

# St. Joseph's Academy



## Capital Campaign

March 2017

Volume 4, Issue 1

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In this historical year commemorating the centenary of the Fatima apparitions, during the penitential season of Lent, and within the month of our beloved patron St. Joseph, it is again an honor to pen this newsletter. In order not to inundate you with news while still providing you with a steady stream of information regarding our progress, I have decided that from this time forward we will only have three issues per year: March, July, and November.

This being the first issue of a new year, and the first Capital Campaign mailing being sent during the month of St. Joseph, I am happy to share the fruits of our school (SJA), in relation to another “St. Joseph’s Academy,” which you will read about in this issue. As we know that God, in His providence, directs even the

seemingly insignificant details of our lives, these occurrences are more than just a random set of circumstances. They are for us to share and reflect upon. Hopefully I can present the argument that God uses even the accidental realm to express a beautiful reality — for all of us to discover and admire!

Within this issue you will find the unraveling of a striking story, accompanied by updates on important ceremonies and accented with some quotes for literary flavor. May you enjoy the contents of this newsletter and from it be inspired to a greater union with God through the education of our youth!

Under the protection of St. Joseph,

*Fr. Richard Boyle, Principal*

# A Veteran Makes History

ST. JOSEPH'S  
ACADEMY

An invitation came across my desk recently — unanticipated, but graciously accepted. The priests of the Michigan priory were invited to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sr. Charles Christine, O.P. Recalling the opportunity I had twenty years ago to be present at my great grandfather's 100th birthday celebration, I could not turn this down, although it would require a four hour round-trip drive! The journey down and back was an enjoyable one. Meeting Sister for the first time was a great honor. And finally, offering Mass on the feast of St. Valentine in the basement of an SSPX priest's parents' home in the presence of two dozen faithful Catholics that evening was a blessing. This day trip has provided memories to last a lifetime!



The focus of these festivities was Sr. Charles Christine, a Dominican sister whose mother-house is in Adrian, MI. Sister spent many years teaching the elementary grades, but as she states, "Teaching first grade was my favorite." Even our

small SSPX school near Detroit had the honor to have her teach for a short time. The innocent minds which she was able to educate were her pride and joy. For a more detailed story of her life and an opportunity to savor a glimpse of the occasion, you may visit the following links:

## Story of Sr. Charles Christine, O.P.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPNzSyaqcII>

## Account of the occasion, February 14, 2017:

<http://domlife.org/2017/02/20/dominican-sisters-of-adrian-sister-charles-christine-uhnavy-o-p-celebrates-her-100th-birthday/>

Sr. Charles Christine did not plan any of the events of her special day, nor did she foresee the extent of the day's celebration. But as no priest can resist an opportunity to tour an old, well-kept religious house, two cassock-donned priests were happy to see the magnificent Dominican house.

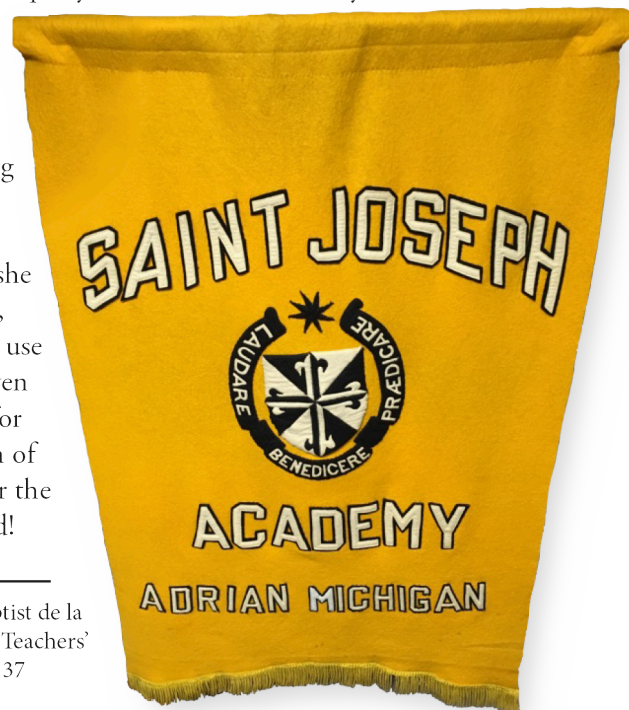
Upon turning a corner, a light switch was flipped to reveal a hidden treasure! These two priests and teachers from St. Joseph's Academy in Ray Township, MI, saw before their eyes emblems and pictures of another, famous but hidden, St. Joseph's Academy in Adrian, MI. This academy instructed tens of thousands of students during its 115 years of existence (1896 - 2012). Now it is the duty of our St. Joseph's Academy to carry the torch, inflaming minds and hearts with zeal for God. Seeing the "SJA" pins and banners sparked a desire to enkindle the same school spirit in the halls of our academy as we press on from our silver jubilee and look towards the golden days! One item in particular caught my eye and gave rise to the all-consuming thought: the future is ours and then all is God's, if we but do our duty and teach as Catholics ought to teach. It was a striking plaque which read: "I touch the future; I teach." (Christa McAuliffe)

