NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS

LET THE WHOLE WORLD SEE AND KNOW

EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATION

2011-2012

OCTOBER 2-8, 2011
August 2011

My dear brothers and sisters,

I invite you and the school you serve to celebrate and proclaim your ministry by participating in the National Association of Episcopal Schools’ Episcopal Schools Celebration 2011-2012, the theme of which is *Let the Whole World See and Know.*

I give thanks for the more than 1200 Episcopal early childhood education programs, elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and school establishment efforts. All are vital to the Episcopal Church’s mission to encourage and nurture the hearts and minds of young people and their families. The celebration theme is drawn from one of the great collects in the Book of Common Prayer. The collect and this year’s lessons proclaim the transforming power of God. Whether we are created anew, or are set free from bondage, or grow like the mustard seed, it is God in Christ Jesus who changes each of us—students, faculty, administrators, and families alike. We are called into newness of life and participation in the mission of God.

But what is it that we are to do with this newness of life? All of us, I believe, are called to lead in new ways the re-creation of our world, be it through public and private service, the liberal arts, the sciences, the social sciences, exploration, business, philanthropy, religion, philosophy, and every aspect of human endeavor. Your work in Episcopal schools offers the opportunity for each student to learn that he or she can have a positive significant impact on his or her community, country, and world. To see such transformative leadership in a child or young person is an amazing sight, as amazing as the vision of the valley of the dry bones. This is the ministry of renewal and redemption to which all of us are called, and I give thanks for the way you carry out this transformative work in schools.

Please know of my prayers for your ministry. I encourage you to participate in this year’s Celebration. The varied gifts and perspectives you bring to your leadership are outstanding examples to each of us in the Church and beyond. May God bless your life and your ministry. I remain

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori
We live in a world and dwell in a culture that is bent on self-promotion. Whether it be on Facebook, Twitter, or in the emphasis we place on the need to tell our own story, so much of what our young people (and not a few adults!) envision life to be about has to do with getting ourselves in front of an audience, being seen, posting photos, sharing all aspects of our lives with those willing or not so willing to look or listen. The cry goes out from so many, “Notice me.” When hearing the phrase, “Let the whole world see and know,” many might well assume that it has to do with the world seeing and knowing about us!

As is so often the case, God’s way of seeing and knowing is something quite different. The seeing and knowing referred to here—a phrase taken from one of the great collects of the Prayer Book, used on Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter, and at ordination services—has to do indeed with the process of being noticed, but noticed in the context of transformation. It has to do with what God wants for the whole world, and with all things through the power of God becoming new.

It is important to remember that this need to be noticed, to be seen and known, stems from something very deep within all human beings, namely, the yearning to be something more than we are. We dream of greater things, hoping that at some point we will arrive at a point where we are not overlooked, dismissed, or trivialized. While modern technology draws upon this human need in a great way, it is far from being just a contemporary yearning.

In her book, Speaking of Faith, Krista Tippett (who will be the keynote speaker at our Biennial Conference 2012), reflects on the role that faith played in her childhood, saying, “Faith helped me live with the smallness of the world around me and my intense inner sense of a larger beyond.” God touches that deep need within us and can help move us beyond the smallness of the world.

The theme of our Episcopal Schools Celebration reminds us that God is always seeking to transform humanity, to take that yearning to be something more and join it with the power of God to transform. God not only notices us but invites us to a new level of being, making all things new and taking that which was cast down and raising it up.

This process of transformation is one that we undertake every day in Episcopal schools. We are engaged in the process of changing lives—students, faculty, staff, parents—in a manner that is lasting and redemptive. Through chapel, the classroom, the athletic field, the theater, conferences with parents, meetings amongst faculty, service opportunities, Episcopal schools offer a different way of noticing, one that speaks both to the best in us and the dream God has for us.

Whether it is God’s transformative power in our lives, or the transformations that take place in the lives of those who are part of an Episcopal school community, in many ways these are well kept secrets in our culture today. “Let the whole world see and know” is not only a hope, it is also a challenge for all of us to offer a truer and more sustaining way of noticing to our culture, one that is truly reflective of what happens each day in an Episcopal school.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Daniel R. Heischman, D.Min.
• Episcopal schools are early childhood education (ECE) programs and elementary, middle, secondary, and comprehensive (P-12) schools; parish, cathedral, diocesan, religious-order, seminary, and independent schools; urban, suburban, and rural schools; coeducational and single-sex schools; day-only, boarding-only, and day-and-board ing schools; military and Montessori schools.

