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St. Dominic School Teachers Are Great!

Academic excellence is an important part of St. Dominic School's mission, and the school is fortunate to have an excellent faculty full of well-qualified teachers.

"Reputable teachers make a big difference in the lives and achievements of their students," says Principal Sue Kelley. "We are blessed to have caring and compassionate teachers who are dedicated to teaching and learning and are committed to Catholic education. They truly care about each of their students and seek out ways to best meet their individual needs as they help them to grow academically, socially, emotionally and in their faith journey and personal relationships with Jesus Christ."

St. Dominic's faculty has education on its side — nine faculty members each have a master's degree — as well as experience. First-grade teacher Molly Stroot, third-grade teacher Meg Benner, fifth-grade teacher Joann Ellerman and P.E. teacher John Wyss each have 25 or more years of experience. Fourth-grade teacher Joan Kroeter and eighth-grade teacher Donna Richmiller have over 30 years of experience, and second-grade teacher Sharon Phillips and Mrs. Kelley have 40 or more years of experience. Two recent retirees, as well as current teacher Mrs. Stroot, are Golden Apple Award recipients.

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First-grade teacher Molly Stroot and her first-graders release a monarch butterfly after their butterfly unit of study, September 2017.

St. Dominic School Teachers Are Great!

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"The Golden Apple Award recognizes outstanding teachers in the community who have made a difference in the lives of their students by going that extra mile to inspire others to be better students or teachers," Mrs. Kelley says. "Teachers are nominated by students, parents and school staffs who have been inspired by them."

Aside from experience and accolades, however, St. Dominic teachers possess several intangible qualities that make them great. Their passion for teaching is evident and has shown results in their students.

"They know how to engage their students and find ways to meet the individual learning needs of their students," Mrs. Kelley says. "We have awesome thinkers who go that extra mile to seek out new programs and ideas to bring into their classrooms, or to adopt schoolwide, that will enhance our curriculum and keep it current and up-to-date. They are caring and compassionate, and they teach with passion and enthusiasm and find ways to make learning exciting and meaningful. They also motivate, encourage, engage and challenge our students to learn and to be their best."

"Our standardized test results show academic growth for every one of our students each year, and our class averages continue to be at or above the national standards," she adds. "We want our students to have a wonderful learning experience on their journey to success, and work well together as a faculty to discover the best ways to make this happen."



Fifth-grade teacher Joann Ellerman with fifth-grade students as they prepare to serve "Freaky Frappes" to the students and staff on Halloween.



Music and computer teacher Nan Wood works with fourth-grade students during a Junior Achievement lesson. Junior Achievement was added to our K-8 curriculum this year.

To learn more about St. Dominic School, visit the school website at www.stdominicquincy.org.

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



Where Are Our Priorities?

Dear Parishioners,

I am in hopes that you are aware that we are completing and will continue to celebrate the holiest time of the year in our Church. Easter Sunday, April 1, is the high point of the year for us as Catholics. We will, of course, continue to celebrate this holy time until Pentecost Sunday, which is May 20 this year. That is correct — our Easter season continues until then.

St. Paul provided some sage advice. He said, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth” (Colossians 3:2). Regardless of your opinions on what happens after resurrection, we can agree that it will be something “above” this life. Paul might be asking us if we put God first in all things. Life can become very encumbered with possessions, money, power, and even our egos.

Our goal should be to put God at the top of our lists. If that is not what we do, we may need to adjust our priorities. If we have not moved in that direction during Lent or in the past, now is the time to do it. We must constantly strive to not allow earthly things to become our gods.

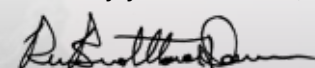
It was St. Gregory the Great who said, “God made us to be the gardeners of paradise.” Some stewardship people have maintained that God has given each of us a garden — and when we are judged, we only hear one question, “What have you done with the garden I gave you?”

What have we done? What are we doing? First, we must recognize and acknowledge that we are all gifted, admittedly in different and varied ways. Despite what we see as our gifts or how we measure them, we need to ensure that we are using them in ways that serve God and others — ways that show good discipleship and stewardship on our parts.

Were you aware that the month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit in the Church? The term “spirit” translates from the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means “breath.” Truly, as Catholics, the Holy Spirit has been breathed into each of us, and is part of the garden we have received. Do we turn to Him? Do we rely on Him for strength? Do we even grant that He is part of our very being? We should. We need to, as St. Paul advised, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”

May God bless you in all you do, and strive to do!

Sincerely yours in Christ,




Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor



Prayer:

COME TO



We make constant reference to the “three Ts” of stewardship, recognizing that to truly live as a stewardship people, we must give God the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure. It is easy for us to see the concrete reality of the latter two. If we are to give God our talents, we must first recognize with what talents He has blessed us, and then use those talents for His greater glory. And as we continue our stewardship path, we know very well that our money is something concrete. When we recognize it as a gift from God, we know that we are to give a certain amount back to Him. It is easy for many of us to understand what it means to give God our talent and our treasure.

