

St. Joseph's Academy



Capital Campaign

March 2018

Volume 5, Issue 2

Dear Friends,

Maybe you are an old friend of St. Joseph's Academy, one of our alumni, a friend, neighbor or grandparent of our students, or perhaps you are just interested in finding out more about this exciting place—then read on. The articles and images in this newsletter are intended to demonstrate the exciting things going on at St. Joseph's Academy and inspire you to share the profound hope we have for the future: both for the young people who are being formed by our dedicated teachers and for the future of our academy.

At St. Joseph's, we are excited about the future because what we offer our students is unique in the world of modern education. Here, children are taught—by

the timeless principles of Catholic education—to think rather than just cut-and-paste. In addition to our rigorous academic program, our teachers work tirelessly to impart to their students a sense of duty, integrity, and responsibility. We strive to form solid Christian character so that our students will be assets to our society and shine the light of Christ in the darkness of this modern world.

We encourage you to read more about the mission of St. Joseph's Academy and consider how you can help us to continue to be a ray of light and hope for today's youth.

Gratefully in Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Todd Angele, Rector

Duty, Honor, and Generosity

Today, the quality of the average teenage or young adult worker gives employers reason to question the state of our nation's educational system. John Rosemond, well-known speaker on the training of children, says of today's employers that, "Their uniform lament is that young people are entering the job pool expecting the employer to tolerate what their parents tolerated: sloppy work habits, disrespect toward authority, a casual attitude toward rules, and a reluctance to accept full responsibility for the tasks they are assigned." If our students leave St. Joseph's Academy with that same entitlement mentality and defective character, we have utterly failed to give them the tools they need to live the Gospel and be a light for Christ in a world corrupted by universal selfishness.

Any public school can teach the basics of Grammar and Mathematics. Some schools may even do a better job at preparing students for standardized tests or at helping them to learn a volume of politically correct propaganda. But without the formation of solid character which must be the foundation of a student's academic progress, the child is ill-prepared to enter the modern world as a strong and well-formed citizen and soldier of Christ.

The solution to this dilemma can be found only in religion, as Pope Pius XI said in his Encyclical on the Christian Education of Youth:

Disorderly inclinations must be corrected, good tendencies encouraged and regulated from tender childhood, and, above all, the mind must be enlightened and the will strengthened by supernatural truth and by the means of grace, without which it is impossible to control evil impulses, impossible to attain the full and complete perfection of education intended by the Church, which Christ has endowed so richly with divine doctrine and with the Sacraments, the efficacious means of grace.



The correction of these disorderly inclinations and the establishment of habits of solid virtue can be summed up in the concept of character formation. The word "character" comes from a Greek word meaning an instrument used to engrave or cut furrows. Character, then, consists of the sum total of all the qualities that have been engraved upon the soul. A life of character is a life dominated by sound Catholic principle, or in other words, a perfectly formed will.

The development of character in children should be the supreme objective of all parents, priests, and teachers. As Pope Pius XI described in the same encyclical:

...the true Christian, the product of Christian education, is the supernatural man who thinks, judges, and acts constantly and consistently in accordance with right reason illumined 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.

At St. Joseph's Academy, our students are privileged to have regular classes in catechism and Catholic doctrine taught by traditional priests. The Mass, along with the sacraments of confession and holy communion, provide a continual fountain of grace to nourish these innocent souls.

But while grace is essential, it does not relieve priests, parents and teachers of the duty to develop to the utmost the natural strength of character which



True

"...because thought noble known form of is the highest and nob images of God. If to think, it is to help the like unto their teacher their teachers, God."

—Lecture on the Eminence of St. Thomas Aquinas, Fr. John Gilson, Director of Studies, St. Joseph's Academy, Mediaeval Studies, Toronto



our young people are capable of. We need to awaken in students this spirit of profound generosity. There is a nobility that lies in each child's soul, dormant, perhaps, but never dead. If we would encourage young souls to be strong and generous to face the challenges of the modern world, this sense of nobility must be aroused and spurred on.

The teachers and priests at St. Joseph's Academy strive to instill in our students an old-fashioned yet ever-relevant concept of duty. This duty can be said to be four-fold:

1. Duty to God: to profess the Catholic Faith in both word and deed in an increasingly hostile world
2. Duty to the Church: to live their Catholic faith as generous and active members of their academy and their parish family
3. Duty to their neighbor: to be an example of virtue and integrity and of generous service to others

4. Duty to society at large: by striving for excellence in everything, even when no one is watching, and by striving to contribute to the common good rather than adopting the prevailing mentality of entitlement.

This formation of Christ-like character is not the work of a day or of a few weeks. It is the art of arts, studied and perfected by Catholic educators over centuries. In this, our humble academy, we seek to utilize these time-honored methods of Catholic formation to bring our students to value honesty, integrity, and the persevering pursuit of excellence. We believe that within the walls of St. Joseph's Academy is a rare oasis of true Catholic education. An oasis which can grow and spread in its influence with the help of friends like you.



Nobility

It is the highest and most activity in nature, manolest among the known teach is to cause others to em in becoming not only rs but unto the Teacher of

*Science of Teaching, Etienne
es, Pontifical Institute of
to Given on April 14, 1953*



Our Selfless Teachers

Think back on your years in grade school or high school. If you had to point to one aspect of those years which had the most significant impact on who you are today, wouldn't most of you think of a special teacher—one with a unique knack of inspiring their students to rise above the ordinary? Teachers like that are worth their weight in gold and leave a legacy of eternal proportions. In her book, *Ordinary Students, Extraordinary Teachers*, Marva Collins says, "...most human beings are as good as they are because some unknown teacher cared enough to continue polishing until a shiny luster came shining through."

