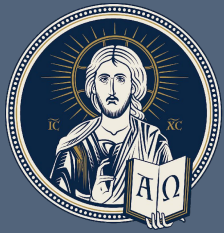


School Leaders Academy



INSTITUTE FOR
CATHOLIC LIBERAL
EDUCATION

Leadership and Prayer

Rosemary Vander Weele

School Leadership Academy

December 2023 Webinar

DECEMBER 3, 2024

OPENING PRAYER

Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Divine Counselor, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints. I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me.

O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the gift of holy fear, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the gift of piety, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Grant me the gift of knowledge, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Grant me the gift of fortitude, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Grant me the gift of counsel, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.

Grant me the gift of understanding, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world.

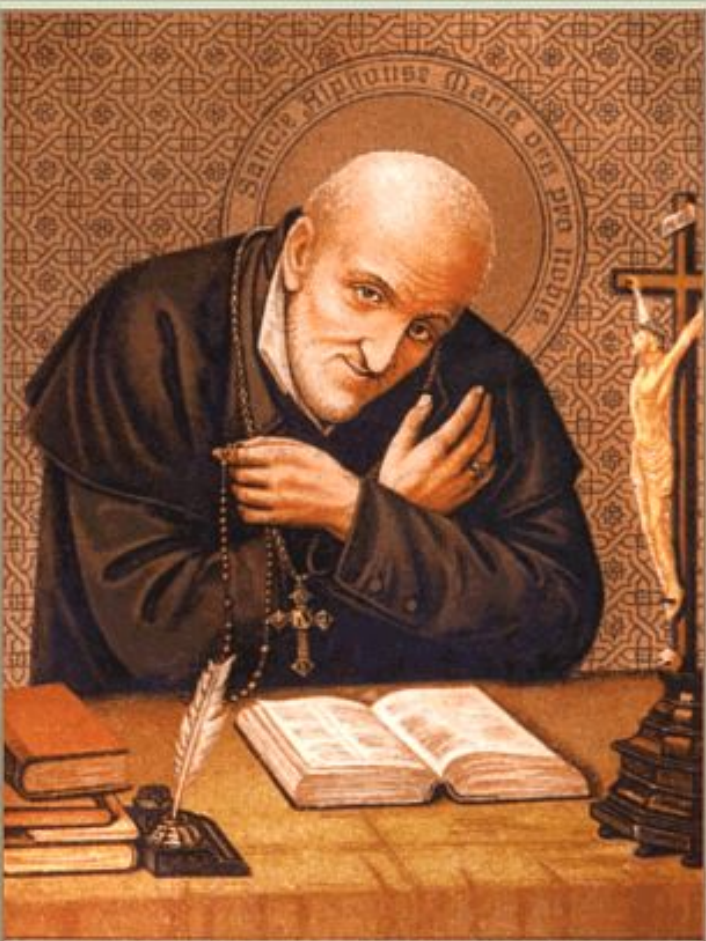
Grant me the gift of wisdom, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next. Amen.



Church Teaching on the Spiritual Life for Catholic Educators

Educating Together in Catholic Schools, A Shared Mission Between Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful
(Congregation for Catholic Education, 2007)

For this reason, Catholic educators need a “formation of the heart”: they need to be led to that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others, **so that their educational commitment becomes a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love** (cf. *Gal* 5:6). In fact, even care for instruction means loving (*Wis* 6:17). It is only in this way that they can make their teaching a school of faith, that is to say, a transmission of the Gospel, as required by the educational project of the Catholic school...Apart from their theological formation, educators need also to cultivate their spiritual formation in order to develop their relationship with Jesus Christ and become a Master like Him. In this sense, the formational journey of both lay and consecrated educators must be combined with the moulding of the person towards greater conformity with Christ (cf. *Rm* 8:29) and of the educational community around Christ the Master. **Moreover, the Catholic school is well aware that the community that it forms must be constantly nourished and compared with the sources from which the reason for its existence derives: the saving word of God in Sacred Scripture, in Tradition, above all liturgical and sacramental Tradition, enlightened by the Magisterium of the Church**



Sanctus Alphonsus Maria de Siguoria
Episcopus, Ecclesiae Doctor et Congregationis
S.S. Redemptoris Fundator

Prayer is "the necessary and sure means of obtaining salvation, and [contains] all the graces we need to attain [salvation]...