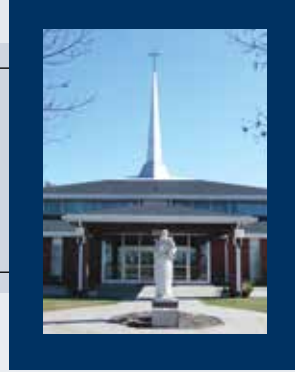
But what does it mean to give God a portion of our time? This idea is much harder to grasp, and yet giving to God the first fruits of our time is just as important as the other two. And if we understand this idea and implement it properly, our stewardship of time will serve as the very foundation from which our stewardship of talent and treasure bear fruit.

When we talk about stewardship of time, we are referring to prayer time. Prayer is of the utmost importance in a disciple’s life, and in the Diocese of Wichita’s *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, it is also one of the four pillars of stewardship.

Does this mean that in order to be true disciples, we should say the *Our Father* three times a day or pray a daily Rosary? Not particularly. Of course, we must not discount the merits of prayer, as the Church in her wondrous wisdom has given us certain prayers to help guide our lives. However, the disciple’s deep life of prayer involves even more.

St. John Chrysostom explains, “You should not think of prayer as being a matter of words. It is a desire for God, an indescribable devotion ... the gift of God’s grace” (*Hom 6*). That is, if we look at prayer as a mere regimen that we must follow every day, then we do not see to the heart of it. The reality is that prayer will take on different forms for every one of us. One person may

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KNOW THE LORD

have a deep devotion to the Rosary, and in praying it, he is closely united to the Lord. Another person might feel deeply connected to Him through constant conversation – in the car on the way to work, before bed at night, or at other hours throughout the day. Meanwhile, for another person, a daily or weekly hour of silence before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration is the best place for him to offer the Lord his heart. No matter how we choose to pray, we must get to the root of it all. If we are to truly give God our time, it must be a gift of ourselves. It must come from the heart and not take the form of mere word repetition. If we offer an *Our Father* without meditating on the words, it can simply become recitation.

The point of prayer is to get to know the Lord. If we are committed to living as His disciples, we must be on personal terms with Him. The first disciples didn't know what it meant to pray the Rosary. And until the Lord taught them the *Our Father*, they couldn't pray that either. But they were definitely true stewards of their time. They walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, and ate meals with Him. He was their best friend, and the more they got to know Him, the more they longed to serve Him.

The same holds true for us today. We can walk with Him, talk with Him and sit with Him, just as they did. And He wants us to do this, too. St. John Chrysostom proclaims, there is nothing more worthwhile: "For prayer unites us to God as His companions" (*Hom 6*). How can we serve Him if we don't know Him? If we truly desire to be a servant people, we must talk to Him whom we wish to serve. We must get to know Him. Then, most assuredly, we will fall in love with Him. We will undoubtedly desire nothing more than to serve Him.

Recognize Jesus as your best friend and spend time with Him as such. He is the Lord, the Creator of the Universe, without whom we would cease to exist. Bring Him your cares and concerns, your excitement, your worry, your fears and your frustrations, and allow Him to comfort you. He is there, and He wants to speak with you.



This Year's Junefest Promises Traditional Favorites and a New Raffle

"The raffle is new this year. It is taking the place of the silent auction and the basket raffles we've done before. We're having the raffle in case there is bad weather during Junefest. With this raffle, we already will have made money for St. Dominic School if weather affects the picnic. All the proceeds from the raffle and the picnic — 100 percent — stay at St. Dominic." — Jessica Bliven

There is something new and very exciting this year during our Junefest, set for June 16 on the grounds of St. Dominic School.

How would you like the chance to win a new car? A phenomenal Disney package for four people? Thousands in cash? Gene Grawe Fund gift cards?

These are all prizes that will be awarded during the new Junefest Raffle. Tickets are \$50 each and there are only 2,000 to be sold. Tickets are being sent home to school and church families.

Jessica Bliven and Jackie Raleigh are co-chairing the raffle.

"The raffle is new this year," Jessica says. "It is taking the place of the silent auction and the basket

raffles we've done before. We're having the raffle in case there is bad weather during Junefest. With this raffle, we already will have made money for St. Dominic School if weather affects the picnic. All the proceeds from the raffle and the picnic — 100 percent — stay at St. Dominic."

The winning ticket holders will not have to be present to win — but who wants to miss Junefest? There will be games, food, the famous homemade onion rings, Kiddieland and music by Blacktop South.

The hours for Junefest are 5 p.m. to midnight.

"Fr. Tom has graciously offered to have Mass at 4 p.m. at the school, before the event," Jessica says.

Raffle tickets can also be purchased by calling the church office at 217-222-5996, or the school office at 217-224-0041.

DON'T MISS THE

Junefest Raffle

JUNE 16 AT ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

Be sure to enter this year's very special raffle, held during our Junefest celebration on June 16 from 5 p.m. to midnight at St. Dominic School!

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE:

- A new car
- A Disney package for four
- Thousands in cash
- Gene Grawe Fund gift cards

Tickets are \$50, with only 2,000 available — so, if you want to have a chance to win, be sure to purchase your tickets now! And while you don't have to be present at Junefest to win, you certainly won't want to miss the games, food and music! We hope to see you there!

