

St. Joseph's Academy



Capital Campaign

December 2018

Volume 5, Issue 5

In previous newsletters, I have often highlighted the aspects of our curriculum which combine to provide the authentically Catholic education which it is our mission to provide. Our classical approach to language arts, a vibrant religion curriculum, a generous and gifted teaching staff—these treasures are a big part of what makes St. Joseph's Academy so special.

But all of this would be an empty shell without the fire of the love of God which inspires all that we do. Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us that without Him we can do *nothing*. He is truly the Vine, and as the branches, we must rely on His grace to make our work fruitful for the good of souls.

As Catholic educators, we realize the importance of prayer as the foundation of our work here at the Academy. Each school day begins with prayer, including a decade of the Rosary specifically for you, our benefactors. Students and faculty assist at Mass 2-3 times during the week and major feast days are celebrated with High Masses sung by the student schola. Last but certainly not least, we re-consecrate our Academy

regularly to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a prayer that you can read inside this newsletter.

The priests and lay teachers at St. Joseph's are committed to passing on the Truths of the Faith in a manner that transcends books and catechism questions. We make use of the liturgical treasures found throughout the Church's year as well as opportunities for pilgrimages, field trips, and days of recollection to demonstrate to our students that the Faith is something to be *lived*, not just studied in books.

This is the miracle that you help to bring about each time you support St. Joseph's Academy. If you have helped us with this vital apostolate in the past, we thank you! If you have never joined in our efforts, please consider helping St. Joseph's Academy this Christmas season with a financial gift, be it large or small. You can be assured of our prayers for you, our benefactors, and we covet your prayers as well.

In Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

Living the Faith at St. Joseph's Academy

One of the difficulties faced by devout Catholic families attempting to raise children in our day and age is keeping the spirit of the Faith alive in an increasingly secular world. By reviving many of the liturgically-based traditions of a saner age, the truths of the Faith can be passed on to the next generation with ease and even fun!

Here at St. Joseph's Academy we have fostered traditions such as the celebration of St. Nicholas Day, Our Lady of Guadalupe parties complete with piñatas and Mexican food, Jesse Trees to anticipate Our Lord's coming through Advent, May altars for Our Lady, Easter egg hunts, festive Corpus Christi processions, and All Saints Day parties complete with costumes and games.

While providing fun and enjoyable memories for our students, these events spread a true spirit of the Faith within the walls of our academy. And it doesn't stop there. These traditions become part of the fabric of the family life of our students—spreading the Faith now and for generations to come.



A Vocation of Simplicity & Service

Many of the students who have passed through the halls of St. Joseph's Academy have gone on to serve God in the priesthood. A few of the young ladies have found their calling within the walls of a convent. But there is yet another vocation, sometimes little known, which is playing a big role in the work of the Society of Saint Pius X's work for the Mass, the priesthood, and the traditional Catholic Faith.

The Brothers' vocation, as Archbishop Lefebvre saw it, was a vocation to serving Our Lord in the person of the priest, with a very close connection to the Mass. The Brother's habit is essentially a cassock without tails on the sash—very similar to that of a priest. The Brothers of the Society differ from other religious in the sense that they are active—so they are intimately involved in the apostolate of the priests. They both serve the Church, they both serve God, they are both consecrated to God, but in a different way.

The SSPX Brothers, with their Novitiate now located in Winona, MN, is a growing source of holy helpers for our priests. Two recent graduates from our academy have found their vocation with the brothers: Brother Dominic Savio (formerly Christopher Tomaszycski, class of 2008) and Brother Columba (formerly Justin Quain, student at SJA from 2001-13). Brother Columba spoke with us on a recent visit to his family here in Michigan:

Tell us a little bit about your background.

I attended St. Joseph's Academy from Kindergarten in 2001 until 2013. At that point, since there was no longer a boys' high school here, I finished the last two years of high school at Our Lady of Mont Carmel Academy in Canada. The following fall I entered St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, then located in Winona, MN.

What prompted you to pursue a religious vocation at the seminary?

