

St. Joseph's Academy



Capital Campaign

July 2020

Volume 7, Issue 2

Dear Friends,

The 2019-2020 school year has come to a close, but in a far different manner than we ever could have imagined back in September! As of this writing, we are emerging from strict quarantine measures and beginning to plan for the start of school in the fall. Will we be back to “business as usual”? Will we be forced to make the best of remote education methods as we did this past spring? God alone knows...but we are confident that He will enable us to continue our work of Catholic formation and education of these young souls one way or another.

Both teaching and learning were a challenge during the quarantine days this spring, and yet the COVID-19 situation has taken a far more serious toll on the finances of our Academy. Our primary fundraiser, the SJA Rollerblade-a-Thon, was devastated by the pandemic. Almost 90% of our funds are generated by students requesting donations outside local stores. With quarantine

measures in place, these efforts were all but shut down this year. The students still did their best to gather sponsorships from friends and relatives, but without the community support gained through our storefront campaign, our totals are down over 70% from last year.

We desperately need to add one or two part-time teachers, but without the Rollerblade-a-Thon funds, the prospect looks bleak, at best. Subjects such as art, sports, and music will likely have tight or even non-existent budgets.

The events unfolding around us have brought out the best and the worst in many people. I have confidence that the generous benefactors of St. Joseph's Academy will rise to the occasion and provide the financial assistance we need to carry on our work in these challenging times. Will you be a part of our answered prayers?

Trusting in the Sacred Heart,
Rev. Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

Catholic Faith and Hope in Uncertain Times

Life at St. Joseph's Church and Academy has been far from typical in recent months. Like the rest of the world, life as we know it has been turned upside down by a microscopic virus. Yet, with eyes of faith, we can see the hand of God and His loving care for us in these challenging times.

As Catholics, we know that the Church and the sacraments were established by Christ Himself. Being outside of time, God saw clearly as in a single glance the challenges, persecutions, and triumphs of His Mystical Body throughout the centuries. COVID-19 does not come as a surprise to our Heavenly Father! He has allowed this challenge to stretch our faith, give us opportunities to practice virtue, and to grow in charity.

For the students and staff at St. Joseph's Academy, as well as the parish as a whole, the past few months have been a veritable obstacle course in their efforts to live Catholic lives and complete the academic year. To start with, on March 13th the administrators and teachers of SJA planned a short break to disinfect classrooms to ensure the safety of the children. Students brought many of their books home along with a week or so of assignments. The anticipated short break grew longer and longer as government-mandated "shelter in place" orders became widespread.

As soon as a lengthy shut-down seemed inevitable, a plan was put in place to implement an online-based suite of software to centralize communication between parents and teachers, make assignments available remotely, and allow for video classes. The transition to this new technology was a

