

The *Why* behind Catholic Education

As we observe the Advent season and anticipate the great celebration of our Lord's birth, we can be distracted from the reason why we celebrate Christmas. Similarly, in our secular society, we can lose sight of why Catholic education is important. Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia addressed this issue in an article published on September 6, 2017 on the archdiocese web site. Teach the Truth shares excerpts below as the Archbishop's thoughts highlight the critical importance of Catholic education:

...the *why* behind Catholic education – the reason it exists – can sometimes be overlooked. The goal of all Catholic education is to form young people in a strong Catholic faith, a faith rooted in the truth about God and humanity, a faith that can guide them to a fruitful life in this world, and home to the joy of eternal life with their Creator.

Catholic education starts with a simple principle: Facts and achievements are empty, or worse, unless they're embedded in a pattern of meaning. The deepest hunger of the human heart isn't for knowledge but for *purpose*. This is why Jesus's words in the Gospel of John (8:32) have always had such power: "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Truth organizes reality. It gives meaning and direction to life, and in doing so, it sustains hope.

Thus it's no surprise that in cultures that refuse to accept the existence of permanent, objective truths, or a commonly shared higher purpose to life, suicide rates rise along with a general callousness expressed in barbarisms like abortion and euthanasia...

Here's the point. The belief that truth exists, is permanent and knowable, and is worth pursuing and fighting for because it makes us free, is an affirmation of the goodness of life and the world's loving Creator.

This enduring passion for truth is the fire at the heart of all Catholic education, from the first day of First Grade forward throughout life. So ... it's a good time to remember what we need to be teaching, learning and doing in our classrooms — and even more importantly, *why*.

Please pray for the ongoing success of Catholic schools. If you are also in a position to support us financially or know anyone who would be interested in providing support, we would very much appreciate it if you would let them know about us by referring them to our website, www.teachthetruthfoundation.org. Your support is allowing children to attend Catholic schools who otherwise would not be able to do so. Thank you for what you have done to respond to Christ's command to teach all nations through your prayers and financial support.

teach the truth

Teach the Truth

Teach the Truth Foundation provides tuition aid and financial support to Catholic Schools so that all who seek to attend a Catholic school can do so regardless of financial need.

Established in 2014, we invite all those who feel called to aid in the mission to support Catholic Education in Western Pennsylvania to partner with us. Our goal is to ensure that the Catholic Schools continue to be an option to all parents of school age children.

Catholic Schools have a wonderful legacy of providing an educational experience of outstanding quality with the foundational focus being Christ, the source of all true knowledge. The mission of Catholic Schools has been critical to the development of the United States and is even more critical today.

St. John Paul II Address to U.S. Bishops (1998):

Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts, but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom. In the Catholic school there is no separation between time for learning and time for formation, between acquiring notions and growing in wisdom. The various school subjects do not present only knowledge to be attained, but also values to be acquired and truths to be discovered.

The greatest challenge to Catholic education in the United States today—and the greatest contribution that authentically Catholic education can make to American culture—is to restore to that culture the conviction that human beings can grasp the truth of things and, in grasping that truth, can know their duties to God, to themselves, and to their neighbors.

In meeting that challenge, the Catholic educator will hear an echo of Christ's words, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jn. 8:31-32). The contemporary world urgently needs the service of educational institutions which uphold and teach that truth is that fundamental value without which freedom, justice, and human dignity are extinguished.

Pope Francis :

"Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful." *May 10, 2014*

I support the mission of Teach the Truth and would like to donate to your efforts to make a Catholic education a reality for even more parents in the 2018-2019 academic year.

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