NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL: Happy New Year! It is great to return to school. The students’ desire to see their friends and their readiness to learn, play, and pray together is evident. It should be a great 2017 at MQPCS!

THANK YOU! The Mary, Queen of Peace faculty and staff would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity this Christmas. The monetary gifts and other treats really helped us celebrate the season. Thank you so much for sharing your true Christian, holiday spirit.

RETURNING PK3 & PK4 STUDENTS: Registration forms were sent home before the Christmas holidays and were to be returned, with registration fee, by today, Tuesday, January 3. If you have not returned your form, please do as soon as possible to assure a place for your child for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration for new students in PREK – K is Monday, January 9. Returning student registration forms for grades K-6 will be sent home Monday, January 23 and are due by Friday, January 27.

VFW DISTRICT WINNERS: Two MQP students won First Place in the VFW Americanism contest! Stevi Maillet (2nd Grade) won in the Americanism Category 2 “Drawing of the American Flag” and Melia Piediscalzo (4th Grade) won in the Americanism Category 3 “Drawing of Historical Event”. Congratulations!

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK – OBEDIENCE: Obedience is the ability to listen carefully for God’s direction in our lives and to follow his will. Scripture Reference: Luke 11:28 – “…Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” Please see the Family Link page attached.

SIBLING ENROLLMENT FOR 2017-2018: To help us identify available class openings for next school year, please call the office to let us know if you have young children at home that you wish to attend MQPCS next year.

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM: We have partnered with Amazon through their Smile program. When you shop at Amazon you will help MQPCS! Click on smile.amazon.com and help earn money for our school all year long.

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS ARTWORK CONTEST: MCA Annual Christmas Artwork Contest 2016-2017 is now underway. Students in K-8 are eligible to enter. All entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2017. Please see the attached flyer for information on guidelines and to print the registration form. Contest winners will be notified by April 2017 and winning artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during season of Advent and Christmas next year.

PICTURES: Throughout the year, if you have any pictures of your child involved in service activities, please send them to Rhonda Solomon - rcfsolomon@yahoo.com.
Co-op Connection

Father/Daughter Dance Update: Be on the lookout! Formal invitations will be sent out this week in each girls' folders. In addition to the invitation, you will receive a flyer which will need to be filled out and returned to school with your payment. Our next planning meeting is tomorrow, January 4, directly after car line, in the Parish Center. Even if you haven't made it to any other meetings, you are welcome to join us! Contact Lyndsay_Bastion@aol.com if you would like to sign up to help the night of the dance. We ask that only moms who are volunteering be here during the dance (but don't worry - there will be plenty of photos taken!).

Community Connection

Mother-Daughter Program: Registrations are now being accepted for the 19th Archdiocese of New Orleans Mother-Daughter Program hosted by St. Peter Church on Sunday January 22, 2017. This program for 10-12 year old girls and their moms focuses on God’s beautiful plan for women. Please see the flyer attached for details and to register.

Parish Connection

Give the Gift of a Goat! Mary, Queen of Peace Haiti Solidarity Partnership is working with Food For the Poor on a goat campaign for our sister parish, St. Benoit in Dessource, Haiti. Goats provide a family with important sources of nutritious protein that can be sold to provide supplemental income. Due to Hurricane Matthew many of the goats previously owned by the parishioners were lost. Our goal is to send 55 goats in late January. The cost of one goat is $90. If you are interested in helping with this campaign or to donate to the goat fund, please visit https://champions.foodforthepoor.org/fundraise?fcid=451441. If you have further questions please contact Nancy Waguespack at nwaguespack@maryqueenofpeace.org. If you would like to give the gift of a goat in honor of someone, cards are available in the church office to send to the recipient letting them know of your donation.

Camp Abbey Junior High Retreat: Camp Abbey will host their second annual Archdiocesan Junior High Retreat on February 3-5, 2017. The retreat is open to anyone in grades 5-7. The theme for this retreat is ALIVE. We will focus on what it means to be fully alive and to recognize Christ living in each person. The weekend will include a variety of activities, talks, prayer experiences, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, music, and games. Most of all, it will be an opportunity to spend time with other young people from across the Archdiocese! See attached flyer for more information.

