

# St. Joseph's Academy



## Capital Campaign

June 2018

Volume 5, Issue 3

Dear Friends,

Having recently completed my first academic year as principal of St. Joseph's Academy, I am pleased to share with you the signs of spiritual and intellectual health I have found here. The parents of our academy students are among the best I have worked with during the 27 years of my priesthood. Their grasp of the importance of a truly Catholic formation, as well as their willingness to put that belief into action, sets a beautiful example for the children of where our priorities must lie.

Many of our families have 4 or 5 children in school at St. Joseph's, as well as high school students in Catholic boarding schools across the country and multiple preschoolers at home. These are hard-working families who struggle financially in today's difficult economic climate and who are often unable to support the academy to the extent they would like. Based on my experience with SSPX schools internationally, I can assure you that when you support St. Joseph's Academy, you are help-

ing some very good families and an excellent group of children.

In this issue of our newsletter I would especially like to highlight the vocations that are the fruit of our apostolate here at St. Joseph's Academy. Just last week we saw the ordination of Fr. Thomas Tamm to the priesthood. Father attended St. Joseph's for his entire elementary and high school education—graduating in 2009. Many other alumni have also followed similar paths into the religious life. We hope you enjoy the pictures and articles telling the story of these vocations nurtured in the fertile soil here in southeastern Michigan.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank our benefactors from the bottom of my heart. It is your generosity that makes these little miracles possible and enables St. Joseph's Academy to persevere in its mission of saving souls and working for the good of the Church and the glory of God.

Gratefully in Jesus and Mary,

*Fr. Todd Angele, Rector*



# Preparing the Soil

The textbooks, the teachers, and the lesson plans; the school buildings and the catechism classes—every aspect of a St. Joseph’s Academy education works together toward a single goal: to form good Catholic citizens, men and women willing and able to work for the restoration of all things in Christ, freely submitting to the reign of Our Lord in the spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical realms.

depictions of reality, including the best and the worst of human nature, allowing students to experience — vicariously yet profoundly — circumstances and scenarios that will inspire them to embrace the good and reject the bad. Through reading, discussing, and writing about good literature, students gain an openness to the realities of the soul, and thus are made docile to the call of grace, which draws them toward the highest of all realities.

## The Primacy of Religious Instruction

Formal religion instruction holds the place of honor in our curriculum. Classes include an ordered presentation of the Catholic Faith through the study of Christian doctrine, the life of Our Lord, the Mass, the liturgical year, Bible history, and the lives of the saints. Children are taught to memorize the catechism, and at the same time to see behind these truths the face of Our Lord, calling them to lives of holiness in union with Him. Thus, students are encouraged to develop a profound spiritual life in union with the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.

## Striving After Nobility and Excellence

No matter what subject is being taught, the students at St. Joseph’s are consistently drawn back to an appreciation of the noble and the beautiful—attributes which can be found in their perfection only in God Himself. Each school day brings challenges in the social, academic, and spiritual realms. The children are taught to meet those challenges with the excellence that comes from generously using all their gifts and talents for God’s glory.

Although each child has a different mixture of intellectual, physical, and spiritual gifts, it is of primary importance that children learn from the earliest age that Our Lord deserves our best. There is simply no way one can love God with all his heart (Matt. 22:37) without seeking to do his or her best to the glory of God in all things, even the most hidden and



Our mission is to develop the minds, bodies, and souls of our students in accordance with the timeless educational and moral principles of the Roman Catholic Church. We provide a structured, traditional, social and academic environment in which students pursue truth within a rigorous, balanced curriculum. By providing an atmosphere of serious scholarship and Catholic vitality, St. Joseph’s Academy strives, as inspired by the motto of the Society of Saint Pius X, to equip students “To restore all things in Christ.”

It is this thoroughly Catholic approach to education that has planted the seeds of vocation in so many of our students over the past 28 years.