What words for all teachers to contemplate! They will be a matter of consideration for the teachers at our dear academy for months to come. This is the task set before us — to form our future. The future lies in our hands, and the future is thus vibrant and hopeful because those we teach are given the everlasting truths which have come down from Jesus Christ — the Son of the Living God!

May every educator realize the great duty set before him. "Look upon yourselves as the ministers of God and of Jesus Christ, and acquit yourselves with zeal for your sacred duties."<sup>1</sup> As

Sr. Charles Christine has made such a lasting impression on those whose lives she has touched, may we also use the years given us to work for the salvation of souls and for the glory of God!

<sup>1</sup> St. John Baptist de la Salle, Catholic Teachers' Companion p. 37



# Teachers Matter

No person is born a saint. The majority of those entering the celestial Kingdom are formed through arduous hours of work by caring and selfless instruments whom we know as our teachers. God uses His magnificent creatures to make masterpieces fit for His adoring choirs in Heaven. It is a collaboration of labor and tears from both sides of the desk which produce what we term the Church Triumphant. To see this in action, we turn to one who died in 1916, a year before Our Lady appeared to the three young, generous souls in Fatima. This tremendous sinner, Charles de Foucauld, who became a glorious saint, suffered many wounds and endured numerous sorrows, but in the end a gem for God was made. Foucauld himself stated, "Young people need to be taught, not by those who are impartial, but by believing and saintly souls."

What might a teacher bring to his class when Lent is approaching, when minds and wills need to take advantage of this great season? One with faith and vigor may write the following on the board for all to copy: "Lent is the most important season of the year, as it prepares us for the most important feast, Easter. During Lent we perform sacrifices which help purify our souls from sin."

The following commentary on this simple quote may be given:



- ◆ Lent = Life
- ◆ Just as we prepare for Easter with sacrifices in order to receive the graces of Easter and to please God better, after having perhaps strayed from Him during the year, so we ought to have a similar spirit during the course of our life, constantly purifying our souls from sin so that we are prepared for eternity and are worthy of the reward!
- ◆ Easter = Eternity (Heaven)
- ◆ As Easter is the end (goal) of Lent, so eternity (Heaven) is the end (goal) of all men. If we strive with rigor

during six weeks for the benefit of a feast, why should we not persevere in life with a similar attitude, which will allow us to more easily attain Heaven?

In other words: Life is the most important pilgrimage, as it prepares us for the most important end, Heaven, by the continual sacrifices we perform which help purify our souls from sin.

To this end students at SJA are taught to envision life as an



extended “Lent,” by which they may accomplish their goal. Academy members, students and teachers alike, are encouraged to take the noble step of becoming Knights of Our Lady. There is no better way for a Catholic student or educator to prepare for the commemoration of Our Lady’s apparition at Fatima. To date, 45 members of the academy were knighted under Our Lady’s mantle (according to the directives of St. Maximilian Kolbe) between November 27, 2016 and February 2, 2017. We are consecrating this school year to Our Mother, the spouse of our beloved patron, and by so doing wish nothing but the glory of God and the winning of more souls to the bosom of Abraham.

