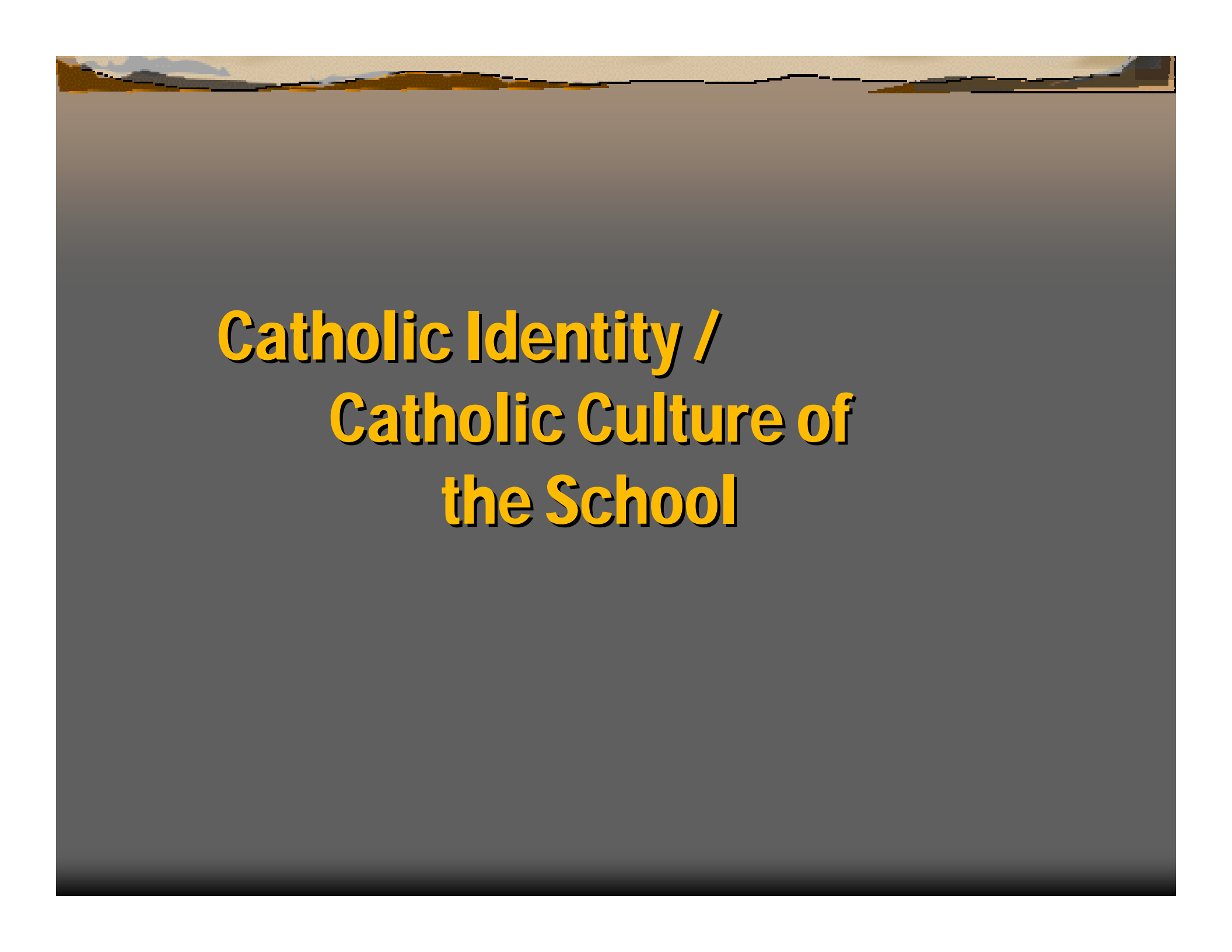


Catholic Identity and the Role of the School Board

Diocese of Phoenix
September 16, 2006
St. Theresa



**Catholic Identity /
Catholic Culture of
the School**

Catholic School Culture

*A Catholic School's 'way of life', rooted in Christ and a Gospel-based creed and code, that provides inspiration and identity, is shaped over time, and is passed from one generation to the next through devices that capture the Catholic imagination, such as symbols and traditions.

Catholic School Culture

- ➔ “The integration of religious truths and values with the rest of life, which is possible in these (Catholic) Schools distinguishes them from others.”

Teach Them, United States Catholic Conference, 1972

Catholic School Culture

- ⇒ "Today's Catholic School
is a center in which parents and
teachers, guided by the Holy Spirit,
collaborate in giving children a complete Catholic
education."

Teach Them, United States Catholic Conference, 1972

Catholic School Culture

⇒ “The Catholic school loses its purpose without . . . frequent encounters with Christ.”

The Catholic School, United States Catholic Conference, 1977

Catholic School Culture

- ➔ "The school should have a set curriculum, with established goals and objectives, open to review and evaluation by parish boards."

Sharing the Light of Faith, United States Catholic Conference,
1979.


Catholic School Culture

- ➔ "Building and living community must be prime, explicit goals of the contemporary Catholic School."

To Teach As Jesus Did, United States Catholic Conference,
1972


The image features a landscape photograph at the top, showing a field with a horizon line. The sky is overcast with grey clouds, and the ground is a mix of brown and green. Below the photograph, a dark gradient background covers the rest of the slide, with the title text centered in the upper portion of this gradient.