## The Importance of Literature and Language Arts

SSPX schools place great emphasis on a literature-based language arts program. Good literature is essential to the proper, healthy development of both the intellectual and spiritual lives of our students. As Our Lord knew when He chose to teach through parables, stories naturally engage the intellect, inspiring wonder and understanding. Literature presents accurate





humble tasks. It has been said that the society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water!

**Excellence and Religious Vocation**

The pursuit of excellence is never a matter of simply choosing between what is good or bad, but of choosing what is best or superior because it will better enable us to accomplish what God has designed us to be and do. This emphasis is an important factor in helping the students of St. Joseph’s to be open to the call of God to a religious vocation. A child who has made a habit of kicking a soccer ball, writing an essay, or painting a picture with excellence because it is their God-given duty, will someday seek to practice their Faith as a mature Catholic in the most perfect manner possible—a disposition which can lead souls to generously responding to God’s call.

**Mission Statement of Catholic Educators**

As traditional Catholic educators, we are thoroughly committed to Catholic education and to giving our students that which will contribute to forming their whole being to the supernatural life. Our desire is to help one another to educate the whole person of the student in order that he may be submitted to the reign of Jesus Christ in the spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical spheres.



**Rejoicing in the Fruit of Our Labor**

June 22, 2018 was a memorable day for St. Joseph’s Academy when, at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA, two alumni received major orders. Fr. Thomas Tamm, a student at St. Joseph’s from Kindergarten until his graduation in 2009, was ordained a priest at the hands of Bishop Tissier de Mallerais. Reverend Mr. Jonah Garno, who attended St. Joseph’s from 2nd grade (finishing his education at LaSalette Boys’ Academy for high school) was ordained to the diaconate. These two young men join an ever-lengthening list of former students and teachers who have generously answered God’s call to the priestly or religious life.

**Priestly Vocations**

- Fr. Richard Boyle, SSPX: class of 2002
- Fr. Timothy Sick, SSPX: class of 2002
- Fr. John Bourbeau, SSPX: class of 2004
- Fr. Terrence, OP: (formerly Sean Boyle) class of 2005
- Fr. Elias OSB: (Formerly Andrew Campbell) housefather and teacher at SJA
- Fr. Charles Diester, SSPX: class of 2005
- Fr. James Carlisle, SSPX: class of 2006
- Fr. Brandon Haenny, SSPX: teacher at SJA 2007-2008
- Rev. Mr. Jonah Garno, SSPX (deacon): class of 2012
- Mr. Edward Simmerer, SSPX (5th year seminarian): class of 2012





## Religious Vocations

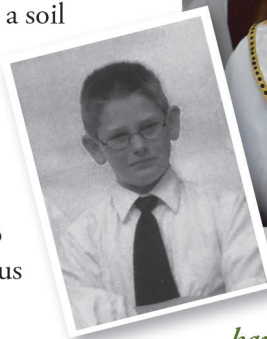
- Sister Luc-Marie, OP: (formerly Ali Giannattasio) class of 2004
- Sister Mary Bernard, OSF: (formerly Maura Flanery) class of 2006, teacher at SJA
- Sister Myriam Sophie, OP: (formerly Margaret McCarty) class of 2011
- Sister Marie Stella, OP: (formerly Christine Lewis) teacher at SJA
- Sister Marie Gabriel, OSB: (formerly Catherine Donnelly) teacher at SJA
- Sister Jacinta Marie, OSF: (formerly Kristen Garbacik) class of 2006
- Sister Marie Philomena, OSF: (formerly Camille Redding) teacher at SJA
- Brother Dominic Savio, SSPX: (formerly Chris Tomaszycski) class of 2008
- Brother Columba, SSPX: (formerly Justin Quain) class of 2015

By the grace of God, our humble academy continues to plant the seeds of religious vocations in the eager hearts of our students and to cultivate a soil in which the Faith and the love of God might grow. The teachers and priests at St. Joseph's Academy serve this end by helping form in the child lasting qualities of mind and heart through exposure to the true, the good and the beautiful across the entire curriculum. They reveal to the child the nobility of the human soul, which is ever thirsting for the Absolute, and all their efforts as teachers serve to awaken this same thirst in the child's own soul. Throughout the various disciplines, the student is drawn to rectify and strengthen his natural faculties so that he might have the desire and the strength to embrace, freely and with confidence, the supreme Good, God Himself.

