



MARCH, 2010

WHAT DO INQUIRING MINDS NEED TO KNOW?

"Breaking News" ran across my television screen. As my head swirled with ominous thoughts, I turned up the volume and stopped to listen. Reeling in disbelief, I found myself questioning the anchorperson inside the box: "Are you kidding me, an apology from Tiger Woods is considered breaking news!" Seriously, do inquiring minds need to know all about some PGA star's love affairs? With young men and women at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and orphaned toddlers barely surviving in Haiti; isn't there more urgent business for us to mind and more important news the media could report? Why are we so mesmerized with the heartache and sins of other people? Gossip has become a multi-billion dollar business and one of our national pastimes! It has contaminated our communities, schools, parishes, and workplaces. Thanks to cyberspace and social internet sites the effects of this disease can spread quickly and do irreparable damage. Gossip creates distrust and divisiveness by tearing people down when they need to be fortified and supported. Let's face it, we have all gossiped, to some degree, as a form of entertainment. Most of us have listened to and even added to "juicy" stories about one of our co-workers or

neighbors. We all know at least one person who just can't wait to report the latest tidbit about somebody's wife, husband, or child. Then there are some who use gossip as their weapon of choice. Engaging in gossip is a huge temptation for human beings. We are naturally curious creatures; always wanting to know more or know it all! Hmm, isn't this what got Adam and Eve into trouble? There is a feeling of superiority when we know something no one else knows. When our conversation focuses upon the flaws of others; there is little need to ruminate upon our own imperfections. Imagine for a moment a society enthusiastic about reflecting and reporting on the goodness discovered in others. What if our snooping and probing were dedicated to identifying good news; might the level of anger and malice existing in our culture decrease? Why not advertise the worthy qualities of our colleagues, friends, and even our adversaries, just as we would a good restaurant or good book? Naysayers will state this is not in our nature. I disagree. Each of us was created in the image and likeness of God; therefore the only news inquiring minds need to know is Godly news!

IMPORTANT DATES

- 3/1: Chocolate Bar Sale Begins
- 3/3: Kindergarten Regist.
- 3/4: Pre-K Registration
- 3/5: Early Dismissal @noon
- 3/8: MCHS Band & Chorus Visit @ 10:45
- 3/18: Arts Festival Gr. 4-6 @ 6:30
- 3/19: NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day
- 3/25: Reconciliation Gr. 2-4
- 3/26: Reconciliation Gr. 5 & 6
- 3/29: Chrism Mass—Gr. 5
- 3/31: Arts Festival Gr.1-3 @ 6:30, Chocolate Bar Sale Ends



Our mission is to nurture and prepare disciples in an environment of Christian love.

Raising trustworthy children is one of the biggest challenges facing parents and one of the most important areas where we MUST succeed. Not just for the sake of our children; but for the sake of our families, communities, nation, and world. Being a trustworthy person encompasses more than just telling the truth. It is someone who follows the rules, keeps his or her promises, and stands by friends and family when they are in need of support. Trustworthy people do the right thing even when it's not popular, they return what they borrow, and they seek advice when problems arise. Cultivating the qualities of trustworthiness is a huge undertaking. It is hard to know where and when to start. Children need to learn early on the importance of telling the truth. We can't wait for our child to lie to us before teaching them what lies are and why we should not tell them. When our children are little we need to teach them people who speak the truth are always believed and trusted. We need to restrain our reactions when our child has made a mistake. If we over-react and are excessively punitive, children become fearful and will continue to lie in order to avoid punishment. When our children have snuck cookies before supper or broke something they shouldn't have been playing with, they should take responsibility for their actions. For example, the cookie thief can go without cookies for the rest of the day and possibly tomorrow. The little vandal can do extra chores or relinquish birthday money in order to pay for what was broken. Believe it or not, assigning daily chores actually encourages our children to become trustworthy. By establishing opportunities for them to prove they are reliable and dependable helps our children receive the intrinsic rewards of trustworthiness. They begin to identify themselves as significant contributors within their family unit. We shouldn't allow our children to back out of a commitment or promise



they have made. If they promised their younger brother or sister they would play a game with them, they need to follow through. If they signed up to participate in band, chorus, or some other extra-curricular activity, we should discourage them

from quitting when the commitment has become difficult.

If we are going to nurture trustworthiness within our children, we ourselves need to be trustworthy people. Are we reliable and dependable at our workplace or have our children witnessed us calling in sick when we were not? Do we keep our commitments even when they become inconvenient or more demanding than we originally thought? Do we readily admit when we have made a mistake or does our child overhear us making excuses for our behavior? Do we purchase things we know our family can't afford and then hide it from our spouse? A wise parent once said, "Our children never listen to us; but they are always watching us!"

Raising trustworthy children is an overwhelming assignment and one we cannot do alone. If we are serious about instilling trustworthiness within our children, we will seek God's help in this endeavor. We will remind ourselves to place our trust securely in Him and only Him. Once we do this we will then possess the grace it takes to be trustworthy. We will no longer be anxious about what we do not have. When we make mistakes we will understand that God forgives us and loves us unconditionally. We will discover that no task is too demanding when we have God's help. If we are wondering how we can change the world, rearing trustworthy children may just be the answer; because trustworthy children will grow into trustworthy citizens—and oh the places we'll go because God loves us so!

