

# St. Joseph's Academy



*Looking  
to the future*



## Capital Campaign

Dear friends and benefactors,

Over the past few months we have endeavored to pen or print a letter of thanks to each one of you. Several hundred good souls have come forward with donations, prayers, and promises to help make our hopes of a new school building a reality.

I wish now to send a general circular letter, to keep you informed of progress and, more importantly, to express once again our profound gratitude for your kindness.

The young boy you see above is called Noah. He entered second grade this fall. He is a quiet, smiling, shy little lad. I once found him rubbing tearful eyes and looked to his mother. She whispered that I need not worry: her little boy was born with too many tears inside of him and needed to shed a few in order to take on the challenges of real life.

Noah, along with his fellow students, is a source of constant concern to us, but not for anything he has done. When he dares to speak, his playful conversation is a delight and joy... which only makes things worse.

We do not know if Noah will still be with us in a few years. We hope, he hopes, his parents hope that he will still be able to attend St. Joseph's. But this depends on our capability to provide this child, and many like him, with a new school building.

Look at the pictures overleaf, and understand our concern. Please be good to us. Request a brochure and pass it on to a friend. Noah and his friends are God's favorites. They need a good school. We must make it happen.

Devotedly in Our Lord and Our Lady,

*Father John Brucciani, Principal*

# Winter Survival

Last winter was the severest on record in Michigan. Snow fell in abundance and temperatures were glacial. Our aged portable buildings could not stand the cold and the ice. Propane prices shot through the roof. We were therefore obliged to close down the school for two months. The heating bill made government spending look amateurish.

A similar winter is forecast for 2014-15.

When we contacted families to tell them of the school closure, the children were delighted, but they were soon bouncing off walls and chaffing to get back to school.

Our teachers held emergency counsel and improvised temporary home-school programs. A particular class would gather in the church basement after weekday mass. Their teacher would assess, correct, advise, encourage, remonstrate, reward or chastise as needed.

What a relief for all when classes reopened!

The school has been running for 20 years. Finances have always been a source of worry and distress. Used portable classrooms were all we were able to afford. Cold in winter and hot in summer, they are wild beasts when it comes to energy expenses.

They have lived their lives and must be laid to rest. One day soon, we pray, when we can move into permanent structures. Our children are worth it.

*Energy bill for school year 2013-14: \$20 000, with two months closure during the coldest periods.*

*We issued mandatory fleece jackets in September, as temperatures in the classroom rarely exceed 65°.*





# Christian Revival

Saint Joseph's Academy endeavors to offer Catholic families the means to educate their children in an environment adapted to their intellectual, moral and spiritual needs.

The school seeks to be a safe haven for families. Children learn not only to read, write, count, and calculate, but more importantly, to think. Independent of state control, St. Joseph's does not follow Common Core. The ideas and ideals of Catholic Education are older and wiser than those of bureaucratic committees. Our children are trained according to traditional methods of learning, such as our parents and grandparents remember. Thus they are able to analyze and to understand. True freedom requires an agile mind.

The school also offers an environment favorable to good behavior and virtue. Children are encouraged to place others before themselves, and God before all else. They are expected to help out with various duties. Generosity, or love of neighbor in action, is encouraged and rewarded. Forgetfulness of self and awareness of others make for happiness. Happy children become happy, confident adults.

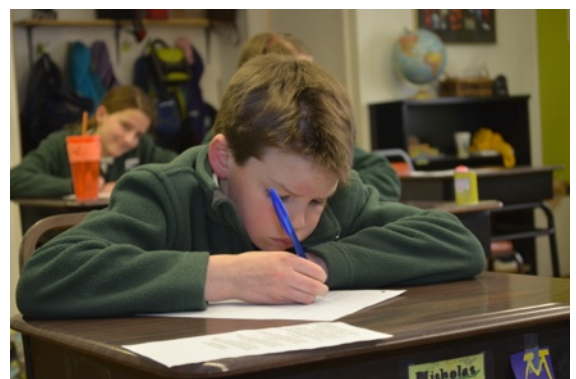
Finally, the school is a world in miniature, which seeks to give God His rightful place. Each school day begins in chapel with a prayer. The children assist at Holy Mass. They learn their catechism and have frequent access to the confessional. The priest is present throughout the school day. Feast days are celebrated. Christ in all and all for Christ.

