

St. Joseph's Academy



Capital Campaign

September 2018

Volume 5, Issue 4

Dear Friends,

Another school year has begun and in the midst of the bustle and excitement we, as Catholic educators, must keep our eyes fixed on the overarching goals of St. Joseph's Academy: to equip each student with the tools to know Christ, to understand His plan for us, and to do His holy will.

In this, our third year at our new location, we have settled in and have begun to make the most of our new facility. Our classrooms are bright and clean, our cafeteria spacious and functional — but we lack the space for a proper library. To solve this dilemma, we will be working this year to create library areas in each classroom, providing easy access to age-appropriate reading material to all of our students.

The importance of good literature in the lives of children is an often-forgotten aspect of the educational heritage of the Church. For countless saints, a book was the impetus which

propelled them across the gap between knowing and doing. This issue of our newsletter will provide you with a glimpse into the literary focus of the academy, as well as introduce you to some of the new faces here at St. Joseph's. We are grateful for them and for all the teachers at our school — they are the most important part of this apostolate of the formation of young Catholic souls.

But it is you, dear readers, who play a truly pivotal role. Without your generous support we would be unable to attract the quality teachers who can truly make a difference in the lives of our students. As always, we thank you in advance for your prayers and for your continued support of St. Joseph's Academy,

In Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Todd Angele, Rector



The New Faces at St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's Academy is blessed with veteran teachers who have been with the school since its founding in 1990. These teachers are an unchanging part of the traditions of the academy and are always welcome faces at the start of each new school year. Still, the new staff who join us each September bring a wealth of new experiences, varied backgrounds, and an abundance of gifts and talents for which we are truly grateful.

This year St. Joseph's has been blessed to have a fourth priest stationed at the Armada priory. Father David Gillilan has returned to Michigan once again! Father was a house father for the boys' boarding school here in 2002-03 — a fruitful year for him in discerning his vocation to the priesthood. He returned again for his first assignment following his ordination in 2013. Now, after several years of apostolate in his home state of California, he has returned to teach the children he has seen grow up over the years. In addition to teaching Religion and Latin, Father promises a challenging Phys. Ed. course to the boys of SJA this year!

Miss Anna Niedzwiecki, a graduate of St. Mary's College and the Catholic teachers training program in St. Marys, Kansas, will be teaching a combined 3rd and 4th grade class this year. Miss Niedzwiecki grew up in Minnesota with seven brothers and sisters. She has spent two years in France becoming fluent in the French language and indulging her love of travel, writing, and music. She is enjoying her

first few weeks in a very full classroom (16 students!). Our special Patron, St. Philomena, must have sent Miss Niedzwiecki, since she had chosen this saint for her confirmation name!

Last, but certainly not least, we introduce to you Mr. Mark Amesse. Mark's background includes a BA in English Literature with a specialization in British Literature. His experience as a substitute teacher and his interest in reading, writing, and history will serve well to enrich his class of 5th and 6th graders in the coming year. Mr. Amesse lives on a small farm with his wife and ten children and can be found in his spare time tending to his goats and sheep or perfecting his skills as an amateur beekeeper.



Wonder and the Catholic Imagination

One of the sad results of our modern society is the loss of good old common sense. Man is no longer in touch with reality — with the nature of things. Our children are growing up in an artificial world of TV, video games, and computers. Instead of contemplating the beauty of God's creation, they are fascinated by man's inventions. Even more tragically, they are brainwashed by the media into thinking that there is no unchanging truth, that what was true yesterday can be false today.

How can the Catholic school preserve the minds of children from this corruption? How can we teach common sense, straight thinking, and an appreciation of the true and the beautiful? One of the most powerful tools to this end is the study of good literature.

Other subjects by their very nature, influence the will of man through the intellect; literature approaches the will through the heart of man. What other subjects teach abstractly, literature brings to life in a human way. Because of the transforming power of good books, St. Joseph's Academy utilizes a curriculum based on the kind of literature that formed the minds and hearts of the saints of centuries past.

Mrs. Clare Hable has been opening the minds of Saint Joseph's students to the wonders of classic literature for over 10 years. From her training at St. Thomas Aquinas College to her experience as a mother of eight, she draws her students to see the eternally significant and timeless truths contained in the beauty of classic literature. What follows is a brief interview of Mrs. Clare Hable, Language Arts teacher at St. Joseph's Academy:

From your perspective as a veteran language arts teacher, what role does literature play in the Catholic curriculum?

Good literature gives my students a glimpse of the human side of the history they study in merely broad outline. It awakens their minds to the big questions pondered by saints and scholars of a saner age. Even in the youngest grades, stories and poems contain the echoes of eternity that awaken a child's deepest longings; they confirm the instinct of the child that life is something serious, and that the adults around him can be trusted to lead him toward the fulfillment of his own role in that life. Fairy tales, especially, are made of the same stuff

— laughter and pain, desire and satisfaction, love and hatred — that constitutes all human life. To experience these things vicariously in the greenhouse of the Catholic school enables children to face the world with a solid Catholic formation on every level.

