

# St. Joseph's Academy



## Capital Campaign

**August 2019**

**Volume 6, Issue 2**

Dear Friends,

Here at St. Joseph's Academy, we are enjoying a season of celebration—thanking God for the successful academic year just completed and rejoicing in the priestly ordination of yet another former student of our academy.

In early June seven 8th grade students completed their studies at St. Joseph's. Many of these students had been together since Kindergarten and have cherished memories of their years at the academy. The ceremonies included choral performances by the children and speeches by the top students telling of the valuable lessons learned here and the dedication of both faculty and staff. All-in-all, it was a fitting end to a year marked by great progress in our curriculum, our faculty, and our school spirit.

The high point of recent months, however, came on June 21st when former student, Jonah Garno, was ordained a priest at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA. For the last seven years, he meticulously

prepared for his priestly ordination through study, prayer, and the discipline of a rigorous seminary formation. But Fr. Garno's development did not happen only during his years in Winona, MN and Dillwyn, VA! The religious formation that is able to bring souls to the momentous step of becoming an alter Christus begins even in the tender years of childhood. It is in these crucial years of elementary education that habits are formed, the intellect is opened to the wonders of truth, and a love for learning is sparked—which is able to grow into a blazing fire to light the child's path into adulthood.

This is the work of St. Joseph's Academy. It is an eternally important work, and one which we beg you to share with us, both by your prayers and your financial support.

Gratefully in Jesus and Mary,  
Rev. Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

# St. Joseph's Teachers Receive Training in Award-Winning Phonics Program

In recent years, St. Joseph's Academy has benefitted greatly from both the SSPX Catholic Teachers' Seminars and the related efforts to improve and standardize curricula in schools around the country. In previous summers, many of our teachers received training in St. Marys, KS on Catholic education in general and more specifically in the new Language Arts program being implemented in Society schools. As a corollary to that English program, a phonics program is now being emphasized that is unique in both its simplicity and its consistent application across all subjects and grade levels.

Until now, many schools (including SJA) had a "patchwork quilt" approach to phonics. One teacher would use one program, the next year students might study a different program or even get no phonics at all! This will change with the introduction of Sanseri Phonics, developed 25 years ago by Wanda Sanseri. In this unique, multi-sensory program, the student studies the 70 sounds (or phonograms) which make up the English language. Equipped with these building blocks of expression from the very beginning, the children are equipped to decode complex words right out of the gate. This in turn opens their horizons to meaningful literature written with real language at



an earlier age than was possible with other "See Spot run" types of read-ing curricula.

The multisensory approach of Sanseri Phonics includes seeing, hearing and then writing words—a method with proven success for children with learning difficulties. This technique also makes learning easier for both auditory and visual learners. In short, struggling readers master the material with greater ease and more gifted students achieve excellence.

Several St. Joseph's teachers were trained in this program during a workshop held in the De-troit area last month. Also present at this seminar was Mrs. Julia Eddy, a Language Arts teacher with 20 years of experience at Our Lady Help of Christians Academy in Watkins, CO. Mrs. Eddy spearheaded the switch to Sanseri Phonics at her school four years ago and reported un-precedented improvement in the students there. At the start of the new curriculum, students were assessed to determine their grade level in Language Arts. Most students tested one to two grades behind where they should be. After two years in the Sanseri program the same students were assessed again and were found to have come up to their normal grade level or even above.

In addition to the obvious advantages for the students, Mrs. Eddy pointed out the great benefits that the program had for the staff and the school as a whole. Since the program covers all grade levels and affects many different academic subjects, it had a wonderful unifying effect on the faculty at Our Lady Help of Christians Academy. When this exciting new program is un-veiled at St. Joseph's this fall, we anticipate similar exciting developments in our Academy.



# I Will Go unto the Altar of God

## Sharing in the Priesthood of Our Lord

On the morning of June 21, 2019 five deacons approached the altar in the ordination tent at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA. It was a profound step—that single symbolic step forward and the response “*Adsum*. I am here.” In that step was contained a lifetime given freely to the service of the Almighty as an Alter Christus, another Christ. It was an act of complete generosity on the part of a fallible human creature which was answered with an indelible mark on the soul by God Himself.

By this character imprinted on his soul at the moment of ordination, the priest is made a sharer in the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He participates, so to speak, in the grace of the hypostatic union, which unites the human nature of Jesus to the Divine Person of the Word who assumes it in the Incarnation.