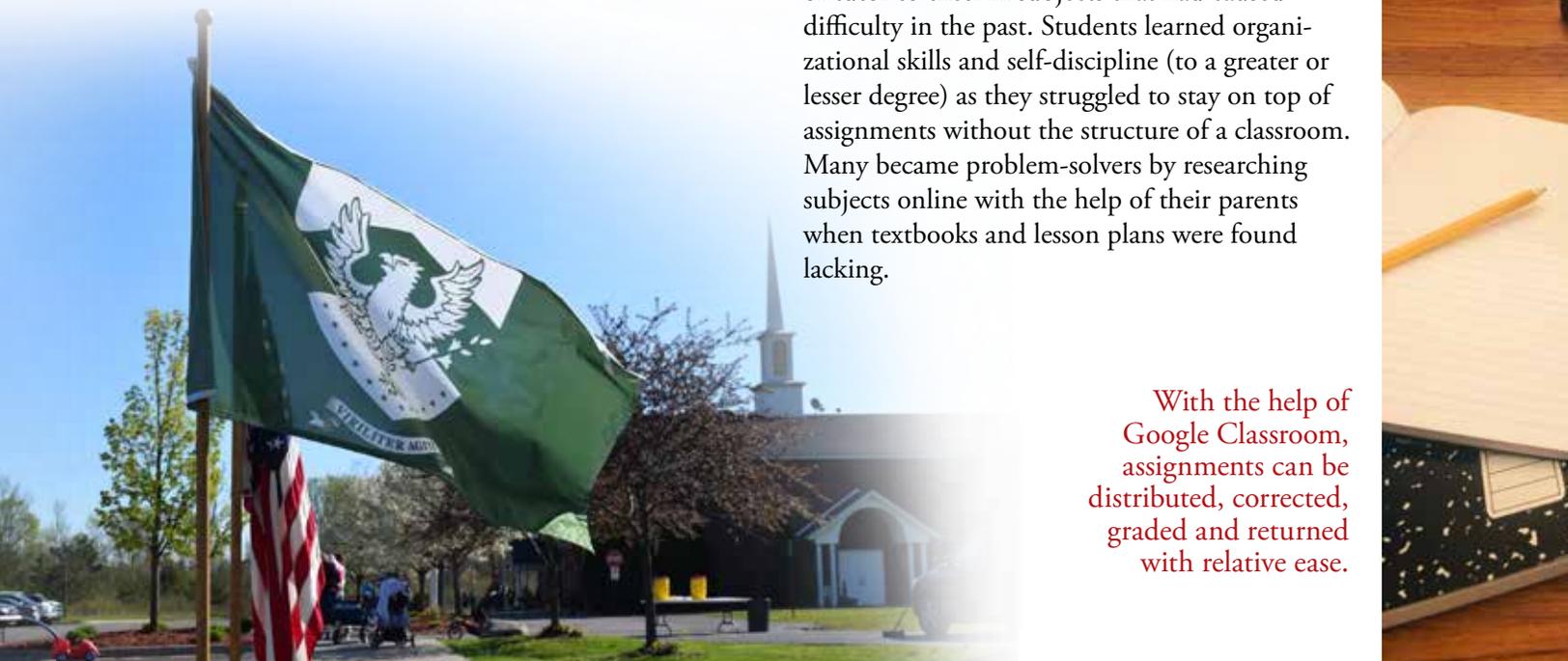
bit rocky, yet it has put valuable tools in place for the academy to use in the future if remote learning continues to be necessary or when life returns to normal.

In addition to suspension of in-person instruction at the academy, the shelter-in-place orders closed the doors of St. Joseph's Church for many weeks. Indoor public Masses were prohibited for a time, but the priests and faithful of St. Joseph's knew the infinite value of just one Mass. While working within ever-tightening restrictions — which even suspended Sunday communions and confessions for a time — Sunday Masses continued to be offered with the faithful assisting from their cars in the parking lot. An FM transmitter allowed for audio and eventually sermons to be heard in the parishioners' vehicles.

The care for souls that is the backbone of the pastoral ministry led the four priests stationed at St. Joseph's Priory to spend hour after hour before the Blessed Sacrament and in a modified, well-ventilated confessional providing the sacraments in all safety to anyone who desired to come by appointment to the church. In response to the generosity of the priests, many faithful who would not normally visit the church on a regular basis made use of their unusual quarantine schedules to gain the graces being offered.

