

# CHURCH of the HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street  
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787  
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street  
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687  
iccmarydel.org



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

April 21, 2024

Good Shepherd Sunday

holy cross

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am

Wednesday – 8:15 am

Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,  
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

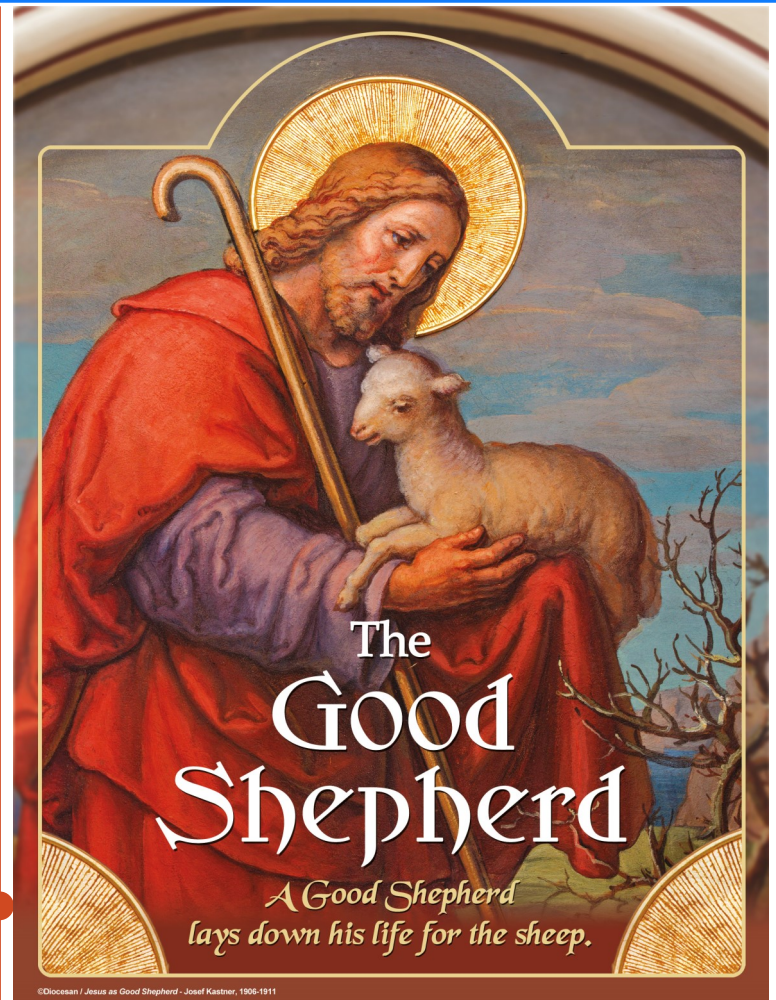
### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8:30, 11 am  
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

icc



### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1  
Assumption, August 15  
All Saints' Day, November 1  
Immaculate Conception, December 8  
Christmas, December 25

*Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near*

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

*The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.*

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

**Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

**Sacrament of Confirmation.** Young people in our

parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Marriage.** Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders.** If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

**Anointing of the Sick.** For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

## ONE BODY ONE SPIRIT IN CHRIST

Join us in the spirit of unity and love as we launch our Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal under the theme 'One Body, One Spirit in Christ.' Inspired by the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we are reminded that we are all part of one flock. Our Appeal is an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our community and deepen our relationship with Christ.

This Appeal is not just a call for financial support; it is an invitation to actively participate in the shared journey of faith. Each contribution, big or small, is a meaningful step towards building a more connected and vibrant community. As we come together in generosity, let us embody the essence of being one body and one spirit in Christ.

Help our parish to show a good level of active participation. We are all invited to follow the Good Shepherd's example and support one another on this sacred journey. One Body, One Spirit in Christ. An invitation to participate as a community in the 2024 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Please respond by pledging a sacrificial gift to this important campaign.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending April 7, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$24,635	\$26,915	(\$2,280)
YTD	\$1,101,148	\$1,103,795	(\$2,647)
Needs	\$2,006	\$1,712	\$294
Easter	\$20,129	\$19,900	\$229

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending April 7, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,849
2nd Collection	\$400
Easter	\$2,246

**Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.**

**We appreciate your support!**

**If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact**

**Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.**

Dear Parishioners,

Many times, I like to keep my columns light-hearted because you teach better with laughter than with dreariness. But this column, while I hope not dreary, will provide you, my faithful parishioners, a serious summary of the new document from the Vatican, a declaration entitled “Dignitas Infinita” (Infinite Dignity). The declaration says a lot about many key cultural issues of the day, and the faithful should hear what it has to say. I want to provide a “Cliff Notes” version of things here, to boil the document down to some key points to reflect on. First, I will start with a quick refresher about Church documents, then I will go into the new document and highlight some highlights. So, if you are looking for a light-hearted column, this is not the column for you!