To purchase raffle tickets, please call the church office at 217-222-5996, or the school office at 217-224-0041.

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FAITH AND SCIENCE

Can They Mix?

There have long been scientists who claimed that their work was “incompatible” with faith in God. But as our world has become increasingly polarized, more and more people seem to believe that there must be a disconnect between faith and reason. For many scientists — and secular scholars in other fields, as well — religion and academics are deemed mutually exclusive. If something cannot be proven empirically, they posit, it is foolhardy to stake one’s life on it. And yet, this is exactly what we as Catholic Christians do — every time we say the word “amen,” in fact, we are declaring that we believe Church teachings to be an absolute truth.

So is all this to say that the Church really is “anti-science,” as some of its detractors claim? Certainly not! In fact, most people — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — would probably be very surprised to know just how many Catholic thinkers have played a major role in the development of modern scientific thought.

Most of us are familiar with some of the earliest scientific advances made by famous Catholic scholars like Copernicus, Galileo, Descartes, and Leonardo da Vinci. But fast-forward to the 19th century — when countless innovations in modern science began kicking into high gear — and the contributions made by Catholic scientists are astounding! For example, the Mercalli scale used to measure earthquakes was developed by an Italian Catholic volcanologist, Giuseppe Mercalli, at the turn of the last century. You may also remember some of the laws of Mendelian inheritance from your high school biology class — Augustinian friar and botanist Gregor Mendel first discovered these recessive and dominant “factors” (which would later come to be called genes) in the 1800s, becoming the founder of genetics.

Of course, these are just a few of the more widely known examples. Those who work in the specific fields of physics and cosmology have several priests to thank for the incredible advances made in this area of study over the last century. Fr. Georges Lemaître was a Catholic priest living in Belgium during the first half of the 20th century. A professor of astronomy and physics at the Catholic University of Leuven, Fr. Lemaître was the first scientist to propose the Big Bang theory — which he referred to as the “primeval atom” or the “Cosmic Egg” — and the theory of the expansion of the universe. Fr. Lemaître’s brilliant and meticulous research won over even the most skeptical scientists in his field — reportedly, upon hearing Fr. Lemaître present his theories at a conference in California, Albert Einstein declared, “This is the most beautiful and satisfactory explanation of creation to which I have ever listened.”

For Fr. Lemaître, who served as president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences from 1960 until his death in 1966, balancing the worlds of priesthood and cosmology research was not always easy. Sometimes, Catholic believers misunderstood his quest to discover the origin of the universe as a desire to put limits on God. On the other side, secular scientists questioned his ability to formulate theories of the universe objectively, suspecting that he was seeking to manipulate his scientific finds to fit them within Church teaching. In reality, Fr. Lemaître always advocated for a strict separation between science and faith, claiming that the Bible was not intended to be read as a science textbook and that “God could not be reduced to a scientific hypothesis.” For this Catholic scientist, although faith and science may have each answered separate questions, they were certainly not incompatible.

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Faith and Science *continued from page 7*

In contrast to Lemaître's careful separation of questions of science and faith, another famous physicist priest takes the opposite approach. Fr. Michal Heller, professor of philosophy at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, Poland, and member of the Vatican Observatory staff, seeks to bring together the fields of science, philosophy, and theology. In an interview with *The New York Times* upon his receipt of the acclaimed Templeton Prize for science and religion in 2008, Heller explained: "I always wanted to do the most important things, and what can be more important than science and religion? Science gives us knowledge, and religion gives us meaning. Both are prerequisites of the decent existence." Fr. Heller, whose current research focuses on general relativity and quantum mechanics, strives to study the known elements of science within the context of a universe that has an (empirically) unknowable God as its creator.

In a similar way, yet another scientist priest of the past century successfully reconciled science and faith in his life's work. Fr. Stanley Jaki (1924-2009) was a Hungarian Benedictine priest who held doctorates in theology and physics, and authored over 40

books in these fields —and in the history of science — during his lifetime. Fr. Jaki is perhaps best known for his claim that modern science and cosmology were only made possible through the Christian understanding of creation that took root in medieval Europe. Fr. Jaki believed that faith and science must work together, and he warned against the tendency of modern society to seek omniscience through scientific study, thus letting science take the place of God.

Certainly, the list of Catholic scientists who have deservedly become renowned in their fields of study is longer than most people probably imagine. Still today, scientists like astronomer Fr. George Coyne, former director of the Vatican Observatory and current professor at Le Moyne College in New York, continue to make significant contributions to the study of modern science worldwide. Contrary to those who may try to claim that faith and science are incompatible, the Church has proven over the centuries that understanding the science behind how our world works absolutely can — and *should* — go hand in hand with the pursuit of fully knowing and serving our God.

*Are you interested in learning about the Church's teachings on the relationship between faith and reason? The papal encyclicals *Humani Generis* and *Fides et Ratio* provide in-depth explorations of this important topic.*

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.