

St. Joseph's Academy



Looking to
the future.



Capital Campaign

February 2016

Volume 3, Issue 1

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

It is an honor and joy to draft this note to express my utmost gratitude for your generosity. Having recently received my assignment as pastor and principal of this wonderful establishment and inheriting the commendable work of Fr. Brucciani, I can only say "Thank you"!

There were many things to learn upon my arrival in Michigan this past August. One of those was Operation Philomena. It only took me a matter of minutes to understand that one of my many roles here would be to keep our friends and benefactors informed of the exciting progress of our Capital Campaign by means of this quarterly update.

Although I have only met a small percentage of our long distance donors, it seems that we are part of the same family. And that is what we are — if we recall that we are all part of the Mystical Body of Christ. Your

collaboration in Operation Philomena has only made this union more solid. Thank you for being part of this family of St. Joseph's!

In this, my first campaign letter, I wish to take the opportunity to share with you a few words from an alumnus. As I had the honor to graduate from this Academy on May 31, 2002, I can type the words first hand! May this newsletter be a means of expressing my gratitude: first to you, as benefactors of St. Joseph's, and also to my alma mater, as a source of formation and fostering of my priestly vocation.

Rest assured that following in the footsteps of my beloved predecessor, Fr. Brucciani, I offer each First Friday Mass for your intentions.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,
Father Richard Boyle, Principal

Following Suit



"Thank you for providing us with a warm place to study and recreate during the brisk Michigan winters!"

Upon arriving here at St. Joseph's, I was warmly greeted by old friends and new. Having been here as a student once upon a time, many faces and names were fresh in my memory. But there was so much to learn. Fr. Brucciani kindly offered to stay a few days to bring me up to speed on the many aspects of my new position and to give me much valuable advice. Among other things, Fr. Brucciani advised me of the importance of writing, to communicate with the faithful, and reading, to plant the seeds from which inspired writing will flow.

During my first months here I came across a text that is quite relevant to our Operation Philomena Campaign: "For a long time past I have had a great desire to suggest to you a very simple and beautiful way of giving glory to the Sacred Heart. What I am going to ask will not be possible in all families where this [letter] is read. But when a little group of true [benefactors] have given the example, others will follow their lead. What I propose is to [set aside a few cents per day] at home in the same spirit of love and reparation which inspires you when watching before the Blessed Sacrament."¹

This quotation speaks of a natural action of man — giving back in return for what was received, which may in turn serve as an example for others. My father often mentioned the times he received requests for donations towards his alma mater. He would state, "I cannot donate towards my school, because they no longer hold the doctrines of the Faith. It is not permissible for me to support the errors they are teaching."

What a tragedy! But it is a reality for many persons educated by Catholic institutions which over time have been compromised by the errors of modernism. Where then can we direct our natural desire to give? For those who cannot in conscience offer material support to their alma mater, there are other worthy causes which could benefit from your God-given generosity.

St. Pius X waged war against the errors of our time. As he led the Church at the beginning of the 20th Century, it was stated that, "[The Pope] has [the] duty to look not only to the spiritual needs of the Roman people but to see that the faithful throughout the world were thoroughly instructed in the fundamentals of their faith. The onslaught of false doctrines could only be checked effectively if the rampart of true doctrine were built firm and strong. The weeds of error

flourish only in the soil of ignorance. It is of little use to hoe at the weeds while the soil remains [i]nfertile."²

This is the goal we have set here at St. Joseph's Academy. After 40 years of apostolate at our former property in Armada we have been called to another ground to plant the same seed — one saturated in divine wisdom, fostered by dedicated teachers, and absorbed by the thirsty souls of our youth. In the past, Divine Providence directed that St. Joseph's flourish at our Armada location; here bloomed the first American seminary for the SSPX, the first convent for our sisters in this country, a parish school, a boys' boarding school, later transitioning to a girls' boarding school. Now we have been led to even richer pastures. The soil of Armada has been well-used, and we look forward to the fertile ground of Ray Township.

God has called me back to my alma mater. Although I now pace new halls, the same spirit I received fills the air amidst the freshness of the new location. The truths I was taught before are the ones lived and taught today. Grateful for this grace to serve my alma mater in the capacity of her father, I wish not only to profit from what has been given to me, not only to serve this parish and school through my vocation, but also humbly to support her monetarily. I have seen many generous souls sacrifice what little they have to help this cause. Now in turn, I offer a small token for the future of my alma mater. Today the Academy has recorded my monthly pledge of \$10.00.

I cry out to all, but especially to the alumni of St. Joseph's Academy, to follow suit. What fruit could be produced tomorrow, if only we all would offer those few cents per day in a spirit of love and reparation to the Sacred Heart?



1. Jesus King of Love, by Father Matteo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC. page 149

2. Pius X, Father Hieronymo Dal-Gal page 158

Same Name, New Location, Same Soul

Churches of old were built stone by stone, brick by brick. Schools today are constructed bill by bill, month by month. In past centuries, it took every last brick and the persevering efforts of generous families to provide for the future. Many people did not live to see the fruit of their labors. Today, we have a more splendid grace. We not only receive from God the reward for working to reestablish a Catholic society, we have the opportunity to see the results.



