

**May 17, 2019**

## **From the Headmaster**



Thanks to Mrs. Lazarus, whose initiative and generosity made it possible for students in grades 5-8 to see an abridged version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at Lumen Christi on Thursday.

Mrs. Lazarus' love and knowledge of Shakespeare has been a great boon to our junior high curriculum this year, and the live performance by professional actors was an entertaining educational experience for our students. The Indianapolis Shakespeare Company will be offering free performances at Riverside Park this summer. Information is available at [indyshakes.com](http://indyshakes.com).

Our students enjoyed a very different experience on Monday, with presentations by Indianapolis 500 Festival Princess Heidi Przytulski. Thanks to Bernie Price in the CYO office for connecting us with that opportunity.

### **High School Meeting**

A good group of parents of students in grades 6-12 met at Lumen Christi Catholic High School last evening for a discussion aimed at making Lumen Christi the preferred high school choice for our families. I'm told the meeting was very positive and productive, and I look forward to hearing more. Thanks to all those who participated.

### **Tuition Worksheets**

We are still finalizing tuition worksheets for 2019-20. They will go out by email soon.

### **Addressing Difficult Issues with Students**

In recent weeks, I have heard concerns from parents about protecting our students against bullying, abuse, and the growing threats to children's healthy development in purity and virtue.

I honestly believe that Lumen Christi is just about the safest place your children could be, and this note is not in response to any crisis at our school. But we are not immune to the harmful forces in our society, and we have begun to review whether our curriculum and policies might better address these concerns.

In particular, we are looking at how the Theology of the Body developed by St. John Paul II might be incorporated into our curriculum. In June, I will attend a workshop at Ruah Woods, a TOB education center in Cincinnati

endorsed by The Cardinal Newman Society. We are fortunate to have a parent who works remotely for the Theology of the Body Institute in Philadelphia and can serve as a resource. We are also looking at programs or lessons related to bullying and abuse, including the Circle of Grace program of the Archdiocese.

At this point, we are simply exploring possible approaches. Please be assured that we respect parents' role as the primary educators of their children. At the same time, we're hearing from some parents that they want the school to reinforce their efforts and help ensure that all Lumen Christi students are receiving a common formation in these areas. We will proceed carefully, keeping parents informed and soliciting your feedback. In any event, we are not talking about major changes to the curriculum but potentially adding supplemental material into classes and/or providing recommended materials to parents to use as they see fit.

In the meantime, I urge you to read the letter from Father McCarthy that was included in the Holy Rosary bulletin this past Sunday. The letter is enclosed in the Friday folders and attached to the LCCS Weekly Update.

In light of the kinds of problems Father describes, one change we will be making for the coming school year is to further discourage the use of cell phones in the grade school. (There will be no change to the high school policy.) It is my view that no student in the elementary school needs a phone. Effective this fall we will require a letter from grade school parents if they wish to authorize their child to bring a phone to school, and we will closely monitor those phones – frankly, I hope there aren't any.

One of our parents has recommended *The Joyful Mysteries of Life* by Catherine and Bernard Scherrer (available in paperback on Amazon); I have read it and believe families might find it a useful resource.

These are difficult issues of vital importance to all parents. I am sharing this with you now because we want you to be aware from the very beginning that the process is going on, but that means I can't present any specific plans. So I must depend on you not to make any judgments based on speculation or work-in-progress. It is very important that we have your trust and support as we consider the best approach to deal with these issues at Lumen Christi, and I welcome your input.

*Teaching the unity of faith and reason, through the Light that is Christ Jesus, for the formation of young Catholics in truth and virtue.*