

St. Joseph's Academy



Capital Campaign

March 2019

Volume 6, Issue 1

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up another difficult Michigan winter, we have so much to be thankful for. The brick buildings that make up our humble Academy are warm and well-maintained (if not overly spacious!) and our students and teachers are making good use of all the resources we have been given.

This issue of our newsletter highlights some of those resources. Most particularly, the educational support provided to St. Joseph's Academy through the District's recent efforts to improve curricula and teacher training across the US. Many of our teachers have graduated from this program and the results are more evident with each passing academic semester. The enthusiasm and confidence they bring to the classroom are contagious — spreading a love of learning at all levels.

In addition, we have been blessed this year with

expanded art and music programs to complement our already comprehensive liberal arts curriculum. In these pages you can see some of the results of our students' efforts as they explore these creative venues. We are proud of their efforts, and grateful to you, our benefactors, for making all of this possible.

The proper education of the next generation is no small task. We rely on your prayers and generous support to do what we could never do alone. Our students are grateful as well and pray daily for those who make their education possible. Please be assured of my prayers too, especially in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass — offered on the first Sunday of each month for the intentions of those who help us in this all-important work.

In Jesus and Mary,
Rev. Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

The Society's District-Wide Education Program: A Winning Partnership for SJA

As children of God, our goal in life is to find our way to heaven so we can live with Him for eternity. It is the job of every parent, every teacher, and every pastor of souls to help those in their care to find this path to heaven. As such, the main goal of Catholic education should be to equip each student with the tools to know Christ, to understand His plan for us, and to do His holy will.

Unfortunately, modern educators and educational theorists have deliberately perverted the proper understanding of the mission of education. In their worldview, there is no God, and no absolute truth — all truth is relative and, since they believe there is no God, they strive to create heaven on earth.

St. Joseph's Academy rejects this modern philosophy of education. We realize that the mission of the Catholic school is to impart to youth a philosophy of life consistent with the true Faith. Catholic students must be Catholic both in worldview and in heart. They must learn to see as God sees, and love as God loves. They must be concerned, not only with their own lives, or even with their own salvation, but also with the salvation of others and the good of Holy Mother Church.

When Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre founded the SSPX to defend the Catholic priesthood and the Mass, the western world was in the midst of a complete societal collapse. The enemies of Christ had set out to overturn Christian civilization and, to that end, had targeted the educational establish-

ment even within the Church itself. While not intended to be a teaching order, the Society of Saint Pius X, from its earliest years, has seen the necessity of providing a solid Catholic education for future priests, religious, mothers, and fathers.

Beginning in 2009, the US District Superior of the SSPX gathered a core group of dedicated teachers and turned for inspiration to the traditions of the great Catholic teaching orders. Basing their approach on the educational systems that formed the minds and hearts of the monks and saints of centuries past, they began to rework and standardize the curricula used by Society schools across the country. In addition, the hundreds of teachers that would use this curriculum needed to be both instructed and inspired with a vision for the restoration of these timeless educational methods. The Catholic Teachers' Seminars, held each summer in St. Marys, Kansas were the natural response to this need. Because of this centralized effort, smaller Catholic schools, even those in remote areas, now have resources available to provide the education young Catholics so desperately need. This valuable partnership allows schools like St. Joseph's Academy to pass on to the rising generation fundamental truths and the legacy of Christendom.

In the nine years since these district-wide educational efforts were begun, the results have been dramatic. The quality of education provided by Society schools has increased consistently as the seminars light a fire in the souls of teachers who then, in turn, ignite that same fire in their students. Many of the teachers at St. Joseph's Academy have been privileged to be trained at the Catholic Teachers' Seminars and have brought that knowledge and vision back to share with both staff and students at St. Joseph's.

Inspired by these lofty goals, we hope to inspire you, our benefactors, with the same vision. It is the duty of Catholics to assist in the proper Catholic education of the next generation. This role falls not only to the parents of the children, but to all Catholics — even if your own children are not yet school age, or if they are fully grown. The standard has been raised; the goal is clearly in sight. St. Joseph's Academy has the ability to provide the Catholic education our students desperately need in these difficult times. What we need are partners to financially support our efforts to really make a difference in the hearts and minds of the next generation. Will you help us ensure the growth of Catholic education by your generous investment in our financial future? The hearts and minds of our youth will receive immeasurable benefits!



Father Steven McDonald, First Assistant to the District Superior, recently visited with parishioners and some of our graduates who are pursuing religious and priestly vocations.



Music and Art at St. Joseph's Academy

The study of music and art is an integral aspect of a well-rounded Catholic curriculum. As a vital part of the humanities, the arts should be found in every good Catholic school. Unfortunately, due in part to the many changes the Academy has faced in recent years, we have been without teachers for these important subjects in the past. Not so this year! A recent art show and competition as well as a Christmas music concert have highlighted the efforts of St. Joseph's Academy students.

