House System for 2012

Over the last 12 months St. Peter’s College has been preparing for the introduction of our House System in 2012. We believe it will have many advantages in the delivery of pastoral care for our students in an environment that generates passionate spirit for their House, a sense of belonging, teamwork and ultimately high levels of student engagement and participation.

Every Catholic Secondary School in the Diocese of Sale has a House System in place and the basic structure will see each student belong to a House of approximately 125 students, made up of students from Year 7 to Year 12. One of the great advantages of the House System is that our teachers will work with a smaller number of students in their Tutor Group (approximately 21) and be with those students for the six years they are here at St. Peter’s. This enhances the relationship between teacher, student and family on both a pastoral and learning level.

A defining feature of the House System in Catholic Schools is the naming of houses after significant people within the rich 2000 year history of the Catholic Church. These people have lived their faith in Jesus Christ in a way that has inspired millions and their story will be foundational in the building of house spirit and identity.

In the following pages you will find a brief summary of our House patrons. Some are Saints; some may well become Saints in our lifetime. The working party consisting of Mr. Anthony Banks, Mrs. Mary Murphy, Deacon Tony Aspinall, Mrs. Anita Carter, Mr. Chris O’Hara and Ms. Gina Goss were given the brief to identify people who were prophetic for the people of their time and like our patron St. Peter, drew great purpose and direction from their faith in Christ.

Each Patron is unique, some relate to our Australian context in recent history and while others are iconic figures who stand tall over the long history of the Church. It will be the responsibility of the members of each House to retell their patrons story, to weave it into the identity and spirit of their house, ensuring that our whole community is the richer for seeing their story in faith come to life.

At the College Board Meeting on the 2nd of August the following patrons were endorsed for the 8 Houses of St. Peter’s College in 2012.

- St Francis of Assisi - Assisi House
- Oscar Romero - Romero House
- St Augustine - Augustine House
- Mary Glowrey - Glowrey House
- St Teresa of Avila - Avila House
- St Maximilian Kolbe - Kolbe House
- Mary the Mother of God - Marian House
- St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – MacKillop House

Mr. Tim Hogan
PRINCIPAL
ASSISI HOUSE
Saint Francis of Assisi is honoured by the Catholic Church as the patron saint of animals and ecology. Francis was born at Assisi in Umbria in 1181 or 1182. He returned to Assisi and began to care for the sick.

Francis abandoned all his rights and possessions, including his clothes. In his life and preaching, Francis emphasized simplicity and poverty, relying on God's providence rather than worldly goods. Saint Francis Assisi worked or begged for what he needed to live, and any surplus was given to the poor.

AUGUSTINE HOUSE
Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
Bishop of Hippo and Doctor of the Church. Accepted by most scholars to be the most important figure in the ancient Western Church, Saint Augustine was born in Tagaste, Numidia in North Africa. His mother was a Christian, but his father remained a Pagan until late in life. Augustine drifted through several philosophical systems before converting to Christianity at the age of thirty-one.

AVILA HOUSE
St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)
Also called Saint Teresa of Jesus, baptized as Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada, was a prominent Spanish Mystic, Roman Catholic Saint, Carmelite Nun, and Writer of the Counter Reformation, and Theologian of Contemplative Life through Mental Prayer.

In 1622, forty years after her death, she was canonized by Pope Gregory XV, and in 1970 named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI

KOLBE HOUSE
St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941)
Saint Maximilian Kolbe was Polish with German ethnic heritage and a Conventual Franciscan friar, who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the Nazi German concentration camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

At the end of July 1941, three prisoners disappeared from the camp, prompting SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl Fritzsch, the Deputy Camp Commander, to choose 10 men to be starved to death in an underground bunker in order to deter further escape attempts. When one of the selected men, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, "My wife! My children!" Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

After two weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Kolbe remained alive. The guards wanted the bunker emptied and so gave Kolbe a lethal injection of carbolic acid. Some who were present at the injection say that he raised his left arm and calmly waited for the injection. His remains were cremated on August 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary.
GLOWREY HOUSE
Mary Glowrey (1887-1957)
Mary Glowrey was born in 1887 at Birregurra in Victoria and graduated in 1910 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. After completing her residency in New Zealand, she returned to build her own successful private practice in Melbourne.

God's call, a chance reading in 1915 of a pamphlet about the appalling death rate amongst babies in India fundamentally changed the direction of her life. Falling to her knees, Mary finished reading the pamphlet and knew God was calling her to help the women and children of India.

In January 1920, Mary sailed for India to become a medical missionary with the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Guntur. Mary was said to radiate Christ by word and example. It was announced in 2010 that Mary’s cause for canonisation is underway.

MACKILLOP HOUSE
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1842-1909).
Mary MacKillop was a young woman with a dream to make a difference in our world. Her dream encompassed opening simple schools where there was no class distinction, offering refuge to the most neglected, and bringing practical help to families.

She embodies all that is best in our Australian nation and its people. Her spirit and values continue to inspire young people today to make a difference in these times. Even at the time of her death those who knew her, or knew of her extraordinary work, spoke openly of her holiness.

MARIAN HOUSE
Mary the Mother of God, Mother of the Church
Mary of Nazareth, as shown in the gospels, inspires us to listen and respond to God’s call with whole-hearted generosity and courage. Mary is presented as the true, first disciple who does the will of God. Her “yes” to God’s request leads to Jesus’ presence among us. In Mary, Luke the evangelist emphasizes God’s preference for the poor and the little ones, Luke 1:39-56 The Magnificat, the Prayer of the Poor.

ROMERO HOUSE
Oscar Romero (1917 – 1980)
Oscar Romero was a Priest of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador. As Archbishop, his conscience led him to embrace a non-violent form of liberation. He was martyred for his non-violent advocacy of liberation. In 1980, he was assassinated by gunshot shortly after his homily. In 1997, a cause for beatification and canonisation into sainthood was opened for Romero, and Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the title ‘Servant of God’. This process continues.
If we have faith in Jesus it is important that we share that faith, especially to those in our care, our family. To the Pilgrims, Pope Benedict said, “Share the faith, and help them see they are right when their heart tells them that more authentic values do exist, and they resist being seduced by the empty promises of a lifestyle which has no room for God.”

It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is not the power or authority of the Church that saves us or changes our lives, it is the ability to say when asked “who do you say I am?” You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Deacon Tony Aspinall
COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

A PRAYER FOR THE WYD PILGRIMS.
May the Holy Spirit of God which has called young people of all nations to Madrid, continue to bless them and enlighten them. We pray that these young people, especially our own Pilgrims, may return full of hope and bring the seed of discipleship to our College and Parish. May we rejoice with them and rediscover the light of faith within our hearts.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord.
Amen

ST. AGATHA’S NEWS
INVIGORATE – (YEAR 7-12 YOUTH GROUP): Please join our meeting 28th August (after the 6pm Mass) at the Parish Hall. Newbies welcome! Enquiries call Yani on 0423 329 454.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY – The Diocese of Sale is celebrating the 97th World Day of Migrants and Refugees with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Christopher Prowse and the clergy on Sunday 11th September at 2pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Narre Warren. In order to prepare for the Mass, musicians and singers from diocesan parishes are invited to rehearsals at Our Lady Help of Christians Church on: Wednesday 31st August at 8pm & Wednesday 7th September at 8pm.

Mr. Greg Nelson
ST. AGATHA’S PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**
**Student Free Day!**
15th September 2011
9am – 8.30pm
Details for the booking process will be mailed out late next week.