



20 March 2015

Upcoming Events

Friday, 20 March – First day of spring!!

Friday, 27 March – End of 3rd Quarter

Friday-Friday, 3-10 April – Spring Break! **NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday-Thursday, 14-16 April – NYS ELA Testing for 4th & 8th Grades will NOT be held this week. Grades 4 & 8 will take the Terra Nova Achievement tests with the rest of the classes later in the month.

Thursday-Friday, 16-17 April – 3rd Quarter Parent Conferences

Tuesday-Friday, 21-14 April – TerraNova Achievement Testing, Grades 1-10, NO NYS Math testing.

Wednesday, 29 April – MACSA Senior High Track Meet, Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Catastrophe and Eucatastrophe

I learned a new word yesterday, “eucatastrophe.” We know what a catastrophe is – usually something really bad that happens suddenly and unexpectedly. A house fire in the middle of the night, a car accident putting a family member in the hospital, a devastating storm.

For the disciples in Jesus’ day, I’m sure that his death on the cross must have seemed like a catastrophe. They had spent three years with him, learned from his teaching, seen him heal people and even raise a couple from the dead. They had heard him teach about his coming “Kingdom of Heaven.” And now, just in the space of a few short days, he was on the way to the hillside outside the city where he was to be crucified. Even then, he could have called on the powers of heaven to deliver him, but he didn’t. On the cross he died – alone. A couple of his friends took him down; one gave access to the tomb he had purchased for himself. And there they put Jesus ... dead ... with a large stone rolled across the entrance sealing the tomb. Catastrophe!

But while life’s events often catch us by surprise, not so with God. Even the event of Jesus’ death was planned and anticipated by God from before he made the world. The Apostle Peter writes, “He was chosen before the creation of the world, ...” (1 Peter 1:20 NIV).

God knew that his human creation would sin, so he planned for our salvation even before he made one of us! When Jesus died on the cross, because he was God in human flesh, he was able to pay the price for the sins of the entire human race. That is the free gift which is offered to us during this Passion Week coming soon. If we confess with our mouths that Jesus is our Lord and believe in our hearts that God has raised him from the dead, God promises that we will be saved. Because whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! (Romans 10:9-10,13).

This, of course, was beyond the understanding of the disciples on that sad Sabbath day following the crucifixion. For them it was still a catastrophe. The “eucatastrophe” was still to come. What is a “eucatastrophe”? I’ll explain next week when I finish the story.

Welcome spring!

James E. Gochnauer, Principal