

# St. Joseph's Academy



Looking to  
the future.



## Capital Campaign

May 2016

Volume 3, Issue 2

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

During this month dedicated to Our Mother Mary, it is apropos to revisit the idea of the Mystical Body. Being part of this one body united under Christ the King and venerating our spiritual mother, we take this opportunity to share some family news with you.

Your response to the February 2016 appeal was just short of miraculous! As you saw that God has blessed this work and those at St. Joseph's are merely seeking to fulfill the task of being carpenters in His shop, you offered timely assistance to help us complete the renovation project. It is my honor to announce to you the accomplishments!

To start with, the school blessing took place on May 1st. This memorable occasion was accented by many providential happenings: the feast of our patron, the visit of distinguished guests, May Crowning, and the unveiling of a time capsule buried in 2005 (the year the boys' boarding

school moved to La Salette Academy in Olivet, IL). A delicious and gorgeous banquet was presented while the students offered some wholesome entertainment.

This news of ours is your news. The beneficiaries of such a project need not keep the joy to themselves. We offer you in this issue a glimpse into what transpired during the weeks leading up to the completion of this project and proudly present some details of the once in a lifetime blessing of this new school.

May our joy be yours as another school blossoms with potential for excellence. This reinvigorated building is but a shell, yet it seems apparent that this will provide an environment within which the teachers will be able to foster more deeply the education of heirs to the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,  
**Fr. Richard Boyle, Principal**

# A New Grace



*"But they that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall take wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." —Isaiah 40:31*

Some men will say, "Eat it while it's warm, use it while it lasts, catch it while it's hot." There is a grace present at the Academy that should not be overlooked or forgotten, but publicized!



The students of SJA have witnessed and participated in the ceremony of their school blessing. What a privilege! Not many of us were present at our church blessing let alone at that of our alma mater. The children entering school this fall will be eye witnesses and will have been collaborators in this sacred occasion.

This is significant — for them, for us, and for the future.

For them: they have experienced a grace-filled event that will mark their lives.

For us: we will be fortified with the youth who have been strengthened by this memorable experience.

For the future: mighty pillars are being constructed within these walls which will be the support of generations to come.

Our Mother the Church proclaimed the following during the school blessing ceremony:

*O Lord Jesus Christ, Who didst say to Thine apostles: "In whatever home you enter, salute it, saying: 'Peace be unto this house,'" let this same peace, we pray, come upon this school, as well as upon all who enter here. Protect them, O Lord, from all sickness. Fill them who teach here with the spirit of knowledge, wisdom, and fear of the Lord. Support the pupils with heavenly assistance, so that they may grasp, retain, and practice all useful and wholesome lessons, and in everything give*

*honor to Thy Name. Wherefore, at our coming mayest Thou bless + and sanctify + this school, and let the angels of light dwell within its walls, and may they stand guard over teachers, and scholars.*

Powerful words mark this new edifice. Protection is granted, transmission of knowledge is secured, and peace is assured to all those who dwell within these very walls. What a grace!

*Almighty, everlasting God, fervent in the spirit we pray Thee to regard with tenderness these Thy little ones. Pour into their souls the grace of the Holy Spirit, that through Him they be enlightened, and instructed to know for all time that which is pleasing to Thee, and thus make progress in wisdom, age, and grace.*

Petitions for all that one would ever desire have been made. What else could we possibly want? The youth from this school are on track to grow in wisdom, age, and grace — mirroring Our Lord! What a glorious outcome!

*Hear us, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God, and send Thy holy angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit, and defend all who assemble, teach, and study in this building.*

These words, taken from the prayer at the end of the Asperges Me, are recited at the beginning of a Sung Mass on Sunday and at the blessing of any building. The connection made between the school building and the Temple of God — where God dwells and wishes to be recognized — will influence students and teachers alike. We will all strive to live up to the noble task of treating this school as the House of God, to respect the materials used and thus earn the reward of the elect! What a goal!