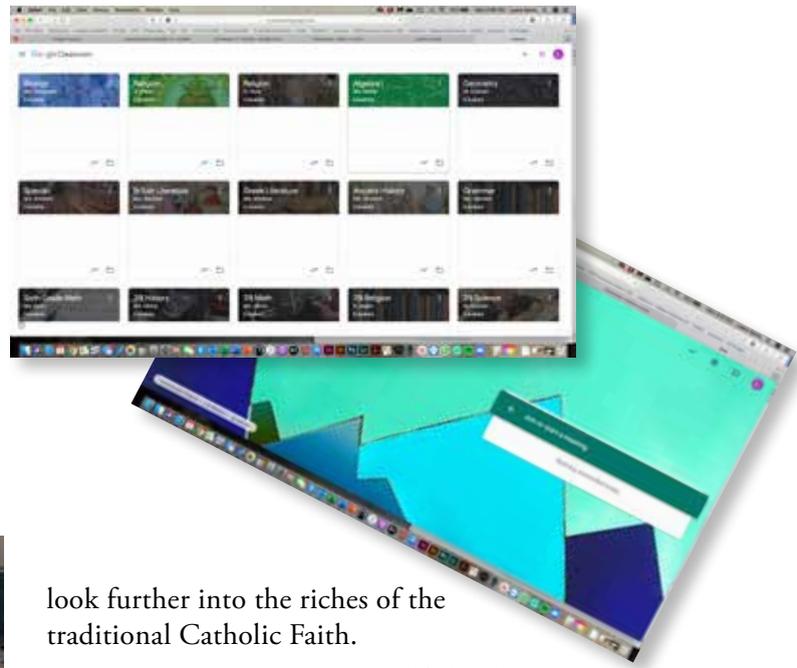
If you look with eyes of faith, it is easy to see the hidden blessings contained in this challenging chapter in the history of the Church — and of our humble parish and academy. While there certainly were many students who struggled academically in a remote learning situation, more than a few took advantage of one-on-one time with a dedicated parent or tutor to excel in subjects that had caused difficulty in the past. Students learned organizational skills and self-discipline (to a greater or lesser degree) as they struggled to stay on top of assignments without the structure of a classroom. Many became problem-solvers by researching subjects online with the help of their parents when textbooks and lesson plans were found lacking.

With the help of Google Classroom, assignments can be distributed, corrected, graded and returned with relative ease.



The images to the right show the Google Educational Suite software that our students used to access assignments and participate in video classes during the recent quarantine.

The cessation of diocesan Masses also provided a unique opportunity to reach out to devout Catholics unfamiliar with the Society of Saint Pius X and St. Joseph's Church. Visitors poured in to the "parking lot Masses" in a slow but steady stream week after week. Ushers, donning the obligatory mask, distributed welcome packets explaining the importance of the traditional liturgy and inviting visitors to



look further into the riches of the traditional Catholic Faith.

As the saying goes, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade." On a supernatural level, the teachers, students, and families of St. Joseph's have endeavored to do just that. They are grateful for the difficulties overcome and the lessons learned but pray for the day when they can return to their classrooms, frolic together at recess, and pray together in the chapel of their beloved St. Joseph's Academy.

St. Joseph's virtual classrooms allowed for some interesting innovation: a "bring your pet to class day" in Literature class!



While public indoor Masses were prohibited by law, the parishioners and visitors at St. Joseph's Church were grateful to be able to assist at the Holy Sacrifice from their vehicles in the parking lot. With the help of an FM transmitter, the sermon was even broadcast for the faithful in attendance.

Vocations Update



Fr. Thomas Tamm

Fr. Thomas Tamm is stationed in Nicholville, NY at St. Therese Chapel. He is in charge of the Eucharistic crusade, camp Honor (which has been cancelled for this year), the SSPX Podcast “True Heroes” which tells the stories of the lives of the saints, teaching 1st, 2nd and 8th grade Religion as well as sixth grade Latin at St. Therese School. He travels to the Dominican Sisters (Holy Name Chapel) in Masena, NY three times per week for Mass and to hear the students’ confessions at the girls’ school. Father Tamm also serves as the general organizer of sick calls and school activities at the boys’ school.

Brother Dominic Savio

Brother Dominic (Christopher Tomaszycski) has been stationed at La Salette Academy in Olivet, IL since the Seminary moved to Virginia in 2016. He serves as cook, kitchen supervisor, house father, bus driver, schola director, broadcaster for basketball and rugby games, teacher, and cheerfully handles whatever else needs to be done at his Alma Mater.

2019 was an exceptional year for Brother Dominic Savio. After the postulant and novitiate years, SSPX



Brothers take three sets of one-year vows, then two sets of three-year vows, before making their final (perpetual) vows. After having pursued the consecrated life for the last nine years to the day, Brother Dominic put his first foot into eternity with the pronouncement of

his final vows on September 29, 2019 in St. Mary’s, KS. “I Christopher Tomaszycski, in Religion Brother Dominic Savio, take the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in perpetuity.”

