

# St. Joseph's Academy



## Capital Campaign

March 2022

Volume 9, Issue 1

Dear Friends,

As the struggles of the pandemic fade into history, we are pressing forward with renewed vigor to make up for lost educational opportunities and to lay the foundation for future success. This school year, as always, will bring its own train of crosses and blessings, but we trust that God will use it all for the good of the children entrusted to our care.

This issue features an article written by Fr. Gerard Beck, now serving as First Assistant to the District Superior and Superintendent of the schools in the US District. After many years heading up some of the largest SSPX schools in the country, Father Beck has keen insights into the necessity of Catholic education in the modern world. He also addresses the high calling of a child of God and how Catholic education can equip our children for the challenges they will face in the future.

For over 30 years we have been preparing souls to have a positive impact on the world with the help of benefactors like you.

In this issue you will find an interview with one of our alumni, Miss Kristen Garbacik, who has generously given herself to following a calling to the Franciscan Convent of Christ the King in Kansas City. Now known as Sister Jacinta, she lives out her vows by prayer, sacrifice, and acts of charity with the same enthusiasm she manifested during her 13 years at St. Joseph's Academy.

May that joyful enthusiasm accompany you as well, dear reader, and inspire you to join us in our mission of authentic Catholic education.

In the Sacred Heart,  
Rev. Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

# In the Footsteps of St. Francis



## *How long did you attend St. Joseph's?*

I attended St. Joseph's from 6th through 12th grade (1999-2006).

## *What are some of your fondest memories?*

Assisting at Mass, partaking in the annual play, singing in the Christmas and spring concerts, and being with my friends every day. Also, for a few of my high school years, the girls would go down the street to a family's house in order to separate from the boys' high school. The family had a pond with a dock, and on days when the weather was nice, we would sit on the dock for lunch.

## *When and how did you discern your vocation?*

During high school I had the opportunity to visit a few convents as part of group trips organized by our pastor. The idea of the religious life did interest me, but there were some details that I thought I could not handle, so I concluded that it wasn't God's Will for me.

After going to college and practicing as a nurse for some time, my pastor unexpectedly recommended looking into the Franciscans. I didn't think anything would come from it but thought I should at least make a visit. I was surprised at how at home I felt. Mother offered to let me come back as a postulant and I did.

## *What is it about the Catholic education at SJA that led to your generous response to God's call?*

The entire day was centered around the Mass, which put everything else into perspective and obtained for me

innumerable graces. My teachers were interested in me, which I readily perceived. When children can tell they are loved, they blossom. The teachers also had a great esteem for the religious life—some went on to pursue vocations themselves. Because St. Joseph's is a priory, we were blessed with the presence of three priests. One encouraged the devotion of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, and another was a strong promoter of St. Louis De Montfort's True Devotion to Mary. Overall, my experience at St. Joseph's impressed upon me the importance of the interior life, which is essential, because a vocation can only be understood and valued through this supernatural lens.

## *What about the Franciscans was especially appealing to you?*

Three things I found particularly attractive while visiting were the recitation of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the balance of prayer, work, and recreation; and the fact that they were based in the United States, which meant that I could focus on the religious aspects of the life and not on adapting to a foreign culture.

Franciscan joy, which I became acquainted with more fully after joining, was especially appealing to me. Franciscans are supernaturally happy-go-lucky, a characteristic which is aptly described in Francis of the Crucified by Fr. Myles Schmitt in which he says, "The Franciscan is the joyful pilgrim, the thankful stranger, the happy wanderer in this world, walking footloose and fancy-free down the lane of life and into heaven."

The source of this infectious joviality comes from the



realization that as creatures everything we have comes from God Our Father, Who gives and takes away for the good of one and all. This moves the Franciscan to impose merrily on Providence, to enjoy everything without being attached to anything, to cherish God and His Will alone, always thoroughly convinced that whatever He ordains is the absolute best. Added to this, is the joyous reality that the Son of God Himself chose to embrace our lowly human nature, to be poor, to suffer, to die—with us and for us. The Franciscan response is an effervescent gratitude that expresses itself by attempting to imitate Him in all things, but especially His poverty of spirit.