To save one's soul without prayer is most difficult, and even impossible...

but by praying our salvation is made secure, and very easy...

If we do not pray, we have no excuse, for the grace of prayer is given to everyone...

if we are not saved, the whole fault will be ours, because we did not pray."

St. Alphonsus Liguori

Prayer: The Great Means of Salvation and of Perfection.

School Leaders call to Renewing Catholic Schools



“Education is never neutral! It is always oriented toward a goal or set of goals. Every education presumes an anthropology...The anthropology, the vision of the human person, at the heart of Catholic education, then, is the presumption that we are not made for the economy or the state; we are not made for pleasure or for health; we are not even ultimately made for family: *We are made for God.*”

Education for Eternity, Brett Salkeld

Prayer Life in Leadership

*Nemo dat
quod non habet-*
*No one gives what
they do not have*



Contemplative
vs.
Active

Artwork courtesy of
Brie Schultz Art
www.brieschulze.com

Luke 10:38-42

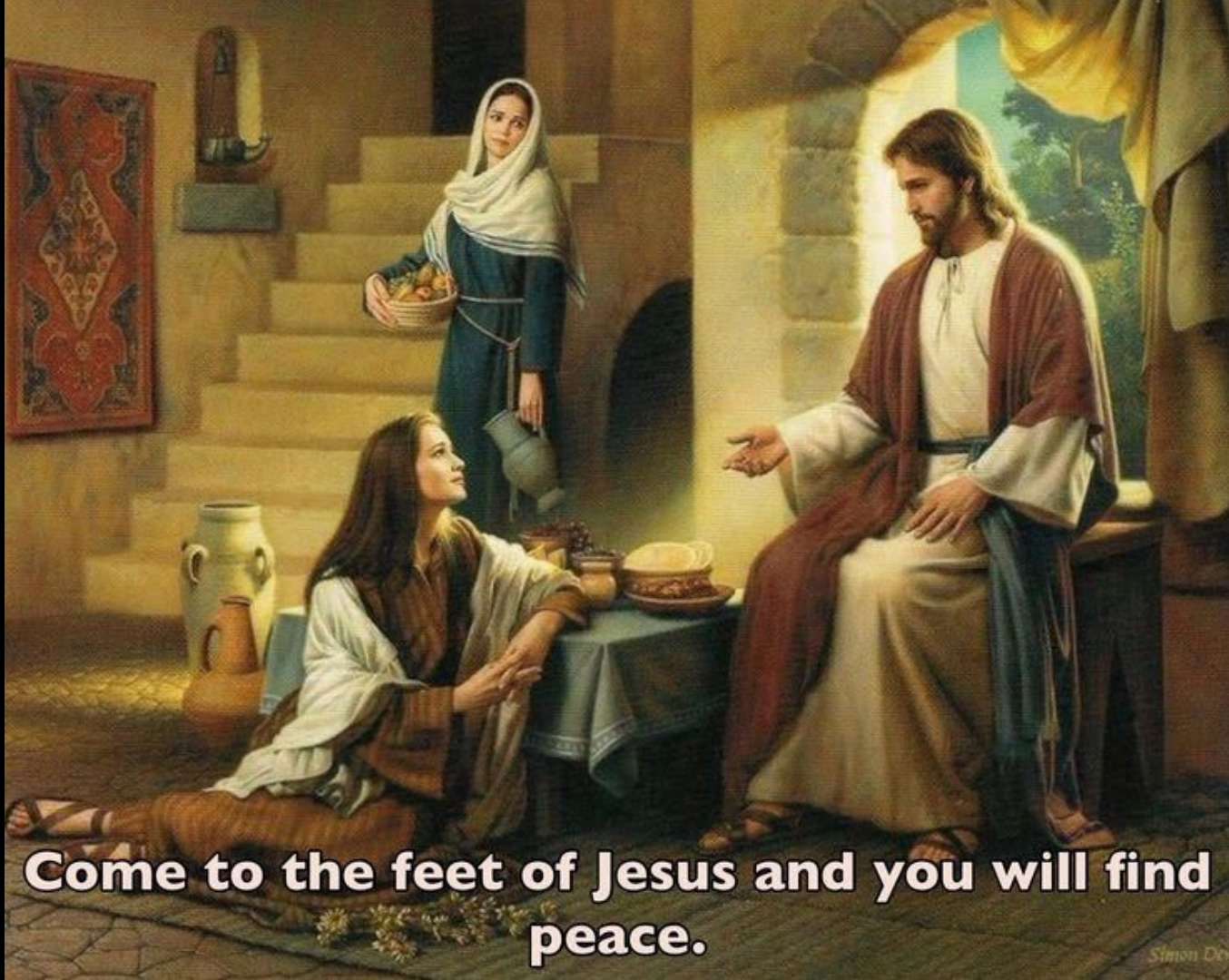
As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.

