

4th SUN. in ORD. (B-4) (6:00pm Sat & Sun) **Do we speak for Christ?**

The Dictionary of Theology says authority is: “The ... demonstrable trustworthiness or legal claim of a person capable of convincing another of some truth...obliging them to accept it...Authority in the Church is legitimate only if it serves the mission of Jesus.” Hence, Jesus’ presence and words made him trustworthy to the people, setting them free to believe and be changed. That, my friends, is real power, and we all have that same power to make a difference for having lived.

Today is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. We all witnessed President Obama mention how each one of us can name the teachers that influenced us to become the people we are becoming, and Catholics are no exception. In fact, Catholic Schools have always given people who society did not want to serve a chance to become the somebodies God wants them to become.

Our teachers and principal are demonstrably trustworthy! They speak with the power to influence as Jesus did. Their words and example go right to our student’s and parents’ hearts. When we’re so moved, we want to spread the word, we want to be men and women for others, and when news of this spreads...fame happens. However our school is not famous because we haven’t gotten the word out. Our school speaks for Christ, and that, my friends, means that it is prophetic.

Authority comes both from within and without. We have all been blessed with the capacity to believe, to hope and to love, and all 3 are within us. Fame spreads from without. When we speak the truth, it gives us the authority and the power to influence a listener, who, in turn, passes it on. What do we want passed on? (Sat. homily ends here; Sun. keeps going) To help us we have a special guest, who will share why you can’t afford not to send you child to our school. Mrs. Jordan, our 7th gr. teacher would like to share with us why she loves what she does.

Our public schools in this area are not serving our children in the way they deserve. Few minorities have enough credits to qualify to get in to our 4-yr. universities. I will not go into the reasons. However, our catholic schools do serve our children.

Not only do they get a great Catholic Christian Education, but they also qualify to attend our Catholic high schools if they wish. Those that go get into college at an 88% level as compared to our public schools, which can boast only upwards of 10% or 15% for Asian cultures and 1% for our Hispanics.

Our school's principal is well versed in Ignatian, Jesuit spirituality. We form boys and girls for others, a goal of all Jesuit-sponsored schools. Frs. Gerry and George are teaching at the school: Fr. Gerry is teaching religion to our 5th graders, Fr. George is teaching music and singing to the whole school, now that Ms. TONU has landed a full-time job. Our 7th and 8th graders benefit from a retreat I helped design years ago to help them grow in knowledge of themselves and their peers.

Education is the responsibility of parents. We offer you the chance to make a difference in your child's life in partnership with the parish. And, with the help of benefactors, I would like to announce that we will open a pre-school next August. It is known that children who receive a pre-school education tend to thrive more and earlier than those who don't. We are hoping to make that kind of difference with your help.

Come to the school and ask to sit in a class, or get a tour. Meet the teachers your children would have. See the facilities. Perhaps you can help us improve or upgrade them. And if you do not have children of school age anymore, take pride in knowing that our support is helping our church to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Let us together WOW others as Jesus did in his synagogue for we are teaching with the authority of God as prophets in action.