**About Church Documents.** The Church has a hierarchy of its publications which are collectively, and commonly referred by the simple terms “documents.” Knowing what type of document a specific document is informs the way one would read it and what level of importance to ascribe to it.

**A Brief Document-ary.** The Church issues many types of documents:

- Apostolic Constitutions (defines dogma or amends Canon Law)
- Encyclical (exhorts the faithful on specific issue),
- Apostolic Letter (addresses administrative matters or exhort the faithful on related matters),
- Motu Proprio (issued by Pope to address administrative matters or practices but not doctrine),
- Decretal Letters (which proclaim a Canonization, most commonly)
- Apostolic Exhortation (an instruction to the faithful or some community on a specific matter).

**I Do Declare.** Last week, the Vatican issued a “Declaration” entitled “Dignitas Infinita” (Infinite Dignity) which address the question of human dignity and those matters of our era that take away from that dignity. So, you may ask, what kind of document is a declaration? Well, before I talk about the Church definition let me talk about the etymology of the word: declaration comes from the Latin joined words “de” and “clarus” — which, when joined, roughly mean “regarding clarity.” And that is roughly what a “Declaration” from the Church serves to do: to make clear. Thus, a declaration can be rightly defined as an authoritative statement from the Church that requires no additional promulgation. That is, it is not creating something new,

or amending anything, it is simply clarifying, in some detail, that which is already known.

**Fabric Softener.** “Dignitas Infinita” addresses the matter of human dignity — the natural, inherent, God-given worth of the human person. In this week’s and next week’s column I will review some of the key areas of the modern day addressed by this document, while also noting some of the background and underpinnings of the fabric of the document. Understanding the common fabric of this document, dignity, makes it easier to understand it more fully.

The document gives a strong historical basis, scriptural basis, theological basis, and anthropological basis for the understanding of, awareness of, and the development of understanding of human dignity. It also employs many paragraphs to detail the role of the Church as a the promoter and guarantor of human dignity, while making the absolutely connection between human dignity and human rights (and duties).

Although this is just a cursory over of the document, it is worth noting the document elucidates some interesting demarcations of humanity dignity by specifically defining four types of it: ontological, moral, social, and existential dignity. These are useful, especially when considering some of the violations of human dignity that make up the bulk of the text of the document. The four types of dignity are:

- **Ontological** dignity refers to the innate dignity (worth) of the human person just by the fact that he is a human person created in the image and likeness of God.
- **Social dignity** refers to living conditions (extreme poverty) so egregious that it fails to allow them to live in a way that respects their ontological dignity.
- **Moral dignity** refers to how people exercise their freedom; if a person lives his or her moral freedom “against the law of love revealed by the Gospel — [he or she] can commit inestimably profound acts of evil against others.” While ontological dignity (inherent) cannot be lost, moral dignity can.
- **Existential dignity** refers to the dignity of people who, while not experiencing poverty, nor loss of moral dignity, find themselves beset by “serious illnesses, violent family environments, pathological addictions, and other hardships” causing them to be lacking in peace, love and joy and wallowing in depression, fatalism and disquiet — making their existence seemingly

*(continued on page 10)*

## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

## HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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## HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Church of the Holy Cross*  
631 S. State St.  
Dover, DE 19901

## ICC STAFF

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Immaculate Conception Church*  
P. O. Box 399  
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8  
302 674 5787  
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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## MAILING ADDRESS

*Holy Cross School*  
631 S. State St.  
Dover, DE 19901

## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (APRIL 28)

### FIRST READING: ACTS 9:26-31

Saul preaches fearlessly in the name of the Lord on his return to Jerusalem.

### SECOND READING: 1JOHN 3:18-24

Whoever keeps Christ's commandments lives in God and God lives in them.

### GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.

## DECEASED MEMBERS

Our condolences to the families of:

- Doris Gillis
- Carmella Jones
- Ruth Malago
- Gerald Sovinski
- Patricia Bartley

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest registered members of Holy Cross:

- Jaysen, Miranie, Mirsen, Aniesen and Jaymi Lausten

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next week, hear an interview with multi-platinum selling, Grammy / Dove award winning Contemporary Catholic Christian Music pioneer, John Michael Talbot. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music and YouTube.com/ DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoons at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and [Facebook.com/CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

### MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

Our Mom and Baby Group is intended for mothers with babies ages 0-2 years of age. Siblings are welcome to join! This group is for our mothers to connect with each other and our babies to enjoy themselves. We would love if you join us for prayer, discussion, and play time! If you have any small toys you would like to donate to the group, please contact Megan MacCormac. 302 535 9913 or email megs.farl@gmail.com. Our meeting date will be May 25, at 10 am in the Early Learning Center building, second floor. Hope to see you there!

### MEN OF MALVERN

#### THIS IS THE TIME OF FULFILLMENT

The Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group invites you to a traditional men's retreat on May 17-19, 2024. Our Retreat Director is Rev. Scott Reilly, Chaplain, Lumen Institute, Philadelphia. Also guest speaker Joe McIlvaine, former professional baseball player and MLB Executive. Bishop Koenig will lead Mass on Friday evening. Throughout the weekend, Marty Rotella will lead our Music Ministry. We invite the men of the parish, their sons, and friends to a weekend encounter with Jesus. You can register at <http://www.malvernretreat.com/events/mid-may-2024/>. For more information contact Deacon Bob McMullen at 302-697-9714 or [deaconmcmullen@hotmail.com](mailto:deaconmcmullen@hotmail.com) for Holy Cross men.

Contact Francesco Cristiano at 302-222-3422 or email [joycenchris@comcaset.net](mailto:joycenchris@comcaset.net) for Immaculate Conception men.

### RETRouvaille

The Retrouvaille Program helps couples struggling in their marriage to put the pieces of their marriage back together and rebuild loving relationships. It is a Christian program Catholic in origin, and couples of all faiths or no faith back-

### MASS INTENTIONS APRIL

<b>22 MONDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Frances Ives
<b>23 TUESDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Eugene Byrd
<b>24 WEDNESDAY</b>	
HC 8:15 am	Kathleen DiPaolo (LI)
<b>25 THURSDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Walter Green
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
<b>26 FRIDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Richard S. Hayes, Jr.
<b>27 SATURDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Kathy Bishop
HC 5:00 pm	Cathy Castiglione
<b>28 SUNDAY</b>	
HC 7:30 am	Clara L. Combs
ICC 8:30 am	Ann R. & William F. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am	Leona Spencer
ICC 11:00 am	Crumlish & Brady Families
HC 11:30 am	Joan R. Hummel
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

The Sanctuary Light in the Church is lit this week in memory of John and Jeff Evans (Apr 21-27)

ground are encouraged to attend. It is primarily a practical program about improving communication, building a stronger marriage, and helping couples rediscover the love they had for each other.

There is help and there is hope for our marriage. For more information please call 1-800-470-2230.

### RESPECT LIFE GROUP

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days.

If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me [dlatterer86@gmail.com](mailto:dlatterer86@gmail.com)

APRIL 27/28, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

J. Bieker  
D. Field

M. Phillips  
P. Sheldon

J. Novack  
J. Novack  
J. Novack

LECTORS

L. Christiansen

7:30 AM

J. Fischer  
A. Fischer

L. Luckett  
J. Salamone

A. Costa  
E. Costa  
M. Costa

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM

G. Wessel  
M. Wessel

B. Whitworth  
R. Willey

H. Louissaint  
G. Maddalena  
C. Imhof

LECTORS

M. Sherlock  
M. Sossich

11:30 AM

C. Garcia  
B. Guzman

A. Luna

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

Lausten Family

1:00 PM

TBD

Have YOU ever thought of becoming a Lector, an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion for Mass or to the homebound? We would love to have you join our other volunteers in these various ministries.