### ***What is your life like on a daily basis?***

I am a house Sister, so most of my days are spent within the convent walls. My prayer life with the Community is comprised of Holy Mass, the Little Office in Latin, Community prayers in English, one half hour of meditation, 15 minutes of spiritual reading, and the Rosary, all of which are scheduled throughout the day. I also make one hour of Adoration, the Stations of the Cross, and visits to the Blessed Sacrament on my own.

One of my duties is assistant novice mistress, which consists of overseeing the daily schedule of the postulants and novices and helping them to get acquainted with the practical details of convent life. I am also currently the infirmarian, for which my nursing background has proven to be a great asset. I share the responsibility of portress as well, which can certainly keep me on my toes traveling from one end to the other of our 86,000 square foot building to answer doors. Laundry, kitchen duties, and house cleaning are also scheduled throughout the week. Additionally, I act as “guardian angel” when young women visit to discern a possible vocation, helping them to follow the schedule and to connect with Sisters in the various departments.

Recreation takes place after supper and lasts for about one hour. During this time we talk and engage in handcrafts. I usually make Rosaries or crochet while taking part in the conversation and laughs—we laugh a lot. There is also a “working recreation” period each day, that starts after lunch and lasts approximately one hour, in which the Sisters are allowed to talk as they work. Though not labeled “recreation”, we also take turns visiting with our elderly Sr. Imelda throughout the week.

### ***Do you have any advice on fostering vocations in the home?***

The home should be a happy place where children are shown how to love and serve God cheerfully in the details of everyday life. Nurturing a spirit of gratitude toward God is essential in achieving this goal. This virtue brings peace and joy to the soul, cultivates humility, dilates the heart, and creates a solid rock of trust and confidence in God, Who takes care of all and permits nothing to occur unless it is for our ultimate happiness. All of this will contribute to the development of a generous spirit that asks: What can I do for God, Who is so good to me? If God calls, they will answer.





# A Daunting Mission

“We have fallen upon times when a violent and well-nigh daily battle is being fought about matters of highest moment, a battle in which it is hard not to be sometimes deceived, not to go astray and, for many, not to lose heart....”

— *Leo XIII, Sapientiae Christianae*

It was well over a century ago that Pope Leo XIII spoke these words, so stark in their description of the reality faced by Catholics the world over. True then, they are even truer now. For never have the enemies of Christ and of His Church shown themselves more bold than today, and never has the mass of men been more easily led by them to destruction.

It is indeed a sobering picture, even more so when we think of our little ones, as yet innocent and naïve, being obliged to face this reality. Yet this is the world in which God in His Loving Providence has placed them, the world in which they are to make their way, make a difference, save their souls.

Theirs is a daunting mission..., and equally so is that of the Catholic educator. For it is his affair to see that they are up to the task.

## What Is Education?

Fr. Edward Leen, a Holy Ghost Father renowned for his spiritual writings, but equally qualified to write on the subject of education, described the process and mission of education as follows:

“Christian education is a cultural process by which the reasonable being ushered into this world is prepared, during the years of childhood and adolescence, to play his part worthily as a citizen of the city of men and as a citizen of the city of God. It is an all-embracing process concerned with the whole man, with his intellect, his will, his emotions, and his physical powers: it aims at securing,

by a balanced cultivation and development of all these, that the person may not, in the arena of life, prove a traitor either to his manhood or his Christianity.” (Edward Leen, C.S.Sp., *What is Education?* Sheed and Ward, 1944)

It is a noble vision, and one that looks to the essential. A true education is one that prepares a child for the great task of living as it becomes a Catholic man to live. Marked by our materialistic, comfort-driven world, we easily lose sight of this. Education is too often reduced to the very pragmatic “Will it help me in the long run get a better job?”