Almost every Catholic boy wants to be a priest at some time or another. Seeing the priests around the church and school as I was growing up certainly pushed me in that direction. In my high school years, however, I realized that I wanted to live my life for God in a more perfect manner. I liked the idea of the brothers, since I like to work with my hands much more than with books and computers. Still, I was advised to start with the seminary and see what my spiritual director thought.



How long were you at the seminary?

I entered in 2015, which was the last year in Winona. Much of the year was spent both in studies and in packing boxes to prepare for the move to Virginia. My second year was the year that the seminary opened its doors in Dillwyn, VA. During that year I spent much time praying for discernment about my vocation, especially during Lent, and it became clear to me then that God was calling me to be a Society Brother.

Do you feel that those years at the seminary were wasted?

Absolutely not! The first year, referred to as "Humanities", gives the seminarians a solid grounding in the Catholic Faith and in basic subjects such as History and Language Arts. That background would not be a waste of time for any Catholic young man! And for the Brothers, any time learning about the formation that the priests receive is always helpful since the Brothers' mission is to help the priests in their work.

Consecration of the Academy to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O sweet Jesus, kneeling humbly at Thy feet, we renew the consecration of our academy to Thy Divine Heart. Be forever our King! We have full and complete confidence in Thee. May Thy spirit fill our thoughts, our desires, our words and our works. Bless our undertakings, take part in our joys, in our trials and in our labors. Grant us to know Thee better, to love Thee more, to serve Thee without fail. From one pole of the earth to the other may the cry resound: Beloved, blessed, and glorified be everywhere and forever the triumphant Heart of Jesus. Amen.

What is it about the Brothers' vocation that drew you?

The simplicity of the life. As a brother, everything you do becomes an act of religion—a means of praising and glorifying God. I also have always had a desire to help people. The brothers serve those around them, especially the priests, in a hidden and humble way.

You were in Winona when it was the home of the seminary and have returned to the same campus, now called Holy Angels Novitiate. What is it like there now?

It has the same beautiful buildings, but only around 12 priests and brothers reside there! This means that the upkeep and maintenance must be spread out among just a few people. Each brother has 3 regular jobs assigned to him, such as laundry, kitchen, grounds, the boiler, etc.

It sounds like a brother must be very versatile in his abilities!

Definitely. Archbishop Lefebvre intended the brothers to each learn a trade to assist the community. Some have been trained in woodworking, others as electricians, or on computers, or as artists. In the field, however, a brother must be somewhat of a jack-of-all-trades. For example, at the novitiate, a group of brothers recently needed to renovate and repair the boiler system in time for the Minnesota winter. At the same time, other brothers were picking and processing apples for cider and applesauce. In the spring we make maple syrup by tapping our own trees, and this past summer we raised and butchered 50 meat chickens to serve at the dinner table.

With so much work to do, how do you fit in time for prayer?

As I mentioned, the beauty of the brothers' vocation is that everything becomes a prayer. There are times set aside strictly for religious duties, but the work for the community must get done. Following the spirit of our rule, work is done in silence other than work related discussion—that's harder for some than for others!

How does a Catholic education like that provided by St. Joseph's Academy help to foster vocations to the priesthood and the religious life?

A truly Catholic education teaches a child the proper order of things. God comes first and we owe Him everything. All aspects of a student's life combine to help that child serve God to the best of his ability with the talents God has given him. The Church teaches us that there is a hierarchy in man:

the intellect above the will, and both above the passions. Schools like St. Joseph's form the minds and souls of their students with this in mind. They inspire young Catholics with the ideal of excellence—of perfection—in all they do. With this kind of formation, the desire to give oneself perfectly to Our Lord in the religious life becomes a natural progression as children mature to adulthood.

In closing, what do you like most about your life as a religious brother?

Mostly the simplicity of the religious life. We are very carefree since our vows keep us from being concerned about financial provision or being worried about the future. A life of obedience is both hard, since it requires a constant death to self, and freeing, because you can never fail to please God when you obey your superior who stands in His place. Because of original sin, obedience is the hardest part of our life, but is also the most sanctifying. It leads to perfection, and that is what we are seeking in the religious life.



