

**September 27, 2019**  
**From the Headmaster**



Thanks and congratulations to Miss Welch and the students in grades 2-8 for the beautiful music at the Latin School Military Memorial Dedication Ceremony on Monday. Archbishop Thompson was present to bless the memorial plaque in the

courtyard, and Judge David Certo, a member of the Lumen Christi Advisory Council, gave an inspiring speech. His speech is attached to the Weekly Update.

I am sure that our students' singing was a blessing to the family and friends of the men who are honored on the plaque. It was a great experience for our students to learn about service to country and sacrifice for others. I encourage parents to talk with children about 911, when one of the honored men was killed at the Pentagon, and about Vietnam, where another honoree was killed when his helicopter was shot down.

#### **Follow-up: Theology of the Body Parent Meeting**

Thanks to the parents who attended the meeting on the Theology of the Body. The slides and handouts from the meeting are included in the Friday folders of families who did not attend. (They are also attached to the Weekly Update.) Also in the folder is a copy of *Theology of the Body for Beginners* and a CD. Thanks to the Archuals for donating these materials!

One of the documents is an outline that Miss Welch has developed for the TOB classes in grades 4-5 and 6-8. It is based on Ruah Woods materials but develops a fuller view of the human person. Miss Welch is continuing to build the outline.

The parents at the meeting had a good discussion about TOB and expectations for what will be covered in the classes, particularly in the middle and upper grades, and I want to emphasize a few points:

We had to decide whether to wait until we had a fully developed curriculum to introduce TOB, or whether to get started now as we continue to build the program. We chose the second option, and given the good start in grades 4-8, I believe that was the right decision. But it means that we cannot tell you right now exactly what will be covered through the entire year.

What I can say, as I have said before, is that TOB is not a biology class, and that we continue to believe that the school should not presume to teach about topics that are parents' prerogative and responsibility.

Having said that, I would add that TOB should naturally lead to fruitful, age-appropriate discussions about chastity and some sensitive topics. The fact that I can't tell you right now exactly what those topics might be is not just because we haven't developed the whole course, but because we can't predict where students' questions may lead.

What I promise is that, if we decide that we should pursue sensitive topics in the higher grades, we will inform parents in advance.

Let me also note that we have divided boys from girls in grades 4-8, and we will bring in men to teach the boys from time to time – and not just when sensitive topics are discussed. We believe that these steps will promote more worthwhile class discussion.

If parents have any questions or concerns about TOB, I urge you to contact me – especially if you hear something on the grapevine that raises doubts. Parents at the meeting expressed support for the program, and I think it will be very good for our students. I appreciate your trust and support.

#### **High School Campus Minister**

I am happy to announce Corissa Vanderhulst as the new campus minister in our high school. Mrs. Vanderhulst will be in the high school on Mondays and will help facilitate religious and service activities – some in conjunction with the Holy Rosary Youth Group. She will also guide student study and discussion of the Ruah Woods online TOB curriculum. Mrs. Vanderhulst writes:

I am excited to get involved with the high school! After surviving being the oldest of nine kids, I headed to Ave Maria and earned a Bachelor's of Philosophy in Theology. At Ave Maria, I met my husband. So far, we have been blessed with five awesome kids! For the past six years, I have run the Youth Group at Holy Rosary. I love St. Catherine of Siena's words, "If you are what you should be you will set the world on fire!" If we can inspire and strive for every student and family at Lumen Christi to be who God created them to be, we will fill the world with a very powerful flame of Christ's love!!

#### **High School Shadow Day**

Next Friday, Oct. 4, six 8th graders who have expressed interest in attending Lumen Christi next year will have a shadow day at the high school from 7:25 am to noon. If you know anyone else interested in our high school for next year – in any grade – please encourage them to contact Emily Rosko ([erosko@lumenchristischool.org](mailto:erosko@lumenchristischool.org)) to arrange to participate in the shadow day.