MARCH IS RE-REGISTRATION MONTH AT TRINITY CATHOLIC

I can't believe we are already preparing the next State of the School Meeting and our 2010-2011 school budget. Enclosed in this newsletter are the re-registration forms and new contracts for next year. **The deadline to return these forms is March 29.** It is important for our planning process to have these forms returned in a timely manner. We depend upon this information for orders of resources, textbooks, and planning our expenses for the following school year. Our budget and per pupil cost is dependent upon the number of students we will have enrolled for next year. We will again be offering a \$10 reduction on each child's registration fee for families who attend our State of the School Meetings which will be at the end of April. Therefore we do not need the registration fee by March 29; but we do need the enrollment forms and contracts by that date. You will notice we have revised our contract. It was our wish to present all the details of the tuition agreement in a simpler and easier to understand format. Families who wish to pay the parish rate of tuition must have their contracts signed by the pastor of their parish. **If you had your contract signed by your pastor last year, you do not need to have it signed again.** I am sure you also noted a \$10/month increase in tuition. Again this year, the Educational Council worked hard at keeping expenses down and looked at all possible areas where we could make cuts. There were some expenses such as health

insurance, retirement, lights, and heat that continue to rise; this is why we needed to increase our tuition by a small amount. I strongly encourage you to apply for financial assistance using the FACTS Management Plan and the Tuition Assistance Plan through the Diocese. This year you must apply online with FACTS Management. This allows a savings in cost for the applications. If you do not have a computer at home to apply, you may use one of the school's computers. Anyone who cannot pay the full tuition must apply for scholarships using these forms. ***This is the only way our school can receive funding to cover the cost of discounted tuition payments.*** I have had families tell me they do not wish to apply for scholarships because they feel it is asking for assistance for something they really don't need. First of all, in today's culture a Catholic Education is something EVERY child needs—it is not a luxury! Secondly, I'm certain no parent would not apply for scholarships to help their child attend the best college of their choice; so why wouldn't you apply for a scholarship to allow your child to obtain the best elementary education available? Our mission is to make Catholic education affordable for every family. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are concerned about how you will meet your tuition payments next year. Together we can work out a plan that will assure your child the gift of a Catholic education.

WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE

If the aroma of chocolate permeates through your house on March 1, it is because our Chocolate Bar Sale has begun! We are selling World's Finest Chocolate this year and we think sales will go very well. Each box contains a mixed variety of 50 chocolate bars selling for \$1 each. Please check out the enclosed letter explaining all the details of our Chocolate Bar Sale. We are signed up to sell chocolate bars at Sea-Comm's Main Branch on Friday March 5 and Thursday, March 11. We are also signed up to

sell at Walmart on March 13 & 14 and again on March March 27 and 28. There is a schedule in the office for you to sign up for dates and times you can sell chocolate bars at these locations. Because our catalog fundraiser was down this year, we really need to give our Chocolate Bar Sale all we can. Please consider donating at least an hour of your time to help us out. If many people sign up it makes the task so much easier. Many thanks to Larry and Ruth Dowdy for chairing this fundraiser this year!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT CSW

I would like to thank all our faculty, staff, parents, and students for their level of participation in Catholic Schools' Week. It was a memorable week filled with faith-filled and fun-filled activities. You truly demonstrated the level of enthusiasm and school spirit that exists here and makes us such a distinctive school. There were so many of you out there who worked diligently to make this week a wonderful celebration. I cannot name all of you because it would take up an entire page of the newsletter. But you know who you are and I greatly appreciate your efforts.

TRINITY CELEBRATES OUR NEW BISHOP

Many of the faculty and staff at Trinity were thrilled to hear who was appointed as our new Bishop for the Diocese. We consider Bishop-elect Terry LaValley to be one of our own. He played a very active role at Trinity Catholic School when he was a priest at Sacred Heart Church. The students loved him and respected him. He taught them Religion, played football with them on the playground, and ate lunch with them almost every day! Father Terry was also brave enough to take on 2 memorable roles in our Spring Flings. Most importantly he was always there leading us in faith, celebrating our joys, and supporting us through our struggles. We are truly blessed to have him as our shepherd for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

SERVICES DURING LENT

I know it is difficult at the end of a long day to think about going out in the evening and doing one more thing. But Lent is a time we all need to pray more often. We should take advantage of the services being offered at our parishes during Lent—the Stations of the Cross, The Rosary and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist, and Parish Missions. Please check you parish's bulletins for the times and days of these events. St. Mary's and St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart are sponsoring a Parish Mission March 14-March 16 at 7p.m.

Attending a Parish Mission is a wonderful way to revitalize our faith and remind ourselves of the important things in life.

CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE

www.trinitycatholicshcool.net

Have you checked out our website lately? It is the quickest and easiest way to get information about what is happening at Trinity Catholic. Along with the newsletter, monthly calendar, and lunch menu being posted; you can find notices from your child's teacher and many pictures of the latest events. Candace O'Neill does a fantastic job keeping our website updated. Take a few minutes and check it out and if you have any further suggestions on how to improve it please let us know.

EARLY DISMISSAL AND NO SCHOOL

Friday, March 5 is an Early Dismissal Day for Massena Central School. Dismissal for Trinity students will be at noon. The After-Care Program will be offered on this day. **Friday, March 19**, is a Staff Development Day for all teachers in St. Lawrence County. There will be no school for students on March 19.

PRE-K/ KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

On Wednesday, March 3, Trinity Catholic will be holding registration for Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten. The evening will begin at 6:30, in the cafeteria, and babysitting will be provided. On Thursday, March 4, Trinity will host an Open House and registration for Pre-K at 1:00 and again at 6:30. There will also be babysitting provided for our Pre-K registration. If you know any families who have children that are Pre-K age (4 years old by Dec. 1) or Kindergarten age (5 years old by Dec. 1) please encourage them to join us and "Discover the Difference!"

ARTS FESTIVALS RETURN

Mark your calendars for our annual Arts Festivals. Grades 4-6 will be performing on March 18 at 6:30. Grades 1-3 will be performing on March 31 at 6:30. Students' artwork will also be on display for all to view.