Fr. Jonah Garno

Fr. Garno is stationed in the heart of Durban, a coastal city in South Africa. On most Sundays, he attends to the pastoral needs of a small chapel made up of Zulu parishioners in an area called Folweni. During the week he says Mass at the parish chapel, visits the

sick of the parish, directs the Eucharistic Crusade, and tends to the various duties of the priory. Once every



two months he travels south to another coastal city, Port Elizabeth, where he says Mass for a small group of faithful. While it is difficult to be in a foreign land, he enjoys learning about the diverse cultures that make up South Africa, and he considers it a privilege to further the preaching

of the Gospel on the African continent.

Sister Jacinta

Sister Jacinta (Kristen Garbacik) continues her studies of the Franciscan Order while maintaining her housekeeping duties at the Convent of Christ the King in Kansas City, MO. She will be taking her second one year vows on August 2, 2020.



Edward Simmerer



Eddie has been at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary (now located in Dillwyn, VA) for six years and has just completed his first Theology year. He is currently on summer apostolate at the Brothers’ Holy Angels Novitiate in Winona, MN but will be back home in Michigan

soon. He has been kept busy with outside work such as chain sawing, splitting wood, and weed whacking as well as stripping and waxing the floors and taking inventory. Eddie has been able to use his musical skills tutoring the brothers in ear training and solfege for Gregorian chant.

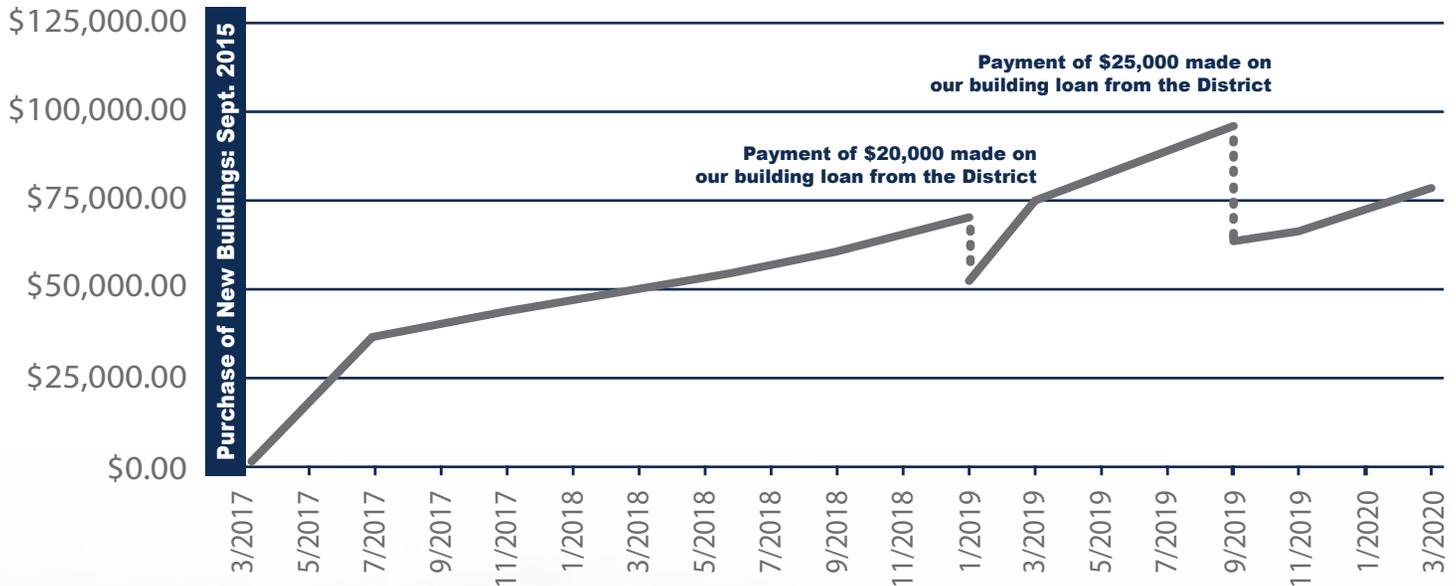
Scott Hetrick

Scott Hetrick has just completed his first year at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA and looks forward to receiving the cassock this coming fall.

See the Results of Patience and Perseverance!

