

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time Jan. 31, 2010

Catholic Schools Week: Theme: Dividends for the Future / Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals

A. This week we celebrate that great gift and blessing of our Catholic Schools

... here at Resurrection, ND Academy, all of our Catholic educational institutions

... so grateful to our administration, faculty, staff / board of education / all of our parents and other benefactors

... also aware of others educational endeavors: faith-formation, adult ed.

B. Bulletin this weekend – theme: Dividends for the Future – four foundations of Catholic education:

1. Faith

- every Thursday morning our school community gathers here in Church to celebrate the Eucharist
- each class takes a turn in preparing the liturgy
- we gather to give thanks to God for the gift of creation / for the gift of our redemption in Jesus, for the gift of the Holy Spirit
- we gather to hear God’s word – be it from the prophet Isaiah who informs us today that we are known and appointed by God for a special work
- be it to hear the Gospel – how Jesus is our teacher – calls us to the path of love, forgiveness, and compassion
- freedom in our school to pray, talk about God, share our faith

2. Knowledge

- Catholic education is about learning and wisdom – academic dimension
- reading, writing, arithmetic = all to the tune of a hickory stick
- geography, science, art
- music, literature, and religion
- TRUTH – faith and reason in search of meaning
- Big questions: who are I / where are we going / how do we get there

3. Discipline

- having a gift is one thing ... nurturing and cherishing that gift is another
- Catholic education is about stewardship: about gratitude and responsibility
- “Every gift is also a responsibility” Flannery O’Connor
- Musicians / Athletes / Scholars ... channeling of time and energy

4. Morals

- decision-making shapes our character and our future
- morality is based on the practice of virtues: honesty, respect, most of all love
- ST. PAUL: great virtue: love
- choice: patient, kind, rejoice in the truth, bears – endures all things
- by contrast: jealous, rude, inflated, self-seeking, quick-tempered, brood over injuries, rejoices in wrong doing.

C. Catholic Schools – training ground for the future ... rich dividends through grace.