

Discipleship: Remain Here with Me

~ Superintendent Elias Moo

The news these days related to the scandals in the Church certainly has had a way of weighing heavily on me. In fact, I've found it increasingly difficult to not find myself upset and frankly, angry by what is floating around out there in Catholic news media today. Maybe you share the same sentiment or maybe it's a feeling of utter loss at how we got here mixed with a dose of helplessness or hopelessness, wondering when this will all pass. As with any difficult situation or moment, our humanity in these moments tends to gravitate towards darkness. I've certainly experienced that in the past few weeks. At times it has felt like a thick cloud of desolation coming from dwelling on all that is happening in our Church today has enveloped me and made it a challenge to remain focused on the Lord. I've felt it in moments of prayer and admittedly, even at mass. In fact, more recently, it has been in the silence of mass, before the real presence of the Lord, where I have found my mind drifting and dwelling on all the problems around me, at times feeling distant. In those moments, I leave prayer; then I leave mass feeling guilty for not being strong enough to resist the desolation and not doing more to be more present and focused on Him.

Yet, at mass recently, I experienced a simple, but profound moment of grace which immediately put all things in perspective with me. After communion as I was in the middle of a 'zoning-out-the Lord' session, consumed in my thoughts, my oldest son Juan Pablo nudged me and asked, "Daddy, what are you doing?" I replied, "I'm trying to pray." What I didn't say, but thought was, "And I'm trying really hard to not be distracted, so you're not really helping bud..." Juan Pablo then asked me, "What should I do?" To which I replied, "You should say to Jesus, 'Jesus, tell me something,' and then sit and be quiet and hear what he says." He must have been happy with that because he sat down and closed his little eyes. I thought I had achieved getting him off my back to give me at least another minute of prayer. However, no more than 30-seconds later, he tugged on my arm, this time even more aggressively and excitedly told me, "Daddy! Guess what? Jesus told me something!" Curious I asked, "What did He tell you?" to which Juan Pablo replied, "He said he was happy that you and me are here with Him."

I admit it has been a while since I've felt the Lord speaking to me as clearly as Juan Pablo heard Him on this Sunday. I think Juan Pablo is a bit more in tune with the Lord these days, at least, more-so than me. However, regardless of how it happened, the message from the Lord was clear. "I'm glad you're here with me." It makes me think of the Taize hymn inspired by the words of Jesus to Peter, James, and John at the Gethsemane the night of his betrayal and the moments before his passion, "Stay with me. Remain here with me. Watch and pray." In the midst of his agony, Jesus asked his disciples for nothing more than for them to be with him, to watch, and to pray. Indeed today, the Lord agonizes over how His Church is suffering and He asks us to stay with him, to remain with Him, to watch, and to pray. Discipleship many times is defined by how much we do. Yet, it is in moments and times like the ones we are living today, where the most valuable thing we can do as followers of Jesus, though it may seem like the least we can do, is to be with the Lord, to watch with Him, to pray with Him. Again, in the midst of all the things we have to deal with on a daily basis, making time to be in front of the real presence of the Lord or attend daily mass or even just spare 10 minutes for quiet prayer and reflection, may seem nearly impossible to do given our long list of things to do.

Therefore, let us do what we can during these times and especially as we head into the month of October, an exciting time of year for us all, to make time to stay with the Lord and remain with Him. To watch and to pray with Him. It is most needed in times of desolation and darkness and more importantly, there's nothing that pleases the Lord more than to allow ourselves to be with Him.

Congratulations!

The Colorado Art Education Association has named **Mr. Ryan Talbot**, of **All Souls Catholic School** in Englewood, Colorado, to receive the Colorado Art Education Association Private Art Educator of the Year award. This award recognizes excellence in contributions, dedicated service, and professional achievements of outstanding CAEA members in the field of visual arts education. Award recipients exemplify highly qualified art educators active in education today; they are leaders, teachers, students, scholars, and advocates who give their best to their students and the profession.



The Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools had six (6) teachers nominated to attend the Excellence in Teaching Conference at Notre Dame October 26-28, 2018. This opportunity is provided by The Notre Dame Club of Denver and The Club is excited to send qualified Catholic educators to this conference for the third year in a row.



Ms. Carol Tufano (above), Reading Resource teacher for all grades at **St. Pius X Catholic School**, **Ms. Jenna Pettinger** (left), 3rd grade teacher at **St. Rose of Lima Catholic Academy**, and **Ms. Jenny Childs** (below), Kindergarten teacher at **St. Therese Catholic School** were



honored with a full sponsorship to the conference which includes conference fees, lodging, and travel.



Musings by Jared

~ Jared Staudt, Director of Formation

Music plays a fundamental role in education. The influence of music does not come initially from learning to read music or to play instruments, but rather from its power to move us. Plato noted the possibility for both music's positive and negative influence in his *Republic*. Music can create harmony within us, but it can also stir up the passions in a way that distracts us from higher things.

In our schools, we can use beautiful music to inspire our students. Some music captures us instantly, but we also need to learn how to listen and how to appreciate more complex music. In a world that is saturated by noise, classical music can actually help us to take a step back, to clear our minds, and to develop the attention needed to think clearly and creatively.

Here are some recommendations: Bach's Mass in B Minor, Mozart's piano concertos, and Beethoven's symphonies.



V (Fifth) Encuentro

~ Toni Vaeth, Associate Superintendent

When asked six months ago to speak on a panel at the V (Fifth) Encuentro in Grapevine, Texas in September 2018, I was surprised, humbled and honored to discover that I was in the presence of 3,000+ disciples who were on fire for the Lord. The theme of the National V Encuentro was: "Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God's Love." This conference was a culmination of a years' long process of ecclesial discernment of priorities and strategies for action to advance the quality of ministry among Hispanic/Latino Catholics in making a vital contribution to the evangelization efforts of the Church in the U.S.A. These participants were an incredible inspiration and witness to me of the joy of embracing the Catholic religion with open arms.

We were joined by 124 bishops including our own Bishop Jorge Rodriguez and 4 cardinals including Cardinal DiNardo, O'Malley, Tobin and Cupich and the Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S.A., Archbishop Christophe Pierre. We were greeted on our opening night with a pre-recorded message from Pope Francis especially for the participants of the V Encuentro. He promised to pray for us and asked us to pray for him.



For the first time ever, Catholic education was given a forum to speak and receive feedback from participants on significant obstacles and needs in ministering to the Latino/Hispanic families in the U.S.A. As part of the University of Notre Dame Latino Enrollment Institute (LEI) panel, I presented along with other LEI principals and staff on working with our communities to increase enrollment in our schools and communicate ideas about educating Latino students.

In the words of the participants I had the fortune to interact with, the conference was uplifting, joy-filled and timely. Bishops claimed it was a "booster shot in the arm."

Archbishop Gomez in the closing homily urged us to find "the meaning of our lives and our joy in searching for what God needs of us."

Superintendent School Visits

Superintendent Elias J. Moo will be visiting the following AoDCS during the month of October 2018.

- October 4** – St. Stephen Catholic School, Glenwood Springs
- October 18** – Most Precious Blood Catholic School, Denver
- October 19** – St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, Denver
- October 31** – All Souls Catholic School, Englewood
- October 31** – Our Lady of Lourdes Classical Academy, Denver



"Forgiveness is an act of consciousness."

~ Unknown