

# Virtue of the Month: COURAGE

January 21, 2010

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## Upcoming Events

- Thursday, January 21st, Jump Rope Team Practice, 3:10-4:15
- Thursday, January 21st, After School Spanish, 3:10-3:45
- Monday, January, 25th, Young Rembrandts, After School
- Tuesday, January 26th, Mad Science, After School
- Wednesday, January 27th, School Mass, 8:30am
- Wednesday, January 27th, Blood Drive, 7:45-3:00
- Thursday, January 28th, Jump Rope Team Practice
- Friday, January, 29th, Noon Dismissal

## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

For the sake of those looking over our website deciding if St. Francis is the right choice for their child and those of you that don't know my educational background, I would like to share the following with you today. I believe that it is helpful when discerning such things to look at the leadership of a school as it impacts any school from pre-school through university in countless ways. Further, we have an excellent faculty and staff at St. Francis; you will find a brief background statement for them on the school website.

I earned my Bachelor degree from UCLA in History. By all accounts, the UCLA History faculty is one of the finest in the nation and I had the privilege of taking classes with many excellent teachers including the late Eugene Weber who you might remember from his PBS series, The Western Tradition. My upper division studies focused on the development of Judeo-Christian culture: political, social and religious. My senior paper was on St. Dominic and the Albigensian Heresy. After UCLA, I went on to Loyola Marymount University and earned my credential, doing my student teaching at a city high school. Oddly enough, my supervising professor was not a Jesuit but a Carmelite, Father Albert

Koppes, a first rate educator that greatly shaped my development. After student teaching, I was offered a position at Notre Dame High School teaching Church History and New Testament to sophomores, I had 183 of them! Later I would go on to teach World History and AP Government and Economics. During this period, I began a Masters program in History at Cal State Los Angeles, the highlight of which was a paper I wrote on the Naval Chaplains in the Pacific during World War II under the tutelage of an old crusty yet brilliant professor and veteran of that war, Hugh Bonar.

I went on from teaching to administration around the time of our second child. I never finished my Master program in History but switched to the University of San Francisco and completed my Masters in School Administration. The program at USF was an excellent one and I gained much from this education. I served as principal of two Catholic Schools in California before moving up to Oregon and taking the position of principal here at St. Francis.

I completed my Continuing Administrative License studies at the University of Portland last May which is a

post-masters program that I feel has helped me become a much better administrator. I was in a cohort with some great public school administrators as well as the former principal of De la Salle North and the current principal of Central Catholic High School both here in Portland. I am currently taking a New Testament studies class and so the learning continues! I strongly believe that teachers and administrators must embrace the notion of lifelong learning and model this for our students. Next week, I will outline information that pertains to the structure of our curriculum.

Cordially,

Michael Cantu,

Principal

“Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what other think you are”.

John Wooden



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## News from the School Office

**Return your  
Commitment Forms**

**Clothes:** Please take the time to check your child's sweatshirts. Since they all look alike it is easy for a child to bring home a sweatshirt that belongs to someone else.

**Kindergarten testing** for next year will be February 6th and February 20th. Call now to schedule your testing time. Another Saturday will be added if necessary.

**Lunch Orders:** Please note the change in lunches on Wednesday and Thursday of Catholic Schools Week.

## Catholic Schools Week



Catholic Schools Week is Jan 31st-Feb. 6th.  
Sunday, Jan 31st, Open House Noon-2:00pm  
Monday, Feb. 1st, Pastor and Parish Appreciation Day  
Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, Grandparents Appreciation Day  
Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, Student Appreciation Day  
Thursday, Feb. 4th, Parent Appreciation Day  
Friday, Feb. 5th, No School  
Tuesday, Feb. 9th, Staff Appreciation Day

Join us in celebrating each of these days and thanking the people that make St. Francis the great school it is.

## St. Francis Parish News

Eat at Stone Cliff Inn between January 15-31 and earn 10% back for St. Francis Parish.

Knights of Columbus “**free throw contest**” will be held on January 31st, 9am to noon. The contest is open to boys and girls ages 10-14.

**Bottles and cans** are being collected through Sunday, January 24th in the Narthex and the Parish Center. They will be redeemed and the funds used for Haiti relief.

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# Out of Parish News

**Blanchet Catholic School Preview Day**, Sunday, January 31, 2010, 2:00pm

Blanchet invites you to learn more about its excellent college prep education for students entering grades 6 – 12

- Tradition of academic excellence
- Tuition assistance available

Families of all faiths welcome.

Blanchet Catholic School, 4373 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. For more information call 503-485-4491

**St. Mary's Academy CYO Basketball Night**, January 22, 2010, 7:00pm. Free admission for all students and coaches wearing CYO uniforms. For more information call 503-721-7725.

**Portland Pilots Basketball:**

Saturday, January 23rd, Pilot Men vs. Pepperdine, 7:00pm, CYO Night, \$5 game tickets  
Saturday, February 6th, Pilot Women vs. Gonzaga, 2:00pm, \$3 tickets

