

The Beatitudes and Social Justice: From Attitude to Action

By Sister Annette Wagner, IWBS '64

I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians.

Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.

This comment by Mohandas Gandhi sounds a little extreme. Yet it does move us to evaluate our actions, which is what Lent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation call us to do.

Because actions are something we can get a grip on, we often use the Ten Commandments' *Do's* and *Don't's* to help us examine our conscience.

As long as I avoid certain actions (the Don't's), can't I say that I am a good Christian?

In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus challenges this minimalistic view. Although he warns against certain actions and encourages others, Jesus is not satisfied with an exterior standard. At the very beginning of his Sermon, in the eight Beatitudes, Our Lord presents his concern for our interior life—the core of his dream for us as his disciples.

No matter how much we grapple with the eight Beatitudes, we often run into a dead end. They are so abstract! How do we get a grasp on them? Honest outward actions reveal or express inner realities. If we really want to know what Jesus means by the Beatitudes—and what he expects of us—we need only look at his actions, how he treated others. Understanding the context of his time, seeing his attitudes in action, we can try putting them into our own words. Jesus yearns for followers who

- ... do not feel entitled (poor in spirit)*
- ... are troubled by our failings to love (mourn)*
- ... are free from the need to control others (meek)*
- ... long for right relationships among all (hunger and thirst for righteousness)*
- ... are concerned for the suffering of others (merciful)*
- ... rejoice in God as our only treasure (pure of heart)*
- ... are free from the desire for revenge, free for seeking reconciliation (peacemakers)*
- ... endure suffering for the sake of integrity (persecuted for the sake of righteousness)*

Like the Ten Commandments for our actions, the Beatitudes are the measure for our attitudes. When these BE-attitudes are truly lived, they produce actions that address the concerns summarized in our Catholic Social Teaching.

In this examination of conscience, can we be honest enough—faithful enough—to recognize not only our actions, but also our lack of actions and name the attitudes that fuel them? If we want to know our attitudes, we need only look at how we treat others directly and personally, as well as indirectly through the policies and practices we support or ignore. Consider what is behind our support—or lack of—for ...

- ... the life and dignity of every human being*
- ... healthy families, strong communities, active participation in each*
- ... the rights and responsibilities of all community members*

Incarnate Word Academy — Campus Newsletter — Corpus Christi, TX

This newsletter is published monthly and distributed to parents and friends of Incarnate Word Academy. Its purpose is to provide a means of communicating spiritual and liturgical messages, parenting education, campus-wide information, teacher/staff accomplishments, special events, and future plans. Some articles have been contributed by faculty, administrators, parents, and other friends of Incarnate Word Academy.

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The Beatitudes and Social Justice:

From Attitude to Action

... the needs of the poor and vulnerable
... the dignity of work and the rights of workers
... solidarity with all members of the human race
... care for God's gift of nature

In our Catholic Social Teaching, our bishops tell us that these concerns form a seamless garment. So, too, the Beatitudes. One cannot be separated from the other. The eight Beatitudes are so named because, when lived, each bears the fruit of a blessing. When they live within us we are formed into Beatitudes—blessings—for our world, for our society, for each human being who encounters us.

Ghandi understood this truth. He said it a little differently to his followers. Surely Jesus would agree.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Scholarships Impact Lives

By: Connie F. Cadena, Executive Director of Advancement

More than 200 grateful students and generous contributors have been invited to the Incarnate Word Academy Foundation's annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, April 14. This special event, now in its eighth year, allows student scholarship recipients and those who made the scholarships possible to meet one another – often for the first time. Invitations have been sent to all students receiving scholarships, scholarship donors, and individuals who have a scholarship created in their honor.

Guests will be honored with a lunch followed by a presentation ceremony. Featured speakers for this year's luncheon include: IWA Foundation President, Sister Michelle Marie Kuntscher; Former board member and donor, Dr. Bob Bezdek, who has endowed the Henry and Anita Bezdek Scholarship, will speak to the importance of scholarships from a donor's perspective; Lydia Ayala, IWA senior and recipient of the Dr. Kathleen E. Kennedy Scholarship and Charles Baker, also a senior and recipient of the Helen Power Munro Scholarship, will both speak on behalf of our scholars.