THE CATHOLIC IDENTITY OF THE SCHOOL



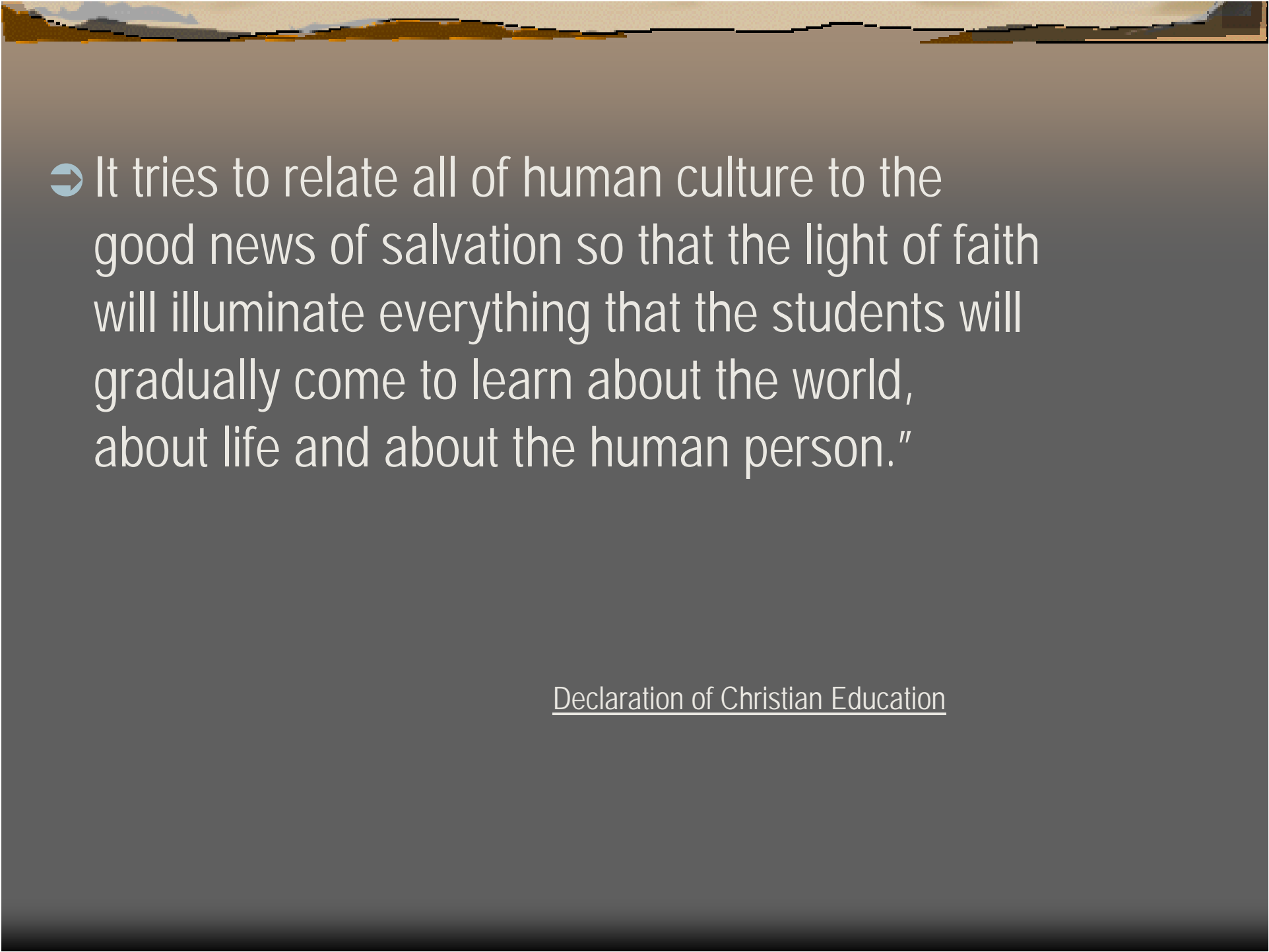
* "From the first moment that a student sets foot in a Catholic School, he or she ought to have the impression of entering a new environment, one illuminated by the light of faith, and having its own unique characteristics."

The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School



“The Catholic School pursues cultural goals and the natural development of youth to the same degree as any other school.

What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate in the school that is permeated by the gospel spirit of freedom and love. . .



➔ It tries to relate all of human culture to the good news of salvation so that the light of faith will illuminate everything that the students will gradually come to learn about the world, about life and about the human person."

Declaration of Christian Education




Catholic Identity Indicators for School Boards




⇒ Structuring of the school and board to fulfill
the four apostolic goals of Catholic education

- Doctrine / message
- Community
- Worship
- Service



⇒ The Mission Statement clearly distinguishes your mission as a Catholic school from the missions of public, independent and other non-denominational schools.

⇒ All students, teachers and parents can quote your mission statement.

