



# MATER DOLOROSA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## 11-15-21 Eagle Bulletin

Thank you, Father Reuben, for visiting campus to hear confessions last Friday!



### Tomorrow, Tue., 11/16

Tomorrow is the last day to bring in food for the food drive. If students bring two or more dollars in an envelope marked Food Drive with the student's name and grade level, then that students will be allowed to participate in a dress down day tomorrow, 11-16. Appropriate attire must be worn. If there is a question about the appropriateness of the clothing, do not wear it. Money will be used to buy turkeys, ham, gift cards, etc.

- Closed toe shoes must be worn, in good condition, laces must be tied; no sandals.
- Hats may not be worn in building.
- Shorts must be mid-thigh or longer.
- Offensive pictures, designs, logos and/or words on clothing are not permitted.
- Boots are NOT permitted.
- Leggings are not to be worn.

## **Today, November 15th**

Remember! The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month is a day the school community unites in prayer to ask God and Our Lady to bring us together in partnership with them to help our children and school grow. Fr. Reuben shared the following prayer that he would like us to pray daily, not only on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition to praying the following prayer, what is God calling you to do (additional prayers, fasting, penance, etc.) for our children and school?

### *The Unity Prayer*

My adorable Jesus,

May our feet journey together.

May our hands gather in unity.

May our hearts beat in unison.

May our souls be in harmony.

May our thoughts be as one.

May our ears listen to the silence together.

May our glances profoundly penetrate each other.

May our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father.

## **Tuesday, 11/15**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Uniform Drive 2:00-5:00 outside of the gym. You may bring uniforms that do not fit anymore and exchange them for ones that fit better. Since lost and found items have not been claimed, those items will be there as well.
- Dad's Club Meeting at 6:30

## **Wednesday, 11/17**

- 8:00 Mass
- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will go to the Louisiana Renaissance Festival immediately after Mass!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Uniform Drive 2:00-5:00 outside of the gym. You may bring uniforms that do not fit anymore and exchange them for ones that fit better. Since lost and found items have not been claimed, those items will be there as well.

## Friday, 11/19

- 7th-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat at St. Dominic... Fr. Reuben will lead the retreat with another priest and nun. (Mass, adoration, confessions, vocation awareness talk) Thank you, Father Reuben!
- Progress Reports Distributed

## Monday, 12/6

Mark your calendars. Home and School Club Meeting is at 6:00. More details will follow.

### Reflection

**As Jesus approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging, and hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me!" [Luke 18:35-39](#)**

This beautiful story of the healing of this blind man, named Bartimaeus in the Gospel of Mark, sets for us a model of how we must come to Jesus in prayer. Bartimaeus and his encounter with Christ is an icon upon which we must meditate so as to imitate him in his weakness, openness, confidence and perseverance.

To begin, this "blind man was sitting by the roadside begging." We must see this as an ideal image of how to begin our prayer. When we start to pray, we must see our littleness, weakness and extreme poverty in our spiritual life. We come to God with nothing. Unable to see. A beggar. And one who is incapable of meeting our own spiritual needs. This is Bartimaeus, and this must be the way we come to our Lord in prayer. Sometimes we can fall into the illusion that our prayers are so elevated and pious that God must be very impressed. If that's your struggle, then you are more like the Pharisees. This blind man, however, is the ideal to aim for. So when you begin your prayer, come to our Lord as a spiritually poor and needy beggar.

In this state of humility, just as it happened in this Gospel story, you can be certain that "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." So as you sit in your humble and needy state, wait and be attentive to Jesus passing by. Wait upon His gentle voice, His quiet inspiration, His calming and unmistakable presence.

If you can humble yourself this way and then sense our Lord's divine presence touching you in some way, then further imitate Bartimaeus by calling out interiorly, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The cry from the depths of your heart in prayer must come as a result of Jesus "passing by." It must be a response to Him coming to you on His own. As Jesus passes by, spiritually speaking, He waits for you to call to Him. He desires that you call to Him. And He desires that you do it with firm confidence and perseverance.

Notice that as this blind beggar cried out, there were obstacles put in his way. The people "rebuked him, telling him to be silent." But even this was a gift, because it enabled Bartimaeus to cry out all the more. So also with us, when obstacles arise in our prayer, such as distractions, temptations, a lack of consolation, or any other challenge to our prayer, we must see these obstacles as hurdles that must be

overcome. Doing so will deepen our union with Jesus, turning that apparent obstacle into a source of blessing.

Reflect, today, upon these four aspects of a deep prayer life that are presented to us through the witness of this blind beggar. First, ponder your weakness and poverty as you turn to God in prayer. Second, be attentive to the presence of God as He passes by, waiting for you to call to Him. Third, cry out to Him and beg Him to come closer. And fourth, work to overcome every obstacle to prayer and see those obstacles as opportunities to call out to God all the more.

*My compassionate Lord, I come to You in my weakness and poverty, I come in need of Your divine touch and healing. As You do pass by, I acknowledge Your presence and call to You. Jesus, please do come to me, have pity on me. Help me to overcome every obstacle to Your love and to trust in You always, never wavering from my commitment to You. Jesus, I trust in You.*

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2021/11/14/a-model-for-prayer/>