

During the 2019-2021 school year, Mrs. Donna Przybojewski, junior high Language Arts teacher, utilized her book *Henry David Thoreau Bell Ringer for Justice*. She focused on the seven Catholic Social Justice Principles, using the book to illustrate Henry's adherence to those principles through his actions and words even though he was neither Catholic nor Christian. These principles transcend denomination and faith but are universal truths for living a just life.

Her goal was to make students aware of what they could do at their young age to promote justice in their lives. Mrs. Przybojewski also wanted students to identify situations in the world where justice is not present in order to make them socially aware.

It is not unusual that Thoreau has made such an impact in a Catholic school. His life did embody Christian principles and continues to give example to our youth how to develop into individuals of integrity and moral decency.

In July, Mrs. Przybojewski spoke about her lessons at St. Benedict School via zoom at the Thoreau Society Gathering in Concord, Massachusetts. During her presentation, she focused on the numerous lessons and writing activities that were used to teach social justice through Henry David Thoreau to her junior high students. The use of the book has been pivotal in making students more aware of the injustices that occur in our world today as well as in their personal lives. It served as a springboard to relate Henry's struggles and his actions and words to their own.

Currently, Mrs. Przybojewski is writing and illustrating her eighth children's book on Henry David Thoreau. It is called *Henry and the Runaway Pig* and is based on one of his journal entries. Publication will be the summer of 2022, and it will be sold at the Shop at Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. Mrs. Przybojewski was also asked to write an article on the teaching of Thoreau to junior high students by the Thoreau Farm: Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau for a book that they are publishing called *What Would Henry Do?* It will be published also in the summer of 2022.