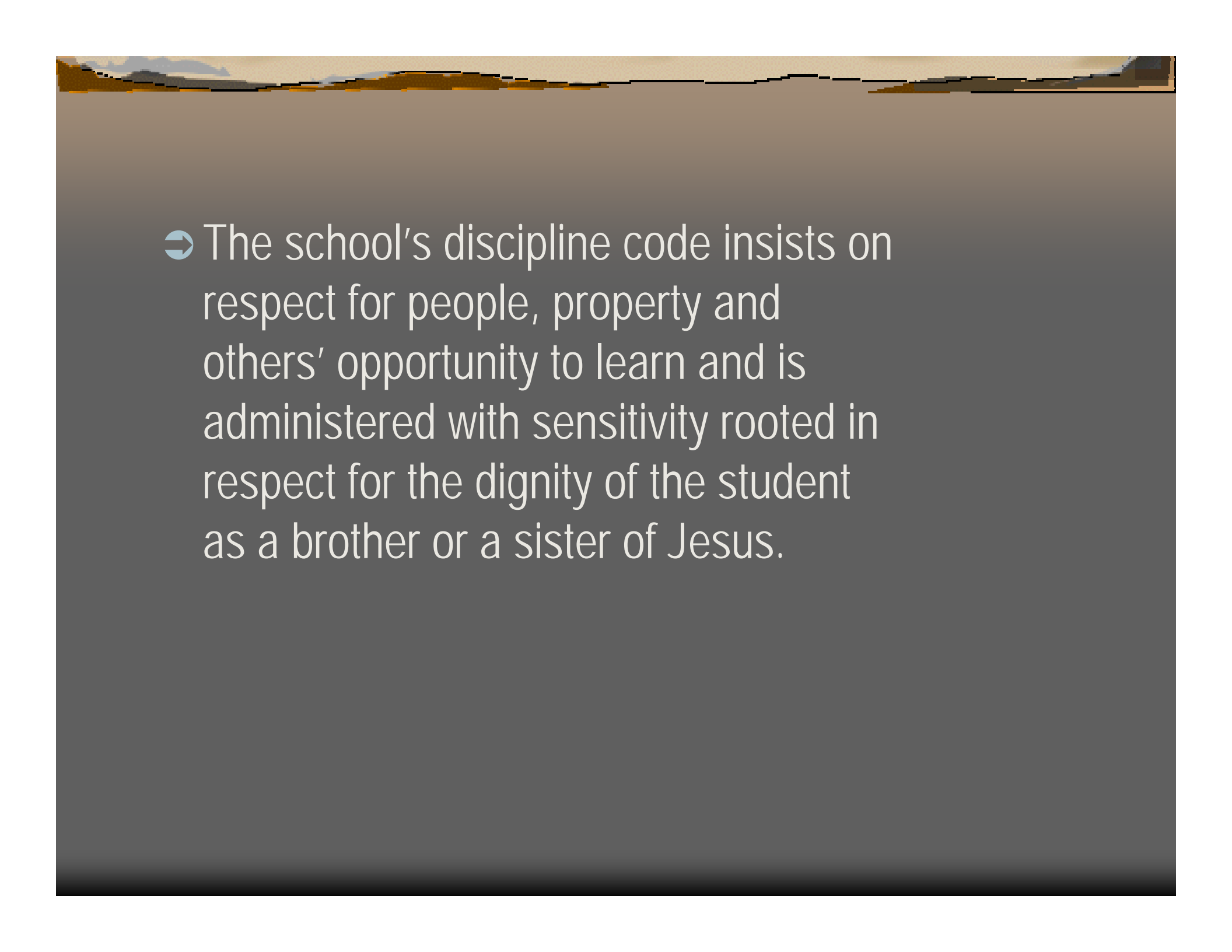
- 
- ➔ Board meetings begin and end with prayer, members are urged to spend time in prayer as preparation for the meeting.
 - ➔ Time is given before decisions are made for prayerful reflection




→ The School / School Board is

Catholic in:

- Values
- Attitudes
- Behavior

The background of the slide features a landscape with a horizon line, showing a sky with light clouds and a dark, silhouetted foreground. A dark grey gradient is overlaid on the bottom two-thirds of the slide, where the text is located.


➔ The school's discipline code insists on respect for people, property and others' opportunity to learn and is administered with sensitivity rooted in respect for the dignity of the student as a brother or a sister of Jesus.