A person’s life is not defined by level of professional success, dollars earned, and social status achieved; it is defined by how a person lives, and what he becomes. Certainly no education can be called complete that does not equip a young person with the tools he needs to earn a living. But a job is not a life.





## A Man Formed in Mind, Heart, and Will

“The distinctively human life is the life of reason, and, in consequence, the principal task in preparation for it is the right formation of the intellect, the instrument of reasoning. The chief function of the educator is the forming of the mind to truth, for truth is the health of the intelligence, as falsehood is its disease and corruption.” (Edward Leen, C.S.Sp., *What is Education?* Sheed and Ward, 1944)

Seeing the reality of things is not enough, of course. Truth has consequences, and being a rational creature, man’s actions are meant to be guided by reason—not a given, for “a man may have light in the brain and darkness in the heart.” (George MacDonald, *The Gifts of the Christ Child*, 1882) Thus the importance of training not only the intellect, but also the will.

By discipline, structure, and follow-through, the educator must work to instill discipline in the child. A man must be master of himself, able to resist, when duty calls, the siren song of pleasure and ease; able likewise to oblige himself to do the difficult. Without this inner strength, he will be a slave to passion: to fear, to desire, and, ultimately, to despair. The educator must thus resist the sentimental inclination to over-protect the child, and to shield him from the suffering of effort and consequences. He must, by delegating responsibility and by obliging perseverance in difficulty, help the child acquire the strength and confidence life will demand of him.

Real inner strength is not a question, however, of an “iron will.” A will can be strong in pursuit of the wrong things; a heart can be determined but selfish. True strength is the strength of virtue: love of the right things for the right reasons; noble love determining right choices, even if the cost be great. It is a strength that requires not only self-discipline, but also rightness of view... The soul that has been given this grandeur of vision and taught to love what is beautiful, ordered, and noble, is a soul that is disposed to virtue and goodness.

## The Christian Man of Character

The tragedy of our world is that Catholics no longer know what it is to be Catholic. The great majority of Catholics today are not only ignorant of Catholic truth, but bereft of Catholic principle; they are Catholic in name, but they see, judge, and choose in a way, did they but know it, that is irreconcilable with their Faith.



The mission of the Catholic school is to impart to the youth a philosophy of life consistent with the Faith:

“A man who has received a truly Christian education is one who has been trained to test the worth of all things, whether of conduct, achievement, projects, art, literature, and institutions, by values based on Christianity. In short he must have a Christian mind: he must have a Christian approach to all facts and problems.” (Edward Leen, C.S.Sp., *What is Education?* Sheed and Ward, 1944)

We might go further: he must be Catholic in both worldview and in heart. He must see as God sees and love



All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

– Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*



as God loves. He must be concerned, not only with his own life, or even with his own salvation, but also with the lives and salvation of others. He must care about something bigger than himself—about his family, the Church, Christendom—and he must be driven to give of himself for their good.

“Hence the true Christian, product of Christian education, is the supernatural man who thinks, judges and acts constantly and consistently in accordance with right reason illuminated by the supernatural light of the example and teaching of Christ; in other words, to use the current term, the true and finished man of character.” (Pius XI, *Divini Illius Magistri*)

### Forming a Catholic Elite: A Noble Mission

The youth of today are future soldiers of Christ the King. Lose them, and we lose the future of Christendom. Win them to the Cause of Christ, and we gain the leaders of tomorrow our world so desperately needs, leaders who by their competence, integrity, and heart will have a real impact on the world.

It is with this in mind that we must approach the education we give them. Our efforts aim at forming an elite; young people taking to heart Our Lord’s exhortation that they be “the salt of the earth” (Mt. 5:13) and “the light of the world” (Mt. 5:14); young people “elevated, by an inspiration of greatness and nobility, to fight against the surrounding vulgarity that withers the soul.” (Fr. Yves le Roux, Rector, St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary)



Such being the goal, it is clear that mediocrity in any of its varied forms has no place in our schools, or, by extension, in our homes. Sloppiness, lethargy, the “just get by” mentality that is such a mark of the world today—all are destructive of both mind and will, all compromise the formation of Catholic men and women of true character.

