



Title: Education

Scripture

Prayer to St Julie Billiart

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart". St Julie Billiart

Matthew 5:13-16

You are like salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it. "You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus, you told us that we are the light of the world, that our example shines out for all to see. Be with us today so that all we do, think and say is a worthy example for others to follow. **Amen.**

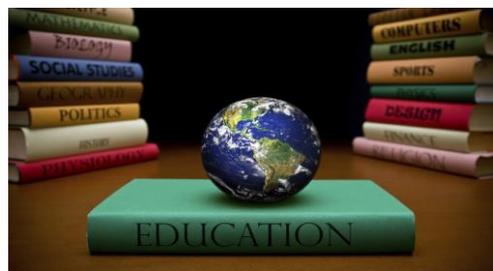
Reflect: The Catholic Church has been at the heart of education in this country and abroad for many hundreds of years...some argue it was the first provider of schools and universities in England.

Education in Notre Dame, Liverpool

The Sisters of Notre Dame arrived to Liverpool in 1869 after a call from Father Nugent. Deprivation in North Liverpool was prevalent and the need for intervention through education was great. The Sisters lived out St. Julie's philosophy to "give them what they need for life" and this mantra is very much embodied in the work we do today. Our staff feel privileged and honoured to be able to educate the students in our care and this sentiment is the cornerstone of our daily lives.

The Church has always viewed education as a way of forming and developing the whole person and so whilst Catholic schools prize highly the achievement of academic qualifications, as recognition of young people fulfilling their God-given potential, they also strive to educate in other ways: in loving ones neighbour, in moral responsibility, in being confident Christian citizens—alive with the love of God! Here in this Catholic College we believe in the power and potential of every single individual and we strive more than anything to empower you to believe the same, so that you can take your place in our world as members of society who will make us proud because you will make a difference. Education is the key to so much - the Church has known it for a long time, do you?

- How would describe what 'an education' is to another person?
- Parents in the developing world work them-selves into ill-health, give up meals and make other sacrifices in order to send their children to school. Your education is given freely. How differently would you feel about your education if you lived in a different country? Should that make a difference?



God our Father and Teacher, Help each of us to be grateful for the opportunity we have been given to come to a school that is safe and warm, clean and well lit. A school that has computers, books, pens, qualified teachers, dedicated professional staff and people who genuinely care for our well-being. During the times when we complain or don't apply ourselves as we should, remind us of all the young people who are unable to attend school and have no way to access education as we know it. Remind us we are lucky Lord, even if we don't feel like it! **Amen**

Focus on one each day

Prayer in action this week:

- Embrace opportunities given
- Teach others by example
- Show that you value your education
- Learn something new

Pray for:

- Peace in our world, communities, homes, schools and hearts
- Those without access to education
- Those who dedicate their lives to teaching others
- Young people the world over
- All those who belong to this Notre Dame community and whose family or friends who may be ill.

Educating our young people on the Holocaust: Joanna Millan

This week in college the Year 9 students were very fortunate to hear the testimony of Joanna Millan, a Holocaust survivor.

Joanna was born Bela Rosenthal in August 1942 in Berlin, Germany. Bela's father was taken from the street where he had to work as Nazi slave to Auschwitz and then subsequently In June 1943, Bela and her mother were taken from their home and sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto.

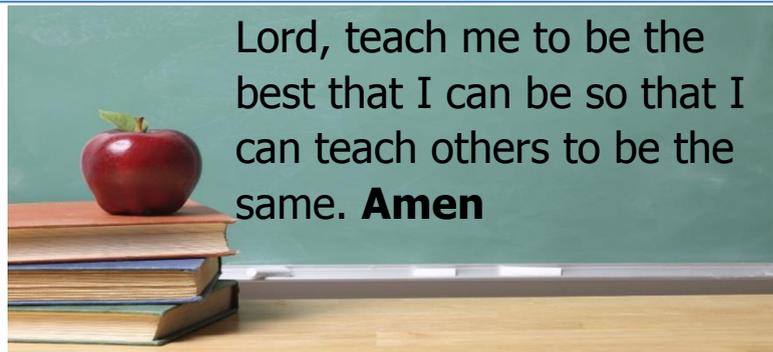
In 1944 when Bela was two, her mother contracted TB, leaving Bela orphaned and alone in the camp. Some of the women working in the kitchens would take food to the orphans. On 3rd May 1945, the Red Cross took over control of the camp and Bela was liberated by the Russians.

After liberation Bela, along with five other surviving orphans, was flown to England. After living in a series of children's homes, Bela was adopted by a Jewish couple living in London. They decided it would be better for Bela to have a less German-sounding name so it was changed to Joanna. Joanna was told not to mention that she was Jewish or that she was born in Germany and to pretend that she was their natural daughter.

Growing up and hiding her identity was hard for Joanna, but she believes that the scale of anti-Semitism was such that Jews were discriminated against in all sections of society, even in England. Joanna went on to marry a Jewish man and has three children and eight grandchildren. She is a magistrate and today speaks regularly about her experiences during the Holocaust.

Joanna's testimony will stay with our students and staff for a long time. The remarkable thing that was so inspirational about Joanna was her positivity. Despite all the unthinkable things that Joanna witnessed and lived through, she is full of hope and happiness. Her quest for life and appreciation for all things in this world that is bright and beautiful has never left her. Joanna quoted philosopher Edmund Burke and explained "For evil to prosper, all it takes is for good men to do nothing." She urged her young audience to be aware that it is possible to make a difference in society and to stand up to injustice when it happens.

At the end of the talk Joanna was presented with two significant gifts from our Notre Dame Community, an Orchid plant which represents peace, elegance and strength and a framed photograph of our Mission Week logo of 'do small things with great love'.



Lord, teach me to be the best that I can be so that I can teach others to be the same. **Amen**

Lord,
Thank you for all those who teach me: members of my family, my friends, people within my community, and those in College. Help me to see what others are prepared to do, for ME, to enable me to become the best I can be. Help me to respect the efforts of those who only want the bests for me.
Amen

A prayer for students and teachers alike...

O Lord,
Grant me your strength,
so I will have courage in every situation;
Grant me your love,
so I will never give up on anybody;
Grant me your wisdom,
so I will show others the path to success;
Grant me your mercy,
so I will forgive those who have hurt me;
Grant me your peace,
so I will find the best in everybody;
Grant me your hope,
so I will never give up;
Grant me your joy,
so I will be thankful for all my blessings;
And Grant me your grace,
so you will always be at my side.

Amen

*Dear God,
We thank you for our school, for the people who built it, the people who manage it, the people who clean and look after it and for all the staff who teach in it.
We thank you for all the people in the churches who so strongly believed in the value of education that they were prepared to fund and build schools.
And we thank you for all of those who continue to support schools today.
For, without all of these people I would not have the chance to build my life on such firm foundations!
Amen*

God our Father, when you made each of us you gave us gifts - talents and characteristics that help to shape who we are. Gifts are to be given and shared, so help me to share who I am with others, teaching them through my sharing.
Amen