She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.

Martha, *distracted* with much serving, came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”

But the Lord answered her,” Martha, Martha, you are *anxious and troubled* about many things; one thing is needful.

Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.”



Come to the feet of Jesus and you will find peace.



If the apostle, while recognizing in theory that the Redeemer is the primary cause of all divine life, were to forget this truth in his actions, and blinded by insane presumption, were to insult Jesus by relying on his own powers,... it would be insufferable in the sight of God. This is called **THE HERESY OF GOOD WORKS**”

Soul of the Apostolate p. 10-11

Stay at the feet of Jesus



Brings

Contemplation:

1. Silence
2. Solitude
3. Saunter
4. Shalom
5. Self-denial
6. Sacraments

Causes of Anxiety/

Distractions:

1. Noise
2. Crowds
3. Hurry
4. Anxiety
5. Sensuality
6. Screens



Habits in Catholic School Leaders...

Martha qualities

- Hard working (40+ hours per week)
- Motivated
- Have a hard time detaching
(solving problems in our sleep)
- No task too big for the mission
- Rarely un-occupied



Habits in Catholic School Leaders...

Mary qualities

- Humility
- Peace of mind in prayer (tuning out distractions)
- Trust in the Lord
- Unshakeable- eyes looking at Jesus at all times
- Ability to stay occupied- avoid being preoccupied
 - Delegation is critical!



Meditation:

Power of the intellect and will- human mode of prayer.



Contemplation:

Union of the wills, listening, receptive- divinely infused prayer.



“Learn to abide with attention in loving waiting upon God in a state of quiet. Contemplation is nothing else but a secret, peaceful, and loving infusion of God, which, if admitted, will set the soul on fire with the spirit of love.”

St. John of the Cross

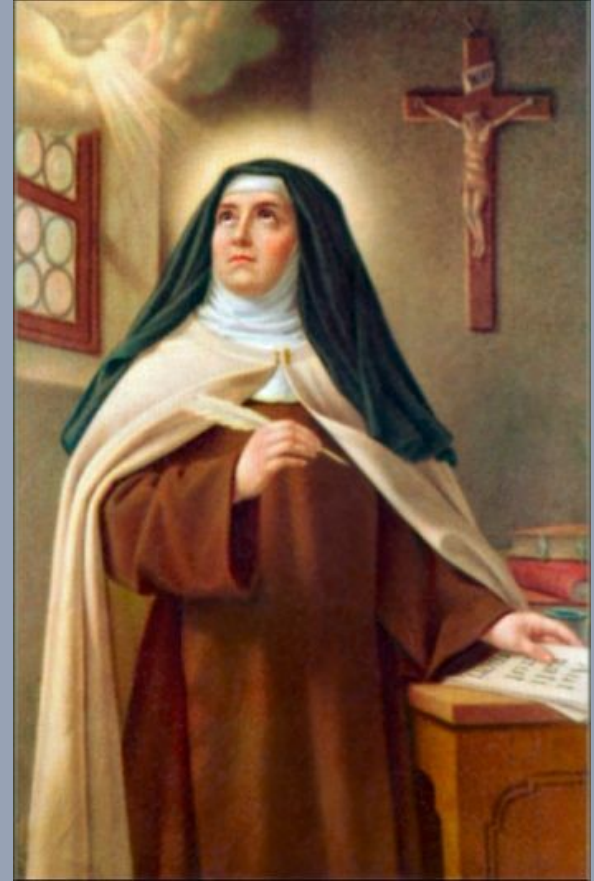
Actio Sequitur Esse- Action Follows Being

Give me the grace to recollect myself in the little heaven of my soul where You have established Your dwelling.

