



St. Margaret Catholic School

Viking Vine



"Be Who God Meant You to Be And You Will Set The World On Fire."

March 8, 2019

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Which type of person are you, a risk-taker or a security-seeker? Some people really love taking risks as is instanced in the emergence of extreme sports; these participants love the rush of adrenaline and the feeling of escaping the ordinary. However, most of us are not risk-takers but security-seekers committed to a lifestyle of playing it safe. Playing life too cautiously could have us fall into the following description: "There was a very cautious man/Who never laughed or played;/He never risked, he never tried;/He never sang or prayed./ And when he, one day, passed away/His insurance was denied;/For since he never really lived,/They claimed he never died." Author unknown.

Strange as it may seem, Jesus told a story that seemed to encourage risk-taking. The Parable of the Talents tells a story of a wealthy man who was about to go on a long trip. He called his servants and, according to their ability, gave one 5000 gold coins, another 2000 gold coins and the other 1000 gold coins. He told each to take care of what had been

given to them.

The first two servants invested the money and made an equal amount but the third servant buried his money and made nothing. When the wealthy man returned, he applauded the enterprise of the two servants who had made the successful investments and promoted them to positions of greater responsibility. The third servant he deemed to be useless and threw him out of the household. Paraphrase Matthew 25: 14 - 30.

Risk-taking is actually part of everyday life and is taken for granted in matters from food consumption to travelling by car. The great motivational speaker and author Zig Ziglar, put it neatly when he said, "It's risky when a plane leaves the runway, but that's what planes are for. It's more risky for the plane to sit there and accumulate rust." There are shades of the Parable of the Talents in that statement.

The Season of Lent is upon us again and it is time for us to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. It may be better not to give up something but to take on something, to build up our spiritual muscles. How about this for taking on something: "There was a woman in Swaziland, Orma Mavimbela, who had a well-paid job in

the civil service. She felt called to do something for the AIDS orphans who she saw daily around her. So, she gave up her job and paid for three feeding centers where children could get a meal, receive some loving care and play games. Pretty risky; what happens when her money runs out?" Source: *Going Global*.

Of course, few of us are in a position to do as Orma did but what can each of us do? We are all made in the image of God but we may not be so Christ-like in our behavior. Maybe this Lent we could take part in some minor risk-taking. One more quote from Zig Ziglar: "You will get all you want in life, if you help enough people to get what they need."

Father in heaven, may Your love be the foundation and motivating force for my life. Help me to step out of my sheltered life and take Your love to other people in a way that is personal to me. Amen.

Peace and Blessings,

Wendy L. Wicke

Events

Wednesday, March 13th

AR Points Due

6:00 pm - PTC Meeting in Gym (Free Dress for PTC will be Monday, March 18th)

Thursday, March 14th

Individual Picture Day/Free Dress

Friday, March 15th

End of 3rd Quarter

8:15 am - Mass/NJHS & BETA Induction

Monday, March 18th

Free Dress for PTC Attendance

Lunches

Monday, March 11th

Gr. Beef Soft Tacos, Pinto Beans, Corn & Peach Slices

Tuesday, March 12th

Beef Finger Steaks, Broccoli, Glazed Carrots, Pineapple Tidbits & Wheat Roll

Wednesday, March 13th

Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Yam Patty, Orange Smiles & Wheat Garlic Roll

Thursday, March 14th

Pork Roast/Rice/Gravy, Sweet Peas, Cauliflower with Cheese Sauce, Spiced Apples & Wheat Roll

Friday, March 15th

Fish Portion on Bun, Fries, Pear Slices & Cookie

Choice of Milk Daily

Things to Remember

Club Meetings

Wednesday, March 13th

3:00 - 4:00 pm - Science Club

Thursday, March 14th

Noon - JCDA

3:00 - 4:00 pm - Chess Club

A Taste of Louisiana

SMCS Dinner/Auction will be held on Saturday, March 23rd from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Tickets are online or through the school office.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be distributed on Friday, March 22nd! **ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE CURRENT TO RECEIVE HIS OR HER REPORT CARD!**

Viking Lagniappe

Unveiling the Virtues

Habit #6 Synergize - Together is Better

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different from me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by learning with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone. I am humble.

Good Counsel - Seeking advice from a reasonable person

Good Judgement - Thinking rightly about a decision

Command - directly acting upon a sound decision

Circumspection - Careful consideration of circumstances and consequences

Docility - Willingness to be taught

Family Faith Formation

Ember Days: March 13, 15, 16

This coming Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, Bishop Provost has asked us to mark the long-time tradition of Ember Days in the Church.

The Church did not help construct the civilization of the last two thousand years by ignoring our behavior within society. We in the Church either transform society by witnessing to it or risk being absorbed by society through acquiescence. We in the Church either act as a pro-active force for good or retreat into irrelevance. For these reasons, this decree seeks to implement in our diocese a program of prayer and worship that moves us more closely to being who we are as Catholics. In this way, God might more easily work through us to give good example to our neighbors and build up the kingdom of God. Of one thing I am certain: We cannot continue to live as passive bystanders. A change is necessary, and it begins with the way we worship and pray. It is a humble step, but I think a positive one.

Much of what I propose in the decree involves parish life and our daily lives as Catholics. In the case of the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, originating with Pope Leo XIII in 1886, and Eucharistic processions, we are reaching into the rich treasure of Catholic prayer and practice. With the Ember Days, we are touching upon a tradition that was sustained within the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council. These proposals lay the groundwork for changes in the life of our parishes that, I pray, will be beneficial for a deepening of Catholic life...(Bishop Provost, December 2018, see diocesan website for full letter and list of decrees).

Decree:

That Catholics are urged to observe the time honored tradition of Ember Days as days of prayer and fasting; Ember Days are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following the First Sunday of Lent, Pentecost Sunday, September 14 (the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross) and December 13 (the Memorial of St. Lucy);

What Are Ember Days?

On Ember Days the Church is accustomed to entreat the Lord for the various needs of humanity, especially for the fruits of the earth and for human labor, and to give thanks to him publicly.

Four times a year, approximately three months apart, near the beginning of each season of the solar cycle, the Church set aside three days to ask for blessings upon mankind, and to pray in gratitude for the blessings of nature, particularly those used by the Church in her Liturgy, such as olives, grapes, and wheat. This is also a time set apart to thank God for the sacraments and pray for priests, particularly those who were being ordained. These days are marked with prayer, fasting and abstinence and stress spiritual renewal; Ember Days could be regarded as quarterly spiritual check-ups. The word "Ember" actually comes from the Latin phrase, *Quatuor Tempora*, meaning four times.

This is an ancient tradition of the Church. Pope St. Leo the Great in the 5th century mentioned the Ember Day Fasts, pointing to these fasts as stemming from Old Testament and Apostolic tradition...These were days of fasting and abstinence, allowing one full meal, with meat at the principal meal only, except on Fridays where complete abstinence was required (from catholicculture.org).