⇒ Compassion, respect and reconciliation are evidenced


- *by all* members of the board or school community

- *for all* members of the board or school community

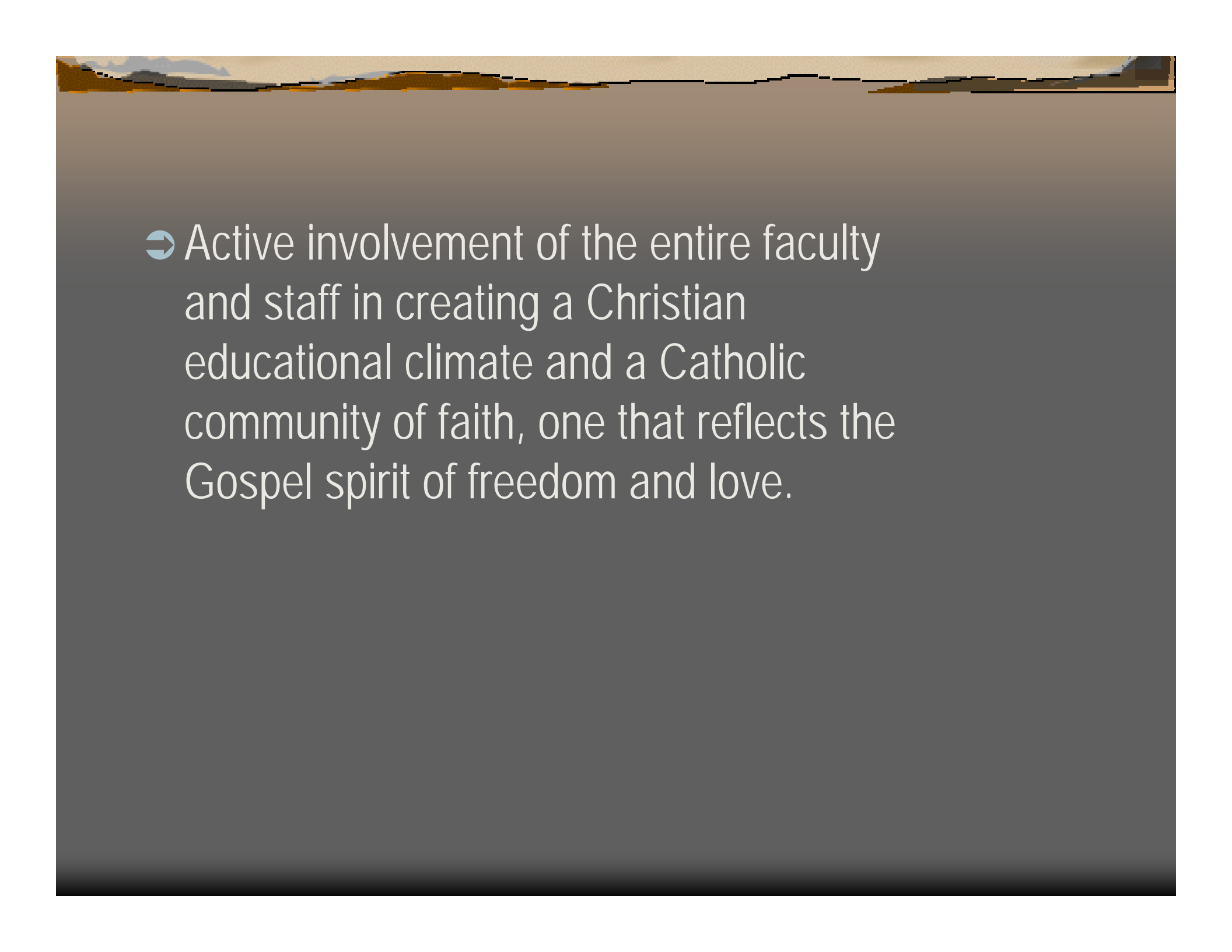


⇒ Structure, as the school board, is provided for parents to communicate and collaborate with the school. The Catholic school recognizes the role of parents as the primary educators.


- 
- ➔ The commitment of faculty and board members to modeling Christian values and giving daily witness to their faith.



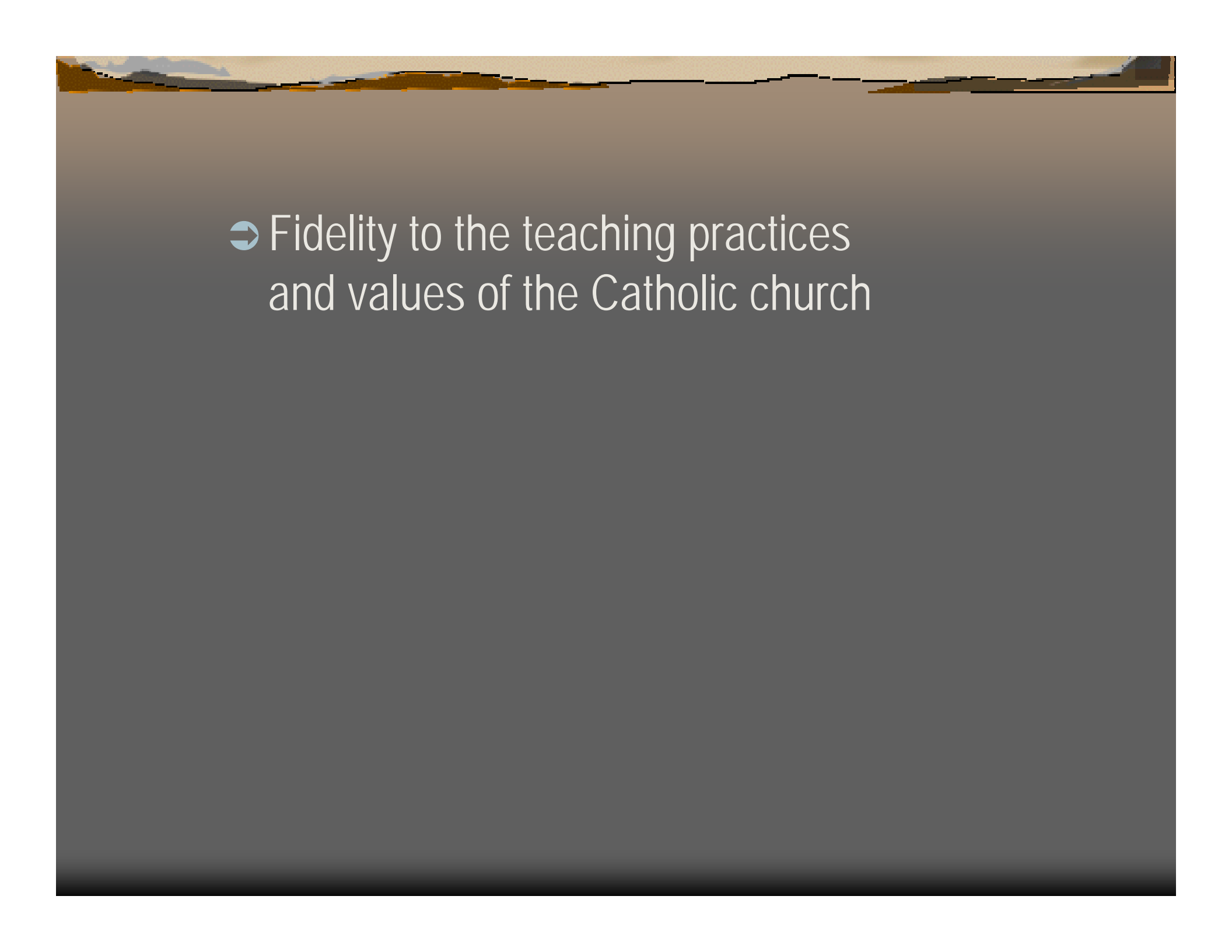
⇒ A prospective teacher's willingness and ability to participate in the religious mission of your school is a criterion for hiring and part of the evaluation process.

The background of the slide features a landscape with rolling hills and a sky with light clouds, positioned at the top. The rest of the slide is covered by a dark, semi-transparent gradient that transitions from a light brownish-grey at the top to a dark grey at the bottom.