There You let me find You, there I feel that You are closer to me than anywhere else, and there You prepare my soul quickly to enter into intimacy with You...

Help me O Lord, to withdraw my senses from exterior things, make them docile to the commands of my will, so that when I want to converse with You, they will retire at once, like bees shutting themselves up in the hive in order to make honey.

St. Teresa of Avila, pray for us



Great Leaders are full of...

“**Joy** is a net of love in which you can catch souls.”

- True joy comes through *humility and surrender*.
- Avoid the temptation of being too busy to share the joy of the mission!

“Work without *love* is slavery.”

- If you lack joy, burnout happens quickly.

“Prayer is not asking. *Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God*, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

- This goes back to *humility and surrender...*the source of our strength and joy comes from reliance on Christ.



RESOURCES

Divine Intimacy,

Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D

The Soul of the Apostolate

Jean Baptiste-Chautard, O.C.S.O.

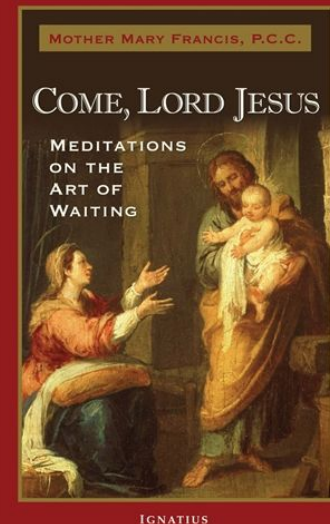
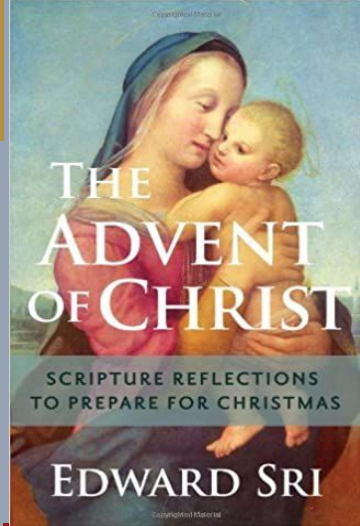
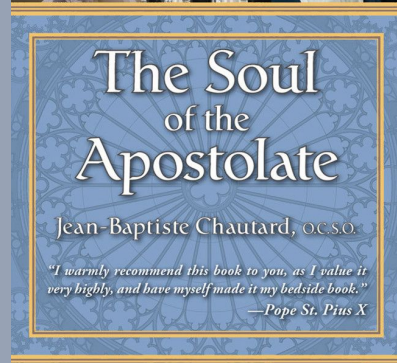
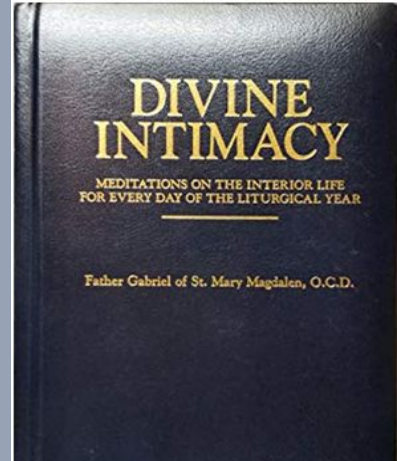
Come, Lord Jesus, Meditations on the Art of Waiting

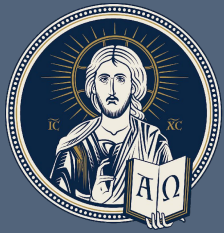
Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

The Advent of Christ: Scripture

Reflections to Prepare for Christmas

Edward Sri





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Homework: Read selection from *Divine Intimacy* posted on the resource page.

Recommit to your prayer life.

MID-PROGRAM SURVEY

Following today's presentation, we will send out a short survey just to see how things are going and if there are any items of interest that we can fold into second semester.

Please fill out promptly.