



Superintendent's Bulletin Office of Catholic Schools October 2015

- ✿ **Distinguished Pastor Award** is an annual award presented by the Office of Catholic Schools to honor pastors who have given outstanding support to Catholic elementary education. Nomination letters should be sent to sweiss@cdop.org by **Friday, October 16th**.
- ✿ **Distinguished Principal Award** is an annual award presented to a principal who articulates a clear philosophy of Catholic education and provides effective faith-filled leadership in ways that inspire teachers and others to achieve and contribute to the school environment. A one-page supportive letter for the nomination should be sent to sweiss@cdop.org by **Friday, October 16th**.
- ✿ **Distinguished Teacher Award** is in its second year of recognition by the Office of Catholic Schools. Principals and/or pastors who write a one-page support letter are acknowledging a teacher who strives for excellence in teaching, contributes significantly to the learning community, and lives out a clear philosophy of Catholic education. Nominations are due to sweiss@cdop.org by **Friday, October 16th**.



🌻 **OCS Regional Faith Formation Workshops** will be completed when OCS is at Marquette Academy on Thursday, October 8th with all the Region 3 schools and on Friday, October 9th at Alleman High School with Region 4 schools. A special note of thanks goes to **Randy Simmons (PND)**, **Ryan Bustle (STM)**, **Brooke Rick (MA)**, and **David Hobin (AHS)** who have hosted or will host the regional workshops at their high schools. The theme for OCS' professional development this year, **Teaching as a Ministry**, was reinforced again through a program that OCS purchased for each of the schools: **Teach. Lead. Serve.** The **Dynamic Catholic Institute** just published the program, and we are one of the first dioceses in the nation to implement it in our diocesan schools. A set of DVDs and workbooks were ordered for all elementary and secondary schools and will cover the topics of how teachers change lives; the history of Catholic education; mission of a Catholic school; the Holy moment; and what to do when overwhelmed. *Part Two* of the video series focuses on the issues of our current culture and what our Church teaches in regard to these issues.



🌻 October Calendar Events

- October 6th:** Bishop Jenky will be Celebrant at an all-school Mass @ Schlarman Academy, 10:00 a.m.
- October 8th:** OCS Faith Formation Workshop @ Marquette Academy with Region 3; 9:00 a.m.
- October 9th:** OCS Faith Formation Workshop @ Alleman High School with Region 4, 9:00 a.m.
- October 12th:** OCS Closed; Columbus Day.
- October 14th:** High School Chaplains Meeting @ Spalding Pastoral Center, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- October 15th:** **Diocesan Development Conference** @ Spalding Pastoral Center
- October 16th:** Nominations for OCS Distinguished Pastor, Principal and Teacher due to Dr. Weiss
- October 19th:** Diocesan Education Council Meeting @ Spalding Pastoral Center, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Deadline for Forms

The following forms may be found under cdop.org/documents-and-forms.
Open Catholic Schools, then General Forms.

- October 2nd:** NCEA Data Bank School Report
- October 16th:** Principal's Annual Goals
Annual Survey 2015-2016
Safe Environment Compliance Form (4 policies)
Individual School Wellness Plan Checklist
Faculty Service Records
Non-Faculty Service Records
- October 23rd:** [All-Principals Meeting Registration Form](#)



Technology Assessment for Diocesan Schools

OCS has requested that the Coleman Group come onsite to survey and discuss with each of our individual schools a current assessment of the state of technology in our school buildings and what the needs are for each school. Dr. Weiss will be sending an introduction letter that describes this assessment and a date/time when each one of our elementary and secondary diocesan school administrators will need to come to the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria for a personal interview with a Coleman Group representative. The information collected will allow Coleman to summarize where we are at as a diocesan system, and what recommendations and services they could provide to assist OCS with technology upgrades and needs in our Catholic schools. Watch for that letter and scheduled time to arrive via U.S. mail. The meetings are scheduled during the week of October 26th.