The mission of St. Joseph's Academy is to provide a solid education based on timeless Catholic principles. We strive to provide a safe haven in which our children can grow and learn, yet mold their young souls to be strong and generous to face the challenges they will face in the modern world. To accomplish this lofty goal, we need quality textbooks and lesson plans, adequate classrooms, abundant resources for sports, music, and drama programs. But ultimately, without skilled teachers who truly love their Catholic Faith and take seriously their mission to pass it on to their students—along with a love of learning in every sphere—the most perfect curriculum can do little to fulfill our mission.

I was asked recently what I would do with a very large donation towards the work of St. Joseph's Academy. What single financial investment would have the biggest positive impact on the education of the students here? The answer is clear. Having the financial resources to attract, keep, and train an excellent teaching staff is a goal of paramount importance. Of all the costs related to the running of St. Joseph's Academy, the most under-appreciated is the cost involved in hiring highly qualified teachers.

Unfortunately, the generous teachers who give their time and talents to the students of our academy are paid only a fraction of what they deserve for their efforts. When we consider that an average public school teacher in Michigan earns around \$55,000 per year, and the aver-



age private school teacher around \$36,000, we should be filled with gratitude for the teachers working in traditional Catholic schools for around 45% less pay, because our budgets simply do not allow for more.

But justice demands that we do all we can to provide adequately for these generous and talented teachers. Well-trained teachers who have honed their skills over years or even decades deserve at least a living wage for all they do for the formation of our students. It is these quality teachers who will provide the kind of education that good Catholic parents are seeking for their children. They will enlarge the reach of our academy and enable it to shine the light of the traditional Catholic Faith even more brightly in southeast Michigan.

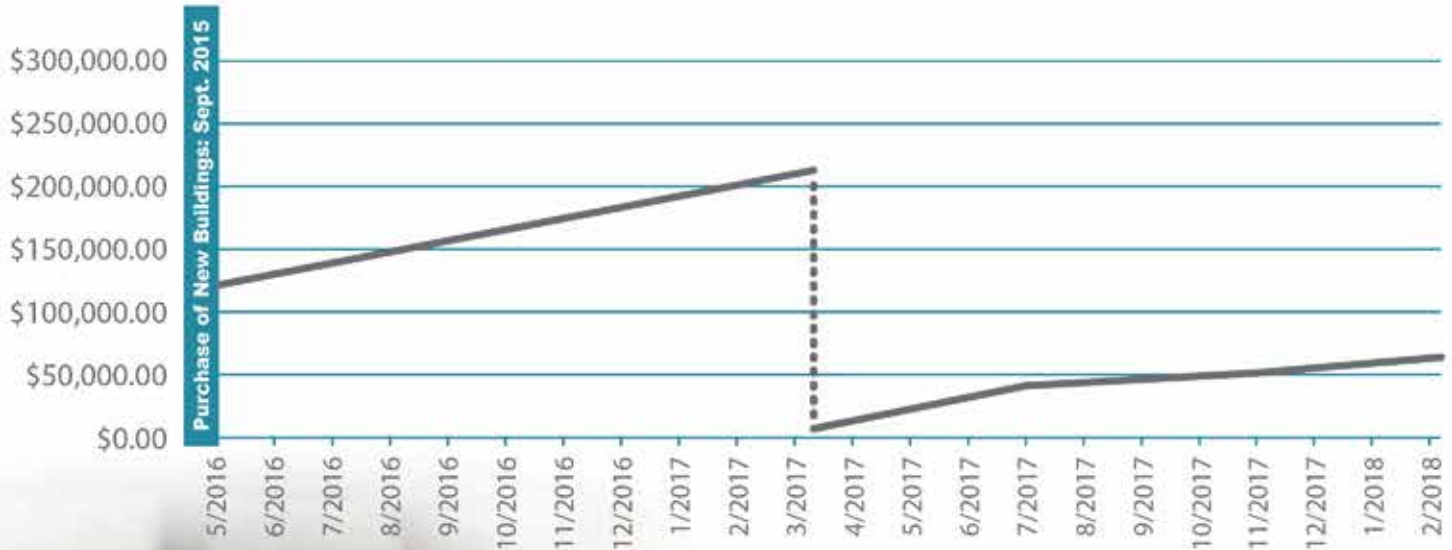
But what is different about St. Joseph's teachers? Our teachers work tirelessly to teach our students to think—as opposed to mindlessly memorizing or parroting data. They work to teach our children that the Faith they profess is true in every area of academic enquiry, and that the truths they have been taught can be trusted to withstand all the attacks thrown out by the modern world.

The generous sacrifices made by every member of our teaching staff demand that we ask ourselves the question: are we as generous in our work and prayers for the souls of our youth? Our Operation Philomena program was set up several years ago to allow those who share the vision of our academy to help us with just a small commitment once a month. If just one hundred more partners joined us with a monthly gift, we could expand the work of our academy substantially for the good of souls. Will you consider matching the generosity of our faithful teachers with a commitment to prayer or financial support of St. Joseph's Academy?

Hope for the Future

Operation Philomena Progress Since May, 2016

Current savings account balance is \$60,220.86



Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 736

Number of donations recorded: 5,318

Total monthly donors: 67

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,130

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 be a Part of Our Exciting Future?

For less than the cost of a daily cup of coffee you can be a part of Operation Philomena and ensure a solid future for St. Joseph's Academy with a small monthly gift.

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: _____

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 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 586-677-951 • You may also donate online at www.stjosephs-academy.com.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