

St. Francis of Assisi School

A Faith-Filled Future



Students in grades five and eight at St. Francis School complete a religion test each Spring that includes some interesting essay questions. The test also includes multiple choice questions ranging from church history to traditions to sacraments. These tests are graded and sent to the Lansing Diocese. Bishop Mengeling and the Diocesan Education Department are very interested in what students are learning in our Catholic Schools.

Following are excerpts from just one of the essay questions on the grade eight test:

“What do you think will be the greatest challenge to your faith in high school and beyond.

Do you feel equipped to handle the challenge?”

Abby J. writes, “I think the greatest challenge to my Faith will be peer pressure. It takes a lot of courage to stand up against your peers and say “NO” to them whether the topic is smoking, alcohol, sex or other drugs. It may cost friendships, but it also proves how strong your Faith and relationship with God is. I feel equipped to handle this challenge because God gave me great leadership skills, which can help me in these kinds of situations where I can defend my faith or myself, both physically and mentally. I know God will help me in these difficult times and that is where my trust in Him really helps. The gifts of the Holy Spirit can also help guide me along through high school by preparing me for the future and by being the best person that I can be. Through God’s gifts and talents that he gave to me, I can take on almost any challenge and conquer it by trusting and believing in God.”

Hillary B. writes, “ that the challenge is to remember that when Jesus said to us “...*whenever you did this for one of the least important brothers of Mine you did it for Me.*” Jesus is saying that whatever you do to others you are also doing to Him. For example, if you comfort a stranger or buy lunch for a homeless man, you are doing that for God. For God is in all of us. Whether things are done for better or worse, it is also done to God. The more good things we do for each other, the happier He is. In a way, by doing something for one person, you are really doing it for two, that person and God, never one or the other.

And so in high school and beyond, I need to remember that God feels the heartbreak, the tears of joy, the meaning of friendly acts, and the pain of fights. I need to remember that God loves me and will take care of me, but that I must always take care of others to truly make Him happy.”