



Sustaining the Conversation

Topics for further discussion at Early Dismissal Days, Staff Meetings, Staff Day of Prayer, etc.:

1. "No one has all the gifts that are needed...and that is good."
2. "The force of disunity is strong. Jesus said "Pray that people be one so that they will believe in You.""
3. "Preach the gospel always...if necessary, use words."
4. "Find those teachable moments and use them."
5. "Celebrate the good that's alive in others."
6. "The full glory of what goes on under the rubric of the education of the young is the most singular continuous endeavour outside of family and religion that our entire human species is capable of."
7. "Education makes for the possibility that a graduate can get a job. Any idea of education that parallels itself strictly, that reduces itself only to the idea that education is the preparation for occupational or wage life, is a savage reduction in the nobility of the concept of education."
8. "You're involved in lighting the sensibilities, in igniting the minds and spirits of the people with whom each day you have dealing."
9. "What an honour it is to be there at the moment of ignition when I call it 'soul', when the soul lights up to the awareness of itself and just how much there is of joy, of eagerness, of novelty, and of experience in this great and grand world. You are in the process. You are the dedicated professionals involved in the cultivation of the human spirit."
10. "I'm well aware that this is a Catholic School Board and that you're not as uncomfortable in the current climate as a lot of people are in talking about the spirit and in understanding these things easily and without any inhibition or embarrassment whatsoever. It's a strange world we live in that seeks to either eliminate or foreshorten the operation of what everyone instinctly understands that we are more than the chemistry of our being and that life has both is intangible and transcendental moments as well as its harsh and physical side."
11. "...the human being is mind, body, character, intellect, spirit, and soul; it is the full compendium, and the full exercise on an individual plain of our human capacity is only possible...if we have been equipped with the instruction, with the roadmaps to the tradition and harvest of human learning, and if we have been given those particular exercises that refine our judgement, light up our appetite for what is better over what is worse. There is so much of us as individuals that is stolen if we do not have these things."
12. "The business that you're in is the central business of what we are. It's what makes us an individual, it's what makes us as citizens, it's what enriches outside of practical utility, our lives in the only spiritual dimension outside of religion that we have."

13. "Education is the cardinal character of all of our being and potential."

*The DVD of Father Joe's Friday morning talk is not yet available. Once I receive that I will send additional quotations for your work with your staff.