prayer.”

No Cold or Lukewarm Christians

Pope Francis delivered his Aug. 14 address to the crowds who had gathered in St. Peter's Square for the weekly Angelus.

The Church does not need “cold or lukewarm Christians” who are held back by fear, Pope Francis said; it needs Christians who are on fire with the Holy Spirit and committed to proclaiming the Gospel, even if it costs them their lives. The Church needs “passionate missionaries, consumed by zeal to bring the consoling Word of Jesus and his grace to everyone. This is the fire of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If the Church does not receive this fire, or allow it to enter, it becomes a cold or lukewarm Church, incapable of giving life, since it is made of cold or lukewarm Christians.”

In his address the pontiff reflected on the themes of the day's Gospel reading, specifically on Jesus' words: “I have come to set the earth on fire.” He explained how the fire about which Jesus speaks is that of the “Holy Spirit, the living and working presence in us from the day of our Baptism.” This fire is a “creative force which purifies and renews,” as it burns away every human misery, egoism, and sin, he said. “It transforms us from within, regenerates us, and makes us capable of love.”

“Jesus wants the Holy Spirit to burn like fire in our hearts, because it is only from the heart that the fire of Divine love can strengthen and advance the Kingdom of God,” he said. By opening ourselves completely to the Holy Spirit, we will be given the “courage and zeal to proclaim to everyone Jesus, and his consoling message of mercy and salvation.”

The Holy Spirit keeps the Church from being “held back by fear and calculations” or becoming accustomed to staying within secure confines. “The Apostolic courage which the Holy Spirit ignites in us as a fire helps us overcome walls and barriers, makes us creative,” and spurs us along “unexplored or uncomfortable paths, offering hope to those we meet.”

“We are called to become ever more a community of persons who are guided and transformed by the Holy Spirit,” Pope Francis said the fire of the Holy Spirit brings us to those who suffer from various miseries and problems, including migrants and refugees.

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The Pope encouraged those present to take five minutes to ask themselves whether their own hearts are cold or lukewarm, and if they are capable of receiving this fire of the Holy Spirit.

(Condensed from an article by Ann Schneible from the Catholic News Service)

These newsletters are a service of Mater Dei Campus Ministry in an attempt to:

- 1. Share information about our Catholic faith to keep our community aware of some of the teachings of our tradition.*
- 2. Update our community of changes in understandings and rituals*
- 3. Assist parents with the faith formation of their youth.*
- 4. Provide links to sites with helpful information on faith and parenting.*

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Class of 2020 Mass at Cathedral

On Sunday, Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. the Freshman Class will join with freshmen from Althoff and Gibault at the Cathedral in Belleville for Mass with Bishop Braxton. This is a fitting opportunity as these young people begin their journey in our Catholic High Schools.

Student Retreat Days

Student Retreat Days are fast approaching. Freshmen, sophomore and junior days will be led by the NET team from St. Paul, Minnesota and will be held during the week of Sept. 26 – 29th and Oct. 3 & 4. The seniors will have their retreat time facilitated by the REAP team from St. Louis on Oct. 27 & 28. Please keep our students in your prayers during these special days.

We also encourage all students to consider being part of a QUEST retreat during their freshman or sophomore year and a TEC retreat during their junior or senior year. Applications for these retreats are available in the Campus Ministry Office.

Prayer Support

At Mater Dei, we strive to keep prayer as a central part of our community experience. Our classes and functions all begin with prayer. If you have a prayer need please call or email it to Mater Dei. It will be placed in our prayer booklet in Chapel, on our classroom prayer boards and in our bulletin. These intentions are also included every morning at our Morning Prayer Service.

Faith Formation Teachers

For a number of years Mater Dei seniors have assisted our parishes with their mission to teach. Seniors who choose to participate are given Religion credit for graduation by committing to teaching religion in one of the morning Faith Formation programs. This year we have 37 seniors who have committed to this task and are serving in six different parishes. This is a great opportunity for our seniors as well as helping the parish Faith Formation programs to continue.

Christian Discipleship/Service Awards

Each year the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the School Board has sought nominations for the Underclassman Service Awards and the Christian Disciple Award for a senior. These were usually submitted in January and February. The committee has decided to accept nominations at any time during the year. The forms are available on Mater Dei's website under the FAITH tab.

All-School Liturgies

Please know that we do reserve the Eucharist in the tabernacle and all are welcome to use this place of prayer. Every morning there is a short morning prayer experience for anyone who wishes to attend and during the week, religion classes have an opportunity for the Eucharist. You are always welcome to our school liturgies. This year's schedule follows:

Oct. 5	Wednesday 9:40	Homecoming Liturgy
Nov. 1	Tuesday 9:40	All Saints/Grandparent Liturgy
Nov. 23	Wednesday 9:40	Thanksgiving Liturgy with Bishop Braxton
Dec. 8	Thursday 9:40	Immaculate Conception Liturgy
Feb. 1	Wednesday 9:40	Catholic Schools Week Liturgy
Mar. 1	Wednesday 9:40	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
May 2	Tuesday 9:40	May Crowning Liturgy