

# St. Joseph's Academy



## Capital Campaign

December 2019

Volume 6, Issue 3

Dear Friends,

“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.” This statement by Fr. Gerard Beck, Director of Education for the US District, highlights the importance of the work we do every day at St. Joseph's Academy. The seemingly trivial details of multiplication tables, history facts, parts of speech and spelling tests become much less trivial when seen in light of this profound truth.

Here at St. Joseph's Academy we provide the kind of education that will inspire our students to be life-long learners, to seek truth in all areas, and to find it ultimately in their Creator. We begin with simple building blocks such as phonics, math facts, and catechism memorization. But when these humble facts are infused with a sense of wonder at the world around us and a love for God who created it all — beautiful things happen in the heart of a

child. No matter what course of study the child pursues in later life, if that firm foundation of wonder and faith is well laid, the tree is bound to bear good fruit for Christ.

In this issue of our newsletter we will focus on the ways in which the liturgy forms a basis for our Religion curriculum. As the Mass is the very heart of our Catholic Faith, so must it be the center of the lives of our students. The children assist at Mass on two or three days during each school week, but many other opportunities exist for them to grow in their appreciation of this great mystery.

We invite you to read about this rich source of grace for our students — but even more importantly, we beg you to consider being a part of this great work by making a gift, either one-time or as a recurring donation, to help us in our task of educating these future soldiers of Christ the King.

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

# The Faith, the Mass, and Our Children\*

It is from the early years of the age of reason until the first troubles of the teenage years that a child starts maturing rapidly in faith, in virtue, and in love of God and of His Church. Their knowledge of the Faith can and must grow, their virtues must take root, and they must be, as much as possible, infused with the beauty of the ceremonies of the Church.

## Making a Place for God

Firstly, it is at this time that the faith of the child must be deepened by a solid religious instruction; he must learn the Catechism so that his mind is not only open to the lights of God but informed by the Revelation of God. Fr. de Chivre\*\* explains that the priority:

“...is about allowing God to possess in the mind of the child — by preparing it for Him — a place where His lights, His counsels and His inspirations might be received, to the point of being not only accepted by the child but so desired that he will then, of his own volition, enlarge that place as much as possible by a heartfelt need to open himself to the action of the supernatural.”

## The Pursuit of Virtue

Thus, being taught the mysteries of our Faith, the child must also be helped to acquire virtue. It is all the more

essential as it is not too difficult for him at that age; he does not yet have to struggle against his passions or against significant temptations. It is, then, an opportune time to develop the virtues — good habits: honesty, frankness, generosity, purity... These are, or can be, natural and easy for him to acquire, if we push him in the right direction. But it is also at this time when a supernatural spirit can be instilled easily, helping the child to act for a supernatural motive such as the love of God...

## The Importance of the Liturgy

Another element of education is to immerse the child in the beauty of the Catholic ceremonies. Let us teach him to love the Mass; to be impressed by the beauty of the altar, the singing, the incense; to respect and love the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. de Chivre emphasizes that in so teaching our children, it is not so much a question of quantity but of quality. It is, in other words, not a question of bringing the child to Mass every day, but of teaching him and showing him how to love the Mass and the ceremonies of the Faith...

We must also explain the ceremonies to the child and help him at first to follow the Mass in a children's missal. We must teach and show him how to participate in the liturgy in the way encouraged by the Church. St. Pius X insisted, for instance, on the necessity of learning to sing the Mass; singing, he taught, is not just for the choir, but also for the congregation. What a beautiful way to help our children





love the liturgy! Boys, of course, should also learn at a young age to serve the Mass, and doing so, they will easily approach the altar of God with great respect and love...

### Let the Children Come...

Let us remember the words of Our Lord: *“Sinite parvulos venire ad me.”* — “Let the children come to me, and forbid them not.” Our Lord affirms His right, as Christ the King, to receive and form the children. The Church claims the same right in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ; let the little children come to the Church for instruction. It is because of this principle that the Catholic Church has founded and developed schools to teach children, and it is because of this principle that the popes have so emphasized the duties of parents to send their children to Catholic schools...

Let us remember how lovely that time of life is, when children can love God so much without being distracted and troubled by the passions and temptations of the adolescent years! How wonderful that age is, when virtues can be acquired so easily! And at the same time, what a responsibility for all educators, especially parents. May the Blessed Virgin Mary bless and guide all our families!

\* Taken from the US District Superior’s Letter, Feb 2011 by Fr. Arnaud Rostand

\*\* Fr. Bernard-Marie de Chivre was a 20th century Dominican priest and friend of Archbishop Lefebvre. He preached retreats at Econe in the early days of the battle for Tradition.



*“[The Mass] is not a simple rite carried out today, but an eternal reality that exceeds time and has eternal consequences for the glory of God...Each Mass truly has the weight of eternity in it.”*

— Archbishop Lefebvre

# “... What We have Looked Upon and our Hands Have Touched...”

In addition to the opportunity to attend Mass several times a week and to confess regularly, the students at St. Joseph's Academy are given an in-depth insight into the Mass and the mysterious work of the clergy. In conjunction with their Religion curriculum, the 7th- 8th grade boys spend time each week with Fr. Angele learning the art of serving Mass intelligently and devoutly. Father not only teaches them *what* to do but explains how every detail and action surrounding these holy ceremonies has significance and illuminates the great truths of the Faith. The boys are also introduced to the many details of sacristy work — cleaning and handling the items for the altar. They become familiar with the care of these sacred vessels and linens and are prepared to assist the priests in a variety of ways surrounding the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

The girls are not neglected in this important subject, either! In addition to their instruction in Religion class on the profound symbolism of the liturgical ceremonies, they have the opportunity to sing Gregorian chant and learn liturgical sewing. The indispensable art of making altar linens is explained in detail and the girls are able to help produce these items for use in the Mass

as their abilities improve. The students have been introduced to the intricacies of vestment making as well. As they examine the intricate liturgical items made by women of the parish or by religious sisters of centuries past, perhaps some of them will be inspired to master this fine art in later years!