⇒ Active involvement of the entire faculty and staff in creating a Christian educational climate and a Catholic community of faith, one that reflects the Gospel spirit of freedom and love.



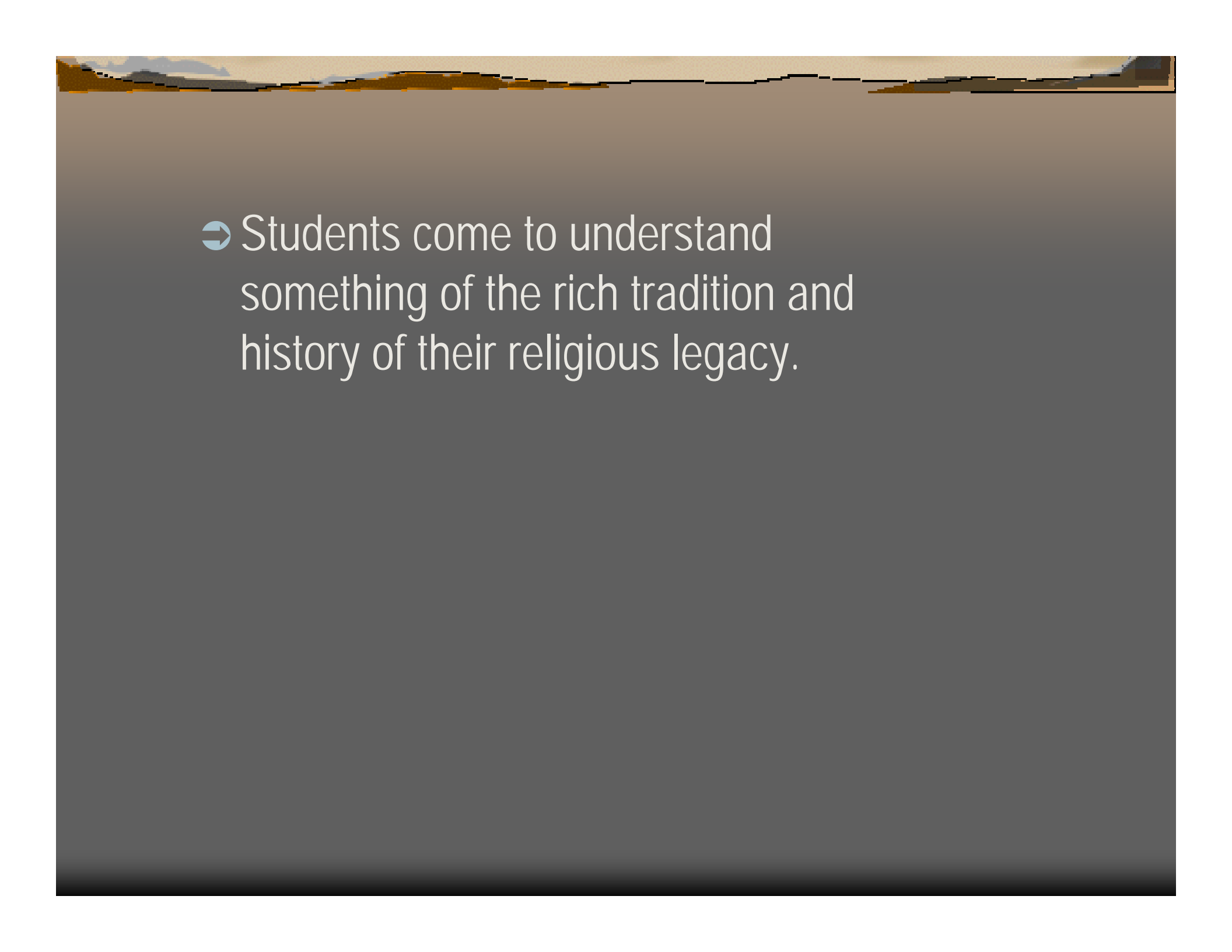
⇒ There is occasion for prayer by students, faculty, parents and board members including liturgy, para-liturgies and informal prayer.