🌻 Converse Marketing and the Repository

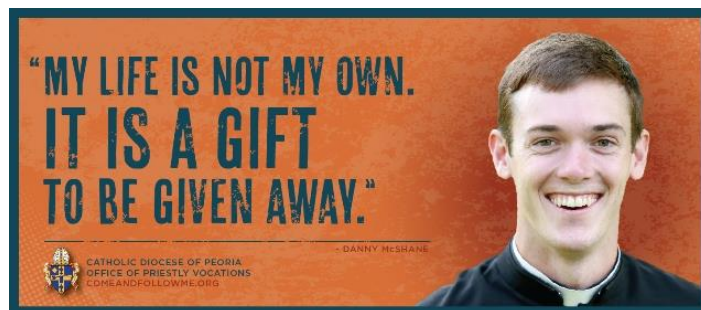
We are still waiting for a “green” light from Converse that will allow us to access the full website, Chooseeverything.info, and marketing repository. The most recent message we have received from Converse Marketing is as follows: *“Communications/efforts this week confirmed, unfortunately, that we’re unable to use the existing CDOP schools database (due to its map configuration) for the Phase II Order Form process. So, our developer is configuring a separate database. I’ll have an update for OCS on Tuesday or Wednesday, October 6th or 7th. Once that it is complete and tested, the developer will bundle up all Phase II files, and the CDOP developer will load onto the CDOP server – the final step to launching.”*

Thank you for your patience. It **will** be worth the wait, so hang in there with us, please.



🌻 October Care Package for Your Adopted Seminarian(s)

What a great time of year to send a care package to your seminarian(s)! Cards from the students, candy, or whatever you might send would be greatly appreciated. Let’s keep them connected to their home Diocese so they know that we are prayerfully supporting them in their vocational discernment and academic study.



✿ **A Request from OCS Associate Superintendent for All Souls Day**

Could Catholic school teachers and students in our Diocese pray a Rosary on Monday, November 2 (All Souls Day) for the souls in Purgatory?

All Souls Day (November 2) follows All Saints Day, and commemorates the faithful departed (i.e. those who die in God's grace and friendship). Catholics believe that not everyone who dies in God's grace is immediately ready for the Beatific vision, the direct experience of God and His perfect nature in Heaven — they must be purified of their faults and the temporal effects of sin. The Catholic Church calls this purification "purgatory."

Catholic teaching on Purgatory requires belief in two realities: 1. that there will be a purification of believers prior to entering heaven; and, 2. that the prayers and Masses of the faithful benefit those in the state of purification. Prayer for the dead is well documented within early Christianity, both among prominent Church Fathers and the Christian community in general. As to the duration, place, and exact nature of the purification of Purgatory, the Church has no official dogma, although Saint Augustine used the image of fire as a way to describe the process.

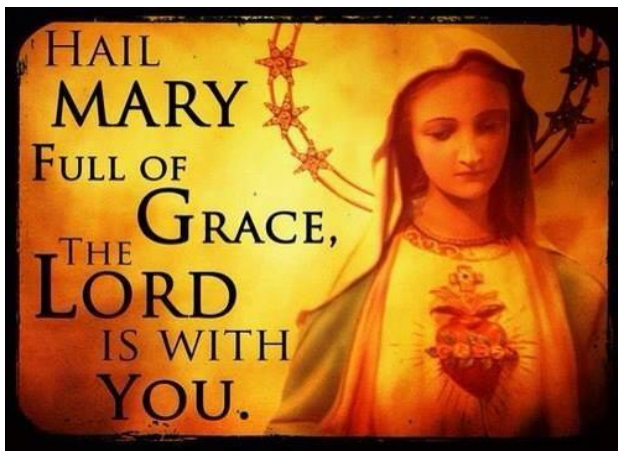
Many faithful Catholics, including Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, understand that Purgatory may be best thought of as an existential state as opposed to a temporal place (see Benedict's *Eschatology: Death and Eternal Life*, 230-231). In other words, because Purgatory is outside created time and space, it is not accurate to speak of a location and duration for Purgatory. Nonetheless, the prayers and Masses of the faithful do have an impact on the purification that departed souls are undergoing. Many non-Catholics, including C.S. Lewis, have believed in Purgatory. They liken Purgatory to a place or state where one gets "cleaned up" before entering into the all-loving presence of Almighty God.

Please consider Jerry's request, as it is another "teaching moment" that we can share with our students and pray for the souls in Purgatory. (Thank you, Jerry!)



Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary & Respect for Life Month

OCS encourages our school leaders to keep the Holy Rosary up front and center in all that we do as the month of October is typically dedicated to our Blessed Mother and the Recitation of the Holy Rosary. In addition, October is designated as Respect Life Month and there are many opportunities for our students to collect pennies for life, to donate to the Family Resource Center, to collect baby food, to assist families in need, to offer service in helping the elderly, or any other pro-life activities.



An Historic Moment for Our Students to Witness

What a great time to be a student in our Catholic schools as well as to be a Catholic! **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!**