A significant part of the event's program is the inductions for the scholarship recognition society, *Precious Stones Supporting the Mission*. This recognition society acknowledges donors whose lifetime giving to IWA's scholarship program totals \$10,000 or more. This year, in lieu of inductions, there will be a special presentation commemorating Incarnate Word Academy's 140th Anniversary.

A permanent scholarship is established with a minimum gift of \$10,000 as an endowed fund within the Incarnate Word Academy Foundation. The school's first endowed scholarship, the Fritter Memorial, was established in 1980. Nineteen new scholarships have been created in the past four years. Today, the Foundation manages a total of 80 scholarships.

Scholarships are important to the school's ability to recruit a talented and diverse student body and to build a strong financial base for the school. This school year, 65% of our middle level and high school students received a scholarship and/or tuition award. The need for this valuable assistance becomes more critical each year.

Supporting the IWA Scholarship Program is a powerful way to make a difference in the lives of others and help keep IWA accessible to as many students as possible. Please feel free to contact the IWA Foundation liaison, Sister Martha Ann Snapka, at 883-8229 for more information on our scholarship program or to learn how you can impact lives for many generations to come.

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

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ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Give My Regards to Broadway

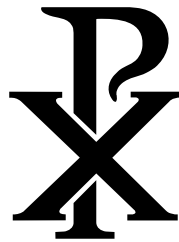
On March 11, the students in grade 5, MEJ3, and MES1 were treated to a production of *Aladdin* at Corpus Christi's version of Broadway - the Harbor Playhouse. The anticipation of the staging, lights, costumes, acting, and singing took a "back stage" to why the students were really enthused: two of their very own classmates performing! Anna Simank, grade 5, and Ariana Jones, MES1, are both in the cast. Both young ladies have dedicated many hours after school to honing their talents, and over the next few weeks, the community will get to enjoy their special gifts. Break a leg, Anna and Ariana!

Italian Street Painting Workshop

Students in grade 5, traditional and Montessori, attended an *Italian Street Painting* workshop on Thursday, March 24, during the 2011 Festival of the Arts at the Art Center of Corpus Christi. Students had the opportunity to discover the history of street painting from international guest artist Julie Kirk. They observed Italian street painting in the making and created their own street painting with chalk pastels. Art knows no boundaries, and children that are given the opportunity to experience many types of art, even at an early age, gain an appreciation of and benefit from these exposures.

Language Arts In-service

On Friday, March 4, 2011, Dr. Marsha Grace, instructor at Texas A & M University Corpus Christi, conducted a *Language Arts* in-service for teachers at IWA Elementary Level. Dr. Grace began her presentation by sharing with some of her favorite authors and books. She stated that if one is going to teach reading, one must also write; therefore, she read a book she wrote herself. At this point in her presentation, she had those in attendance mesmerized. She shared numerous techniques that will help "hook" children on reading and enhance their critical thinking skills. She addressed different methods of helping children make connections to the real world experiences. Her presentation was so applicable to the work of the reading teacher that several commented that auditing one of her literature classes during the summer would be a fun and profitable experience.



Gospel Value:

The

Beatitudes

Math In-service

Dr. Sarah Ives, Assistant Mathematics Professor from Texas A & M University Corpus Christi, conducted a *Math Problem Solving Strategies* workshop at the Elementary Level on Friday, March 4, 2011. The objective was to teach and develop confident and flexible problem solvers in our classrooms. Teachers actively participated in *what*, *why*, and *how* mathematical activities, and reflected on each of the problem solving solutions.

Grades 1 to 5 Attend

The Little Mermaid Ballet

There was excitement in the air on Friday, March 25, as students in traditional grades 1 to 5 boarded buses en route for the Selena Auditorium. The Corpus Christi Concert Ballet presented *The Little Mermaid* ballet as one of the many productions they offer throughout the year. The presentations are part of the Student Performing Art Series, and this ballet is based on the famous tale of Hans Christian Anderson. The one act ballet danced the children into an underwater adventure with Ariel and her mermaid friends, complete with a wedding scene with her charming prince. The educational matinee proved to be an experience for all to enjoy. Who knows, we just might have some future performers in our midst.

MIDDLE LEVEL

PSIA

On Saturday, February 26, IWA Middle School students participated in the PSIA (Private Schools Interscholastic Association) academic competition. The state qualifiers will compete at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on Saturday, April 30.

