Did Trouble Me

In 1993 Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, past Superior General of the Society of Jesus, called on Jesuit educators to remember that their aim is to “form men and women of competence, conscience, and compassionate commitment.” That phrase and the series of documents that Jesuit educators produced in the period leading up to that declaration have served as a rallying call to Catholic educators around the world who had started to lose a sense of purpose. As we wind down the year, I would like to take some time to reflect on these characteristics that mark the graduates of a quality Catholic education. I will begin with conscience.

The other day, I heard Susan Werner’s remorseful song, Did Trouble Me. It captures how our conscience calls us to justice. Our conscience is that inner voice that tells us that what we are doing or about to do is wrong. It is the personal dimension of the moral norms that we seek to articulate in our communities. The Vatican II document Gaudium et Spes, states it beautifully, “‘Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment. . . . For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. . . . His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths.” (16).

If the conscience of a person is innate, something which we “discover” within ourselves, how are we to form it in our children, whether as parents, educators, or as a community? Just like the God who inscribed the law in our hearts, we sometimes need others to point out the presence of our conscience and to be taught how to listen to it and taught how to incorporate it into our lives and decision-making. For the nagging feeling that we get when we are tempted to an act that is morally wrong needs to be heeded and given support if we are to do the right thing. The right thing is usually not the most personally gratifying in the moment. We are prone to selfish desire. What we need to know is that the decisions we make form who we will become. As educators and parents, we need to help our children embrace an ideal vision of themselves, one that conforms to God’s will for us and then to support them as they struggle with the short-term temptations to be selfish. We all need courage and determination to pursue justice and live lives of virtue. Knowing that God is speaking to us through an uneasy conscience and that a community of goodness will support us when we make the right decision is the beginning of our formation as virtuous people of God. Our Catholic schools and our Church can help us further along by giving us the tools and skills for making the right decision and thereby become more fully human and whole.

Martin Kilbridge
News and Events

The Spring Concert May 11
The Chorus, Band, and Sixth grade Recorder students will be performing in the Spring Concert this Thursday, May 11th at 7pm. All members of the Siena community are invited. Students in the concert are to report to the school at 6:40.

Seventh Grade Field Trip to Genesee Country Village Museum
While our 8th graders are visiting Boston, our seventh graders will be traveling to Mumford and the Genesee Country Village Museum, which recreates the experience of nineteenth century life in Western New York.

Sixth Grade Field Trip to Linear Park
At the same time our eighth graders are in Boston and our seventh graders are in Mumford, our sixth graders are traveling down the road to Channin H. Philbrick Park (AKA Linear Park) in Penfield to study the biology of Honeoye Creek. Permission forms went home this week.

Catholic Charities Cell Phone Drive
One of the agencies we have adopted for the Advent/Lent Christian Service Project is Catholic Charities Community Services. They have a cell phone drive and we have placed a drop box for cell phones near the main office. If you have cell phones lying around the house that are no longer used, please bring them in to support this worthy cause. They are going to a certified recycler.

Grade Eight Science Performance Exam Rescheduled to May 31st
The eighth grade science performance exam has been rescheduled from May 24th to May 31st. June 1st is the make-up day. Students in Living Environment will not be taking this exam. Eighth grade families recently received a packet with end-of-year materials, including a list of important

Opportunities to Help ...and Be Helped

Scholarships Available
- Information on the Reddington Scholarship is in this week’s emailing. The guidance counselor recommendation page should be given to Mrs. Cleary, all other forms are sent directly to Genesee Valley Trust.
- Rochester Area Community Foundation's 2017-18 scholarship season is now open, but some deadlines for scholarship opportunities have passed.

Support the Michael P. Lynch ’16 Scholarship
We are establishing a Siena scholarship in honor of Michael P. Lynch, ’16. Donations may be made to Siena Catholic Academy, please indicate that the donation is to this scholarship

Donate to the Annual Fund

Calendar Reminders:
Click for our Google Calendar
5/9 8th Gr Trip Meeting 6pm
5/11 Spring Concert 7pm
5/17 New Student Mixer 6pm
5/18-20 8th Gr Trip
5/19 Gr 7 Genesee Country Village Museum
5/19 Gr 6 Linear Park Field Trip
5/19 Progress Reports Available
5/31 Gr 8 Science Performance Exam
dates. This is one of them. Please mark the change.

**Sam Brunacini to Receive Merit Scholarship to McQuaid Jesuit**

Congratulations to Sam Brunacini who has received a merit scholarship to McQuaid Jesuit based on his success on the McQuaid entrance exam.

**Jazz/Rock Band Camp Offered**

Our jazz band director, Mr. Ercolamento is holding a Jazz/Rockband camp this summer. The students will focus on playing different styles of music while having fun learning to improvise. The band will give a performance to showcase their talents. This has been a successful camp in past years. There is a flyer and registration form available in the office. You can also contact Mr. E at csemusic@rochester.rr.com for additional information.

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**You Can Promote Siena**

Word of mouth is our best advertising and your help in promoting Siena among your friends and colleagues has gone a long way toward helping us raise enrollment over the past two years. Here are some easy ways you can help support the school:

**Social Media**

Like our [Facebook Page](#) and share our posts.

**Online Ratings**

Some people come across our name when searching the area for schools. Three sites list information about the school and allow users to rate the school and make comments. Click on the link to go to the site:

- [Google](#)
- [GreatSchools](#)
- [Niche](#)

You can also rate us on [Facebook](#).