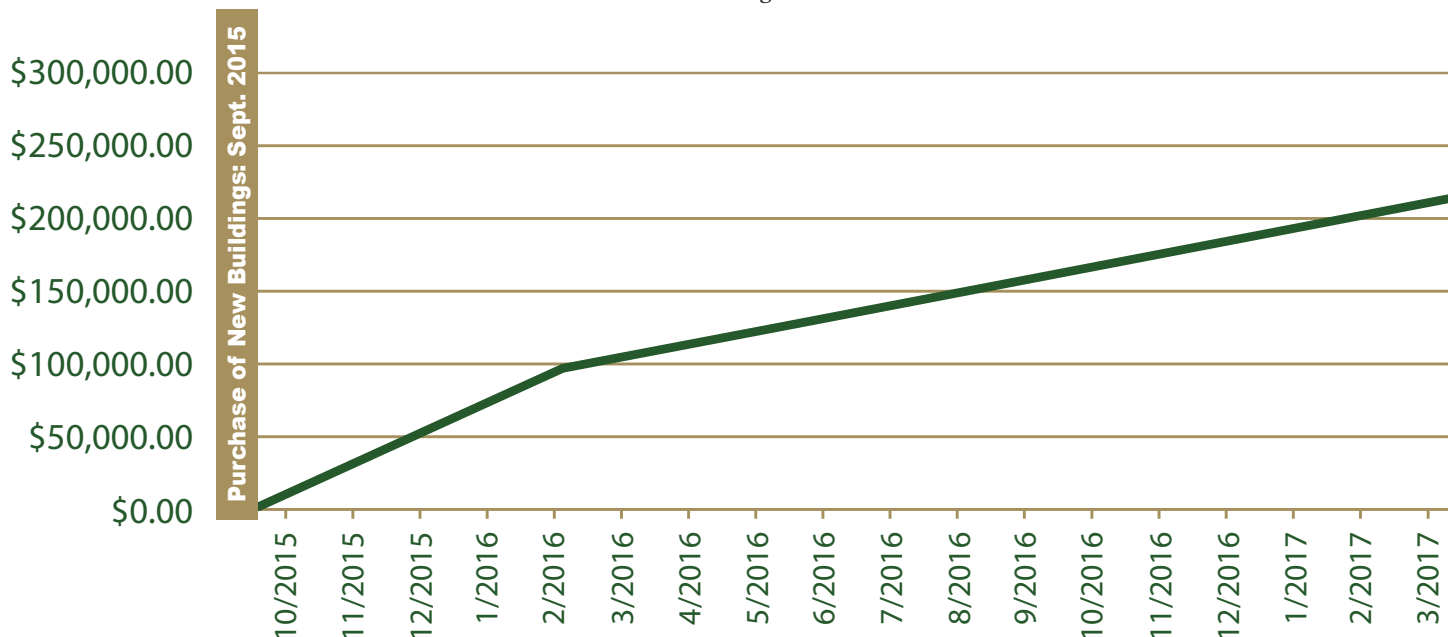
The souls entrusted to us at St. Joseph’s Academy are no different than Charles de Foucauld was when he was a student, and these students are meant to arrive at the same halls of glory — but how? It will be through the generous hands of our teachers! Teachers themselves are under continual formation and must strive for the same heights which they wish their pupils to attain. This comes through many hours of preparation, study, and counsel combined with a zealous charity. Thankfully, we have been able to draw out the best from our teachers as we have offered them a more favorable place of work in our new school, which has proven beneficial for one and all! May the teachers and students continue their grateful prayers for those who have supplied the groundwork for the formation of saints.



# Our Steady Progress

## Operation Philomena Progress Since September, 2015

*Current savings account balance is \$210,000*



## Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 714

Number of donations recorded: 4,318

Monthly donors: 98

Total recurring monthly donations: 3,100

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 gift 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 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.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*