June 9, 2016

Dear Parents of the Incoming Senior Class:

Many of you are aware that all Dowling Catholic students are required to participate in an all class book-read every summer. **All incoming seniors will read the book *Left to Tell* by Immaculee Ilibagiza during the summer prior to their senior year.** This true story follows the Rwandan Holocaust through Immaculee’s eyes as she is forced to leave her family and hide for months in a tiny bathroom with several other women in order to avoid persecution. The themes of this book-read are faith, forgiveness, leadership, and wisdom. All seniors will be expected to complete the activities and participate in the group discussions as they are introduced in September.

This particular book was selected because it accurately depicts the Catholic Social Teachings that we want all seniors to become familiar with during their final year here at Dowling Catholic, as well as to focus those Catholic social teachings into their service work. The book will be actively discussed in all senior English and Theology classes and will be assessed in those classes as well to check for reading and understanding. Reading is highly regarded here at Dowling Catholic and this is one of many ways in which reading will be emphasized for these students.

The book is available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble for $9.55 (online price only). It is also be on display at both Barnes and Noble locations. In addition to this, it will be available at several local public libraries, who have all been informed of this chosen title. Students are also encouraged to share copies with each other.

We look forward to seeing the Dowling Catholic High School Class of 2017 in August!

Sincerely,

Matt Meendinger, Principal
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Megan Andersen, School Library Media Specialist
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1. What are some ways “friends” turned their backs on the Tutsi’s once the killings began?
2. Name some of the vicious lies told about Immaculee’s father during the attacks.
3. What are a few examples of acts of kindnesses Immaculee witnessed from her parents?
4. Why didn’t Immaculee earn a scholarship to a top public school in the area?
5. How did Immaculee learn there was a race issue in her country?
6. Why didn’t Immaculee’s mother go into hiding with her?
7. Where did Immaculee have to hide during the attacks?
8. What happened when Immaculee’s younger brother and his friend sought help from the same pastor sheltering Immaculee?
9. How long did Immaculee have to hide?
10. How did the government react to the killings? (Were they encouraged or discouraged from the people in charge of the country?)
11. What eased Immaculee’s mind as she was hiding from those who wished to harm her?
12. Name a few ideas Immaculee had that she believes came to her straight from God while she was praying for her life?
13. What ally eventually came to Rwanda to help with the ongoing genocide?
14. Early on in the book Immaculee witnessed a woman getting attacked and robbed on a city street and no one around did anything. This image stayed with her forever and she often thought of it. How could she have reacted differently? How would you have reacted in the same situation?
15. How do people suddenly become killers against their neighbors? Is there anything that could have prevented these senseless killings?
16. What does Immaculee learn happened to her family while she was in hiding?
17. Did any killers show remorse?
18. Why wasn’t there more camaraderie between Immaculee and the women she was hiding with?
19. Do you believe in the power of prayer? Why or why not?
20. Even after Immaculee is rescued she is still terrified that the Hutu’s will still try to kill the Tutsi’s. What could ease her fears about something like this happening again?
21. What does Immaculee credit with helping her survive and helping her move on after this terrible time without anger or hatred in her heart?
22. Think about when Immaculee sees the man who murdered some of her family. What does this book say about the power of forgiveness?