

St. Joseph's Academy

SPECIAL EDITION
DOUBLE ISSUE
SPECIAL EDITION

Capital Campaign

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Dear Friends,

Yet another school year is in the books. Most of the difficulties of the pandemic are now a distant memory and we look forward to a “normal” academic year beginning this fall. Each school year brings its own train of crosses and blessings, but the beauty of Catholic education is how it makes use of all of this to impact students with the love of God.

In this newsletter you will find stories of how St. Joseph's students are putting academics into practice in the real world by starting a small business. You will see how the sacristans and altar servers from our Academy transported most of our sanctuary four hours north to bring the Latin Mass to Cheboygan, Michigan for the first time in 53 years. Our students not only learn about the beauty of our Catholic Faith, they have been able to play a part in bringing the Latin Mass to those who have been deprived of it for

so many years.

Our alumni are traveling even further to spread the Faith. Former students from our humble Academy are laboring in Our Lord's vineyard in Kentucky, Illinois, New York, Florida—not to mention France, Mexico, and South Africa. This issue details the apostolate of Father Jonah Garno among the Zulus of KwaZulu-Natal. Amidst the dangers of an unstable country, he is working to bring the grace of God and the peace that can only come from living the true Catholic Faith. We pray the efforts of our students are fruitful for God's kingdom, and that they inspire you, dear reader, to join us in our mission of authentic Catholic education.

In the Sacred Heart,
Rev. Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

Taking the Faith from St. Joseph's to the Ends of the Earth

From the halls of St. Joseph's Academy (from 2001 to 2008), Jonah Garno progressed through St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary and his priestly ordination in 2019, to the eastern shores of South Africa — now as Father Jonah Garno.

KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa, where Father Garno is currently stationed, has been the home of the Zulu Nation for many decades. Once a nation of fierce warriors, this tribe is the largest in South Africa. While many speak English as a second language, their first language is Zulu, a peculiar language that incorporates clicking sounds made with the tongue.

Fr. Garno is the pastor of St. Paul's Mission to the Zulus in Folweni. It isn't much to look at. Four walls, a sacristy little bigger than a walk-in closet, a roof, and two restrooms provide the bare essentials for Sunday Mass. The faithful sit on cheap plastic chairs and read their missals by the light of flickering fluorescent bulbs attached to the ceiling above. Yet this is "the house of God and gate of Heaven" where the faithful Catholics of South Africa come for spiritual food and for protection against the dangers of the pagan environment in which they live.

As Father Garno returned to his mission after a brief visit to Michigan in July, the dangers in KwaZulu-Natal became more than just spiritual. As a result of political unrest linked to the jailing of a former president, many South Africans swarmed local businesses — rioting, looting, and burning everything they saw. Thankfully, the violence has since subsided, but only after nearly every grocery store and shopping mall was emptied, warehouses were burned to the ground, and almost 700 people were killed.

It is a very different world than we live in here in America. The fabric of South African society lacks the Judeo-Christian roots that we enjoy, and the extreme contrast in economic means is a tinder box waiting for the match



of civil unrest to set it ablaze. Those who would spread the errors of Communism weave their web among the South African people. Yet the Catholics of KwaZulu-Natal long for the grace of God and for the Mass and sacraments that SSPX priests like Father Garno can bring them.

Parishioners of St. Paul's Mission have a much more difficult life than most Americans, yet they are spared many of the spiritual dangers of American materialism. It is difficult for those of us in the so-called "first world" to comprehend the poverty of the South African townships. Many who live there have little more than four cinder block walls



Shocking images in the media gave westerners a glimpse of the violence and destruction that often plagues KwaZulu-Natal.

It is hard to grasp the poverty of the many South Africans living in "the townships". Yet they are souls created to love and serve God in His Church.



The priests in South Africa keep their cars in a locked and barred enclosure to protect them from thieves, yet water buffalo run free in the streets!

and a tin roof. Even running water and a ceramic toilet are luxuries. Out of Father Garno's parish of about 70 souls, there are only five who own their own vehicle. Most have very little, and the little they have may be easily taken by the many thieves that prowl the area. It is a difficult life for these people. Their lives are not spent worrying about the stock market or their internet connection. They are concerned about survival, about how they will pay for public transportation or their next meal; and the money of the Sunday collection is truly the proverbial "widow's mite" for many in the parish.



These are the people that this mission is meant to evangelize, yet the apostolate is still in an embryonic stage. The Zulu people did not inherit a Catholic culture, and it takes time to form souls in the habits of Christianity. There is a massive work of spiritual formation still to be accomplished. Nevertheless, we place our hope in the highest prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Just as the founder of the Society of Saint Pius X, Archbishop Lefebvre, saw the Holy Mass transform the souls of the Gabonese people, Father Garno is confident that the Sacred Liturgy, well-executed in a dignified setting, is the key to success in this mission.

Whether Father Garno remains in South Africa for one more year or for ten, he is grateful to be bringing the truth of Christ to these precious souls. The riches of the Catholic Faith that he learned first at home, then at St. Joseph's Academy, LaSalette Academy, and St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary are the seed that will bring fruit in distant lands. It is the same Faith planted and nurtured in the souls of our students here at St. Joseph's Academy. May it bring forth fruit both here in Michigan and to the very ends of the earth!