St. Philomena arrived at our Church just three years ago. It only took her two and a half years to allow us to purchase our new property. Deo Gratias! In bygone days, this would be considered a miracle. It is a miracle today as well!

Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign has consequently come to a close. Our goal for that phase was

\$1,000,000. Thanks to your generosity, we had \$650,000 as a down payment when we purchased the property in September of 2015. Although we did not reach our \$1,000,000 goal before this providential opportunity to purchase property presented itself, we now need to move forward.

Phase 2 of our Capital Campaign has begun! The goal set for this phase is \$1,000,000. These funds will offset the expense of the property and provide for our future at this new location. Renovations are presently being done to the school portion of the new property. After this project we may make modifications to the new church building. There is a proposed third building which will be constructed in the near future. Your prayers are appreciated as we seek to know God's will in these crucial plans.

It must be noted that since our presence has been discovered at our new Ray Township location, the interest



has been high. Due to our new sign and road frontage, St. Joseph's has received many visitors, communications, requests, and comments. New faces have appeared at Mass, at other ceremonies, and

at our frequent work days. A handful of devoted souls have already registered as new parishioners. One visitor noted, "You have landed on a gold mine!" These visitors have told us, "There are many

souls wanting the truth. You have it and the modern Church does not. Once they know you are here, they will come." I have also received requests about our academy. Many locals long to find a good Catholic school for their children, as they are not pleased with what is currently available.

I beg both your prayers and your financial support as we look to the future, bearing the same name, and in a new location, but still having the same soul.

Rest assured of our decade of the rosary for your intentions as we start each academic day!





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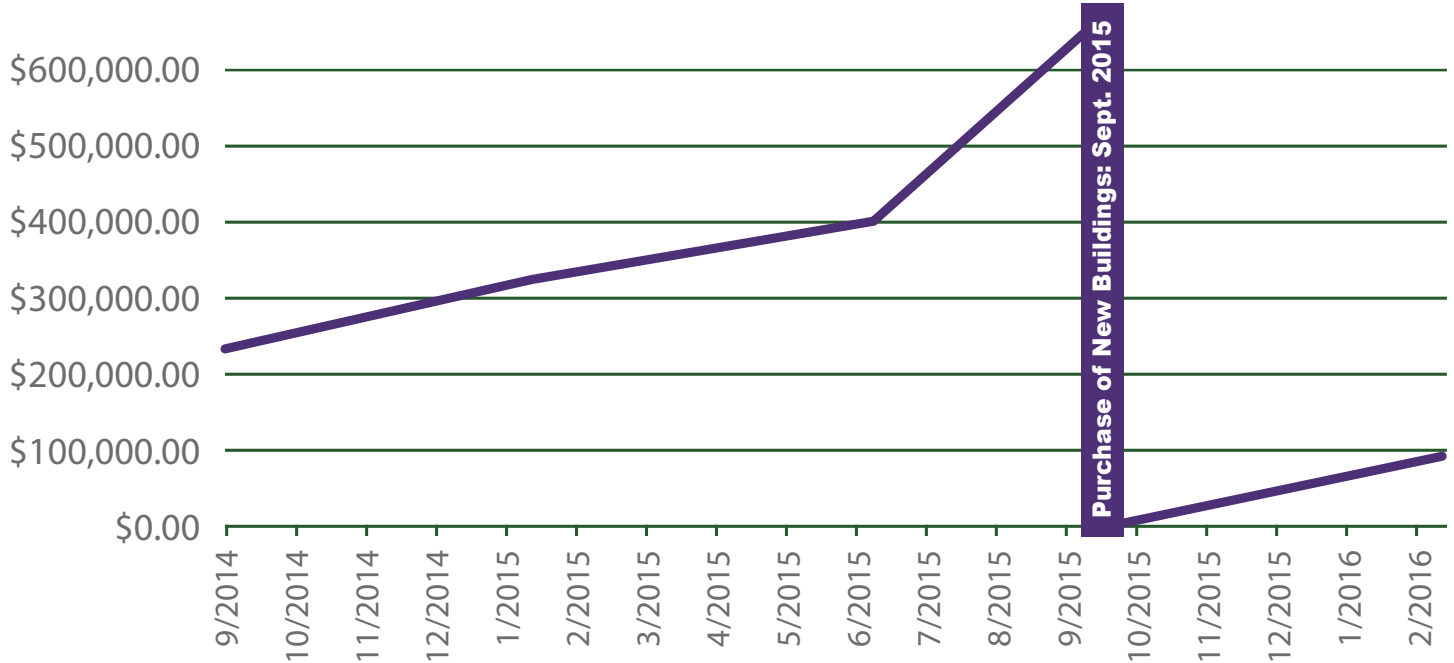


Progress & Hope

Operation Philomena: Phase One

Phase Two

Current savings account balance (after building purchase) is \$93,000: \$55,000 from Operation Philomena and \$38,000 from the US District appeal.



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 682

Number of donations recorded: 3004

Total monthly donors: 97

Total recurring monthly donations: \$3293

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?



A Solid Future for 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: _____

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 15th 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 586-784-9511 • You may also donate online at www.academysaintjoseph.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 Friday of each month