Please all Holy Cross Parish Office or Immaculate Conception Parish Office if you would like to sign up for any of these ministries. We certainly can use your help and would love to have you join your fellow parishioners in these areas. We pray you will consider God's calling for you to help out.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings. Call or text John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY 5 pm

WEDNESDAY 4 pm

FRIDAY 6 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

DELAWARE CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS "A TAPESTRY OF AMERICAN COMPOSERS"

- The Delaware Choral Society returns to the Schwartz Center for the Arts with "A Tapestry of American Composers". The concert will be held Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 4:00 pm under the direction of Rocky F. Tejada and will feature music by American composers such as Aaron Copeland, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Gwyneth Walker, and Randall Thompson.
- Tickets for the concert may be purchased in advance from any DCS member or at the door on the day of the concert. Tickets may also be purchased online at the Delaware Choral Society Facebook page, or on the DCS website, [www.DelawareChoralSociety.org](http://www.DelawareChoralSociety.org).
- How Much: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door (discounted rates available for students and groups of 10 or more)

- Felicitaciones a todos nuestros Jóvenes que se Confirmaron el sábado, continuemos orando por ellos, para que descubran sus dones y los pongan al servicio de nuestro Dios, su santa Iglesia y su comunidad.
- Mayo es el mes de nuestra santísima Madre María y también es el mes de las flores, de la primavera. También, Mayo es el mes en el que todos recuerdan a su mamá el famoso 12 de Mayo y las flores son el regalo más frecuente de los hijos para agasajar a quien les dio la vida. Por su papel en el plan de salvación y porque María es esta mujer incomparable, la Iglesia en todo el mundo se alegra con la llegada del mes de mayo, ocasión especial para honrarla y rendirle homenaje, y por eso muchas parroquias preparan Coronaciones y otras manifestaciones de amor y devoción a Nuestra Señora.
- Mayo mes de La Virgen Peregrina: Si desea que la imagen de la virgen María visite su casa para rezar el santo Rosario todos los días por una semana; por favor de anotarse con la hermana Marta Espinosa. Se le entrega la virgen el primer domingo de mayo y la regresa el domingo siguiente y otra familia la recoge. Se hará esto de mayo a noviembre.
- Retiro de Sanación: Conquistando Las Naciones Para Cristo tendrá su retiro de sanación 7,8,9 de junio, 2024 en Holy Cross. Para Hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años. Costo: \$125.00 por persona.
- El Foro Cristiano. Las Clases. Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche hasta el día 2 de junio 2024.
- Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa están abiertas, las aplicaciones están en línea o vaya a la oficina de Educación Religiosa.
- El sábado, 20 de abril se celebrará el Sacramento de la Confirmación de nuestros adolescentes de nuestras parroquias de Holy Cross y La Inmaculada Concepción.



## ICC

- Clases de Preparación Sacramental  
Primera Comunión: Ensayo: viernes, 26 de abril, a las 7pm en la iglesia.  
Recepción del Sacramento de La Primera Comunión: Sábado, 27 de abril a las 10 de la mañana
- Confirmación:  
Ensayo: Jueves, 18 de Abril, 6pm en la iglesia de Holy Cross en Dover  
Recepción del Sacramento de la Confirmación: Sábado, 20 de abril a las 10am en Holy Cross, Dover.
- Próximo Año. Las inscripciones para el próximo año escolar 2024-2025 están abiertas, Inscripciones estarán abiertas hasta el 30 de agosto. Puede tomar una aplicación en el salón o en puede bajar la en línea. [www.iccmaryl.org](http://www.iccmaryl.org) o visite la oficina parroquial. Se necesitan Catequistas y voluntarios. Si usted desea ser catequista o ayudar hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: April 21 3:00 pm—5:00 pm  
For more information contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

## COMING THE 24-25 ADULT EDUCATION STUDY GROUP YEAR!

Stay tuned for these exciting programs!

**Schedule to be determined.**

### *The Summit of Faith*

“The Eucharist distinguishes Catholic life more than anything else, providing the foundation for sacred worship and belief in Christ’s living presence within the Church. program will outline the teaching of the Catholic Church on the Eucharist and the Mass and how they lead into a robust expression of the Christian life in the world.”

### *Divine Mercy – The Second Greatest Story Ever Told*

“With his characteristic skill and lucid style, Fr. Michael Gaitley interweaves the dramatic history of Poland, the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope Saint John Paul II into a tapestry of wonder and beauty.”

### *Wild Goose Series*

“Unleash the Holy Spirit in Your Life In this professionally filmed and cinematographically stunning series, Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR will lead you on an unforgettable journey around the world and into the very heart of God. Discover the immense power and beauty of the unconditional love of God that is the Holy Spirit.”

