



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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**CELEBRATING 162 YEARS OF MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE**

*The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.*

**OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY!**

July 31, 2015

V. 41 #04

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

**Soccer---We need to talk!** Last week we sent home all the forms for soccer. See that week's letter if you don't have them. Bring all the forms this Sunday night or next Sunday night for uniform pick-up at the gym from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

At Uniform Distribution, please be sure to bring:

- a. ICS Athletics registration form and any sports fees due if not already paid
- b. Physical for 2015-16 athletics seasons
- c. Consent form filled out and signed
- d. Parents Agreement filled out and signed
- e. Diocesan Parent Code of Conduct Form filled out and signed
- f. Maple Grove Fees (\$50 for first child, \$40 for second child, \$30 for 3<sup>rd</sup> child)

**AND WE DO NEED TO TALK!** Diocesan policy requires a parent meeting before the start of the sports season. Former Athletic Director Dale Anderson will be helping us with the parent meetings to be held Wednesday, August 5 for Grades K-4 from 6:00 to 7:00 and for grades 5-8 from 7:30-8:30. *You need to know the rules to follow any sport correctly You need to know about the 24 hours "cooling off period" if you have a beef with a coach or referee. You need to keep sports in perspective, remembering you are not re-living your childhood through your children, and everything we do is developmental.* We are having number-problems with team composition and I really appreciate coaches and parents working these out as best as possible while keeping the athletic philosophy of our school and Diocese in mind. Be sure and let me know.

Write down these dates: August 2 or 9 and August 5. See you there!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Saturday August 15th - Columbia Daze Parade** - Parade at 5 pm We will have a float in it along with our Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Matt Hake! Be sure and Wave and hoop it up for us---we will throw more candy at you!

**Sunday August 16th - Potluck** for Pre-School, Pre-K, Kindergarten, New Student and Mentor Families - 12:30 start (following Mass) This event helps us know each other better and ease fears of new students as they get familiar with our school! Thanks to our School Board for going the extra mile on the parade and Pot-Luck!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** starts next week. We have over 80 coming!!! Thanks to Shari Murphy for heading this fun connection to our God!

## **SCHOOL STARTS August 19---full day!**

**UNIFORM RESALE** R and D usually means research and development but to Skip Ward and the uniform committee, it means recycle and donate. You donate the uniforms and in turn donated \$910 to Parents and Friends. We wear the recycled uniforms and some are donated to Catholic Urban Programs! Thanks Skip and crew for the smooth sailing! Everyone wins!

**COCA** As part of the Peabody Energy Leader in Education Award I received on April 15, I attended a 3 day Arts Integration Workshop at the Center of Creative Arts on the strip in the Central West End. I was able to spring a free registration for our Mrs. Carol Fetcho too so we were both treated to master teachers from the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Education program. Look out 2015-2016! Our 2 heads are spinning as to the ways we can bring arts integration into our school. When a biology teacher can teach an old dog like me that we all need movement education, kinesthetic space awareness, mindfulness, focus, and cooperation, then you have done something. If we can pull this off somehow this year and grow these concepts, everyone's scores go up, everyone owns their education more, and we will understand that if we give up to the group, we will learn more and go farther as an individual. No more good or bad---just strong or weak choices! The excitement has not worn off so don't get too close to me or bring it up unless you want to see me swing into action! This was the closing comment from Jane Alexander of the National Endowment for the Arts with my tweaked ending:

*When we teach a child to sing or play the flute, we teach her how to listen.*

*When we teach her to draw, we teach her to see.*

*When we teach a child to dance, we teach him about his body and about space, and when he acts on a stage, he learns about character and motivation.*

*When we teach a child design, we reveal the geometry of the world.*

*When we teach children about the folk and traditional arts and the great masterpieces of the world, we teach them to celebrate their roots and find their own place in history.*

*When we teach them about our God, we give them an everlasting future.*

**OUR THEME SONG** hit our website and sing along! [www.icscolumbia.org](http://www.icscolumbia.org)

### **OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY**

Open the door of mercy open the door, Open the door.

Open the door of mercy, God calls us to open the door of mercy, let love in, let love in, open the door, open the door!

Live the way of mercy, kindness and truth, forgiveness and peace.

Live the way of mercy, God calls us to live the way of mercy, let love in, let love in, open the door, open the door!

Mercy brings serenity, joy and peace. Let the well-spring of God's love release!

Be the face of mercy, you are God's hands, you are God's feet!

Be the face of mercy, God calls us to be the face of mercy let love shine, let love shine!

Open the door, Open the door!

**MAGAZINE DRIVE** To order online anytime---your child will get credit during the drive--- go to [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com) I.D. 2710556 Magazines make great gifts---gifts that give all year long. The drive is the single largest donor and we have placed over \$490,000 into the ***Eugene J. Schorb - Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education.***

**THE NEXT WEEK'S READING:** are called the *Bread of Life Discourse*. There are many of the Christian faiths that cannot get a hold of the central part of being Catholic, of being a Eucharistic people. We respect that and many Christian faiths do have a form of communion that is embraced. Please read Fr. Ron Rolheiser's reflection before this Sunday's Mass. Like me, you might be glad you did!