These are the dispositions which will give to the Church both holy priests, faithful religious, and the solid Catholic families which are so needed in these challenging times.



*US District Superior, Fr. Jürgen Wegner, imposes hands upon the newly ordained Fr. Tamm at his ordination to the priesthood.*



*Ali Giannattasio, a St. Joseph's graduate from the class of 2004, took her final vows on August 4, 2016 with the Teaching Dominicans in Fanjeaux, France.*

*Kristen Garbacik, a 2006 graduate of the academy, entered the Franciscan Convent of Christ the King in Kansas City, MO, taking the habit on August 2, 2017.*



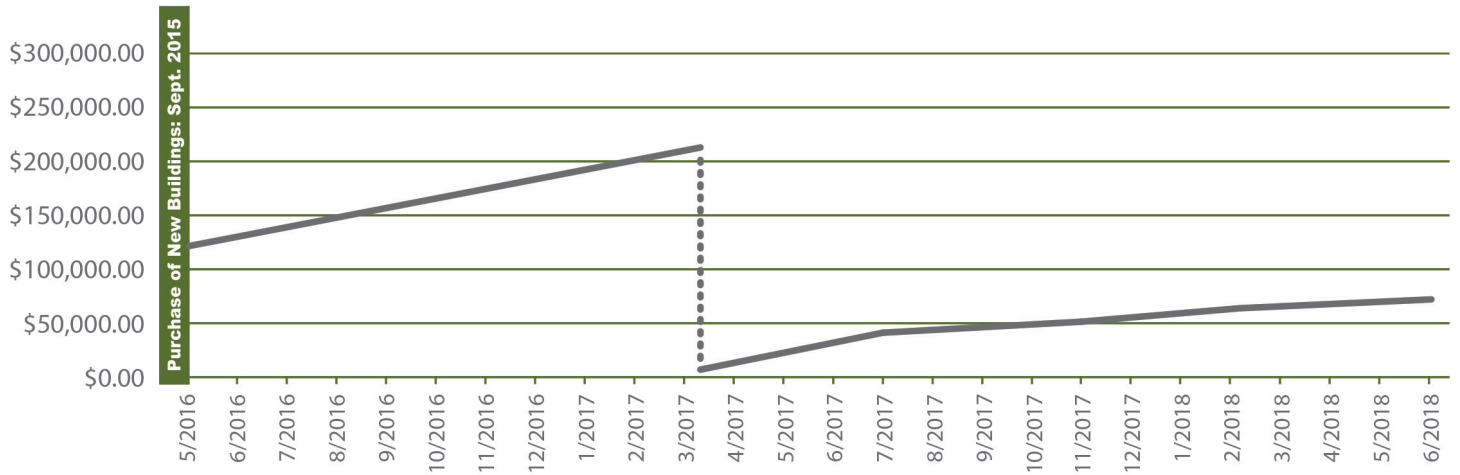
*Rev. Mr. Jonah Garno entered the seminary following his graduation in 2012 and was recently ordained to the diaconate.*



# Forming Laborers for the Harvest

## Operation Philomena Progress Since May, 2016

Current savings account balance is \$69,560



## Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 834

Number of donations recorded: 5,623

Total monthly donors: 67

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,130

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?

## Will You Help Extend Our Apostolate?

*For less than the cost of a daily cup of coffee you can be a part of Operation Philomena and cooperate in the religious vocations fostered at St. Joseph's Academy with just a small monthly gift.*



# Give a Solid Future to 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.stjosephs-academy.com](http://www.stjosephs-academy.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