⇒ Fidelity to the teaching practices
and values of the Catholic church




→ The Catholic school is a place that fosters the formation of conscience

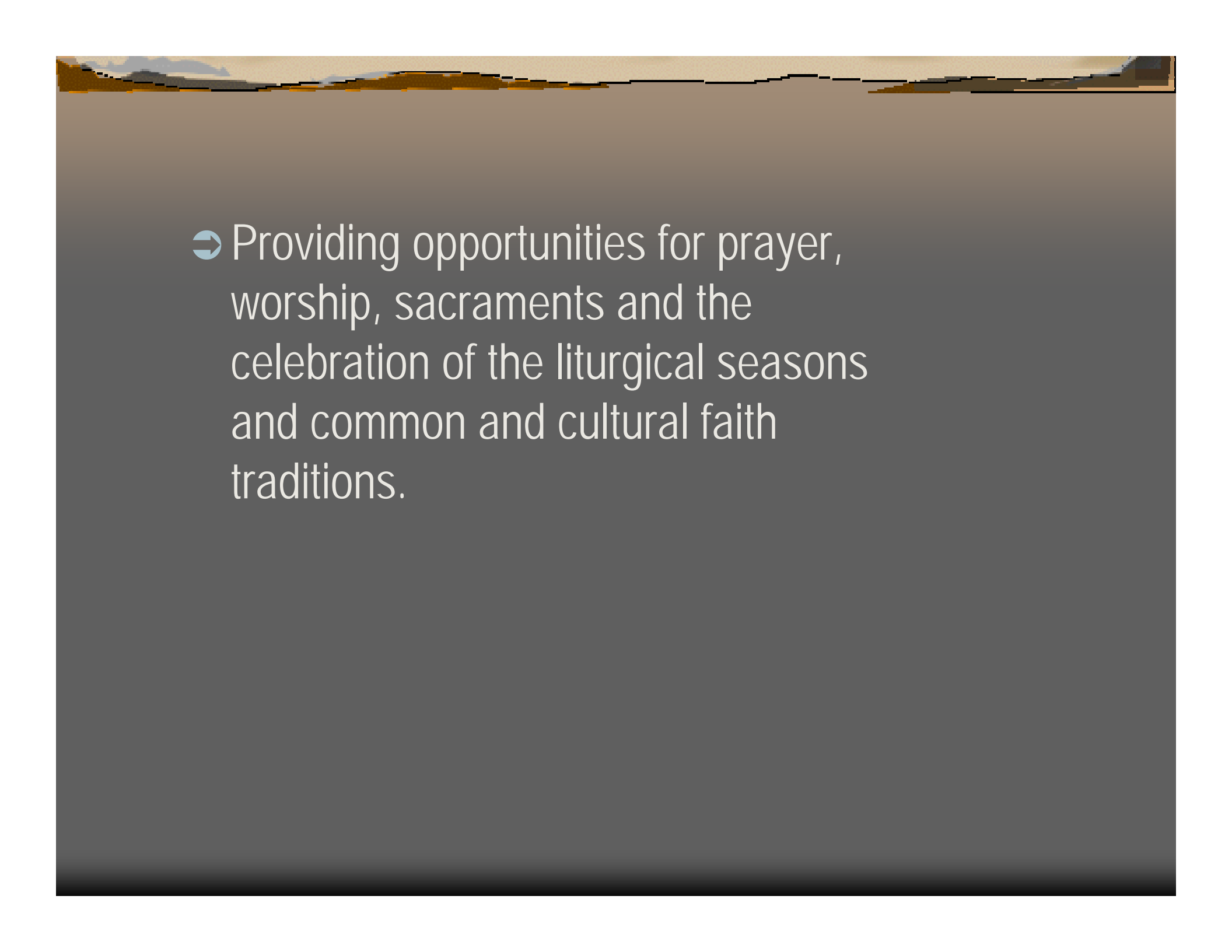


⇒ Students come to understand something of the rich tradition and history of their religious legacy.

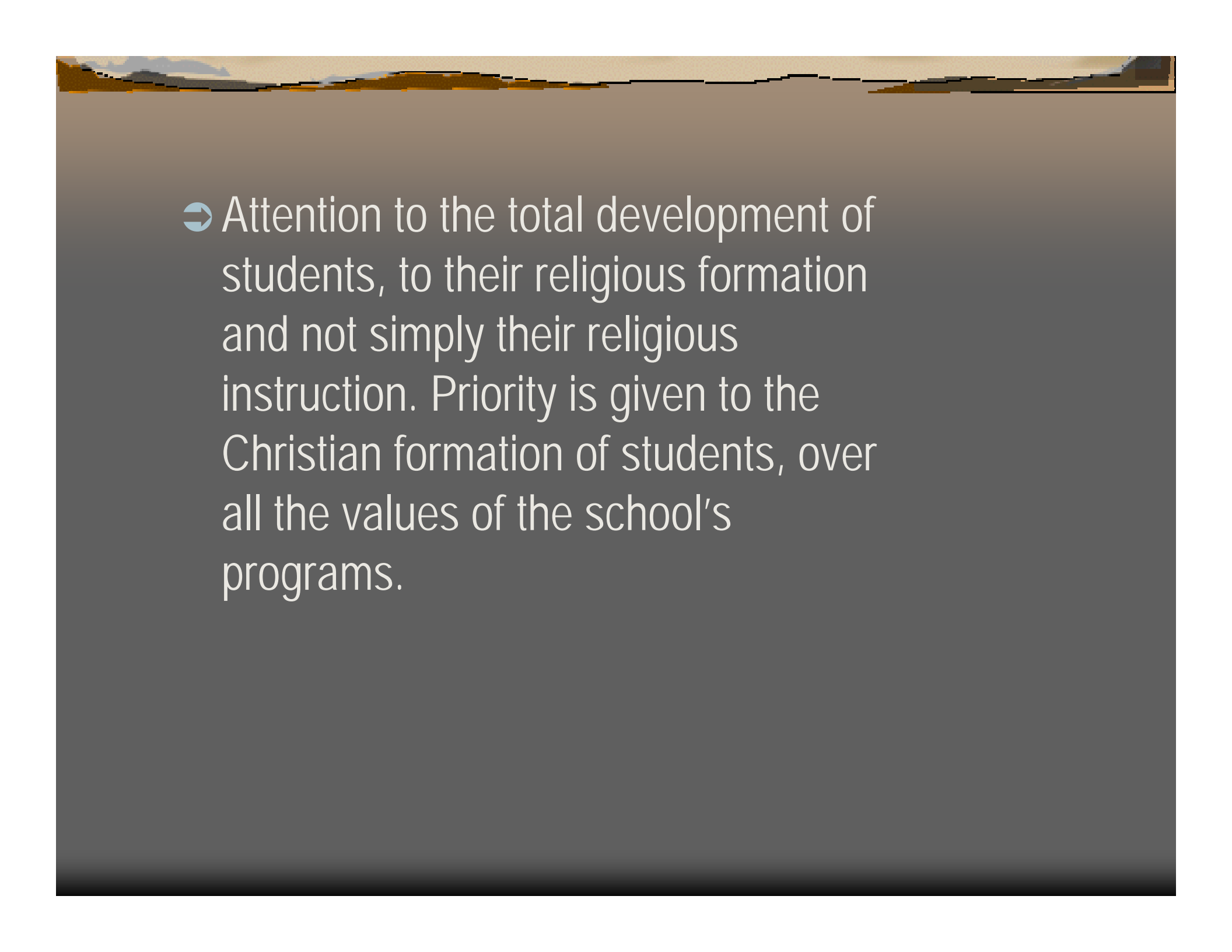
- 
- ➔ The school community and school board shares a common vision, and the addition and continuance of members is based not only on expertise, but also on the witness they give to the common vision shared.




