

St. Joseph's Academy



*Looking
to the future*



Capital Campaign

Dear friends and benefactors,

St. Joseph's Academy has much to be grateful for. We will never be able to repay the generosity of so many souls who dig into their pockets to provide help and security to our place of learning and love.

A steady stream of letters flows in and out of the office. Gifts are received and prayers are requested. Thank-you cards go out, and prayers are assured.

The children are reminded daily of their spiritual duties to their benefactors. We pray our rosary and novenas for those without whom we could never survive.

Last issue, we spoke of St. Philomena's powerful intercession. Her help is of a particular and recognizable kind. There are no great donations, only small gifts that trickle in without fail week after week. She will not allow us to put down our novenas. She loves the prayers and bestows her blessings. And when

we wonder if we will ever succeed, a letter comes in from a person unknown, telling us of some grace received, and how right we are to trust in our celestial patron.

I make special mention of those who have subscribed to monthly recurring donations. I write rarely to thank you. Rest assured, you make up the backbone of our campaign, and you are remembered daily at the Holy Sacrifice.

Think of the time that will come when we will be called before God to render an account of our lives. The thought of our sins will make us tremble, but our Lord will smile and remind us: "Whatsoever you did to the least of mine, you did unto Me."

May God richly bless you all.

Gratefully in Jesus and Mary,

Father John Brucciani, Principal

Heart of the Matter



Watching our children frolic and play with tireless energy and endless laughter, I cannot fail to perceive the great importance of our small schools.

In a world filled with violence, sadness and cynicism, our schools and parishes are small havens of peace and order. Under the watchful eye of priests and teachers, guided and guarded by house rules and set routines, innocent children are free to give way to the exuberance of their innately happy and playful spirits.

Like a delicate and fragile plant, they are able to strike firm roots, to grow and mature away from the brutality of vice and the poison of guilt. Their life energies are allowed to grow and develop unimpeded by any distractions of mind and heart. The baptismal grace they received not so long ago is able to feed on frequent prayer, confession and communion. These children are safe from the murky atmosphere of a world that hates childhood and seeks to corrupt from the tenderest age those who were not condemned to the capital punishment of abortion.

In the classroom their curious minds are disciplined. The mind is a powerful thing. It is capable of faith enough to move mountains, and pride enough to defy God. It must be nourished, nurtured and molded so that it may always find its path and see what is right. More importantly, it must be made dexterous enough to discover and delight in the truths of Revelation, and capable of admiring God's Providence as He guides us through life to happiness and holiness.

But knowledge is worthless if it does not lead to virtue. Knowing one's path is not enough: there must also be the desire and drive to pursue it, come what may. From the youngest age the child must learn to act upon what he knows to be right. And he must be given the chance to experience the intense satisfaction and joy each act of virtue distills within the soul. The school makes up a great part of a child's world. It is a training ground for real life in the real world. When the child leaves school, the virtues he has acquired must be strong enough to carry through.

And yet, knowledge and virtue make for a dry attempt at good living. They are as flour and water. Without yeast, they will never rise to become sustaining and satisfying food.

Love is the yeast that makes and binds together everything a family and a school seeks to give to a child. Too many souls who lived their childhood in the relative safety of a Catholic environment have nevertheless fallen away from the Faith. Perhaps they live honest lives in a worldly sense, but they have lost that for which they were made.

We are made to love that which is good, and our greatest good is the source of all goodness and love: God. He is the alpha and omega of our lives.

We ourselves are convinced of these truths, but how can we convince our children? How may we lead them to make Christ the alpha and omega of their lives? How do we make their souls enamored of Him, thirsty for Him, restless until they rest in Him?

We must develop their innocent and naive hearts. Unlike adults, children love rightly and readily. In the right environment their hearts can be groomed and nurtured to enjoy and always prefer not simply virtue, but more importantly the source and end of all virtue, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

At St. Joseph's they can learn about Him, but also learn of Him. Their little lives are organized around the constant reminder of His presence and His loving Providence. He becomes so familiar to them that He is not simply an acquaintance or even a friend, but the God and Savior of their souls, a loving and much loved Master, and the passion and purpose of their lives, Who will never leave them, will always help them, will ever be present to them and in Whom they may confide their utmost trust and confidence.

The kernel of education is the science of divine love, freely given and freely received. This is our hope, our endeavor and our goal. And our little school is where it happens. ❀

New Duties

The past two years have been busy. In April 2014 we began a difficult journey, striking out into unknown territory. Our academy had never before embarked on a Capital Campaign of such magnitude.