## **EUCHARIST AS GOD'S PHYSICAL EMBRACE** Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There's a story told of a young Jewish boy named Mortakai who refused to go to school. When he was six years old, his mother took him to school, but he cried and protested all the way and, immediately after she left, ran back home. She brought him back to school and this scenario played itself out for several days. He refused to stay in school. His parents tried to reason with him, arguing that he, like all children, must now go to school. To no avail. His parents then tried the age-old trick of applying an appropriate combination of bribes and threats. This too had no effect.

Finally, in desperation they went to their Rabbi and explained the situation to him. For his part, the Rabbi simply said: "If the boy won't listen to words, bring him to me." They brought him into the Rabbi's study. The Rabbi said not a word. He simply picked up the boy and held him to his heart for a long time. Then, still without a word, he set him down. What words couldn't accomplish, a silent embrace did. Mortakai not only began willingly to go to school, he went on to become a great scholar and a Rabbi.

What that parable wonderfully expresses is how the Eucharist works. In it, God physically embraces us. Indeed that is what all sacraments are, God's physical embrace. Words, as we know, have a relative power. In critical situations they often fail us. When this happens, we have still another language, the language of ritual. The most ancient and primal ritual of all is the ritual of physical embrace. It can say and do what words cannot.

Jesus acted on this. For most of his ministry, he used words. Through words, he tried to bring us God's consolation, challenge, and strength. His words, like all words, had a certain power. Indeed, his words stirred hearts, healed people, and affected conversions. But at a time, powerful though they were, they too became inadequate. Something more was needed. So on the night before he death, having exhausted what he could do with words, Jesus went beyond them. He gave us the Eucharist, his physical embrace, his kiss, a ritual within which he holds us to his heart.

To my mind, that is the best understanding there is of Eucharist. Within both my undergraduate and graduate theological training, I took long courses on the Eucharist. In the end, these didn't explain the Eucharist to me, not because they weren't good, but because *the Eucharist, like a kiss*, needs no explanation and has no explanation. If anyone were to write a four-hundred page book entitled, *The Metaphysics of a Kiss*, it would be not deserve a readership. Kisses just work, their inner dynamics need no metaphysical elaboration.

The Eucharist is God's kiss. Andre Dubos, the Cajun novelist, used to say: "Without the Eucharist, God becomes a monologue." He's right. A couple of years ago, Brenda Peterson, in a remarkable little essay entitled, *In Praise of Skin*, describes how she once was afflicted by a skin-rash that no medicine could effectively soothe. She tried every kind of doctor and medicine. To no avail. Finally she turned to her grandmother, remembering how, as a little girl, her grandmother used to massage her skin whenever she had rashes, bruises, or was otherwise ill. The ancient remedy worked again. Her grandmother massaged her skin, over and over again, and the rash that seemingly couldn't be eradicated disappeared. Skin needs to be

touched. This is what happens in the Eucharist and that is why the Eucharist, and every other Christian sacrament, always has some very tangible physical element to it - a laying on of hands, a consuming of bread and wine, an immersion into water, an anointing with oil. An embrace needs to be physical, not only something imagined.

G.K. Chesterton once wrote: "There comes a time, usually late in the afternoon, when the little child tires of playing policeman and robbers. It's then that he begins to torment the cat!" Mothers, with young children, are only too familiar with this late afternoon hour and its particular dynamic. There comes an hour, usually just before supper, when a child's energy is low, when it is tired and whining, and when the mother has exhausted both her patience and her repertoire of warnings: "Leave that alone! Don't do that!" The child, tense and miserable, is clinging to her leg. At that point, she knows what to do. She picks up the child. Touch, not word, is what's needed. In her arms, the child grows calm and tension leaves its body.

That's an image for the Eucharist. We are that tense, over-wrought child, perennially tormenting the cat. There comes a point, even with God, when words aren't enough. God has to pick us up, like a mother her child. Physical embrace is what's needed. Skin needs to be touched. God knows that. It's why Jesus gave us the Eucharist.

**Roland Schilling** Thanks to our Scholastic Bowl Team for paying respects to Roland as he progressed to the winner's circle of life. It thrilled me for you to pay your respects and Joanne and Family were deeply touched!

**PRAYERS:** Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Patty Juengling, Marian Keim, Dan Whelan, Edward Pelker, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Josh Ritter, Valerie Bauchens, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, Special Intention

**Mike Kish**  
**Principal**

Ps 1 School supply lists are on the website under parents-forms.

Ps 2 Welcome to all our new families as they come in to the ICS "fold" for the first time. If you are feeling lonely or not connected, call the office and let's talk. We have mentor families who will be in contact real soon to answer those questions about "Kishspeak" and how things work. If you are new and haven't been contacted about soccer, we really want to talk---just got a call on that one!