**Classes will begin again in September of 2024.**

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

### **Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Congratulations to our 70 teens from Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception who were sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit this weekend in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### **Youth Group:**

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 22 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Luke Room - 2nd floor ELC Building

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: ALLELUIA! CHRIST HAS RISEN!

SRE Classes end on Sunday, May 5th with our Traditional May Crowning and Living Rosary.

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Communion:

Rehearsal: Friday, April 26th at 7pm in Church

Sacrament of First Eucharist: Saturday, April 27th @10am

Confirmation: Congratulations to our newly Confirmed!

Next Year: Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open. Registrations will be taken from March 1st to August 30th. Registrations available at desk in hall during religious education classes and online. Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!

Vacation Bible School meeting!

THEME: SCUBA

Planning Meeting: Tuesday, April 23rd at 7pm at Immaculate Conception Office.

Questions? Call Alicia Poppiti 410-482-8939 or dre@icmarydel.org



Iowa, home of the world's largest truck-stop! Iowa, the state where the hog population outnumbers the human population by 3 to 1! Iowa, the country's top producers of corn! Iowa, the ice-cream capital of the world! Most notably though, Iowa....the soon-to-be planned destination for not one, but TWO...yes....TWO OM teams who positively, absolutely, without any equivocation wowed the judges at the state level competition for this year's Odyssey of the Mind in Milford last weekend.

It was quite the windy day in Milford, but lovely nonetheless. Sunshine and beautiful clouds overhead made for the perfect backdrop to a perfect day. The events were held at the Milford Central Academy, a beautiful school campus where the middle school is connected to the high school by a breezeway sort of structure. A tip of the hat to those in charge of logistics, and planning. From my viewpoint, it all went off without a single glitch or hitch.

To provide an overview of the way all of this develops; OM teams from schools all over the state have been working on a creative approach to problem solving. Each team selects one problem and dedicates hours upon hours and more hours of work (after school and on weekends) in making sure all the t's are crossed and all the I's dotted prior to presenting their problem before the judges at the Regional Competition. From the Regional Level, only certain teams are judged highly enough to proceed to the State Level. HCS had four teams proceed to the State Level of competition. The eye was on the prize when we showed up in Milford. As Eli L. told the judges, "We are definitely ready!"

Who was going to Iowa? Would anybody be going? Would HCS teams be awarded a sufficient number of points to advance to World Competition?

Well, my friends, you better believe it so. Two of our four teams are Iowa bound.

**PROBLEM 2: TECHNICAL DIVISION: AI TECH-NO-ART**

**TEAM COSTA: KAYSI B. ANDREW C. ENZO C, AIDRIC H, SARAH M, ANDREW W, EPHRAIM Y.**

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but what if the beholder is---a robot? In this problem OM teams will design, build, and operate an Artificial Intelligence Tech-NO Art device that determines if a work of art is beautiful or not. It will dismantle a work of art that it decides is not beautiful to create a new work of art it believes is beautiful. The humorous performance will also include an artist character that stands up for their work of art, sound effects, and team created artwork.

I have long forgotten the set of circumstances which led to my being present for the initial stage of discussion leading to the selection of the problem for this season of OM competition. But, I was there to listen, (and perhaps interject just a little) to the very mature thought process and serious approach taken to a discussion of all of the problems available for consideration. What impressed me most was the careful attention paid to the gifts and talents each team member brought to the table. Who was the techy teammate? Who was most artsy? Who were the actors? But most importantly which problem might be chosen by the least number of schools leading to a smaller field of competitors that would in turn increase their chances of going to Iowa! Andrew W, the veteran Worlds team-member was the voice of reason and experience. They listened to him and in the end the vote was the unanimous election of Problem 2. Let the work begin.....

**PROBLEM 5: PERFORMANCE DIVISION: ROCKING WORLD DETOUR**

**TEAM BARRETT/RAMBO: COOPER B, ROSS B, JOSEPHINE B. MOIRA B, PAISLEY C, ELIANA O. NOELLE R.**

Are you ready to rock? Here is your opportunity! In this problem, OM teams will create a performance about a rock band on tour. Things get derailed in a very Odyssey way---while playing a song, the band is transported to an unexpected location. The band members must figure out how to use music to get them back on their tour. The performance will also include band merchandise and original hairstyles.