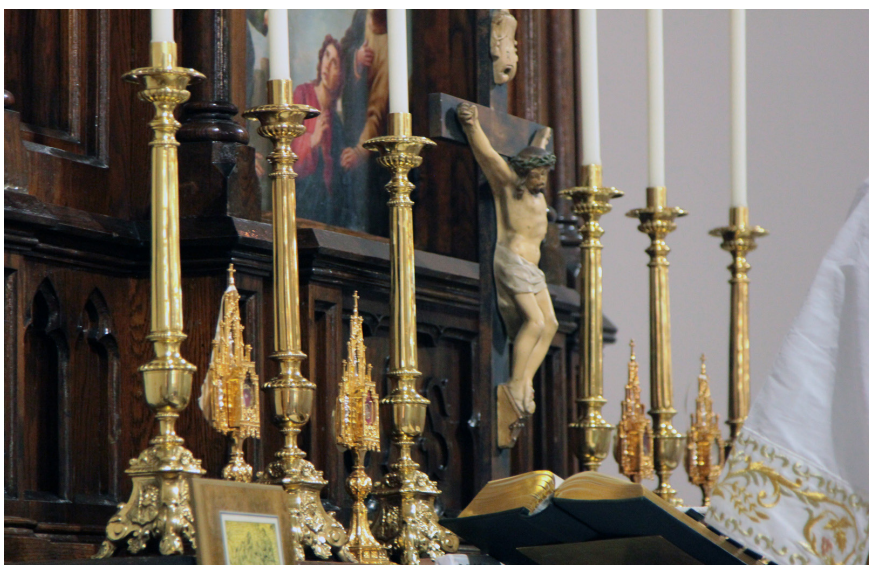


St. Joseph's Students Bring the Beauty of the Mass "Up North"

Armada, Michigan has the privilege of being the location of the Michigan priory: housing four priests who bring the Mass and sacraments to locations across the state. As the "home base" of these priests, St. Joseph's Academy has priests as teachers for religion as well as the luxury of up to 12 public Masses on a weekly basis. Not all of Michigan is so lucky!

St. Charles Borromeo Church in the northern Michigan town of Cheboygan had not seen a Tridentine Latin Mass since 1968. That is, until Bill Price invited the SSPX priests to come to this long-neglected edifice. Bill is a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, a mission chapel served by the priests at St. Joseph's priory. When he returned to his hometown of Cheboygan several years ago and saw that the old parish church was up for sale, he saw the hand of Divine Providence and purchased the building. With the help of like-minded Catholics, he has invested many hours of labor to restore the dilapidated church. After years of work, the building is finally ready.

On July 11, 2021, many students of St. Joseph's Academy along with parishioners from all five SSPX chapels in Michigan made the trip "up north" to Cheboygan for a Solemn High Mass followed by presentations, a banquet, and solemn vespers. A team of St. Joseph's sacristans, led by an 18-year-old SJA alumnus, prepared for almost six weeks to relocate most of the sanctuary and a large percent of the sacristy to Cheboygan for the ceremonies. On the day of the event, more than 300 faithful crowded into the church for Mass.



Our Lord is elevated above the high altar at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Cheboygan, MI during the first High Mass held there in 43 years. (top)

A combined force of five choirs from across Michigan combined their efforts to produce breathtaking chant and polyphony for the occasion. The high vaulted ceilings provided the perfect acoustics for the sacred music. (above)

Fr. Crane was the celebrant, Fr. Gillilan was deacon, Fr. Kimball was subdeacon, and Fr. Angele served as master of ceremonies. A group of altar servers from St. Joseph's Church performed their liturgical functions with near perfection. A combined choir from all five chapels provided beautiful polyphony, made even more glorious by the excellent acoustics at St. Charles Church.



At the end of this glorious day, nearly 100 of the faithful gathered in the church for Solemn Vespers—a beautiful liturgical ceremony rarely seen in the Church today. With two priests vested in copes and the sound of chant echoing from side to side in this historic building, it was a fitting way to end the day. Afterwards, the team of servers and sacristans from St. Joseph's packed up all the sacred vessels, linens, vestments, etc. and returned south to Ray Township. It was a huge undertaking by these young men, but one that we pray will bear fruit for the extension of the Traditional Mass in Northern Michigan for years to come.



Many Catholics from the local area ventured to the newly restored church and were certainly awed by the beauty of the liturgy. After a luncheon banquet in the basement of the church, presentations were given on the work of the Society of St. Pius X as well as the history of St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Locals in attendance shared their memories of the church as well: One couple present said they had been married in the church 47 years before. Two others had been baptized there.



A group of St. Joseph's students and alumni were on hand to serve at the altar, tend to the sacristy duties, sing in the schola and choir, and greet visitors curious about the traditional Latin Mass. (above)

Despite the peeling paint on the vaulted ceilings and other signs of work-in-progress, St. Charles was a true "gate of heaven" for those at the Solemn High Mass. (left)

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Return form to: St. Joseph's Academy • 57575 Romeo Plank Rd., Ray Township, MI 48096

Holy Mass is offered for all our benefactors on the First Sunday of each month

Middle School Entrepreneurs

While many teens spend their time hanging out at the mall or playing video games, two eighth graders from St. Joseph's Academy have found a way to turn their spare time into income. Encouraged by Fr. Angele, the girls started a mobile car detailing business called O.C.D. or Obsessive Car Detailing. They researched other businesses in the market, came up with a product line and a price list, made posters, fliers, and business cards, and set to work making dirty cars as good as new!

The girls may not get rich any time soon, but they are learning valuable lessons to complement what they have gained in the classroom at SJA. They have learned to invest in marketing and supplies before taking profits. They are seeing the value of word-of-mouth advertising by satisfied customers. And they are perfecting their trade with every new vehicle they clean. It's a concrete example of how the education and formation at SJA can blossom into real-world skills — even for fourteen-year-olds.

Maryah Sharpe (bottom photo) and Celine Garno (top), who is the younger sister of Fr. Garno, worked together to start a mobile car detailing business over the summer.



We're obsessive about making your car as good as new — either at St. Joseph's Church or at your home or business!

Obsessive Car Detailing



Thank you for
your support!

