

# St. Joseph's Academy



## Capital Campaign

**July 2017**

**Volume 4, Issue 2**

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Time has come for another update which contains one significant point. My superiors have called me to another state in our beloved country to serve souls there. Therefore this will be my last communication to you in my capacity as principal of this wonderful academy.

When I travel to my new assignment in Syracuse, NY next month, I will leave you in the experienced and capable hands of Fr. Todd Angele. He will continue this newsletter as he carries on the duties of director of operations here at St. Joseph's. I offer my goodbyes as I depart stage left (i.e. go East). Fr. Angele will present his words of wisdom in November as he enters stage right (i.e. comes from the West)!

A theme in my writings over the years has been the idea of gratitude. As I began two years ago, allow me to

end on the same note. Seeing monthly donations come in from across the nation, being able to correspond with you through thank you notes, and writing these newsletters, I can sincerely state that I am indebted for all the generosity you have shown this humble academy over my short tenure. I pray that as my gratitude to you never dries up, your support of this institution of education may never cease — for we deeply rely on your dedication!

I thus promise, as a continuance of my devotion to my alma mater and to you, our faithful benefactors, that I will retain the practice of offering a decade of the rosary each day in union with the students and staff here in thanksgiving to you.

United in the Precious Blood of Our Lord,

*Fr. Richard Boyle, Principal*

# Gratitude – A Virtue Often Overlooked

With all the good things we receive from God, the Church, society, our parents, schools, benefactors, and friends, one would think that we would all be experts at giving thanks, but perhaps this is not so! Consider a quote from St. Bernard of Clairvaux: *“Blessed is the soul who every time he receives a gift of grace from God, returns to Him, to Him [W]ho responds to our gratitude for the favors we have received by giving us new favors. The greatest hindrance to progress in the spiritual life is ingratitude, for God counts as lost the graces we receive without gratitude, and He refrains from giving us the new graces.”*<sup>1</sup>

In order that the students of St. Joseph’s Academy not fall prey to this thoughtlessness, they are encouraged to remember the blessings offered by all their benefactors: God (*“every good gift, every perfect gift comes from above”*<sup>2</sup>), the Church (sacraments), society (resources), parents (faith, education, shelter, clothing, meals), schools (formation), benefactors (classrooms, recess equipment), and friends (support). The litany of gifts granted to us from the benevolence of others is long! We do not always have time to recite such litanies, but the students do recite prayers (litanies included!) for their generous benefactors. In so doing, we seek not only to render justice in offering thanks but also to obtain future blessings ensured by the words of St. Bernard.

Although the classrooms were the first priority at our new school, in close second was a playground for the students. A year without this facility was tough for some. They were urged to take up this cross willingly and with valor. Now the day has come when the sacrifice has ended and

<sup>1</sup> *Divine Intimacy*, by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., n 280, page 839-840

<sup>2</sup> James 1:17



the reward has been bestowed! And now is the proper time for our students to express more intently their gratitude.

This last newsletter before the 2017-18 academic year is the appropriate time to set forth the theme which will guide the students and teachers. Deriving inspiration from the quote of the patron for the year, St. Bernard, they will develop a greater understanding of the virtue of G.R.A.T.I.T.U.D.E. Using this as an acronym, the students will find nine major qualities that make up this essential virtue. If they desire more help from above, they will need to acquire and practice these throughout their lives — starting now!

## G.R.A.T.I.T.U.D.E.

(qualities which should be present in a grateful person)

Generous

Ready

Appreciative

Thankful

Indebted

Thoughtful

Ubiquitous

Dutiful

Eternal

Thus, one who possesses gratitude is *generous* and *ready* to show *appreciation* for gifts; is *thankful*, *indebted* to others, and *thoughtful*; and *ubiquitously* and *eternally* seeks to perform his *duty* of gratitude!

*As mentioned in the November 2016, Volume 3, Issue 3 of this newsletter, a time capsule was buried at our first graduation ceremony on June 3, 2017. We plan to open this in June 2040! It will mark the golden jubilee of our academy, an event to which you will all be invited. May the many memories encased in the capsule be remembered by the future generations and may those of us who will be present enjoy the occasion of such grandeur.*



# Collaboration Makes the Difference



After the surprising news regarding the relocation of our academy settled into the minds of the parents, ideas of what could be done to better the new property started spinning. While many improvements were discussed, it was clearly seen that this new property was lacking a playground for the hundred plus children in the parish. Our dedicated parents decided that, as there had never been a permanent commercial playground at the old location, it was high-time to turn the tables and make a difference.

The parents understood that this project concerned not only the students of the academy, but also all the children of the parish. This realization provided more momentum, as the academy was not looking out for merely its own interests but had in mind the common good of both the parish and the academy. Due to this fact, the project was able to attract many supporters and collaboration began.

A few determined parents mustered up the courage to present the case to the superior. But doubts arose. “What is this playground amidst so many other needs? Certainly there are numerous other expenses that will override this small yet costly project. Nevertheless, we need to express our thoughts, for Father cannot read minds (!) and we will see what Providence allows.” The proverbial phrase, *ask and you shall receive*, rallied them to press forward. These dedicated parents followed through and received permission to hold bake sales about once per month on Sundays after



Masses. The families (children included) made baked goods for the sales, and all the proceeds were set aside in a fund for the playground. Month after month hundreds of dollars were saved for this purpose. Enthusiasm grew as dollars accumulated. The combined efforts were paying off — and quickly! Parents and children donated time, materials, and effort while generous benefactors offered the funds needed to make this dream a reality. Collaboration was being achieved.