These prayers are not a collection of merely pious platitudes. They are expressions of the well-equipped soul which desires to transmit the idea that this school is a house of formation wherein the whole person, body and soul, is made into the likeness of God. Peace is offered, protection is given, illnesses are prevented and cured, wisdom and understanding are imparted, blessings are granted, angels are present, teachers are inspired, prayers are heard, souls are cherished.

May more students join the ranks of this blessed dwelling and enjoy the merits of its existence.



*Clergy, servers, and students pause outside the doors of the new academy during the school blessing ceremony.*

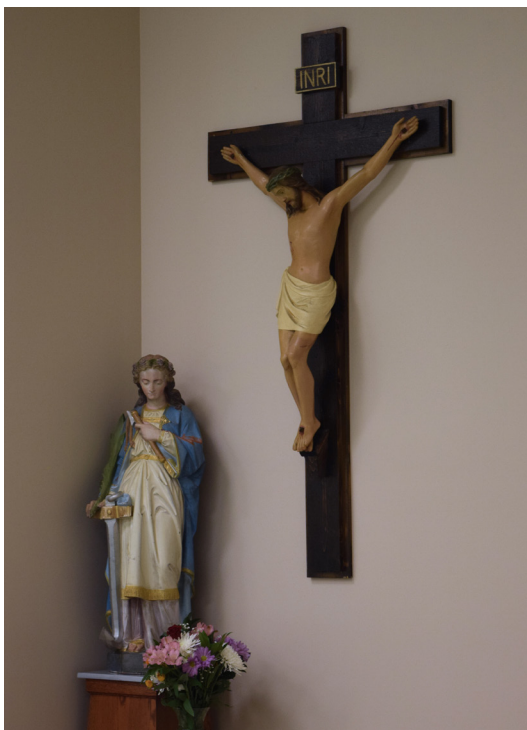


*On the day of the blessing, the first communicants brought flowers for Our Lady.*

*The new school banner is blessed by the Principal at the start of the 18th annual Rollerblade-a-Thon fundraiser.*



*New windows added on the south side of the academy building will let in much-needed light and meet local fire codes.*



*We are thankful to St. Philomena for her intercession and have placed her image next to the crucifix which was blessed for the new school.*



# Second Wind

After 25 years of education at St. Joseph's Academy, where the young Eagles learn to fly, we have the joy to witness some older Eagles sending their children to learn how to flap their wings! The second generation is upon us along with many other enthusiastic eaglets. It is encouraging to speak to some of these Eagles who have an interest in keeping the nest healthy and strong. They see the need to foster a unifying, youthful, sacrificial, and generous spirit for this to happen. I am proud to say that I have noticed such a spirit this year and expect it to continue.



We all are part of the Mystical Body, wherein we have the tremendous grace to be inspired by the Holy Ghost. He keeps the Church fruitful on Earth by His power and holy guidance. We, members of this divine and human society, ought to use these heavenly impulses to our advantage. Listening to the above quote, we could simplify it to say, I thank You for the inspirations and determination to carry out Your Will... let me embrace with all my energy these good inspirations... Let us take this opportunity to gain a second wind, use the tools offered, and thus prosper.

The Eagles of yesterday are providing the Eagles of tomorrow. As we end this academic year we recognize that 25% of the student body are second generation Eagles. When children are born and alumni return to the nest, each year will only bring more! The first generation experienced personally the nourishing nectar. Now they are determined to offer it to their young. Parents are hearkening to the inspirations and using the tools at their disposal. This presents a promising future.

A few expressions of this second wind which will help carry us towards our golden jubilee are:

- ◆ A new (second) location for the academy
- ◆ A new banner with the academy crest
- ◆ Extraordinary fundraising spirit by all Eagles (students, parents and teachers)
- ◆ Enthusiasm about contributing to a suitable playground
- ◆ Eagles sending their children to the nest
- ◆ An Eagle returning to serve as academy Principal

*“O most holy Trinity, I thank Thee and praise Thee for it all. For the light vouchsafed me. For the love and determination to carry out Thy most holy Will. Let me embrace with all my energy the good inspirations I have had.”*

— Pusillum, by Fr. Athanasius, O.F.M., Vol. III, p. vi.

