

St. Joseph's Academy



Capital Campaign

December 2020

Volume 7, Issue 3

Dear Friends,

Despite the chaos in the world around us, our Academy is back in session and persevering in our work of passing on the Faith and forming the souls of the 54 students currently entrusted to us. While precautions are being taken to ensure the health of our students and staff, we are all grateful to have the privilege of in-person instruction once again. If nothing else, our temporary switch to remote instruction gave the students a renewed appreciation of in-person student life at St. Joseph's Academy!

We are grateful to be back in the classroom, but we are even more grateful for the work of Archbishop Lefebvre and the Society of Saint Pius X, whose Golden Jubilee we celebrate this fall. If it were not for the vision and courage of the saintly Archbishop, it is unlikely that there would be many truly Catholic schools left in the world. St. Joseph's Church in Armada, MI also has

the bragging rights of being the birthplace of the work of the SSPX in this country. It was only fitting that the students and staff at St. Joseph's Academy commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the SSPX with a worthy celebration.

You can see the details of that great event within this newsletter, as well as an account of yet another priestly vocation from St. Joseph's Academy. Although in its early stages, this vocation is another testament to the fruitful work for souls being accomplished here at SJA. This is God's work—but it is also yours as you partner with us financially. May God bless you abundantly as you prayerfully consider our financial needs during this challenging year.

Trusting in the Sacred Heart,
Rev. Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

Being Clothed with Christ

Like many Catholic little boys, Scotty Hetrick wanted to be a priest. The idea came and went at various times throughout childhood, but when he was in high school and witnessed people close to him actually losing their Catholic Faith, the desire to work to save souls became compelling. Scott is now in his second year at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA and thriving in the disciplined, religious environment there.

Scott is the latest in a long line of St. Joseph's students who have been generous enough to try their vocation at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary. Surely, a calling to the priesthood comes from God Himself, but we are grateful that St. Joseph's Academy has been able to play a part in so many priestly and religious vocations. We work hard to provide a faith-filled environment and the academic rigor necessary for the seeds of faith to sprout in the lives of the fathers and mothers and the priests and religious of tomorrow.

Scott Hetrick literally grew up around St. Joseph's Academy. His mother has served as the school Administrator and as a teacher of both History and Math for decades. All of the Hetrick children have attended the Academy, and serving Mass and singing in the choir are as natural to Scott and his brothers as breathing.

This fall, Scott Hetrick was privileged to take a major step towards the priesthood. On October 7, 2020, The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, 19 seminarians made their

first visible offering of themselves by embracing the habit of the Roman clergy. It is often said that the cassock is a sermon in itself. It is a profession of faith, a sign of hope, and an unmistakable witness of Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. In our times when the message of Christ is being aggressively suppressed, the presence of the cassock is all the more necessary, both for those who witness it and those who wear it.

Although the cassock is typically received on February 2, The Feast of the Purification, this year the ceremony was shifted to October. The occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Society of Saint Pius X led to a decision to have 2nd year seminarians take this important step a few months earlier, to allow for them to be in cassock for the ceremonies and pilgrimages surrounding the solemn occasion. Whatever the reason, Scott Hetrick and his 18 classmates were thrilled to take this step earlier than expected.

Although the seminary is more than 11 hours away from his home in Michigan, Scott's family made the trip for the ceremony. His mother, father, grandmother, and three of his five siblings made the drive and were there in the seminary chapel when those 19 young men entered, carrying their cassocks over one arm. Father LeRoux, the seminary Rector, gave a stirring sermon on the blessings and obligations of the cassock, and just minutes later, those 19 young men returned to the church looking very much like the priests they hope to become someday.

After the Mass, all present participated in a beautiful Rosary

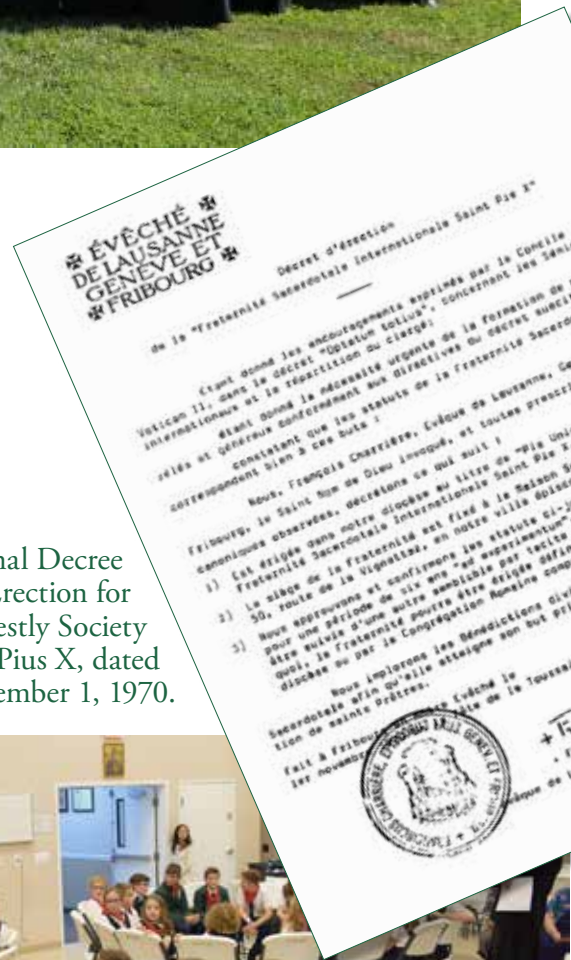
"Be proud to wear your cassock, your habit, which manifests Our Lord Jesus Christ to the world, and do not be afraid of anything: the good God, the holy angels, all of the saints in Heaven are with you, as well as all those who have worn this habit, who have been sanctified by it, and have sanctified others."

– Archbishop Lefebvre





procession where different versions of the “Ave Maria” were sung in turn, consecrating the day to Our Lady. The weather, true to Virginia in October, was absolutely beautiful—perfect for the photos taken outdoors before the celebratory banquet in the seminary refectory. Mrs. Hetrick reflected that seeing her son in a cassock and seeing his generosity in making sacrifices to help others save their souls was a deeply moving experience. She gives thanks to God for giving such graces to her son and begs God and Our Lady to protect him, help him to see truth and fight error, and become a truly saintly priest. Following this memorable weekend, we pray that this is just the first of many steps toward the lofty goal of the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ for this generous young man.



The original Decree of Erection for the Priestly Society of St. Pius X, dated November 1, 1970.



A Gilded and Glorious Jubilee

November 1, 1970 marked the birth of the Society of Saint Pius X and the last great work of its founder, Archbishop Lefebvre. From its humble beginnings, the Society has brought forth generations of priests, religious, and lay folk who have flown the flag of Tradition in our increasingly godless world. This November, we celebrated a gilded and glorious jubilee of this Society which, despite growing pains and battle wounds, has not lost its luster and vitality. To commemorate the anniversary, the students at St. Joseph's Academy pulled out all the stops with a full three days of celebration.

On Tuesday, November 3, all SJA students participated in scavenger hunts focusing on the history of the SSPX and the life of its Founder. Later in the day, the 5th through 8th graders broke up into their house teams and worked on large display boards detailing the three main periods in the life of Archbishop Lefebvre: his childhood, his seminary and priestly life, and the founding and growth of the Society. Meanwhile, another group of students prepared a large timeline of the SSPX.

On the following days, the older students watched a video on the life of the Archbishop while the younger students in grades K-4 learned about our beloved Founder through age-appropriate talks given by Father Kimball. Regardless of the medium of communication, everyone was inspired and edified to learn the details of the life of this remarkable, saintly man.

Throughout the week, each grade was given facts about the Society, the Archbishop, and the crisis in the Church to study in preparation for a school-wide quiz game held on Thursday afternoon. Evidently, the students took the challenge seriously and were so well-versed on the topic that Father Kimball had a hard time getting any of the house teams to miss a point! Ultimately, Kateri House emerged as the winner, with

St. Joseph's Academy students face-off in a school-wide quiz meet testing their knowledge of the crisis in the Church, the Society of St. Pius X, and the life of Archbishop Lefebvre (left).



Students prepare presentations on the life of Archbishop Lefebvre (top). Fr. Kimball interviews longtime parishioners about life in the early years of the SSPX in Michigan (above).

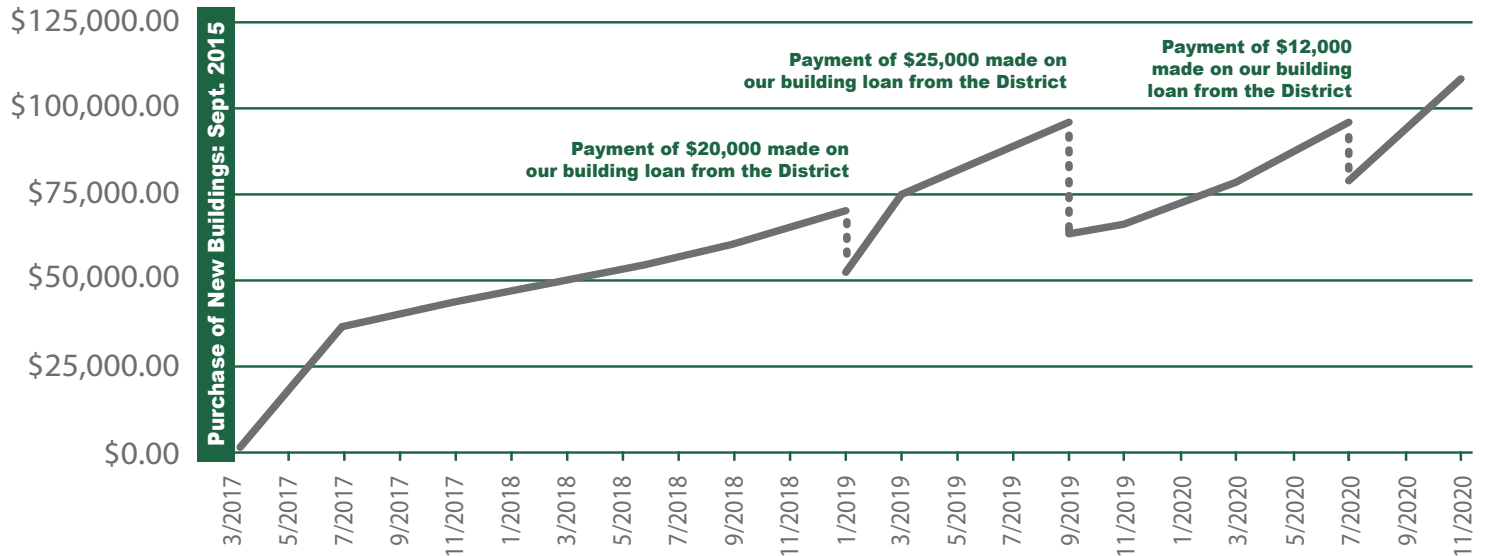
points going towards a total for the whole three-day event.

A banquet was held in St. Philomena Hall on Thursday for all students and staff, as well as for several honored guests who had been a part of St. Joseph's since the early days. As the students finished their spaghetti dinner and cake, Father Kimball interviewed those who knew the Archbishop and who had been eyewitnesses of the early work of the Society in Michigan. It was a unique and treasured opportunity for the children, many of whom have never known what it is like to have to travel hours to find a traditional Latin Mass. They were able to see just how lucky they are to be enjoying the fruit of decades of labor by the SSPX, and how important it is for them, in turn, to carry the torch forward and honor the memory of our saintly Archbishop.

See the Results of Patience and Perseverance!

Operation Philomena Progress Since March, 2017

Current savings account balance is \$108,000



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 837

Number of donations recorded: 7326

Total monthly donors: 79

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,445

Largest recurring monthly donation: \$350

**Operation Philomena
is on track, thanks to you!**

Our goal is to raise \$10,000
in monthly donations.

Will you help?



Will you lend a hand in these difficult times?

Donor Name: _____ Phone: _____

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I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____

I am enclosing a check. Please bill my credit card. (fill out option B below)

I would like to pledge a total gift of _____ to be fulfilled by (date): _____

I am interested in donating securities. Please contact me.

My employer has a matching gifts program. Please contact me.



I would like to be a part of Operation Philomena

Amount of recurring transaction: \$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 Other Amount: _____

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I (we) hereby authorize Fifth Third Bank, on behalf of St. Joseph's Academy, to initiate monthly debit entries from my (our) bank account as indicated below. (Please attach a voided check to this form.)

Financial Institution Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ ZIP: _____

Routing/Transit Number: _____ Account Number: _____

OPTION B: CREDIT CARD PROGRAM

I (we) hereby authorize St. Joseph's Academy to initiate debits from my credit card as indicated below.

One time debit Monthly Debit Mastercard/Visa (circle one)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Account Holder Name: _____ Security Code: _____

Date of Transaction: the first business day after the 1st of the month. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until St. Joseph's Academy has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and manner as to afford St. Joseph's Academy and the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

God bless you for your kindness! Questions? Call 586-677-9511 • You may also donate online at www.stjosephs-academy.com.

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