

United in prayer

The story behind the prayer we say at the end of each school day

AN VU
Staff Writer

Every afternoon, students, faculty and staff pray a school prayer to end the school day with God.

Students may not realize the writers, inspiration and effort behind the prayer.

During the summer, CAO Jeremy Ekeler reached out to theology teacher Sr. Guadalupe DeWispelare and asked if she would be willing to write something that could be read at the beginning or end of each day that incorporated the theme of the school year.

“I said I would do my best, and I went to prayer that day,” DeWispelare said. “There were thoughts that were kind of already flowing, so I really think that the Holy Spirit was prompting those ideas.”

They worked on it together until the final version was decided on.

“We decided on this theme, ‘In the One, We are One,’ and we felt like the best way to keep that theme for the year in front of us was a daily reminder,” Ekeler said. “And we felt like there’s no better daily reminder than prayer. Prayer creates the reminder plus that connection. It’s like a divine reminder of our mission.”

With their collaboration, the school

prayer turned out to be the way it is today.

“Sister and I bounced ideas back and forth, and it sort of wrote itself,” Ekeler said. “I think the Lord really guided it.”

The prayer also stemmed from good timing according to DeWispelare.

“It was really close to our summer camp, and I had given a talk at our summer camp about the fact that we give and receive and reasons that we don’t

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often give and receive,” DeWispelare said. “We don’t always believe that we are loved, chosen, and gifted. And that’s why we don’t give ourselves because we don’t believe that we’re worth giving.”

Something special about the prayer to Ekeler is the idea of unity.

“The idea of unity, unity in Christ,” Ekeler said. “I always keep the prayer on me, and I love the way that it builds too, in the one we are one, together we will restore all things in Christ. I love the way it builds from the individual’s relationship with Christ, to our school’s mission in Christ. From individual calling to school mission.”

DeWispelare also feels the unity of the prayer too.

“I also do think the power of unity is real and I do feel that at Pius this year,” DeWispelare said. “I feel more united with my coworkers, with my administration, and I see a greater unity among the student groups that I am able to witness this year than in years past.”

The prayer serves as a gentle reminder to students that they are loved, chosen and gifted.

“My favorite part of the prayer is the fact that anyone who prays it is proclaiming the truth that they are loved, chosen and gifted,” DeWispelare said. “Even myself saying those words at the end of the day, it’s such a good reminder and there’s such power in claiming the truth of who we are in Jesus, in the Father, in the Holy Spirit.”

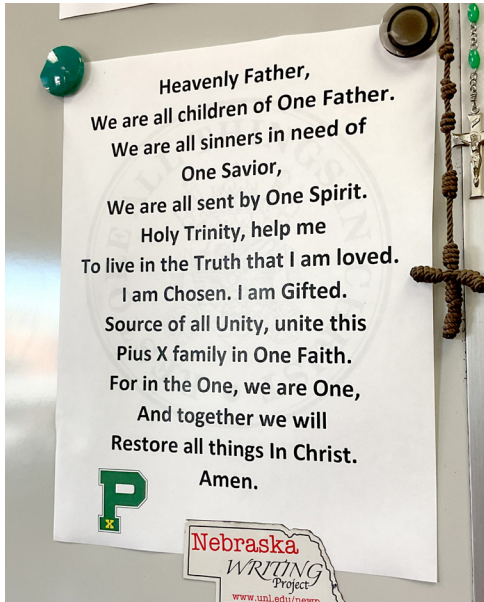
Students are also impacted in many other ways.

“It has made me calmer throughout the

day,” freshman Maura Anderson said.

Ekeler hopes this prayer stays with students even outside of Pius X.

“I hope this prayer is one that kind of embeds in their brain,” Ekeler said. “And as they go out into the community and become Catholic leaders they remember this as a great approach to leading in their own lives, which is to seek Christ first and then bring that unity to the people around them. I hope this prayer resonates well beyond Pius.”



A copy of the school prayer in English teacher Nolan DeWispelare’s classroom. Photo by A. Vu

Editorial: Student tickets to home games should be free

Pius X students are expected to pay a normal student admission fee at Pius X home games just like every other guest, but we think that policy should change.

We believe that Pius X students should not have to pay to get into their home games. They are going to support their classmates and should not have to pay every time to do it.

Although public schools charge their students, some other private schools do not.

Students at Skutt Catholic in Omaha do not have to pay to get into their home games. Lincoln Lutheran used to charge their students, but for the last couple of years the students have gotten in free.

We think that we should not have to pay if other private schools do not have to pay.

The students are not alone in this though, administration is trying to help this situation.

According to athletic director Trevor Johnson, the administration is trying to find ways to make the games cheaper for students.

Last year, there was a donor who paid for all the student tickets at home games. We think this made it easier and more motivating for students to go to the games.

Johnson said that the administration is looking for another donor to pay for Pius X student tickets. There

are other options that the administration is looking into as well.

Johnson pointed out that there are fewer and fewer kids coming to games. We think that if students got in free, more students would be more motivated to go.

Having to pay discourages students from coming to games.

We appreciate that the administration is looking into making sports events cheaper for students. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to go and support their classmates.

Straight From the Bolts: What’s your favorite thing about Catholic Schools Week?

MARIA RIORDAN
Staff Writer



“My favorite thing about Catholic Schools Week is the themes and getting to wear non-uniform.”
-Ben Bousquet, senior



“My favorite thing is helping to make sure teachers get appreciated with Student Council.”
-Rachel Bliven, junior



“My favorite thing is the Eucharistic procession.”
-Addison Simanek, freshman



“My favorite thing about Catholic Schools Week is the bishop coming.”
-Charlie Kastl, sophomore

Opinion: Lack of water at winter formal causes issues



ALICE HILGERS
Staff Writer

The second dance of the school year has gotten some upgrades, yet there are some important things I think would benefit students at the dance.

There has been a major difference with decorations and photo ops. There were lights leading down the hallway and backdrops for students to take

pictures throughout the night. Most students had fun and enjoyed the new look, but there was one thing kids struggled with.

The gym was very hot, which can’t really be helped with all the people dancing inside. But some students got overheated, and most didn’t bring any sort of water or ways to cool down. The only drink options were through the vending machine or the water fountains, which both were not ideal with long lines and accessibility.

At previous school dances, there were water coolers that students could drink from throughout the night. I think this is the better option for students because it’s easier for them to access and can keep themselves hydrated more easily.

Some students even missed out on dances and fun moments because of feeling overheated, and while water might not solve the problem completely, it could definitely help next time.

And while the upgrades at the dance were great, just one more tweak will do the job to make the night even more fun and memorable.

Lincoln Pius X

Sarah Volkmer