Often times the students remain beneficiaries of great sacrifices from generous donors. This year we have sought to make the Eagles not only recipients of your benevolence, but also laborers by your side in helping the academy. Being motivated to have a certain amount of money go towards a new playground set for the academy students to enjoy during recess was an outstanding success! The children exceeded the goal! They wanted more funds to be poured into what they would use — so they did their part and more! You see, all that is needed is an ounce of encouragement and you reap a pound of energy. Why just listen to the saying “energy is wasted on the youth” and wish we could bottle it up. Rather we should hear the words and channel the energy they have! We hope the determination exhibited this year will be outdone in future generations.

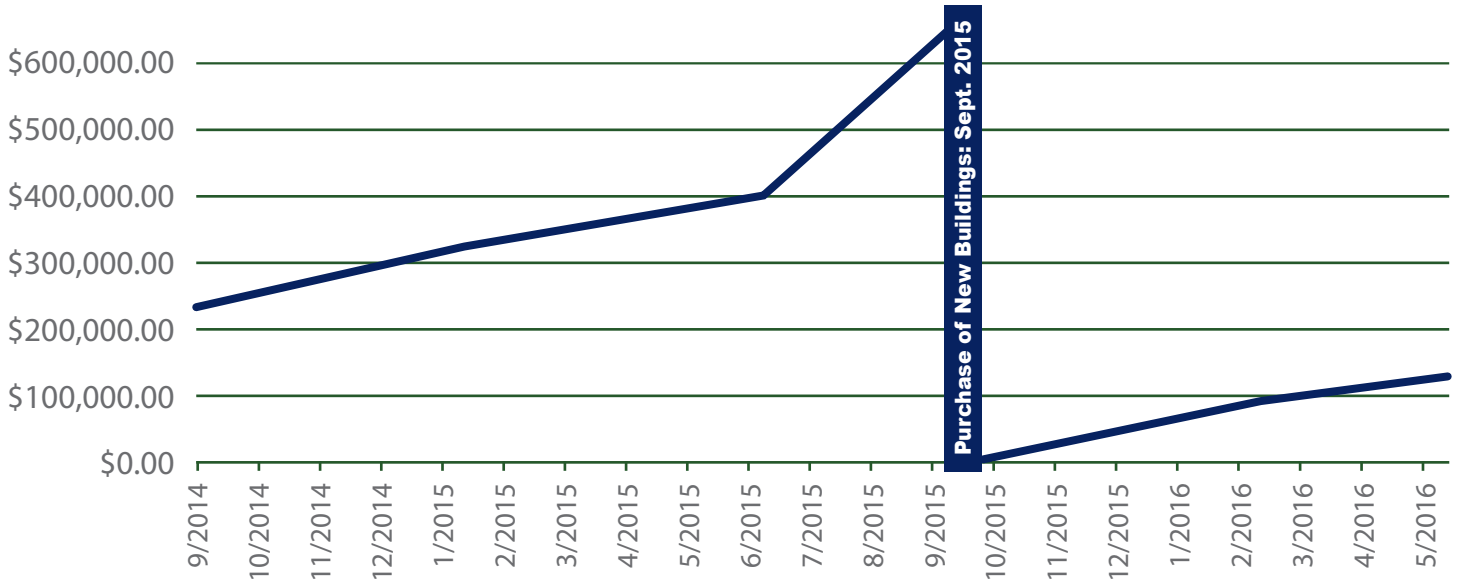


# Reasons for Joy

## Operation Philomena: Phase One

## Phase Two

*Current savings account balance is \$113,000 after completion of school renovations.*



## Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 696

Number of donations recorded: 3418

Total monthly donors: 101

Total recurring monthly donations: \$3386

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?



# A Solid Future for St. Joseph's Academy

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## OPTION A: AUTOMATIC BANK DEBIT PROGRAM

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 15th 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.academysaintjoseph.com](http://www.academysaintjoseph.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 Friday of each month*