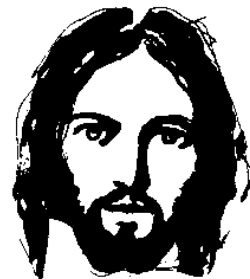


Keeping Your School (and Parish) Catholic Are You Asking the Right Questions?

Catholic Identity *Who do you say that I am?*



What Does It Mean to Be “Catholic?”

- It is a place of integral education of the human person through a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation.
- It is a place with an ecclesial and cultural identity.
- **It is a place where the mission of education is a work of love.**
- It is a place of service to society.
- It is a place where the above qualities should characterize the community.

Giving Witness. . .

- Do you see your school as giving witness?
- Do you think a visitor to your school would sense something special about the purpose of the school?
- Does your school /workplace environment reflect its mission?

Being a Role Model

- You are a “teacher” and as a teacher, you are a role model for all those whom you encounter.
- How do you model those qualities which you want others to reflect?

What does it mean to you to be a Role Model of Faith?

- *What qualities should you be modeling?*
 - Reflect on your efforts to model these qualities.
 - Share your reflections with those with whom you minister.

Jesus, the Teacher. . .

- *Knew his subject matter*
- *Was concerned about a person's self image.*
- *Listened to others and adapted to His listeners.*
- *Taught in a practical, clear and incisive manner.*
- *Taught with authority and discipline.*
- *Was completely fair.*
- *Was prepared to teach.*
- *Used drill and review.*
- *Taught hard things by action, by hard questions.*
- *Used His natural talents.*
- *Had leadership. . .shared his lessons*
- *Took time to rest, renew and restore Himself.*



Jesus Taught in a Practical, Clear and Insightful Manner

- He used stories (parables) to teach.
- He knew what His learners were able to understand.
- He understood “learning styles” and “multiple intelligences.”

How do you meet the learning styles and intelligences of your students? Do you make an effort to do this?

Teaching As Jesus Taught

- What are the qualities you would like to have others remember you by?
- How can reflecting on the qualities of Jesus—the Perfect Teacher—help you to become a better person?
- Are you prepared spiritually to address the needs of your students?

What Makes This School Catholic?

❖ Prayer

- Teach the young to become people of prayer.
- Is prayer valued as important in your school/workplace? (Prayer—not just saying prayers.)
- Sharing a life of prayer and a habit of prayer with students in a Catholic School is essential.
- *Recommendations for prayers during the school day:*
 - *Time-honored traditions*
 - *“Blessing the Hour.”*

“Let us remember the holy presence of God. Let us adore His divine majesty.”

- *Prayer before Class*

Dear God, I give you this class. I offer you now all the good I shall do and I promise to accept, for the love of you, all the difficulties I shall meet. Help me to conduct myself during this class in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Direct, O Lord, all our actions and assist them by your grace so that all our words and work may begin from You and by You be happily ended. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



- *Remembering the Deceased*
- *Remembering those in need*
- *Short Prayers*
- *Prayers of Special Patrons*
- *Time-honored prayers: Divine Praises, Memorare, etc.*
- *Special Times of Prayer*
 - *Feast of the School Patron*
 - *Times of Special Need*
- **Understanding Prayer**--It is important to help students to understand the prayers that they are saying.
- *Is your classroom/workspace a place where prayer is valued?*
- *Do you value prayer in your personal life?*
 - *Active participation in the liturgical life of the Church is essential*
 - *Be a support to those who prepare. . .*
 - *Celebrate the Liturgical Seasons*

❖ **Environment** - What should be visible in the classroom?

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Statues
- Religious Bulletin Boards
- Religious posters

❖ **Practices**

- Courtesy and respect reflect a Christian atmosphere in the classroom.
- Attention to neatness and good order provides the teacher with an opportunity to create a climate reflective of Christian values.
- Students are quick to observe sincerity—it is much better to teach students to “Do as I do” than to teach them to “Do as I say”

❖ **Knowing the mission Sharing the mission**

- How do I show respect for those with whom I share this ministry?
 - Is this evident to my students?
 - To others?
- Read Your School’s Mission Statement If someone were to accuse you of leading others to give witness to the statements found therein, would you be found guilty?

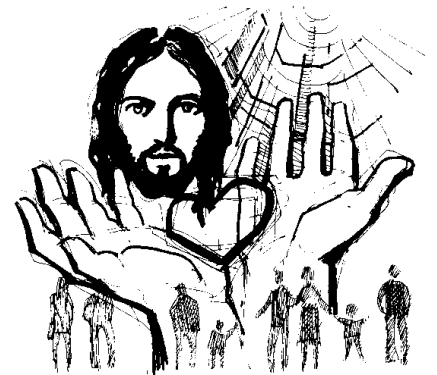
❖ **The Curriculum**

- In a Catholic School, the academic subjects do not present only knowledge to be attained, but also values to be acquired and truths to be discovered.
- Keeping Faith Values in the Curriculum
 - The integration of faith and values throughout the curriculum helps students to understand the relationship that exists between faith and culture.

- For the Catholic School teacher this should be a way of thinking—How can this lesson be taught in the context of faith values?
- What does the curriculum being taught in your school's classrooms reflect?
 - Foundations of faith
 - A secular society

Today, Tomorrow and Forever. . .

- **Practice what you preach. Make your mission statement a lived reality.**
- **Create a faith community centered on dignity and respect.**
- **Create a prayerful environment in your school**
- **Integrate faith values into your conversations.**
- **Be conscious of content, community, methods and process in catechesis.—**





TEACH AS JESUS TAUGHT

Does your presence make a difference in the vibrancy of the Church life at _____ school?

Sister Edward William Quinn, IHM Archdiocese of Philadelphia srequinn@adphila.org



Who Do YOU Say That I Am?

Question	Directions				
	Area	3	2	1	0
How well do you walk in Jesus' shoes? Do others see you as a "person of faith"?	Shoes	Dress shoes	Loafers	Sneakers/sandals	Flip-flops
Does the environment of your classroom /workspace give witness to the fact that this is a Catholic place?	Hair	Curly hair/nice hairdo	Wavy hair	Straight hair	Bald
Are You an active participant in the liturgical life of the Church?	Face	Full facial features Happy countenance	Only basic features—eyes, nose, smiling mouth	Neither happy nor sad	Sad face
Is your classroom /workspace a place where prayer is valued? Do you value prayer in your personal life?	Arms and legs	Give your person fingers; color in	Color in 	Color lightly	Do not color 
How well do you model the practice of faith through service?	Shirt	Colorful shirt with designs/suit jacket and tie	Plaid shirt	Striped shirt	Sleeveless Solid colored shirt
Are you comfortable in sharing your faith with others? Do you include faith values in your conversations?	Skirt	Designer Skirt	Plaid Skirt	Brightly Colored plain skirt	Dark Colored skirt
	Pants	Dress pants	Jeans	Cutoffs	Shorts
Does your presence make a difference in the vibrancy of the Church life at Blessed Theresa of Calcutta	Jewelry	Add cross and chain, ring	Cross and chain only	Ring only	No jewelry

