

“The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! ... Let us think about and feel this beauty.”
~ Pope Francis

Instructional Leadership

~ Abriana Chilelli, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

Because Advent is coming up, I’ve been doing a lot of reading and reflecting on the Incarnation. There is a reason it is called a mystery of our faith because it’s mind-boggling to think about God taking on human flesh, becoming fully human, in order to die to save us from sin. Because of this act of humility and love of our God, we are saved from our sin, but the mystery of the Incarnation also means that we as humans can share in God’s divinity.

The Catechism, in paragraph 460, communicates the Incarnation as our chance to share in God’s divinity: “The Word became flesh to make us ‘partakers of the divine nature’: ‘For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God.’ ‘For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.’” Because of the Incarnation, God taking on human flesh, we can become saints.

The Incarnation means that God took on a human body, a human mind, and a human will. Like Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in *Theology of the Body*, we can share in God’s divinity by giving our bodies as gifts to others. We can order our minds to become like God, making our intellectual pursuits in pursuit of Truth Himself. Finally, we can work to order and direct our wills to God. These three aspects of our humanity, because of the Incarnation, can make us saints. And in our schools, we have the great blessing and privilege to educate and help form children in all three of these dimensions.

Father Ronald Nuzzi, a priest specializing in Catholic education, often says “the Catholic school does not and cannot have a mission separate from the Catholic Church. The mission of the Catholic Church is the mission of the Catholic school”.

The mission of the Catholic church is to evangelize, which is to bring to people the Good News of Jesus Christ, that because of God’s love for us, He sent His Son to die for us and save us from our sin: the Incarnation. The Church evangelizes by then proclaiming that God wants us to be with Him in

heaven, and we are all called to be saints, and we can do this by ordering our lives to Him. Our schools, too, then, must proclaim this message of evangelization.

In our schools, we invite students to encounter the Word made flesh. This is evangelization, and the mission of Catholic schools, the vision for our schools is that our schools are places that form disciples, people who have encountered the Word become flesh in our schools, and encounter Him in both their souls and their minds through ordering their intellectual formation towards the Word, who is Truth.

The purpose of our schools, in short, is that children become saints. We can experience this sanctity, made possible by the Incarnation which made it possible for us to share in God’s divinity as sons and daughters of God because Jesus took on human flesh.

Be assured of my prayers this Advent for the ministries of your schools, and for your own pursuit of the love of God through the mystery of the Incarnation.

Advent Musings

~ Jared Staudt, *Director of Formation*

What do we want from Jesus? Jesus Himself asks this question in the Gospels: “What do you want me to do for you?” There are many things that press on our minds: the busyness, deadlines, stress, bills. Yet, if Jesus were right before us, how would we answer His question?

Advent is all about fostering expectation. We should take a step back and think about the three comings of Jesus. First, he came to fulfill the expectations of Israel, who waited for a Savior. Second, He will come again as the Savior who will set all right in the world and in our lives. Finally, Jesus comes to us at ever Mass, which is another Bethlehem and Calvary.

During Advent, how can we help our students to desire their Savior and to get ready for His coming? Advent is not about celebration but focuses on preparing to encounter Jesus. Jesus wants to give

us a gift this Christmas. Just as we have our lists for Santa, we can bring our deeper needs to the manger. Ultimately, the child Jesus wants us to want Him. He wants us to find our peace and joy in Him before all else.

We can guide our students to the manger to learn to praise the baby Jesus, to thank Him, and to turn to receive from Him the gifts He wants to give us.

Superintendent School Visits

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

- December 5** – Bishop Machebeuf High School, Denver
- December 6** – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Boulder
- December 6** – St. Louis Catholic School, Louisville
- December 7** – St. Mary Catholic School, Littleton
- December 13** – St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Denver
- December 13** – Shrine of St. Anne Catholic School, Arvada
- December 14** – St. James Catholic School, Denver
- December 19** – St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, Denver
- December 19** – Holy Trinity Catholic School, Westminster



“Communicate sacredness; build it, share it and spread it.”
~ Unknown

The St. JP II Center will be closed Monday, December 24, 2018 through January 1, 2019 in observance of the Christmas and New Year Holidays. The St. JP II Center will reopen on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.