• There are over 1,200 Episcopal schools and ECE programs throughout the Episcopal Church, which includes dioceses in the states, territories, and commonwealths of the United States and in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the British Virgin Islands, Honduras, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Taiwan, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

• Of these schools, over 600 are ECE programs serving our youngest students.

• Over 1,000 parishes and cathedrals in the Episcopal Church have a school or ECE program as part of their ministry.

• Episcopal schools and ECE programs serve an inclusive population of over 160,000 children, with significant socio-economic, racial, cultural, and religious diversity and are expanding into areas historically underserved.

• On average, about 25% of the students in Episcopal schools and ECE programs are Episcopalians, meaning our schools serve a large number of students from other Christian denominations, non-Christian traditions, or no formal faith background.

• According to statistics published in 2001 by the National Center for Education Statistics, enrollment in Episcopal schools has increased 29% since 1990, one of the most significant increases in any sphere of American independent education.

• Episcopal schools and ECE programs employ over 15,000 administrators, faculty, and staff members.

• Trinity School, New York City, founded in 1709, is the oldest, continually operating Episcopal school.

• The National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) is an independently incorporated, voluntary membership organization that supports, serves, and advocates for the vital work and ministry of those who serve over 1,200 Episcopal schools, early childhood education programs, and school establishment efforts throughout the Episcopal Church. Chartered in 1965, with historic roots dating to the 1930s, NAES is the only pre-collegiate educational association that is both national in scope and Episcopal in character. The Association advances Episcopal education and strengthens Episcopal schools through essential services, resources, conferences, and networking opportunities on Episcopal school identity, leadership, and governance, and on the spiritual and professional development of school leaders.

Many schools, early childhood education programs, and school establishment committees will observe Episcopal Schools Celebration 2011-2012 (ESC) at one or more celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 2, 2011. Others will do so at one or more of their regular chapel services during that week, or at a specially scheduled all-school chapel. Still others will come together at diocesan or regional services. Whenever you observe ESC, the below-listed resources will aid you in planning your event.

**THEME**

Our theme is drawn from a collect found in the proper liturgies for Good Friday and the Great Vigil of Easter and the ordination liturgies in the Book of Common Prayer (280, 291, 515, 528, or 540)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

The below-listed suggestions are arranged according to the Book of Common Prayer pattern for the Liturgy of the Word, but use as many or as few lessons as suits your school’s needs. If you choose to hold ESC services at Sunday liturgies, you will need your bishop’s permission to use these special readings.

- Ezekiel 37:1–14
- Psalm 148
- Romans 8:8–25
- Mark 4:26–32

**PRAYER FOR EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATION**

God of knowledge and wisdom, we pray to you for all the schools across this country, which are part of the Episcopal Church. We remember them in their variety, in their differences, and in what they share. Give us open doors, open minds, and open hearts that we might accept, learn, and love everyone and everyone whom you have given us. Help us to share our lives and what we have, and to learn from all those who are in school with us. We pray in the name of Jesus who opened his arms to all, young and old. Amen.


**HYMNS**

Here are some suggested hymns.

*Your school’s favorite hymn may not be listed, but, by all means, include it in your ESC service.* All the hymnals are available from Church Publishing Incorporated, 445 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016; 800.242.1918. Or, visit them online at www.churchpublishing.org/.

**THE HYMNAL 1982:** 373, 394, 400, 406, 407, 412, 432, 513, 588, 589, 618, 619, 621, 622, 623, 677, 698

**LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING II:** 57, 61, 81

**EL HIMNARIO:** 5, 20, 265, 283, 267, 438, 479

**MY HEART SINGS OUT:** 86, 129, 130, 131, 132, 139

**WONDER, LOVE, AND PRAISE:** 746, 747, 751, 777

**VOICES FOUND: WOMEN IN THE CHURCH’S SONG:** 33, 34, 74

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

The Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer can all be used for your ESC observance. Or, if you wish, use the below-given order of service as the Liturgy of the Word followed by a Sunday or weekday celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In any case, different members of the school community can and should be assigned leadership of the different parts of the service. Students, faculty, administrators, trustees and parents can all play an important role in the service.

- Hymn • Opening Sentences • Anthem or Song • Lesson
- Anthem or Song • Lesson • Homily • Anthem or Song
- Suffrages, The Book of Common Prayer, page 55 or 97
- Collect for Episcopal Schools • The Lord’s Prayer • Blessing • Hymn

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