➔ The school fosters a sense of vocations, of eagerness to live out the basic baptismal commitment to service, whether this is done as a lay person, religious, deacon or priest.

The background of the slide features a landscape with rolling hills and a sky with light clouds, positioned at the top. The rest of the slide is covered by a dark, vertical gradient that transitions from a medium brown at the top to a dark charcoal grey at the bottom.


➔ Providing opportunities for prayer, worship, sacraments and the celebration of the liturgical seasons and common and cultural faith traditions.


The background of the slide features a landscape with rolling hills and a sky with light clouds, positioned at the top. The rest of the slide is covered by a dark, semi-transparent gradient that allows the text to be clearly visible.

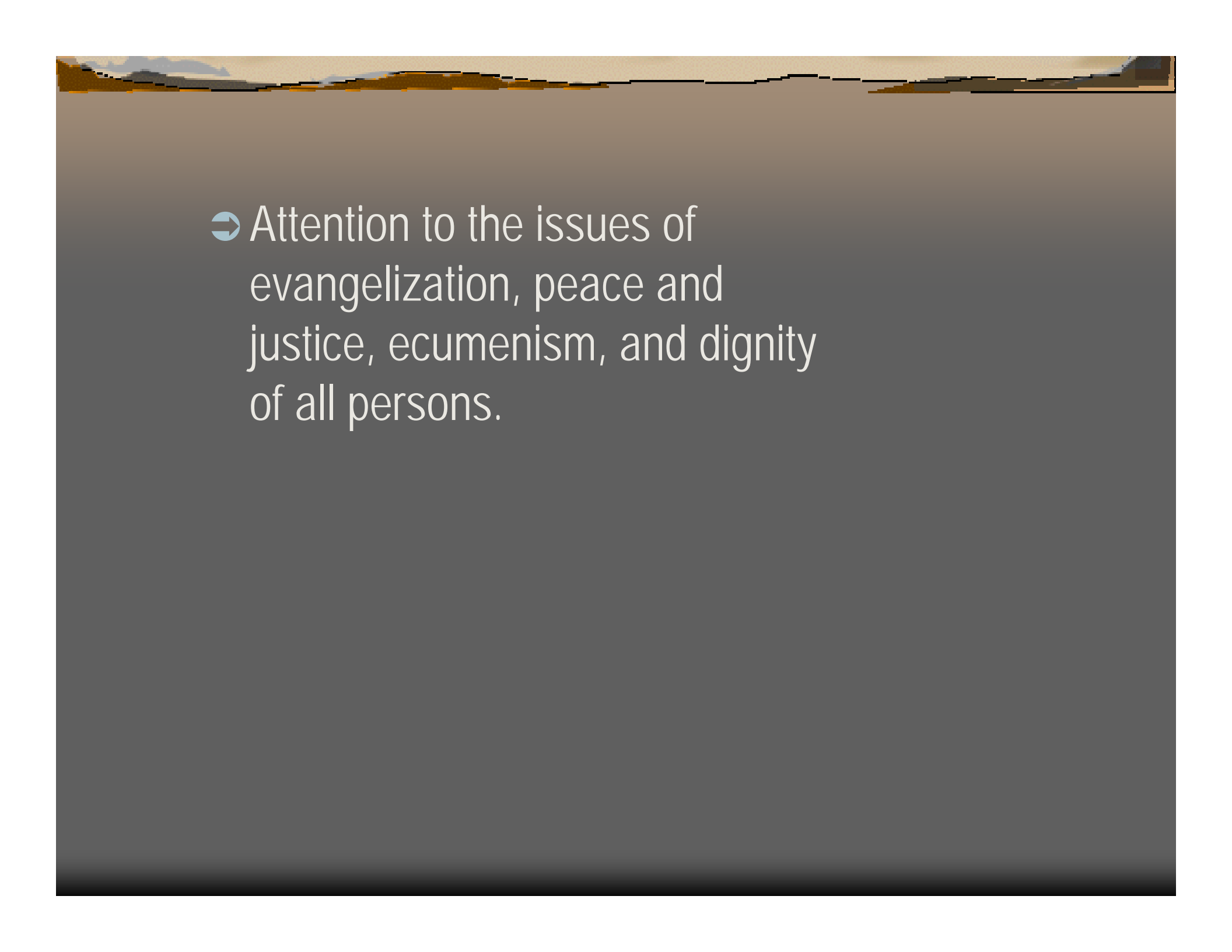
➔ Attention to the total development of students, to their religious formation and not simply their religious instruction. Priority is given to the Christian formation of students, over all the values of the school's programs.



⇒ A quality religious instruction program that centers on both content to be known and opportunities for an authentic experience of faith.

- 
- ➔ An emphasis on Christian service within the community of faith, Christian service that reaches beyond the faith community as well.

- 
- ➔ There are symbols around campus that indicate the school's religious identity.
 - ➔ All of the school's stationery, documents, newsletters, calendars, and promotional materials make use of symbols and slogans to indicate the religious nature of the school.



⇒ Attention to the issues of evangelization, peace and justice, ecumenism, and dignity of all persons.

School Board

- Spirit of Cooperation and Interdependence
- Support Quality Catholic Education
- Proclaim the Message in Word and Deed.

Responsibilities

⇒ Set Clear Obtainable Goals

⇒ Be an asset to the pastor, principal and school
"Get the Job Done".