Operation Philomena Progress Since March, 2017

Current savings account balance is \$76,000



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 831

Number of donations recorded: 7086

Total monthly donors: 79

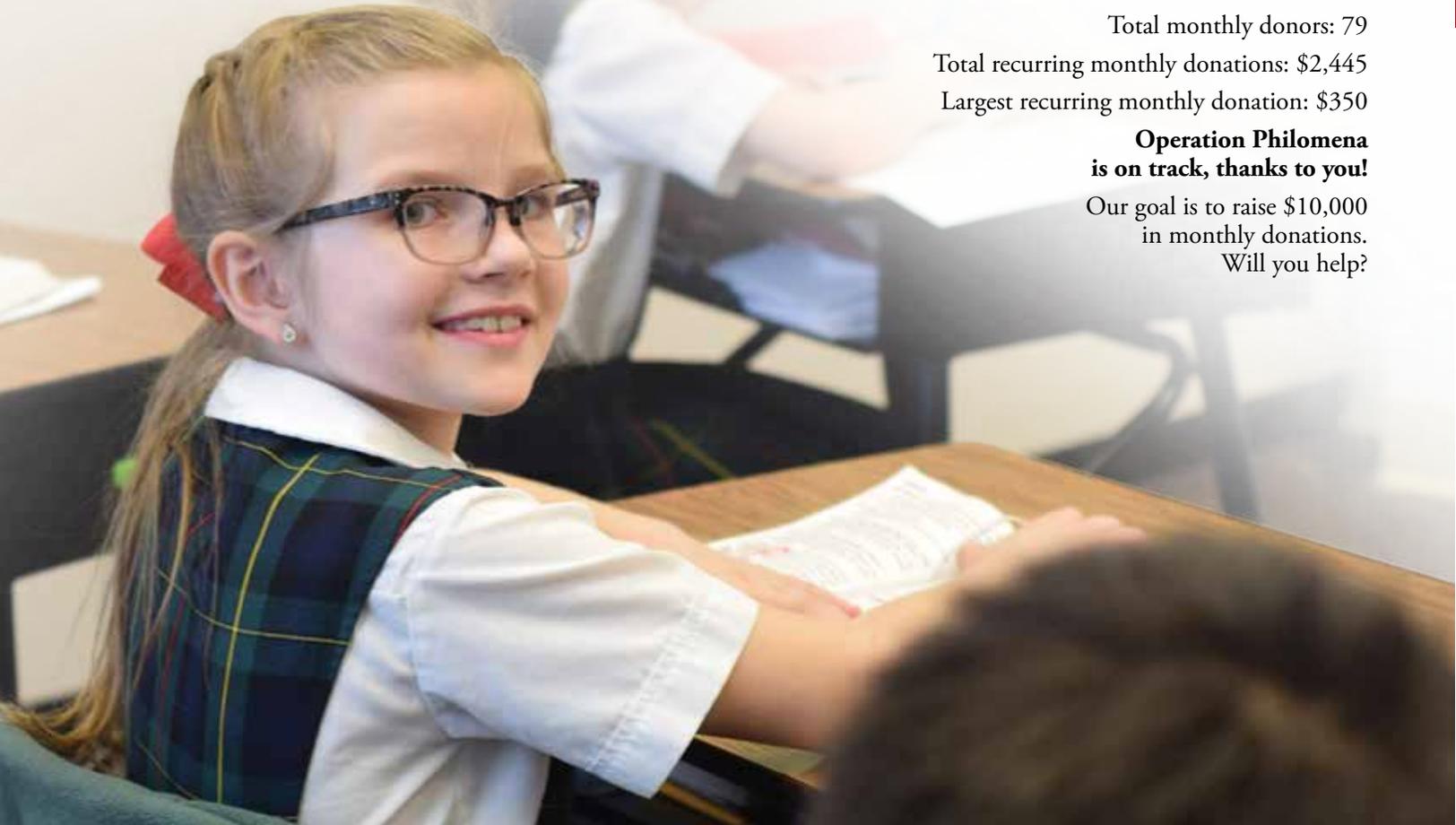
Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,445

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 lend a hand in these difficult times?

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.

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