Consequently, like Christ, the priest is established as a mediator between God and men: he forms the bridge between God who is to be placated and men who are to be reconciled. He is a pontiff, in Latin *pontifex*, “bridge-builder”. This is the doctrine of St. Paul: “Every high priest”, the Apostle says, “taken from among men is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God, that he may offer up gifts and sacrifices for sins” (Heb. 5:1), starting with the sacrifice par excellence, Holy Mass.

The priesthood is also a vocation, but one infinitely superior to all other vocations because it is supernatural. God wants to shower humanity with abundant blessings and graces, and He has chosen the priest to be the special instrument for this task. Without the priest and the sacraments, many souls will starve spiritually and will find it difficult to get to Heaven. This is why nurturing and discerning true priestly vocations is of the utmost importance.

## Abundant Fruit for Our Humble Academy

It was just one year ago that we rejoiced at the ordination of Fr. Thomas Tamm. Now St. Joseph’s has the privilege to celebrate the ordination of yet another of her children, Fr. Jonah Garno, who has ascended the altar steps to the dignity of the priesthood.

Fr. Garno came to St. Joseph’s Academy at the start of his



second-grade year. Just like many of our students, he struggled to learn spelling and his multiplication tables, wrestled on the playground, and assisted at the daily school Masses. He learned to serve Mass and played football in the EFL.

The education and formation of this priest was similar to that received by all students who fill the classrooms of our school. It seems ordinary enough—but it is deceptively profound. In the midst of the history textbooks, the math lessons, and the catechism questions—between the school Masses and recess—is hidden a pearl of great price. It is the Catholic Faith in all its fullness which has been passed down to us by centuries of saints and scholars that is woven into the very fabric of a St. Joseph’s education.

This is the Faith that we transmit to every soul in this academy, whether they are called to be a priest, a lay brother, a plumber, a doctor, a mother or a father. It is the life-blood that runs through every subject, bringing the dull facts of history to life as an account of God’s working in the lives of His people and revealing the unfathomable wisdom of the Creator in the study of natural sciences.

The cheerful faces returning from recess rarely suspect the riches they are receiving with each passing day at St. Joseph’s. Yet our graduates—those who have gone on to pursue religious vocations as well as the alumni who are sending the next generation back to their alma mater—look back at St. Joseph’s Academy as a crucial foundation of their identity as Catholic men and women. They see clearly the flames of the love of God and of the true Faith that were ignited in the halls of their beloved school.



*“A vocation is not the result of a miraculous or extraordinary call, but rather the blossoming of a Christian soul that is attached to its Creator and Savior Jesus Christ by an exclusive love and shares His thirst to save souls.”*

