

Celebration of Light

In keeping with the theme "Proclaiming Our Faith", Corpus Christi staff and students will be going back in time to the Middle Ages to where proclamations were frequently made by authorities such as monarchs and clergy. These announcements were delivered orally by messengers and town criers in public spaces.

This will also give staff time to share historical lessons about our faith in a different time and give them some history of the churches, basilicas and monasteries, saints and general life in those days.

In the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church was the dominant and most powerful institution in Europe shaping daily life, politics and culture through religious, social and economic influences.

The churches were the center of towns and cities and played a curial role in preserving knowledge, establishing early universities and hospitals and providing social services. The Catholic Church also influenced art, architecture and holidays.

Many Catholic churches from the Middle Ages still exist and are in active use today. For example, cathedrals like Canterbury (during the Middle Ages), Notre Dame de Paris and Chartres. St. Peter's Basilica was the old St. Peter's Basilica from the 4th Century until the 16th century. The old St. Peter's Basilica was used throughout the entire period of the Middle Ages. It was a major pilgrimage destination in the western world during that time.

There are many saints from the Middle Ages such as Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Dominic, Saint Thomas Aquinas, as well as Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth of Hungary, Catherine of Siena and Saint Claire of Assisi, to name a few.

Medieval fashion included tunics, hosiery, (stockings) and gowns. Men wore knee length or longer tunics, and women wore long gowns.

The students and families are encouraged to research clothing and jobs from the Middle Ages to find costume ideas for the celebration of light. There are many options such as, priests, monks, friars, cardinals, archbishops, nuns, saints, royalty (queens, kings, princesses, princes), jesters, minstrels, farmers, blacksmiths, tailors, carpenters, constables or watchmen, knights, Robin Hood, peasants, or medieval fairytale characters such as Cinderella and Hansel and Gretel. Students are also welcome to wear fall colours.

*Students may not wear masks that completely cover their faces. Costumes cannot have any weapons or promote violence.

Ms. Natola