Recently this hands-on approach has grown to include even the youngest students at the academy. Following a district-wide effort to expand instruction on the Mass in the early elementary years, Fr. Kimball has begun short lessons with children in Kindergarten through second grade. Using a set of child-size vestments and miniature altar vessels and linens, Father helps the children to reenact the principle parts of the Mass while he teaches them about the great

mysteries that take place on the altar. The children are able to handle replicas of the things they see on the altar at every school Mass and come to understand the mysteries in a more profound way. Thus, learning to understand the Mass, these young students can grow to *love* the Mass — making the Mass the center of their lives and their lives, in turn, a reflection of the holy Sacrifice.

One of the most awe-inspiring examples of the students' involvement in the liturgy is the monthly singing of a Requiem High Mass. The students make up the full company of altar servers, the choir, and the schola — all participating together in one of the most sacred acts of Holy Mother Church. Yet even in the daily low Mass on a typical school day, students as young as 1st grade can be heard responding to the same Mass prayers that have been learned by children for centuries. These prayers become as natural as breathing and a source of tremendous graces in the life of a young Catholic.

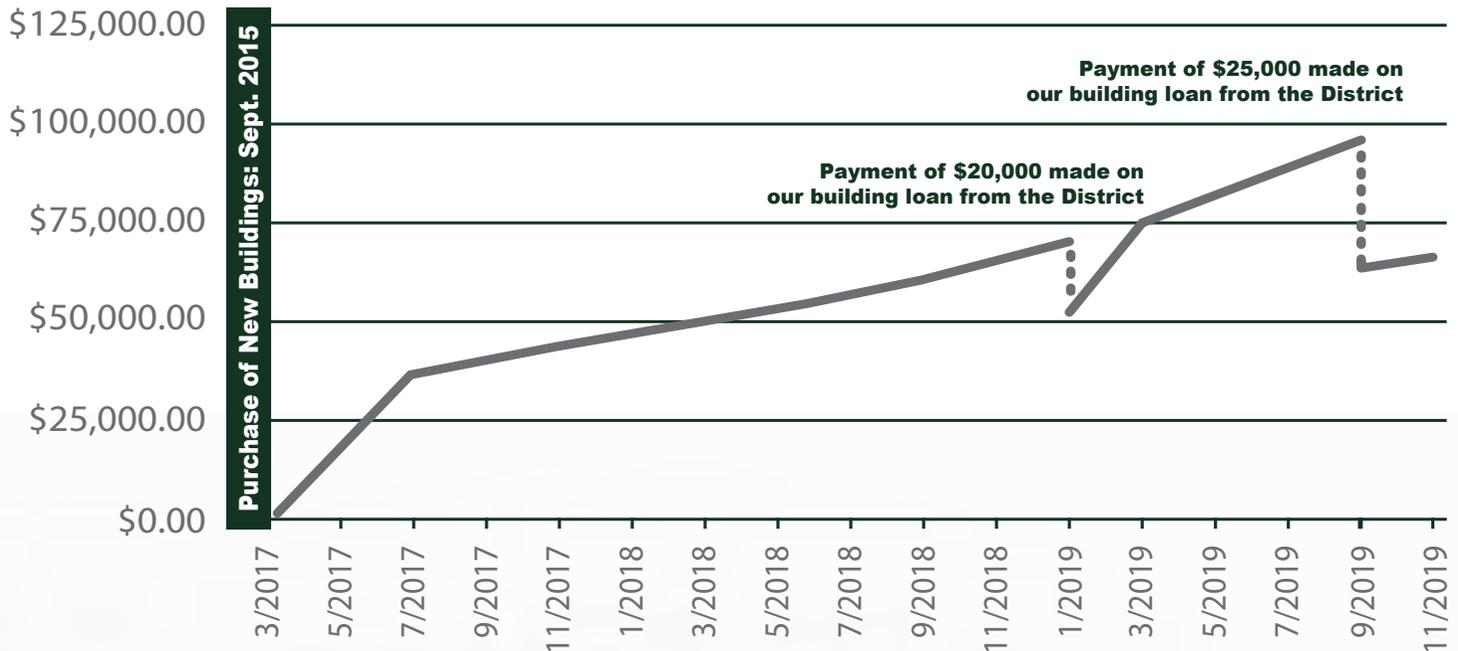
There would be no greater tragedy than to have a child grow up in a Catholic home, attend Mass each Sunday, learn catechism questions by rote, and yet see the liturgy of the Church as just a series of empty words and repetitive actions. The Sacrifice of the Mass is the very center of our Catholic Faith and it is in the tender years of childhood that souls must be helped to understand it, reverence it, and ultimately to love it as what it is: the representation of the ultimate sacrifice made by Our Lord to bring each and every one of us to union with Him.



# See the Fruit of Sacrifice!

## Operation Philomena Progress Since March, 2017

*Current savings account balance is \$68,000*



## Look How Far We've Come!

Total donors: 834

Number of donations recorded: 6840

Total monthly donors: 88

Total recurring monthly donations: \$2,686

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?



# 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 586-677-9511 • You may also donate online at [www.stjosephs-academy.com](http://www.stjosephs-academy.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 Sunday of each month*