Students Raise Half a Million Dollars!

Sofia Armesto, SMA 2015

Every year spring comes around, bringing with it sunshine and warm breezes, and fundraiser rallies. After an inspiring kickoff all the students fall into the familiar routine of phone calls, letters, bake sales and working on their persuasive skills outside of Walmarts. A $10 donation would get one a chance to win the grand prize of $20,000 or a 2015 Malibu LS, or a smaller cash prize. It’s an alluring offer, and the students promoted it with such enthusiasm and success that all were able to reach the school-wide goal of fifty-two tickets per student.

At the final rally on April 10th, Fr. Beck, Rector of St. Mary’s Academy and College, congratulated the students on their success. They had raised $502,800. They had surpassed their goal and set a new record. To celebrate they spent the last hour of the day in fun and games. Random students were called up to participate in games and win candy, gift cards or in the case of one boy, a gag gift of a box full of continued on page 7

The school turned as one body to St. Joseph to guide the fundraiser. Daily prayers at morning line-up were offered to him, and on his feast the students packed the auditorium for Mass.

Romeo and Juliet: Chaos that Killed Love

Olivia Baquerizo, SMC 2015

As the St. Mary’s College Drama Club prepared to put on Shakespeare’s classic tragedy, Romeo and Juliet, I sensed a lack of enthusiasm. As the date for the play approached, I wondered why so many people seemed to dislike a play which has withstood the test of time and maintained its place among the great tragedies.

People perceive “Romeo and Juliet” as little more than a tragic story of “love at first sight” that has gone horribly wrong. Worse still, the story has engendered the idea of the primacy of romantic love as expressed through various cinematic renditions of the play and countless parodies in the popular media. Beyond this, many feel discomfort at the idea of coming face to face with the physical realities involved with love.

A number of problems attend these criticisms, however. In the first place, it is unfair to criticize a

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The days after Easter are beautiful ones, filled with encouraging reminders, especially in the liturgy, that direct our gaze to the highest realities. The Pascal candle is a striking example, and of particular significance.

Beautifully decorated and majestic in stature, the Pascal candle symbolizes the Risen Christ, resplendent with His glorious wounds. The fire of His infinite charity radiates light and warmth, drawing us to Him and inspiring us with courage: He has risen triumphant, and we have but to follow him if we would share in that triumph.

As with Christ, so with those baptized in Christ. The Pascal Candle symbolizes our Risen Lord, but also each one of us. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Our mission as baptized Christians is to be a light in our world, and by the fervor of our charity, to draw souls to the path of courage and hope.

This mission can only be fulfilled at great cost. We must spend ourselves for Christ, even as the Pascal candle, burning, spends itself and is consumed. This is not “pious poetry,” but a way of life, a Catholic life of generosity in all that we do, motivated by a Christ-like desire to “cast fire upon the earth,” and by that fire of charity to transform our world.

The everyday efforts at school and in the family, then, are not without real significance. Each effort helps to kindle the fire of charity in our hearts, and so casts a ray of light in a world that is dark with selfishness and sin.

The academic year fast approaches its end. Let us take full advantage of the opportunity to live the Easter mystery we celebrate.

Rev. Fr. Gerard Beck
Rector, St. Mary’s Academy and College

This year’s Paschal Candle was designed by Fr. Isaac Delmanowski. With acrylic paints and 24 karet gold leaf, the five-foot candle signifies the glory and grandeur of Our risen Lord.
work of art on account of its numerous parodies. As the proverb goes, “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery,” and the number of imitations suggests the excellence of the original work rather than its limitations. There is more to Romeo and Juliet than just the love story: it has endured for 400 years, and makes facing any personal discomfort worthwhile. On one level, this discomfort can be attributed to our puritanical background, but it is as much genuine fatigue from the battle against pressures to equate love with airy emotion and base carnal desire. It’s understandable that the constant fight against an incessant, inverted popular influence can create a distaste for, or at least a mistrust of anything relating to love and physical relationships, yet the play presents serious moral and social lessons both for parents and children.

Love and marriage are themes very relevant for young people, and the titular couple do present an example of true love, at least at the beginning. Romeo gives young men an example of the difference between his sniveling adolescent infatuation with Rosaline, and his true love for Juliet which inspires reverence rather than selfish gratification. Juliet is an example of generosity, self-sacrifice, and fidelity even in the face of intense pressures. At the same time, love should be tempered by reason. As Friar Lawrence says, one must “love moderately,” lest passions entirely cloud reason, leading to disaster.

The more serious part of the play’s moral concerns the older generation. The love of Romeo and Juliet could have healed their city and reconciled their parents, but instead, Romeo and Juliet die despairing of their passion—why? Why do Romeo and Juliet not know how to love rightly? Their youth is partly to blame, but blame lies with their parents as well. The play is not only—or even primarily—about the suicide of two teenagers thwarted in love. As the Chorus enjoins from the very beginning, the play is about “two households, both alike in dignity/... [who] From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,/ Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.” The authorities, who should intervene to guide Romeo and Juliet, fail. Their parents fight out a useless, causeless grudge, senselessly staining the streets of Verona with blood. The Prince of Verona weakly rails against the chaos, but does nothing. Friar Lawrence, whose counsel directs the actions of the two “star-crossed lovers” in the most critical moments, gives them tragically imprudent advice. This failure in society at large is mirrored in the scions of these houses, who faithfully follow the example of their parents—irrational, passionate anger and violence. Born into a world of violence, they live in violence and end their lives in that violence, their natural recourse when faced with any problem.

If parents, then, do not properly prepare their children for love and the vicissitudes of life, “all are punished”—the children through a miserable life leading to a wretched death, the parents through gnawing remorse that comes too late.