Can you give some concrete examples from your teaching experience?

Several years ago my students memorized the lovely poem, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." At first glance it seems like a simple children's rhyme. However, upon further consideration it reveals something much more profound about classic poetry and literature. Wondering about the beauties and intricacies of nature can lead children to more and more thoughtful study, possibly even the study of complex science in adulthood. Not all poetry or literature leads to science, nor does all wonder lead to great discovery or invention. But the place of good literature in the Catholic curriculum simply cannot be overstated.

How does good literature, even without a religious theme, lead students to an appreciation of truth and ultimately to God?





Mrs. Clare Hable

Poetry or prose is beautiful when it has fine style, elegant artistry or thoughtful and imaginative words and meaning. It can be as lyrical as a medieval ballad, as magnificent as a Shakespearean drama, or as deep as a metaphysical poem. But each work has a refined beauty proper to its genre. Each work is appreciated individually and studied as part of a consideration of the wonder of life, of God and of His Creation. The beauty of the stars lends itself to the contemplation of nature, and by extension to the Glory of God. So again, our little poem serves to awaken the children's sense of wonder.

What do you see as the most important benefits of the study of literature in the Catholic school?

As I delve into the classics with my students, I consider the value of these literary masterpieces. They are tried and true and have stood the test of time. There are old favorites and unfamiliar gems to be uncovered. As we read, students discover famous heroes and heroines. They gasp at villains and sigh with the mournful. Their intellectual maturity is developed and their cultural awareness broadened. The characters they encounter may be flawed or fallen, victorious or virtuous. The complexities of life are richly presented so that the knowledge of the work of literature becomes for the student an endless tapestry forming a picture of the timeless riches in Christian and pre-Christian thought.



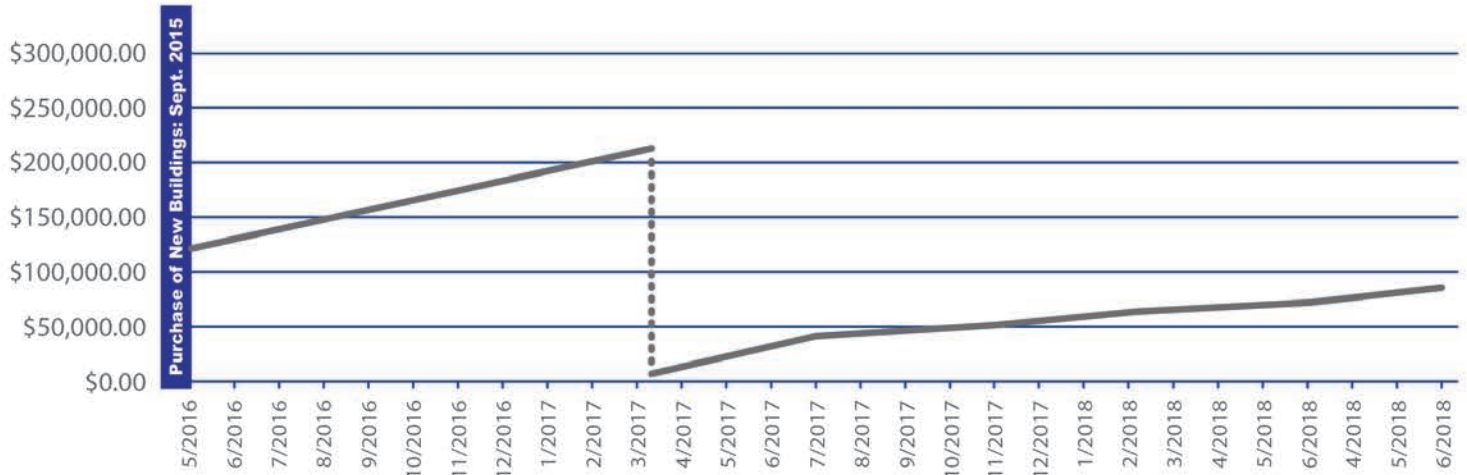
“Outside the sacraments and the liturgy the greatest help for the full blossoming of Christian life, lies in the Catholic classics.”



Nurturing Souls for the Harvest

Operation Philomena Progress Since May, 2016

Current savings account balance is \$78,560



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 836

Number of donations recorded: 5,803

Total monthly donors: 68

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,160

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 Help Our Children?

"The best way to obtain forgiveness of sins and eternal life is to practice charity to young children. Whatsoever you do to one of these, you do to Me."

—St. John Bosco



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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.

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God bless you for your kindness! Questions? Call 586-677-9511 • You may also donate online at www.stjosephs-academy.com.

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Holy Mass is offered for all our benefactors on the First Friday of each month