



LIVE JESUS CHARTER

Claiming the charism of St. Francis De Sales for Bishop Ireton High School

The "Live Jesus Charter"

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Bishop Ireton High School, a Roman Catholic, co-educational secondary school owned by the Diocese of Arlington, will continue to teach young men and women to "Live Jesus" guided by the distinctive spirituality of St. Francis De Sales. We claim this spiritual patrimony of the founding Religious community, the Oblates of St. Francis De Sales, as our own and beseech the Holy Spirit to continue to guide our relationship with God, our relationships with each other and the work of this apostolate animated by the unique charism of the life and teachings of St. Francis De Sales. As educators in a Salesian community of learning, the administration, faculty and staff of Bishop Ireton High School will challenge each student to answer God's universal call to holiness in their lives by integrating the following distinctively Salesian principles in carrying out the School's Catholic, Diocesan educational mission:

Basic Principles of Salesian Spirituality

1. Have confidence in the goodness, love and compassion of God
2. Be humble: live in the truth of who you are in the sight of God
3. Be gentle: live in the truth of who you are in relation to yourself and others
4. Be patient: "anything borne quietly and patiently is a continual, very powerful prayer before God.
5. Live in the present moment; seek union with God in heart, will and daily life.
6. Be steadfast on principle, but flexible in detail.
7. Practice the "Little Virtues daily: do little, simple things well: "we cannot always offer God great things but at each instant we can offer little things with great love.

The Salesian Approach to Education

1. "Consider the nature God has given to you. It is the highest in this visible world; it is capable of eternal life and of being perfectly united to His Divine Majesty." Since human dignity and worth is found in our creation in the divine image and likeness, we honor and affirm that image of God in others.
2. Salesian spirituality is centered in the humble, gentle Christ. In humility, we affirm, honor and reward the gifts of our students. In gentleness, we correct others.
3. St. Francis de Sales saw knowledge as the eighth sacrament. We affirm all students are capable of learning.
4. "Our perfection lies not in being perfect but in the attempt." We never judge ourselves or others by our weakest moment. We always allow, respect, and honor (as well as reward) growth in others and in our students.
5. Salesian spirituality is relational. While our students may forget the subject matter, they will not forget us. We recognize that students will learn lessons from who we are not just what we say.