



“Faith that is ... Discerned”

February 2013*

SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS:

Come, Follow Me – Tom Franzac

Here I Am – Dan Schutte

That’s What Faith Must Be – Michael Card

OPENING PRAYER:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Loving God,

You call us again and again to follow You.

Open our ears to hear Your voice;

Open our eyes to see Your beauty;

Open our minds to grasp Your wisdom.

Grant us discerning hearts to recognize You as we journey.

Grant us strength to follow You faithfully.

We pray in the name of Jesus,

Amen.

READING: Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’” He said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own and give the money to the poor and you will have treasure in Heaven; then, come, follow Me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Jesus challenges the man.

What are the challenges that call me to live more fully by faith in my life?

How is our wider Catholic educational community...

- similar to the rich young man?
- different from the rich young man?

* Adapted for RCCDSB use.

RESPONSE: Rembrandt's Aristotle With the Bust of Homer

In 1653, Rembrandt was commissioned to paint a portrait of Aristotle. Rembrandt selected a scene depicting Aristotle who was making a living as a tutor to Alexander, the son of Philip of Macedon. Aristotle faces us with a challenging expression. Who am I? Where am I going in my life? These are the questions of discernment. Aristotle's hand rests on the statue of the poet Homer, famous for writing the Iliad and the Odyssey. Around his shoulder, Aristotle wears a chain of office. He is a member of Philip's court. On this chain we can faintly make out Philip's image on the medallion. The tension in Aristotle's face is palpable; Am I an officer of the court or am I a creative teacher? Rembrandt may be projecting his tension here; Am I fulfilling a commission, or creating a work of art?

Within this portrait, we can find challenges with questions for discernment. For instance: Where does our path lie...

- as functionaries in the educational system, or
- as persons trusted to use vision and creativity to do the best for the students in our care?

In our faith lives, do we just follow the rules, or do we take the risk of following the Gospel?

Feel free to consider these questions in silence or in short discussion...



(Source Wikimedia: image in the public domain)

CLOSING PRAYER:

And this is my prayer,
that your love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight
to help you to determine what is best,
so that in the day of Christ
you may be pure and blameless,
having produced the harvest of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.

Amen.

St. Paul, Philippians 1:9 – 1:11

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.