Good Board Members Are:

- ⇒ People with proper spiritual qualifications
- ⇒ People who can think about principles and values
- ⇒ People who enjoy creating the future rather than merely evaluating the past

Good Board Members Are:

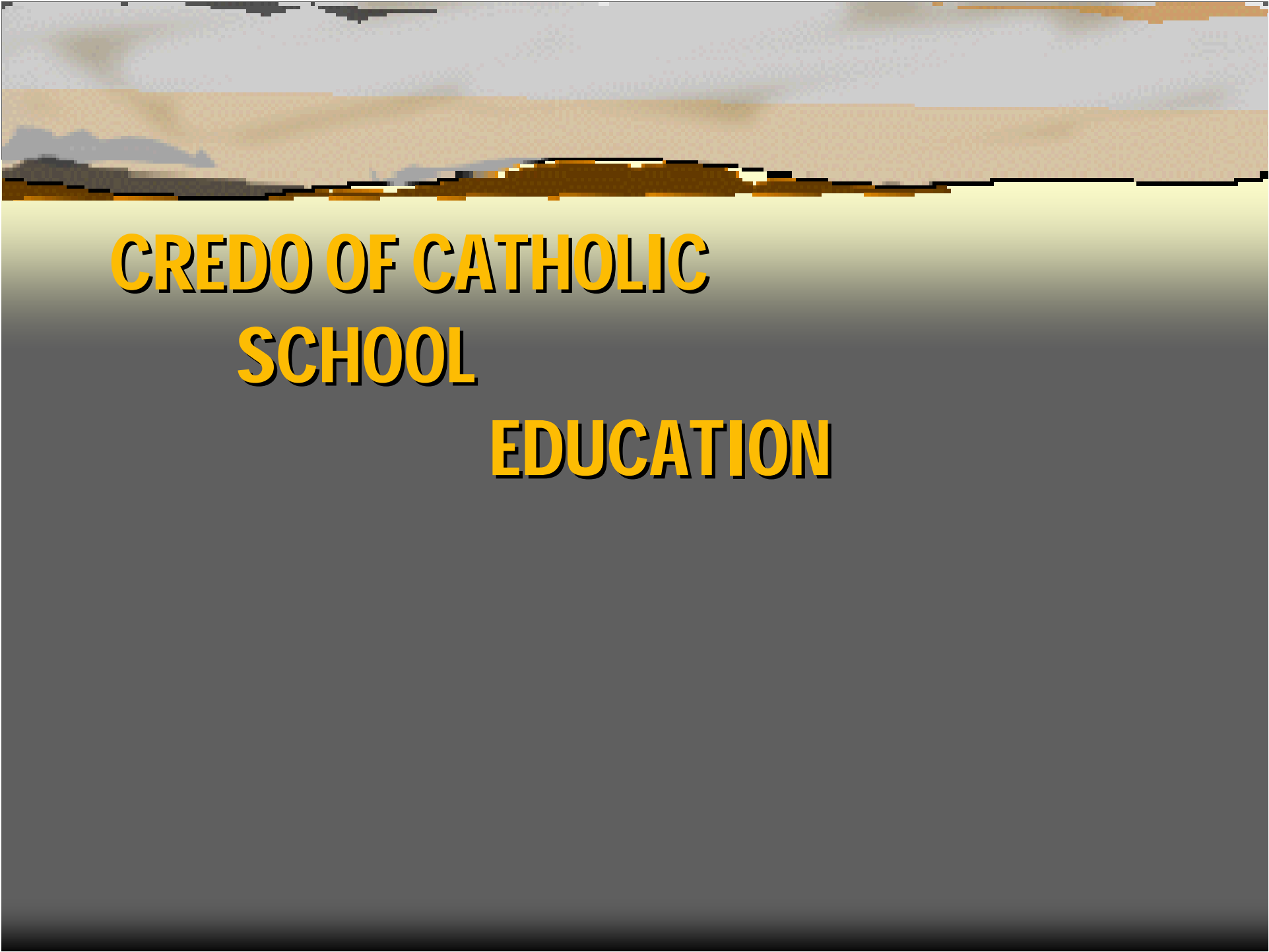
- ⇒ People with moral courage
- ⇒ People who are willing to let others be strong
- ⇒ People who are intelligent and willing to learn
- ⇒ People who are willing to empathize

What are the Benefits?

- ⇒ More time spent working on important issues
- ⇒ Protection from the trivial
- ⇒ More staff empowerment
- ⇒ Greater personal fulfillment for the board
- ⇒ A more secure environment for the board and administrator

What are the Benefits?

- ⇒ Better use of time and resources for both the board and administrator
- ⇒ Clarification of roles and responsibilities
- ⇒ Desired results will be reached for the Glory of God!




**CREDO OF CATHOLIC
SCHOOL**

EDUCATION



We believe that Catholic School education is:

- A stepping stone to a better and faith-filled way of life.
- A preparation for young people to handle the challenges of this world in a Christ-like manner
- Essential to the life of the Church – at – large
- A gift to the Church and to the world
- A spiritual lifeline in a complicated challenging world
- A way to education the whole person for service in a world so desperately in need of kindness, compassion and “otherness”.

- 
- An important opportunity for society to experience God's call – our vocation – our charism.
 - A privileged means of building community among students, faculty and parents
 - Vital to the future of the Catholic Church in training and empowering tomorrow's leaders to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God.
 - A faith journey
 - A hope journey
 - A love journey.

A landscape scene with a bright, glowing horizon line. The sky is a mix of light blue and grey, suggesting a cloudy or overcast day. The ground in the foreground is dark and appears to be a mix of brown and black, possibly a field or a road. The overall mood is dramatic and somewhat somber.

THE END