**A healthy mind, a gracious heart, a holy soul: these are what we seek to foster and to achieve.** Children make up the greater portion of all that is innocent in the world. We must provide them with the best environment to preserve that innocence, so that it flowers into virtue and cheerful love.

Help us to help our children.



*Our old bell system broke down some time ago. Purchased third-hand, it was over 50 years old. We therefore acquired a new bell ringing system. American built, it is proving very reliable. It is cheap to maintain and runs on Granola bars rather than electricity, which is useful when the power goes out.*



*However, Nicolas is disappointed with the new system. He can no longer daydream during his weekly math test. He now has to finish before the bell, which wasn't a problem when there was no bell.*

# A Saint's Counsel

In his last letter to his many benefactors, St. John Bosco wrote: *"The best way to obtain the forgiveness of sins and eternal life is to practice charity to young children. Whatsoever you do to one of these, you do to Me."*

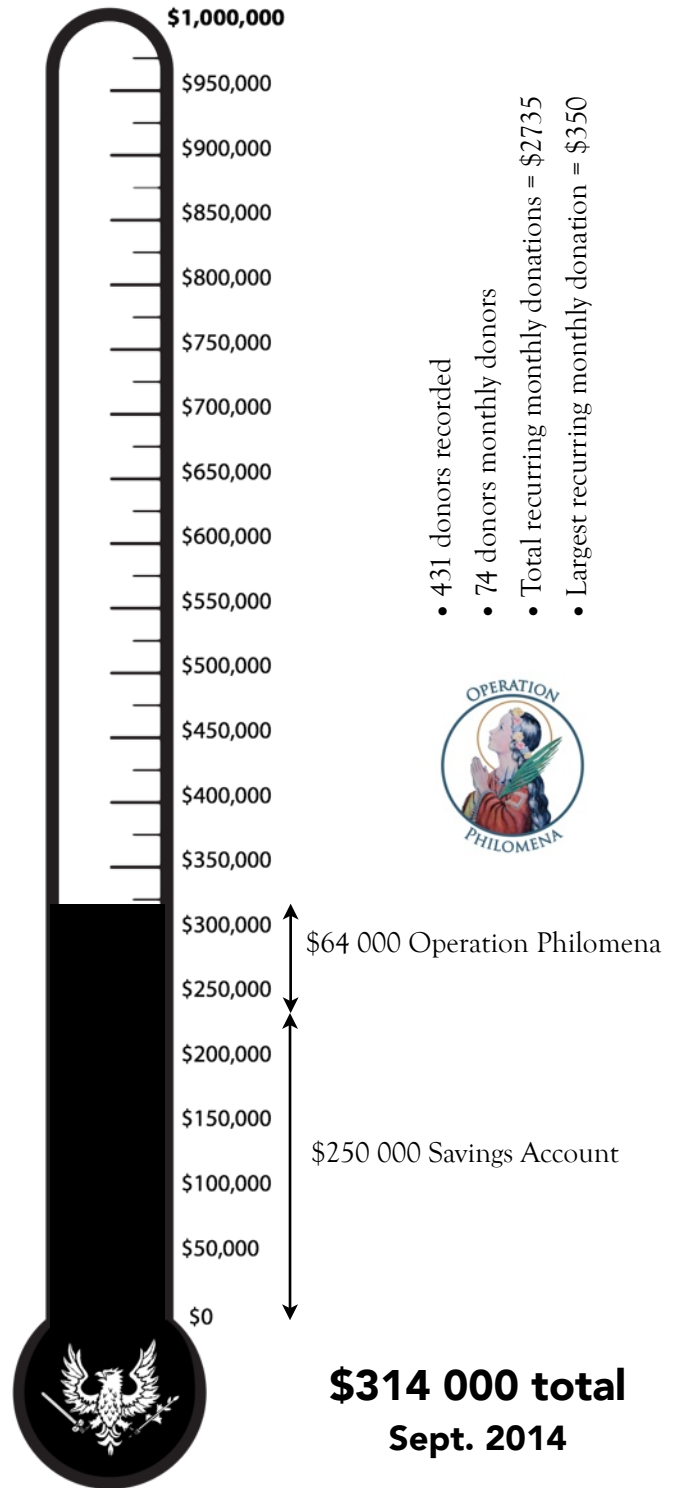
We all hope to win heaven. A saint shows us an easy way to get there. When we stand at the judgment seat of God, the demons will rage, accusing us of our many sins and claiming us as their own. But Christ will cut them short: "Yes, they sinned, but they pitied Me and helped Me, every time they gave to one of My little ones."

