

CATHOLIC CORNER

As we run in to Catholic Schools Week next week it is quite fitting that this week the Church has celebrated the lives of three Saints with a strong links to education. These are Saint Francis de Sales (January 24th), Saint Thomas Aquinas (January 28th), and Saint John Bosco (January 31st).

For Immaculata High School Alumni the feast of St. John Bosco, known by many as Don Bosco holds most significance because Don Bosco was the Saint chosen as the school patron for sports and activities. The Immaculata sports teams were for many years known as “The Immaculata Dons” before changing to “The Immaculata Mustangs”.

Saint John Bosco



Don Bosco is the patron saint of youth and was born in Italy in 1815. After

witnessing the circumstances of boys in local prisons he chose to devote his life's work working with disadvantaged children. He formed the Salesian Society, named after St. Francis de Sales (see below). Don Bosco educated the boys of the poor and working classes. With the help of St. Mary Mazzarello he also established the Salesian Sisters to do similar work working among disadvantaged girls.

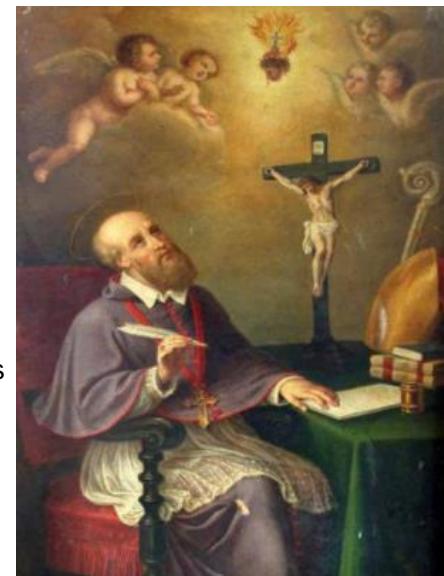
John believed in equipping students for life. A progres-

sive thinker he hated all punishment. Instead he believed that by removing youth from temptation, treating them with dignity and kindness, and enriching them with skills then the children could be lead to more productive lives. His rule was “Not with blows, but with charity and gentleness must you draw these friends to a path of virtue”.

Saint Francis de Sales

Saint Francis in the early 1600s reformed religious education, established a seminary and founded schools.

Living a simple life St. Francis shared with the poor. In his works he emphasized the loving kindness of God and the human capacity for love.



St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274)

Saint Thomas Aquinas, with St. Albert the Great, developed the Scholastic method of teaching. This involves constant questioning. Arguments are made for



and against propositions. A rational discussion should

take place until a clear understanding is reached.

Saint Thomas was a man of Great intelligence and also a humble man gaining religious and spiritual knowledge through prayer and deep thought.

As we connect to many of the engaging activities of Catholic Schools Week next week may we "Walk with Jesus our living hope" with the mind and heart of Don Bosco and Saint Mary Mazzarello.

WEEKEND READINGS

In this weekend's Gospel Mark 1:21-28 we see Jesus use his power for good to order a demon to leave a man.

Jesus wants to take over our hearts. Jesus wants people to love one another. Some of the most respected leaders of our time lead/led without hurting others, by treating people well, and helping others.

I was also drawn to the Gospel Acclamation this week

Matthew 4:16
the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

"Love is a fruit in season at all times and within the reach of every hand. Anyone may gather it and no limit is set. Everyone can reach this love through meditation, prayer, sacrifice and an intense inner life."

- Mother Teresa