Here are the results of the PSIA district meet: (*State qualifier)

CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS:

3rd place: Ginger Villarreal

2nd place: J.R. Ramos*

1st place: Christina Matl*

DICTIONARY SKILLS:

4th place: Alexa Mora

2nd place: Bianca Balderrama*

1st place: Michelle Ndwaru*

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

4th place: Sean Dolen

3rd place: Lauren Morales*

2nd place: Alexa Mora*

LISTENING SKILLS

3rd place tie: Ariel Tatford

MAPS, GRAPHS, & CHARTS

6th Grade

2nd place: Bradley Thering*

1st place: Dillon Humpal*

MAPS, GRAPHS, & CHARTS

7th Grade

4th place: Daniel DeLeon

1st place: Sarah Rosales*

MAPS, GRAPHS, & CHARTS

8th Grade

5th place: Jared Coco

3rd place: Katie Duncan*

MATHEMATICS 6th Grade

5th place: Aaron Benevides

3rd place: J. R. Ramos*

MATHEMATICS 7th Grade

5th place: Amanda Madrid

3rd place: Mamiko Hosoe*

2nd place: Natasha Stark*

MATHEMATICS 8th Grade

5th place: Katie Duncan

2nd place: Harrison Longwell*

1st place: Roland Silva*

NUMBER SENSE

5th place: Katie Duncan

4th place: J. R. Ramos

3rd place: Esperanza Aguilar

ON-SITE DRAWING 6th Grade

5th place: Alex Gonzalez

4th place: Shelby Saenz

2nd place: Victoria Rangel*

ON-SITE DRAWING 7th Grade

3rd place: Mamiko Hosoe*

2nd place: Matthew Moffitt*

1st place: Nicholas Ficenec*

ON-SITE DRAWING 8th Grade

6th place: Phoebe Strain

3rd place: Lois Pierce*

2nd place: Andrea Tinning*

PROSE INTERPRETATION 6th Grade

3rd Place: Haley Guerra

2nd Place: Mary Matl*

1st Place: Claudia Leal*

PROSE INTERPRETATION

7th/8th Grades

3rd place: Maddie Baker*

2nd place: Caitlyn Hornsby*

SCIENCE 6th Grade

2nd place: Bradley Thering*

SCIENCE 7th Grade

4th place: Nicholas Ficenec

1st place: Natasha Stark*

SCIENCE 8th Grade

5th place: Jared Coco

4th place: Hank Carillo

1st place: Katie Duncan

SPELLING 6th Grade

6th place: Noah Garcia

SPELLING 7/8th Grades

5th place: Daniel DeLeon

3rd place: Michelle Ndwaru*

2nd place: Jackie Salazar*

VOCABULARY 6th Grade

5th place – Leo Lugo

3rd place – Aaron Benavides*

2nd place – J. R. Ramos*

VOCABULARY 7th/8th Grade

3rd place – Claire Weiss

2nd place – Mary Cate Ellis

1st place – Sean Dolen*

Middle Level

IWA Middle Level Science Fair was held on February 25. The judges expressed difficulty task to choose five projects from the many creative entries.

The First through Third place winners went on to the Diocesan Science Fair held on March 26 at John Paul II High School. The fourth place winner will be the alternate in the event that one of the other participants cannot attend.

The winners of the competition are as follows:

8th Grade:

1st Place: Madison Rawls

2nd Place: Mary Hubert

3rd Place: Freddy Arispe

4th Place: McKinna Gourley

5th Place: Austen Soliz

Most Creative Idea: Georgia Olvera

Most Attractive Board: Maria Aguilar

7th Grade:

1st Place: Kate Pekar

2nd Place: Natasha Stark

3rd Place: Thalia Parizot

4th Place: Celesse Brown

5th Place: Nicholas Ficenec

Most Creative Idea:

Most Attractive Board:

6th Grade:

1st Place: Ian Simmons

2nd Place: Shelby Saenz

3rd Place: Bradley Thering

4th Place: Megan Harrison

5th Place: Shelton York

Most Creative Idea: Alexis Cervantes

Most Attractive Board: Michael Rock

HIGH SCHOOL

TAPPS District 3-4A Academic Meet Results

Team Totals:

1. IWA 373
2. JP II 149
3. SACS 30

Ready Writing

- 1st Place: Julia Baker
- 2nd Place: Maddie Lu
- 5th Place: Matt McClung

Science

- 1st Place: Matt Matl
- 2nd Place: Carlos Sonka
- 3rd Place: Ryan Camacho

Prose

- 2nd Place: Brantly Bright
- 3rd Place: Chloe de Roche
- 5th Place: Roy Riojas

Persuasive

- 1st Place: Brittany Donald
- 2nd Place: Corey Kerr
- 6th Place: Sam Beattie

Yearbook

Spelling

- 1st Place: Samantha Skurka
- 2nd Place: J.D. Longoria
- 3rd Place: Hudson Hall

Current Events

- 1st Place: Sam Novack
- 2nd Place: Alex Oliveira
- 4th Place: Evan Buhidar

Number Sense

- 1st Place: Gyuwon Kim
- 2nd Place: Matt Matl
- 3rd Place: Michael Tinning

Solo Acting

- 1st Place: Jacob Bartlett
- 4th Place: Lydia Ayala

Calculator

- 1st Place: Matt Matl
- 2nd Place: Gyuwon Kim
- 3rd Place: Julia Baker

Advanced Math

- 1st Place: Gyuwon Kim
- 2nd Place: Matt Matl
- 3rd Place: Julia Baker

Literary Criticism

- 1st Place: Sam Novack
- 2nd Place: Mary Ellen Flood
- 3rd Place: John Hall

Social Studies

- 1st Place: Charles Baker
- 2nd Place: Alex Armstrong
- 3rd Place: Derek Ficenc

Spanish

- 1st Place: Emma Camarena
- 2nd Place: Carlos Sonka
- 3rd Place: Cristian Fernandez

Duet Acting

- 1st Place:
Samantha Skurka/ Camilla Childs
- 3rd Place:
Brantly Bright/ Chloe de Roche

Poetry

- 1st Place: Lydia Ayala
- 3rd Place: Ashley Arriaga
- 5th Place: Lauryn Alanis

Original Oratory

- 1st Place: Derek Ficenc
- 2nd Place: Monica Herbst
- 4th Place: Elizabeth Kirkland

TAPPS Math

- 1st Place: Miles Novack
- 2nd Place: Jacob Clark
- 3rd Place: Andrew Thomas

(aka Renaissance Man)

Basketball All-District Teams

Girls

- 1st Team: Alora Suarez
 - 2nd Team: Amelia Gonzalez
Madison Longwell
Ashley Zawicky
Annika Johnson
- Honorable Mention: Leandra Lugo

Boys:

- 1st Team: Tyler Gentry
 - 2nd Team: Alec Cotten
Frank McNiff
Thomas Gonzalez
Vince Morin
- Honorable Mention: Patrick Allman

Spanish Honor Society Donates to Ronald McDonald House

The Spanish Honor Society held their annual service project Sunday, February 27, at the Ronald McDonald House of Corpus Christi. This was their first time helping the Ronald McDonald House, an organization that houses sick children and their families. With taco fundraiser proceeds, the club was able to purchase 50 bilingual books and donate them to the Ronald McDonald's House library. Members also held a special story-time hour with the children.

Way to go Angels!

*Incarinate Word Academy High School is accredited by
the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools and the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department.*

2011-2012 Academic Year

By: Colette Rye, Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

Registering your student(s) NOW for the 2011-2012 academic year is critical for the school's planning and budgeting operations. At this time we need to have all registration forms and fees submitted to the level offices. If your family is anticipating a move that takes you from our campus, we ask that you communicate with your level office.

Along with the registration packet and tuition information, each family received a letter stating the goals for campus-wide improvement. IWA is committed to bringing about continuous innovation to provide your student with the resources needed to enrich their educational experience and prepare for college and life. Please partner with us to turn these goals into reality. Your completed registration forms and our enrollment for next year help define the steps we take.

If you have not turned in your registration forms due to financial concerns, please contact Debbie Diegel in the Finance Office at 361-883-0857 ext. 174 for information on available payment options.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact your level secretary, or Colette Rye at ryec@iwacc.org or 883-0857 ext.106.