Calendar Connection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>Feed the Hungry School Service Mass – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Peace Pride Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Registration for PK3, PK4, K – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Report Cards Distributed at School</td>
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<td>January 11</td>
<td>School Mass – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – School Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>School Mass – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Dad's Club – 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>Returning Student Registration Sent Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Co-Op Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>School Mass – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>Fleur-de-Fall Teacher of the Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Returning Student Registration Due</td>
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</tbody>
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Newsletter Deadlines: All notices/flyer submissions should be sent electronically no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday for the Tuesday publication to lroycroft@maryqueenofpeace.org.
Obedience

Reflection:
After the angel Gabriel gave Mary the astounding news that she would be the mother of Jesus, she responded without hesitation. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) We rightly extol Mary for her willingness to obey whatever God asked. Hers was not blind obedience over which she had no say, however. Instead she remained open and willing to hear the part she would play in God's plan of salvation.

The word “obedience” comes from the Latin root, obaudire, which means to listen thoroughly. Saint Benedict included it in his Rule for monastic life because it is so crucial to communal health and harmony. By setting aside our own concerns, we are better able to listen and then to take our place within God’s great plan. Didn’t Mary do just that? She had dreams of her own, perhaps envisioning a quiet life with Joseph, when she was asked to forgo it all in order to respond to God's call. She embodied the two-step process of obedience: opening oneself to the light of God’s presence and then being guided in the way of love. What better example of obedience could there be than Mary and her generous heart?

Family Activity:
Teaching children to obey requires more than expecting them to jump at every command given by an adult. By instilling an understanding and appreciation for obedience, a child learns the value of setting boundaries around his or her behavior and honoring the needs and concerns of others.

Engage in a discussion with children about family rules. Which ones do they understand and which ones seem unreasonable? Allow time for each family member to speak. Encourage active listening on the part of everyone else. Don’t interrupt and only ask clarifying questions. After everyone has spoken, review rules that are good for the family as a whole and for the well-being and safety of each person. Be open enough to let go of those which no longer serve either of these purposes. End by discussing how family rules mesh with how Jesus asks us to live and love by obeying the Commandments.

Prayer:

Give me an obedient heart, O God. Help me to follow Mary’s example by listening to you with an open and willing spirit. Amen.
Missionary Childhood Association

Annual Christmas Artwork Contest 2016-2017

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS SOME ENTRY RULES HAVE CHANGED.

Announcing the 2016-2017 Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Christmas Artwork Contest! Twenty-four winners will be selected in this competition. Winning artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2017.

Two grand prize winners will be selected and their artwork reproduced as the official Christmas cards of the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, Father Andrew Small, OMI. Contest winners will be notified in April 2017 and announced to Catholic media in November 2017. All winners receive a commemorative plaque. Past winners may not enter this year’s contest.

To enter, please complete this entire form and attach it (with tape) to the back of each student’s entry. Please type or print. Artwork will not be accepted without this form. Do not glue or staple this form to artwork. ** Mail entries to your local Missionary Childhood Association office; a complete listing is provided with this form. Please note, artwork cannot be returned. Artwork that does not conform to the guidelines will be disqualified.

STUDENT NAME

PLEASE CIRCLE: Boy Girl Grade

PLEASE CIRCLE: Catholic School Parish RE/CCD Home School

NAME OF SCHOOL OR RE/CCD

PRINCIPAL / CCD DIRECTOR

SCHOOL OR PARISH ADDRESS

SCHOOL OR PARISH PHONE #

ARCH/ Diocese

STUDENT’S HOME ADDRESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015

PARENT / GUARDIAN

STUDENT’S HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS
GUIDELINES

- The contest is open to young people in grades K-8. All entries must be postmarked and/or received no later than January 31, 2017.
- Each entry (drawing) MUST have the following information printed on the back: child’s name, grade and school or RE/CBD name, address and phone number, principal’s name and/or RE/CBD Director’s name as well as the name of the diocese or archdiocese. Please copy the entry form and use it for this purpose. PLEASE USE TAPE TO SECURE THE ENTRY FORM TO THE BACK OF THE DRAWING. DO NOT GLUE OR STAPLE ENTRY FORM TO ARTWORK. DON’T FOLD ARTWORK.
- Please be sure to complete this entire information for each entry, so we can identify and notify winning artists—otherwise, children might miss their chance of winning!
- All entries become the property of the MCA National Office, which reserves the right to depict all or part of the selected illustrations. It is not possible for the National Office to offer any compensation for entries or to return them, whether or not they are used.