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

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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.

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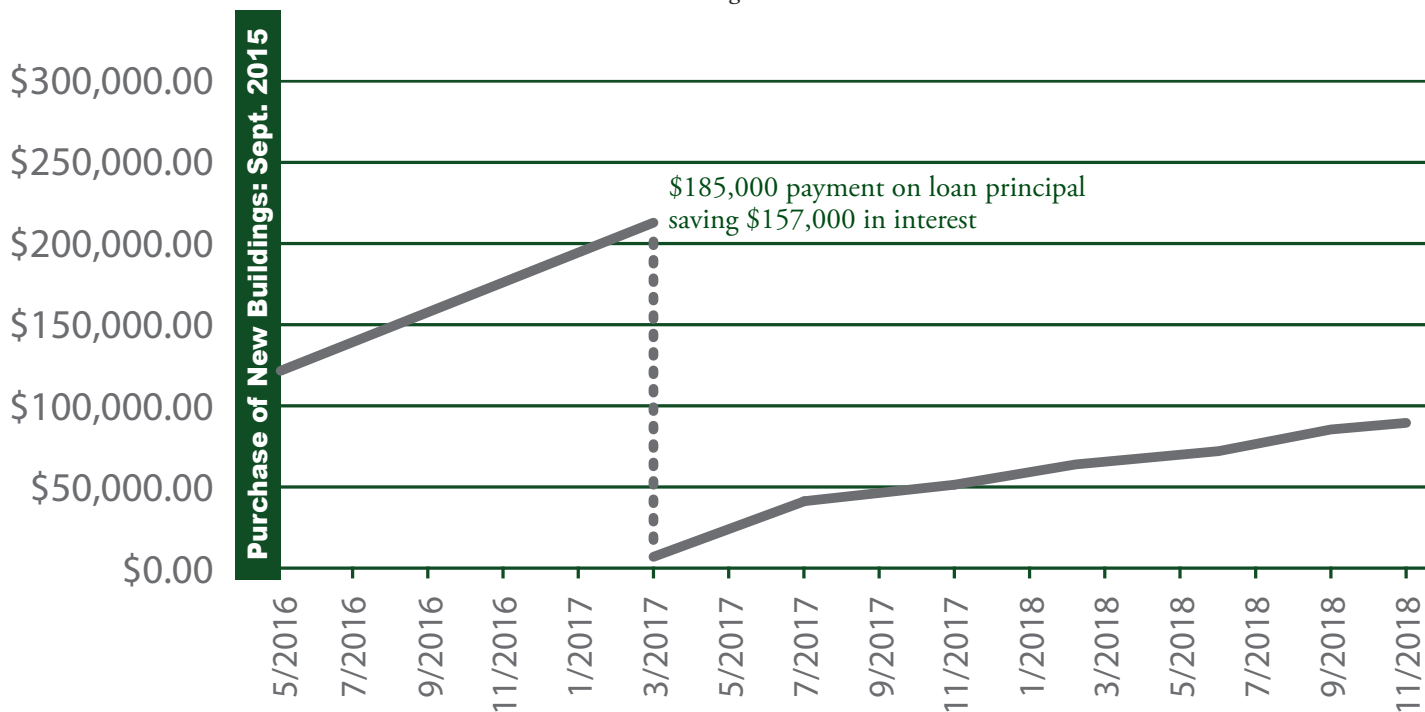
Return form to: St. Joseph's Academy • 57575 Romeo Plank Rd., Ray Township, MI 48096

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

Nurturing Faith for the Future

Operation Philomena Progress Since May, 2016

Current savings account balance is \$83,645



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 832

Number of donations recorded: 6,068

Total monthly donors: 70

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2210

Largest recurring monthly donation: \$350

Operation Philomena is moving forward, thanks to you!

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 in monthly donations. Will you help?