Not being privy to the thoughts and conversations leading to the selection of this problem, I can only suspect that knowing the team was heavy on musical talent must have influenced their final decision. My favorite was the dinosaur costume with multi-colored painted egg cartons representing scales on the tail of the T-Rex. The beautifully designed artistic renderings of the different locations they found themselves in made it easy for the audience to follow the story line. Musical selections included "We Will Rock You" and an original piece of music composed by the team and performed by a female trio while two disco type dancers performed in the background. It was an entertaining presentation and they obviously nailed all the requirements in solving the problem.

And so now comes the most difficult part of the whole process. Making all the arrangements, lining up the transportation for the children, shipping all the props, communicating with the folks in Iowa, the logistics in planning are staggering, but the most challenging of all is raising the funds needed for financing the next step in the exciting venture for two teams.

In closing I would be most remiss if I didn't extend my heartfelt gratitude to the coaches who volunteered their time to work with the teams. Their job is a tough one because they cannot offer ideas, or assist with designing props, or any moving part of the presentation such as vehicles, or in the case of Problem 2, the robot. My thanks to Coaches Barrett, Costa, Dill, Grosso, Middleton-Hall, Hurley, Peters, Pinkerton, Rambo, Reyes, Siva, Thomas, Whitelock, and Willis for their dedication to the OM program, the participating students, and to Holy Cross School.

“undignified” (lacking worth).

**Violations of Human Dignity.** The document goes on to cite 13 areas of social and cultural in the world today that breach the wall of human dignity and violate it — in some cases subtly, in other cases like Vikings attacking a village. Some of these represent the hot button issues of the day, others cover more broad categories. In these sections and throughout the entirety of the document Pope Paul VI, Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, along with Pope Francis, our current Pontiff, are quoted with grand frequency to make it clear that these issues have been addresses in various forms over the past 50 years. These are the topics:

**Poverty, War and Migrants.** On these three topics, which I combine here, much has been addressed to these in the past. Frankly, in the document, not much new is put forth.

Regarding the section on poverty, it seems that much of what is said is more apropos to the third world rather than the western world, as it speaks of poverty as unaddressed and abject. While in the western world, we might not address poverty perfectly, it is addressed. When reading this, one must be conscious that this document is addressed to the whole world, not just the west.

On the war, the document does not put forth much new here, excepting a re-affirmation that war is poor “solution because its risks will probably always be greater than its supposed benefits.” It also decries war waged on religious basis. It also raises a high bar for consideration of a just war.

On migrants, we are reminded that migrants possess human dignity, and should not be treated as less human beings because of their national status (or lack thereof). Where countries are “able to accept them” they should, and by the way they are treated we need to be understanding that “they possess the same intrinsic dignity” and we need to show that we don’t “consider them less worthy.”

**Human Trafficking.** The document defines human trafficking as a “crime against humanity” and “a grave violations of human dignity.” Included in this category are not just the most obvious ideas of human trafficking but also the marketing of human organs, sexual exploitation of children, slave labor, prostitution, drug and weapons trade, terrorism, and organized crime. All of these areas find human beings exploited and used as property or product for their nefarious ends. One might add abortionists to this list, however that is covered in separate section below. Pope Francis is quoted in the document saying, “trade in people is a vile activity, a disgrace to our societies that claim to be civilized.”

**Sexual Abuse.** The document reminds us that “sexual abuse leaves deep scars in the hearts of those who suffer it.” It adds that, “This phenomenon is widespread in society, and it also affects the Church.” It says that the Church commends all to have a relentless war against sexual abuse, starting from within the Church itself.

**Violence Against Women.** Much like the section on poverty, which is clearly written with the third world in mind, so, too, this section, which has some foothold in the western world, is certainly geared to the much of the southern hemisphere, where violence against women is not just existent, but culturally normed, if not legal.

That being said the document casts a wide net on the subject of violence towards women. It includes child prostitution, criticizing “the systematic exploitation of sexuality [that] corrupts even very young girls into letting their bodies be used for profit” It decries the practice of polygamy (which is contrary to the equal dignity of women), coerced abortions, objectification of women as well as “femicide” (the murder of women). Among other items, it also cites the need to stop “discrimination against those who have chosen to be wives and mothers” and “protection for working mothers.”

Next column: The continuation of the summary of the Dignitas Infinita, specifically on the sections regarding: Abortion, Surrogacy, Euthanasia, the Disabled, Gender Theory, Sex Change, and Digital Violence.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor

**ANSWERS  
TO LAST  
WEEK'S  
PUZZLE**