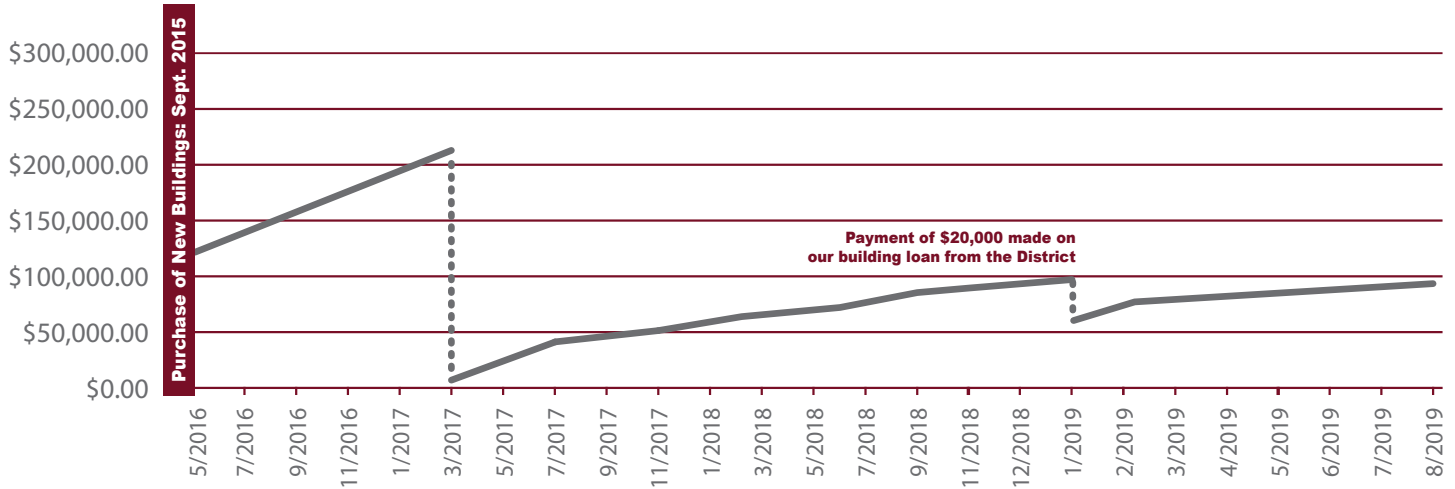
– Archbishop Lefebvre



# Planting Seeds of Vocations

## Operation Philomena Progress Since May, 2016

Current savings account balance is \$89,500



## Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 838

Number of donations recorded: 6581

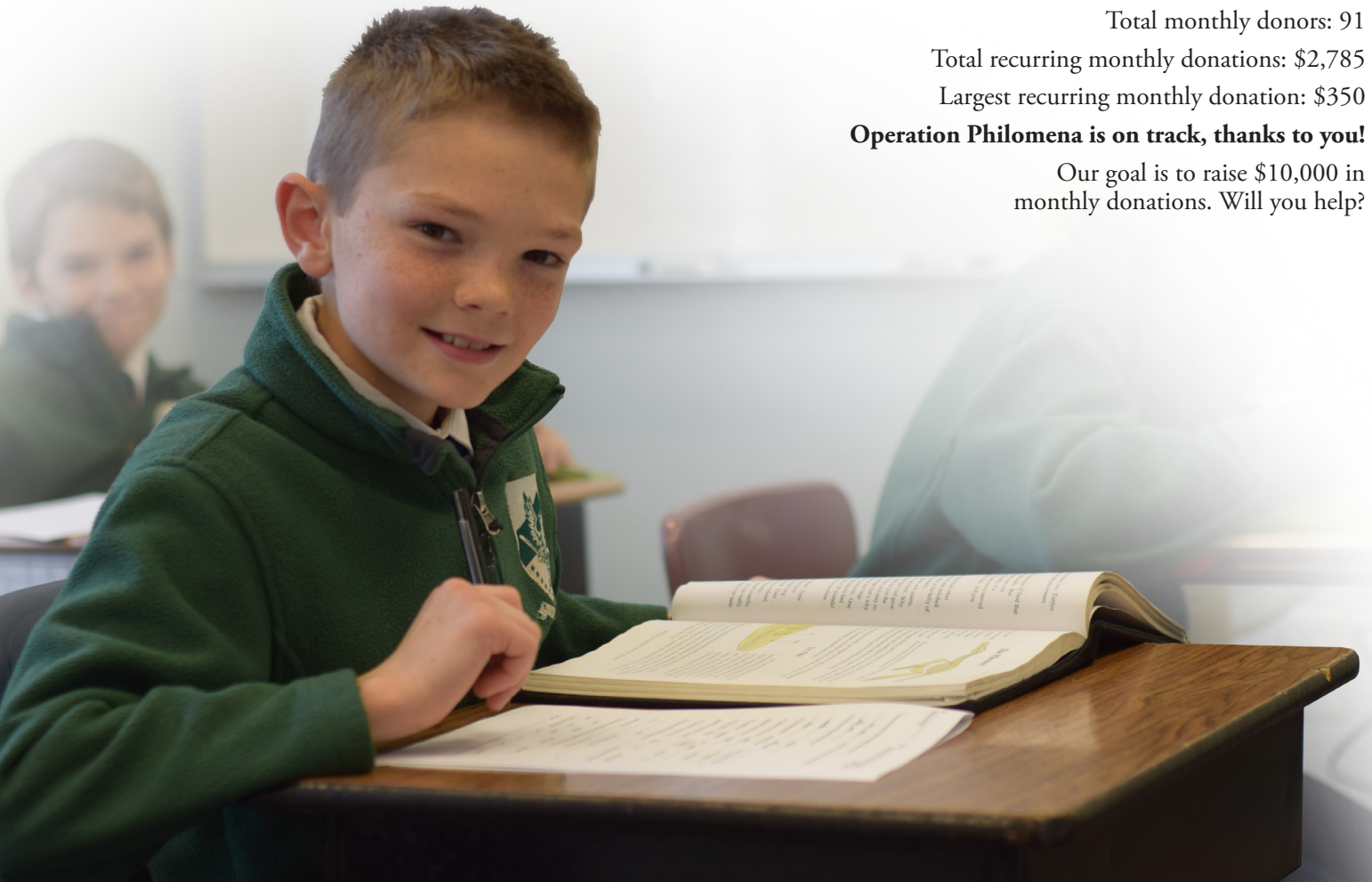
Total monthly donors: 91

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?



# 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 Sunday of each month*