Music

Mrs. Ryah Sharpe, who is in her second year teaching music at the Academy, has worked throughout the fall semester preparing the students for their performances. She did a

magnificent job teaching the K-2 grades a rendition of "The Friendly Beasts", complete with costumes and a stable built by one of the parents. For the 3-10th grades she expanded upon the two and four-part harmony introduced last year and added some pieces of liturgical origin: *Puer Natus* and an arrangement based on the O Antiphons of Advent.

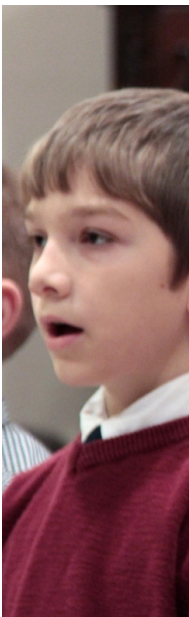
For the remainder of the school year, the music curriculum will focus on music theory and a study of great composers for the upper grades, an exploration of instruments and the orchestra for the middle grades, as well as musical notes and theory for the youngest students. As our music program gains momentum, we hope for even greater things in our upcoming concerts.

Visual Arts

Even without a traditional "art room," St. Joseph's new art teacher, Mrs. Laura Garno, has managed to bring out the artistic talents of her students. The class began with drawing exercises to encourage the children to visualize their subject matter as an artist does. They next practiced drawing the human face by meticulously copying photographs. The project culminated with a self-portrait drawn by the students in charcoal. These impressive drawings are displayed in St. Philomena Hall and were judged by members of the faculty. Prizes were awarded to the three best, with five other students receiving honorable mentions.

In the coming months, the art classes will turn their attention to the study of color. While examining the theory of color mixing, they will practice by doing color studies in acrylic paint. All of the methodical mixing of color will bear fruit as the students try their hand at an acrylic landscape painting this spring.

St. Joseph's Academy has high hopes for expanding their music, art, and drama programs in coming years. We have the faculty, as well as students eager to learn — we only lack the funds, the materials and proper facilities. Please consider supporting St. Joseph's Academy in our efforts to improve our visual and performing arts programs — providing an essential complement to the traditional Catholic education we have faithfully provided.





“Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.”

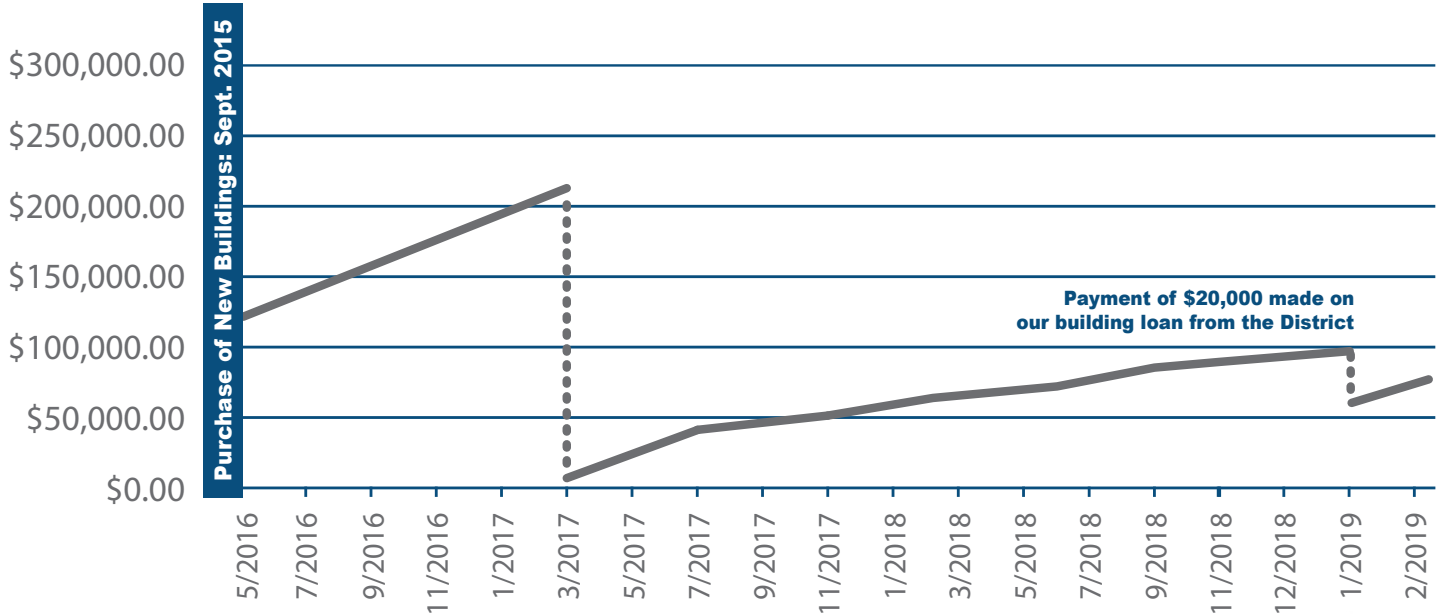
– Plato –



Nurturing Faith for the Future

Operation Philomena Progress Since May, 2016

Current savings account balance is \$78,000



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 830

Number of donations recorded: 6209

Total monthly donors: 90

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,775

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: _____

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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