A wise teacher at St. Joseph’s Academy once paraphrased Benjamin Franklin: “Have a plan or your plan is to fail!” So with money increasing, a plan for this playground needed to be put into place. The completion date of April 2017 was set, and the investigation of affordable options was begun. The necessary paperwork was filed, seeking approval from superiors was initiated, and laborers were readied for action once approvals and materials were in hand.

Let the pictures paint the process. Nothing beneficial is accomplished without the Cross. Along the way many snags were met, but nothing that a traditional Catholic workforce could not handle! This was proven time and time again. Volunteers were present at crucial moments, just the right items were acquired when absolutely necessary, and in the end the final product was accomplished with joy. Against all odds, the deadline of April 2017 was met! *Deo gratias* and to all who made this project move forward.

The students who watched this playground being built and were anxious to be the first to test it, were not permitted to enjoy it until it was blessed. As they were told, “Being a blessed item, it must be respected as such! Take care of what has been given to you through generous benefactors. Gratitude to them is expressed through proper use of this generous gift.” Appropriately, respect for things that have been given to us is in keeping with the theme of this academic year.

What an honor to witness both adults and youth investing blood, sweat, and tears into this project which will last for generations and bring more and more children to a greater level of formation — for not all formation takes place in the classroom. Much can be said of recess, recreation, and exercise. These elements for a student are similar to leisure for an adult. We all need the balanced life of work and rest to allow the body and soul to function at the optimal levels. Fortunately, our playground will allow for greater excellence in the spiritual and intellectual realms by





*Fr. Steven Webber had the honor of cutting the ribbon in the ceremony that opened the new playground to 59 eager students.*



offering a safe and healthy recreational environment. Recess in proper balance facilitates the spiritual and intellectual progress by allowing the mind to relax, setting the stage for the next lesson in the schedule!



*The students and staff of St. Joseph's Academy wait expectantly for the opening of their new playground.*



*Fr. Boyle blesses the new playground equipment and prays that it may serve these and future generations of academy students.*

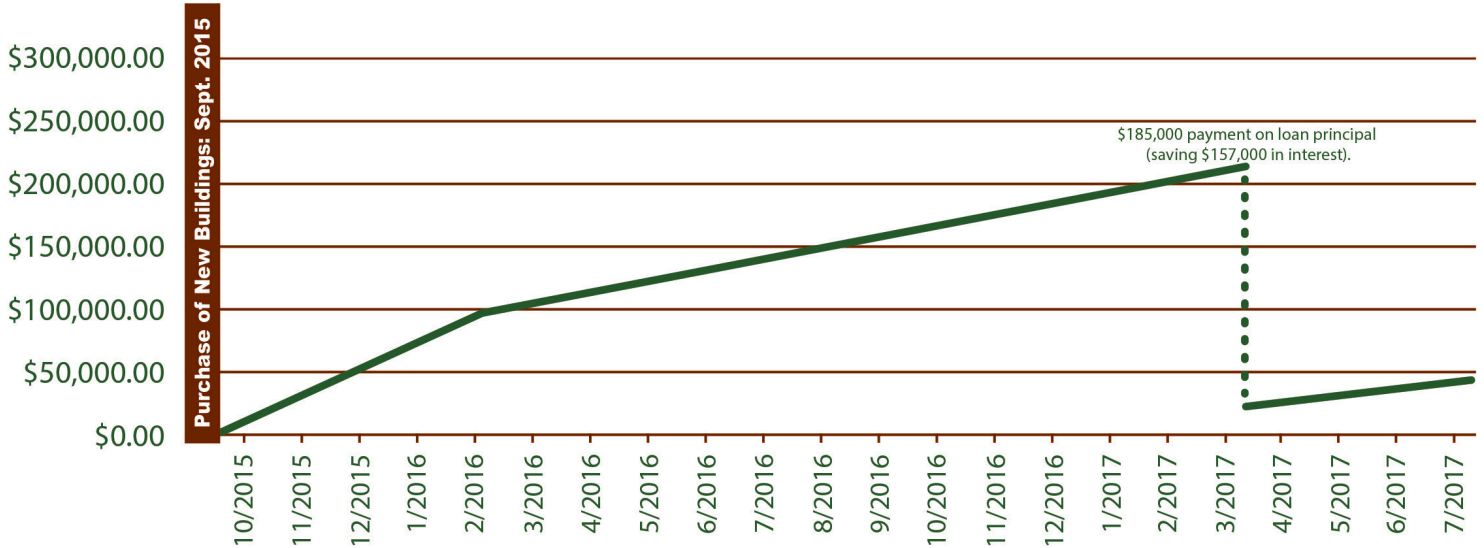


To the left is an artist's rendering of the basketball hoops which will soon grace our back parking lot. They will provide ample opportunities for competition and recreation for much of the year.

# Progress & Hope

## Operation Philomena Progress Since September, 2015

Current savings account balance is \$46,000



## Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 723

Number of donations recorded: 4,630

Total monthly donors: 96

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,785

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 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