“The way to love anything,” Chesterton says, “is realize that it might be lost.” Loving our children, let us invest everything we have in their formation.

—Fr. Gerard Beck, Rector of St. Mary’s Academy and College. (Reprinted and abridged from *The Angelus Magazine*, July 2012)



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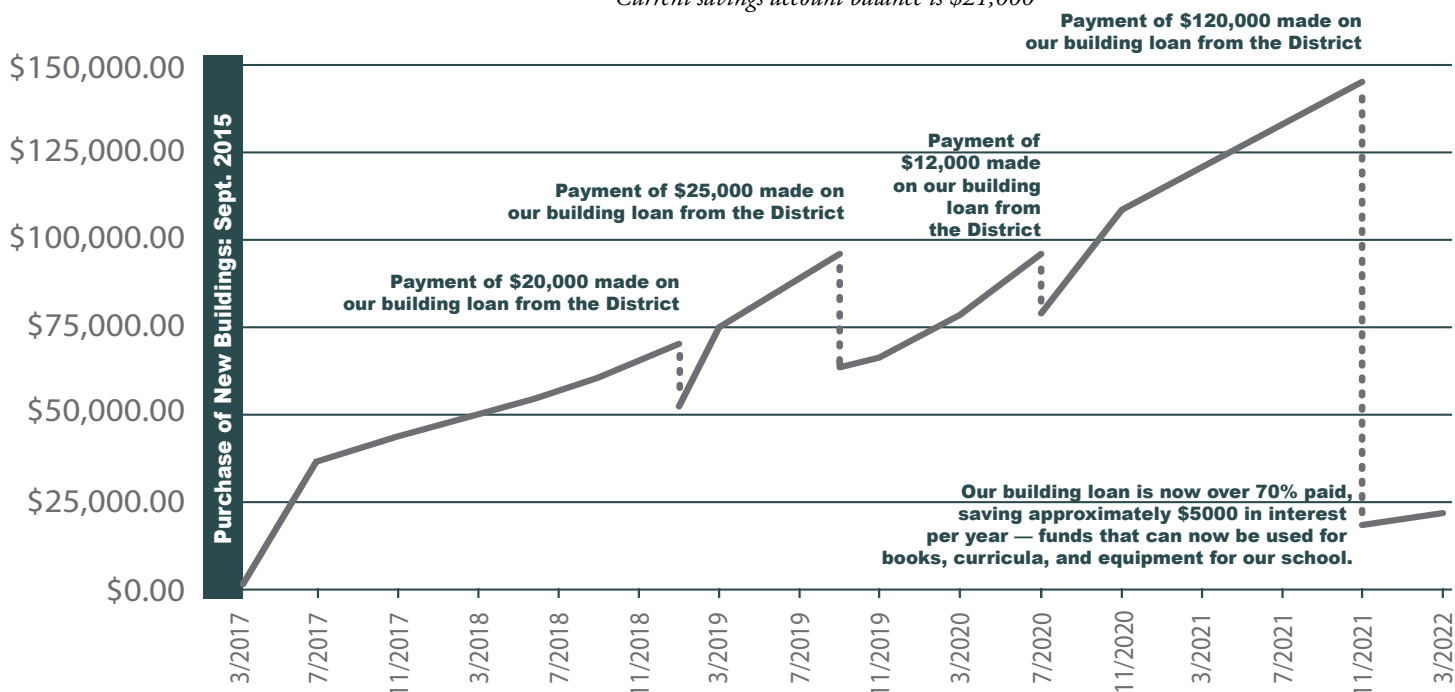
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## Operation Philomena Progress Since March, 2017

Current savings account balance is \$21,000



## Look How Far We've Come!

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Number of donations recorded: 8697

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Largest recurring monthly donation: \$350

**Operation Philomena is on track, thanks to you!**

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 in monthly donations.

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