A school is a child's universe. It is a place of knowledge, grace, and happiness. It is a little world in which Christ is king. It is the fruit of so many sacrifices and so much charity. This is why God loves Catholic schools, and blesses those who help them.

St. John Bosco continues: *"With so few means available to families to help bring up their children in the faith, the Blessed Virgin Mary has appointed herself their special advocate. She thus obtains extraordinary spiritual and temporal graces for all their benefactors."*

Dear friends, may God bless your efforts and sacrifice. He wishes to act through you. Christ needs you in order to bless and protect His little ones.

The children pray daily for all their benefactors. Please send us your prayer requests. A child's prayer is a powerful means of intercession and grace. We will place our intentions at the altar, to be remembered each day at the Holy Sacrifice.



Saint Joseph's Academy • 28049 School Section Road • Richmond, MI 48062

[www.academysaintjoseph.com](http://www.academysaintjoseph.com)

Holy Mass celebrated each 1st. Friday of the month for all benefactors.

# Ways to Give

## Check

Most donors find that a personal check is the easiest way to make a gift. These donations are fully tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to St. Joseph's Academy, Operation Philomena.

## Pledge

A pledge is a commitment to make a donation in the future. Once a pledge is made, the donor will be considered a participant in the campaign. For tax purposes, a gift is recognized on the date of payment. By making a pledge, a donor defers payment of their gift (in accordance with tax planning or other financial reasons) to a future date of their choosing. This enables the donor flexibility while allowing the academy to plan the future more accurately. Pledges may be made via the form attached.

## Planned Giving

A number of planned gift vehicles exist for donors to make gifts to a charity over time. Some of these include gifts of life insurance, bequests, remainder trusts and other annuities. Many unique and beneficial tax advantages can be gained through these gifts. Please contact the Academy Office at (586) 784-9511 or email [armada@spx.org](mailto:armada@spx.org) for more information about planned giving.

## Recurring Gift

A recurring gift allows for a donor to complete their contribution over a period of months. This method can ease the financial strain of a one-time donation, and afford the donor the opportunity to make a larger contribution over time. See form attached.

## Credit Card

Another immediate way for donors to contribute is through a credit card gift. These gifts can be made online at [www.academysaintjoseph.com](http://www.academysaintjoseph.com) or via the form attached.



# Building a future for Saint Joseph's Academy, MI

Donor Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Tel : \_\_\_\_\_

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 future gift 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 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 Academy, to initiate monthly debit entries from my (our) banking 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 Academy, to initiate debit from my credit card indicated below.

One time debit  Monthly debit Mastercard/Visa/Discover (indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card number : \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Account Holder Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Transaction : first business day after 15th day 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 Academy and Financial Institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it

Signature(s) : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

God bless you for your kindness! Questions? Call us at 586-784-9511. You may also donate online at [academysaintjoseph.com](http://academysaintjoseph.com)

**Return form to: St. Joseph's Academy • 28049 School Section Rd. • Richmond, MI 48062**

**Holy Mass is offered for all our benefactors on the 1st Friday of each month.**