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

- Artwork must be on an 8.5” x 11” sheet of WHITE paper—no construction or lined paper. White card stock is okay.
- The illustration may be depicted HORIZONTALLY or VERTICALLY.
- Students must illustrate one of the subjects listed under the heading "Subjects."
- Acceptable media includes crayons, pastels, colored pencils, markers, tempera or watercolor paints. PLEASE—NO LEAD PENCILS or Charcoal.
- Artwork must be the child’s own. Tracings and direct copies of other art cannot be considered. Students selected as finalists will be asked to validate the originality of their artwork.

SUBJECTS

- The Nativity (a manger scene, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, animals)
- Three Wise Men (presentation of gifts or following the star)
- Shepherds (with sheep, in fields, seeing the angel, or visiting the manger)
- Mother and Child (Mary with her infant son)
- Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem
- Newborn Jesus in manger
- The Angel Gabriel

HELPFUL HINTS

- Use a lot of eye-catching color. Bolder colors reproduce best. Lightly colored artwork will not show up well if reduced.
- Be careful to erase or cover pencil outlines.
- Do not include text or lettering on the drawing.
- Fill up most of the page, being careful not to let the main parts of the drawing get too close to the edges of the paper.
- Make sure facial features on people and animals are bold (e.g., nose, eyes, lips, etc.) so they will reproduce well.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the volume of entries received, we are unable to personally acknowledge entries. Winners will be posted to our website at www.MCAKids.org by November 2017.
What if after spending an afternoon together at

The Mother-Daughter Program

your daughter told you that the most important thing she remembered was…

...that I am beautifully and wonderfully made
    ...Mary is our model
...I was created in God’s image
    ...I can always ask my mom for help
...I am worthy and beloved by God
    ...My feminine heart is unique
...God’s plan for women is amazing

You and your 10-12 year old daughter are invited to
The Archdiocese of New Orleans Family Life Apostolate’s
Mother-Daughter Human Sexuality Program …..

Sunday, January 22, 2017
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in St. Mary’s Hall
St. Peter Church in Covington

Come discover, together with your daughter, God’s gifts of sexuality, fertility and chastity, and His plan for growing up and becoming a woman. Presentations given by Theology of the Body experts, health professionals, peers and Catholic speakers are designed to build and strengthen communication in the home between mother and daughter.

For more information or to register, please contact the Office of Religious Education at 985.893.2446 or ore@stpeterparish.com.
“Thank you, every woman, for the simple fact of being a woman! Through the insight which is so much a part of your womanhood you enrich the world’s understanding and help to make human relations more honest and authentic.”

Pope Saint John Paul II
Mothers and Daughters...growing in God

Archdiocese of New Orleans Family Apostolate, Mother-Daughter Program

Sunday, January 22, 2017 • 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

St. Peter Catholic Church in Covington
St. Mary’s Hall, 131 E. Temperance St., Covington

10-12 year old girls

Please add $5.00 for each additional daughter attending. Reservations are required.

Please cut along dotted line and mail to address below.

Mother–Daughter Program Reservation Form

Mother’s Name ___________________________ First _______

Daughter’s Name ___________________________ First _______

Daughter’s Age _____ Grade_____ School _______________________

Mailing Address _____________________________________________ City_________ Zip_______

Best phone number __________________________________________ Email _______________________

Have you attended this program before? _____ If so, where? __________________________________________

How did you find out about the program?

Please make check payable to St. Peter Church and mail with the reservation form to:
St. Peter Catholic Church – Office of Religious Education • 125 E. 19th Ave • Covington, LA 70433

For more information, please contact the ORE at 985.893.2446 or ore@stpeterparish.com.

*$25.00 for mother and daughter; add $5.00 for each additional daughter attending.
Join us for our second annual:

JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT

February 3-5, 2017
Camp Abbey Retreat Center

Ages: 5th-7th Grade
Cost: $100

To register, contact the CYO Office 504-836-0551
**Registration Deadline: January 20th

Sponsored by: