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**FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

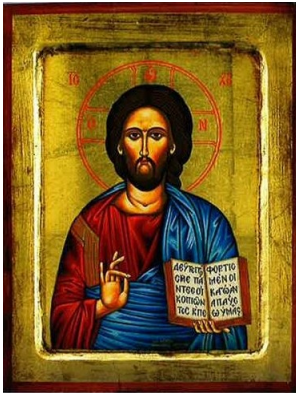
Date: May 7, 2020

Re: Catholic Schools Office (CSO) Thanks to Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Nurses, and Parents.

Dear Group,

This week we celebrate Teacher and Nurse Appreciation Week. We know that Jesus Christ is the ultimate teacher, and educators, we see his reflection in your eyes. Nurses, we acknowledge you're lovingly Christ-like care for our children as you teach them to do the same for others. Parents and guardians, you are your children's first and most important teachers, and we thank you for allowing us to share in the responsibility of educating them in our faith-based schools.

One of the most beloved icons of the Church is that of Christ-the-Teacher. All of you have many of the characteristics of Him, as depicted in this icon.



In the icon, Christ has a beard, wears a brown-purple imperial tunic, and a dark blue cloak. Jesus's head is encircled by a halo that is reminiscent of an oval face, a well-trimmed beard, and a full head of hair that radiates His quiet strength. God's glory illuminates His face with a warm copper glow. Jesus's eyes look right at the viewer, along with his small pinched nose and mouth shows disciplined senses. His left-hand holds a jeweled Book of the Gospel and printed across the pages are the passages "I am the light of the world," or "Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart" (Jn 8:12; Mt 11:29). Raised on Christ's steady right hand are the index and middle finger, which symbolize the two natures of Jesus, the human and divine. The thumb and fourth fingers touch and curve inward toward the palm, and with this pose blesses the viewer (source Sr. Joan L. Rocassalvo, C.S.J., in an article in the Catholic News Agency).

We thank all of you for your quiet strength, especially this year, with the COVID-19 Pandemic and remote learning. Your students see a warm glow in your faces as you teach in a Christ-like manner; you are their gift from God. Your students know you are disciplined, and they see you as a light in their world. You are humble of heart and a blessing to our children. As you strive to live up to the example of Jesus Christ as a Teacher, you bless them every day with your presence.

All of you are heroes to us during this time of uncertainty for continuing to teach our children: Happy Teacher and Nurse Appreciation Week. We are grateful for your presence in our children's lives. Know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Carl Loesch  
Secretary for Catholic Education

Joseph (Joe) A. Brettnacher, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Jeffrey D. Kieffer  
Associate Superintendent