

English III Summer Reading Assignment

Book: *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Father Gregory Boyle

Due: First day of school

Note: We highly recommend that you purchase a copy of this book. However, a library copy is acceptable if you follow the instructions below.

Overview: *Tattoos on the Heart* is a powerful collection of stories drawn from Father Gregory Boyle's work with gang-involved youth in Los Angeles. Father Boyle writes about dozens of individuals, telling heartbreaking and hopeful stories that reveal something deeper about what it means to be human. Through humor, heartbreak, and hope, Boyle explores themes of compassion, dignity, transformation, and kinship. As rising juniors, this book invites you to reflect on what it means to live with purpose, empathy, and courage.

Your Assignment to Complete by August 25:

- Read *Tattoos on the Heart*.
- As you read, **choose three people** Father Boyle writes about in depth (people whose stories are told in some detail rather than just being mentioned).
- Flag these pages with sticky notes or, if you borrowed a book from the library, take pictures of the relevant pages and print them out.**
- Bring these passages marked and/or printed out on the first day of class. You will get credit for this, or a zero if you don't have it.**

In Class:

- We will begin our course work by annotating and summarizing the passages that you chose from *Tattoos on the Heart*. Remember that you need physical copies (either the book itself or printed out pages) for this part of the assignment.
- After our annotation work, you will complete your first graded writing assignment based on the book. Make sure that you have a thorough understanding of the themes of the text and the individual stories that you highlighted.

If you have any questions, email Mr. Aldrich (joshaldrich@grcatholiccentral.org) or Dr. Sheaffer (auburnsheaffer@grcatholiccentral.org). See you in August!