I have thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it. How many people receive gifts and notes of kindness in their daily mail? Every time a check tumbles out of an envelope, I see in my mind's eye a smiling face. I hear a word of approval and encouragement from far away. Most of all, I witness an adult's love of God's favorite creatures, and readiness to give up something on their behalf.

Office hours are not so bad in such happy conditions! People's generosity make for many hours of letter writing and thank-you cards, but I would gladly write many more!



This will be my last letter to you as principal of Saint Joseph's Academy. My superiors have decided to send me to our district house near Kansas City, MO, where I will take on the duties of district bursar. My new mission will be to coordinate efforts across the district in order to ensure the proper, prudent and efficient use of district goods and services.

After three short years here in Armada, I am once again on the road. The academy has undergone several changes during this time, noticeably with the reorganizing of general finances, administration and the launch of the Capital Campaign. I hope to leave a freshly oiled engine that will be able to chug along with gathering momentum, allowing for the next generation to experience the graces and fruits of Catholic tradition.



It is not without regret that I leave the company of children to take up residence at the district headquarters. I have worked in grade and high schools for the past seventeen years and loved every minute. I have taught every age group from kindergarten to college. My favorite classes have always been the first and second grades. The children are still fresh and inquisitive. They love to learn and delight in discovery. Their expression is spontaneous, their laughter contagious and a momentary sadness always short lived. Their souls are still virgin pure. They unknowingly radiate the beauty of God's grace and love.

As district bursar I will do all to consolidate and strengthen our schools in order that they be able to give the best to our children. And I will encourage every principal to instill a devotion to St. Philomena in their students. She works wonders for those schools that place their interests in her hands. ❀



Gaining Ground



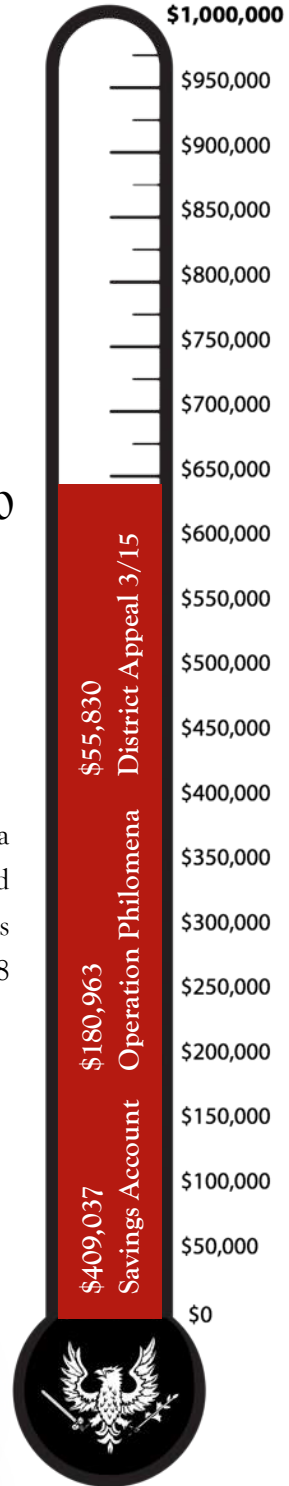
Our goal was to collect \$10,000 monthly.
In 14 months, Operation Philomena has collected \$181,000.
Operation Philomena is on track, thanks to you.

Keep it up!



\$645,830

634 donors for Operation Philomena
2,099 donations recorded
89 donors monthly donors
Total recurring monthly donations = \$3118



Game over...

Time to pledge.



Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____



YES! I'd 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 future gift 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* and make a recurring donation every month.

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 other: \$ _____

Option A: Automatic Bank Debit Program

I (we) hereby authorize St. Joseph's Academy to initiate monthly debit entries from my (our) banking account as indicated below. Please attach a voided check to this form.

Financial Institution Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ ZIP: _____

Routing Number: _____ Acct. Number: _____

Account Holder Name: _____ Checking/Savings (*circle one*)

Option B: Credit Card Program



I hereby authorize St. Joseph's Academy to initiate monthly one-time debit(s) from my credit card indicated below: Mastercard/Visa (*circle one*)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Account Holder Name: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature Required For Both Option A and B:

Date of transaction: first business day after 15th day 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 Academy and the Financial Institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Return form to St. Joseph's Academy at the address on the reverse side or in the attached envelope.