



RamTell E-Newsletter May 2022

Reflection

The Three Essential Elements of Catholic Identity

RamTell supports Catholic education through gifts to individual schools and to organizations that help students afford Catholic schools. A school's "Catholic identity" is key to its success in carrying out its mission.

There are several different ways to describe Catholic identity, but three elements are fundamental. These are: evangelization, catechesis and social justice. Here is a brief description of each of these essential elements of Catholic identity:

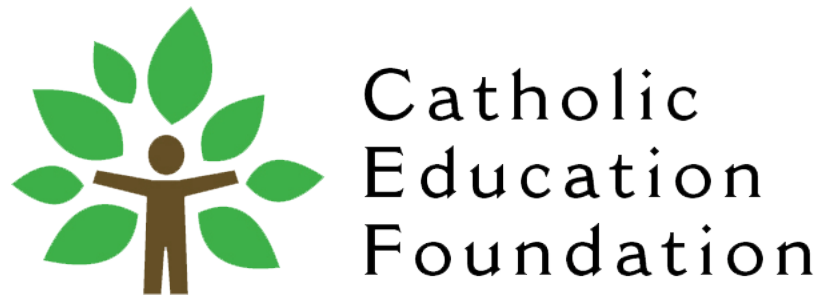
1. A Catholic school must witness to the person of Jesus Christ and to his message (evangelization). Catholic schools exist to proclaim the Gospel. Everything in the school—its curriculum, its liturgies and retreats, its sports activities, and its service programs—should provide students (also staff and families) with opportunities to encounter the person of Jesus Christ, to become his disciples and to proclaim to the whole world our salvation in him. The most important element in a school's Catholic identity is its commitment to make Christ present to everyone who attends the school or who comes into contact with it.

2. A Catholic school must teach the Catholic faith (catechesis). The mystery of God, as revealed to us by the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the primary content of a Catholic education. Everything else that is taught is an elaboration on the wonders of God's creation and the history of our salvation. All of the academic disciplines reveal in partial and preliminary ways the working of the Holy Spirit in our world from the beginning of time. The more we learn about math and science, diverse languages and cultures, and the ups and downs of world history, the more we discover that the teachings of our Church, as contained in Scripture and in our Catholic tradition, represents the truth, the way things really are. Schools that teach the faith are vibrant learning environments that promote curiosity and an openness to new ways of living and learning.
3. Finally, in order to be truly Catholic, a school must teach its students and all members of the school community to reach out to others and accept responsibility for the well-being of all God's creation (social justice). Catholic schools exist for both the good of their students and of the communities they serve. A school that is truly Catholic serves its neighborhood and community because of its recognition that we cannot love God as we should unless we also love our neighbor. Social justice is a constitutive element of the Gospel. That means it must also be a constitutive element of the curriculum and the daily life of every Catholic school.

A school is Catholic when it recognizes that it is called to accomplish these three fundamental objectives: to introduce students to the person of Jesus Christ, to help them understand the world through the wisdom of our Catholic teaching, and to challenge them to serve the needs of others as Jesus did. A school that accomplishes these objectives serves not only its students but also every member of the school community and all the people—near and far—who are touched by its mission.

Profile

In each issue of this e-newsletter, we provide a brief profile of organizations that RamTell has supported that are making a difference.



Catholic Education Foundation

401 W Main St #806, Louisville, KY 40202

The Catholic Education Foundation was formed in 1995 as an independent 501 (c) (3) organization for the primary purpose of supporting the growth and vitality of Catholic parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky. The Foundation is committed to growing Catholic School enrollment throughout the Archdiocese by making a Catholic education available to anyone who with a demonstrated financial need, as determined by a third-party application.

The CEF supports Catholic education through grants for:

Tuition assistance for families

Technology enhancements for our parishes and schools

Professional development for educators and catechists

Religious education for parishes and schools

An independent Board of Directors governs the Foundation and oversees the management of the organization. All funds received by the Foundation are managed by an Investment Committee of the Board and all grant awards are approved by the Catholic Education Foundation Board of Directors.

Richard Leichleiter, President of the Catholic Education Foundation, offers this reflection on CEF's mandate:

At the Catholic Education Foundation, what began as a home-grown slogan, "The Answer is Yes!", has become a mandate to help every Catholic school family in need. And for the seventh year in a row, every single family who reached out to us – and demonstrated a financial need – in fact earned a tuition assistance award. Every single one!

It is only through the steadfast and very meaningful support of donors like RamTell that we can say to our families what they long to hear. "The Answer is Yes!"