Nothing can mitigate Romeo and Juliet’s responsibility for taking their lives, but much of the blame rests upon those who gave scandal to young minds and twisted their development. We see the frightening picture of violence begetting violence played out in today’s reality: either drunk on modern lies, or falsely secure within the circle of tradition, people do not know how to love. Suicide, divorce, unhappiness, and vice surround us: if we do nothing, what can happen to our own youth we must “with patient ears attend,” and learn.
Student Achievements

Senior Joseph Moats’s painting drew much attention at Cair Paravel Fine Art Festival from students and visitors. One person, in passing the painting, commented, “It all looks so real.”

Senior Sofia Armesto submitted a leather leaf-mask to the Cair Paravel Art Festival. She received a first rating on her artisry and handcraft.

The fundraiser well under way, Fr. Gerard Beck received a pleasant surprise on his birthday. A child sent him a mason jar containing $33.38 to go towards the school.

Senior Celine Archer’s calligraphy illustration of a prophecy by Isaiah stood out as one of the many academy art pieces that capture an “outstanding” rating at the Cair Paravel Fine Art Festival.

Before July had been named for Julius Caesar, it was called merely Quintilis, in English words, the fifth, for it was the fifth month in the Romulus Calendar, but became the seventh in the Calendar of Numa. July was the harvest month. Combining the pagan Leo of the Zodiac with the Christian Lamb, the artist shows Christ the King and sacrifice for the month of the Precious Blood. The piece above was produced by Senior Madeleine Bomberger as a section of an illustrated Latin calendar.

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Spring, A Growing Time

By Thomas Kirby, 7th Grade

Spring is a time for growth, not only for plants but also for all creatures. The trees wake from the dreary sleep of winter and put on a cloak of green. The stream becomes larger and swells with pride, his foamy mouth bellowing out his challenge into the newly refreshed forest. Colorful birds open the spring with hymns of joyful happiness. All the new animals follow their mothers.

By Carrie Nimbach, 4th Grade

My favorite sign of spring is when a robin pecks the ground, obviously looking for a juicy worm. As soon as possible, I try to get sunflower seeds to sprinkle in little streams on the porch. One robin was doing a strange thing, so I went over to watch him. He was taking a seed and then flying up to a high tree, so high that I had crane my neck. Once he was settled securely on a branch, he took it to a nest that I had not noticed yet. Then he dropped it into the nest. There was a squeak and then silence. Over and over he repeated the steps; only then did I realize he was feeding his family. I knew that spring is the start of new families, plants, and trees.

Sentences on the Sea

By the Fifth Grade Girls

You could see the water sparkle as it fell down the water-fall and splashed into foam at the bottom, thoroughly drenching the little figurines of the fishermen.

~Juliana Morgali

I flung my foot up in the air; a crab the size of my finger-nail was looking for little creatures under the sand and found me instead.

~Celia Hernandez

Peter looked and saw the sun coming up and silhouetted against it was a sea-gull, looking as if it was a messenger of excitement.

~Bernadette Rutledge

After that came the rain, hard rain, then hail, last came a most ferocious wind. It wrestled the ship until the vessel was forced to be driven off-course.

~Susanna Childs

The wind ran to the ocean, crying out, "O you who crash and break to pieces ships and travelers of far-off lands...you cannot sing and blow everything you please.

~Evelyn Dorobek

By John Stadum, 3rd Grade

Whenever I go outside, I always see beautiful signs that Spring is coming. The flowers bloom with their delicate petals as the sun shines on them. I see rabbits and squirrels running across the green grass. Spring, one of my favorite seasons, shows its beauty very easily as everything comes to life.

By Seth Thomas, 3rd Grade

As I was going up the mountain, the sun shone through the trees, making everything look like gold. The squirrels frisked about, searching for nuts. Birds flew about happily through the mountain air, all the while they called to each other. When I reached the top of the mountain, the sun shone on the dewy grass, making a brilliant light that shone as if it was made from the stars.
Fr. Daniel Couture, District Superior of Canada, on March 16, expounded on the Shroud of Turin, its history and its authenticity, and more importantly what it reveals of the tortures and torments of Christ in His Passion.

Fr. Johannes Grun came to St. Marys during lent to give this year’s parish mission. Fr. Grun, in union with the Society’s focus for the year, spoke on the marriage of Christ and the Church as a model for the union of a man with his wife.

After the first graders gave their first confession, Fr. Isaac Delmanowski visited their classrooms, enrolling them in the Brown Scapular.

The first graders, taking time off from the books, head up to the academy’s farm to meet the farm animals first hand.

Joy and song go hand in hand. The Acies youth group organized a concert on Laetare Sunday. Alumnae Clare Bryan and Rachel LaMothe, teachers Mr. Edward Shaw, Dr. Andrew Childs, and Mrs. Krista Childs were among the performers.

The first boys look on with excited faces as they wait for the homemade volcano to explode inside the classroom.

Seven boys from the fifth grade brought home St. Mary Academy’s first chess trophy, as they placed first in the Kansas State Chess Tournament for the K-5 division.

The first grade girls, taking time off from the books, head up to the academy’s farm to meet the farm animals first hand.
rocks. Some such games were Guess That Tune, the Cotton Ball Game, and Chariot Races. Even the teachers were involved, thoroughly entertaining the students.

Then came the moment everyone was waiting for. It was time to draw the winning names. The four students who had sold the most tickets were chosen to draw the winners. The tickets were checked by Joshua Hagenmaier, Vice President of the Kaw Valley State Bank, and placed in envelopes. Once all the tickets were drawn, Fr. Beck announced the winners. The two $1000 prizes were won by Lawrence Schwanbeck, St. Marys, for the Vestment Replacing Fund, and by Bill Drew for Our Lady Of Good Success Academy in Wisconsin. The $2000 prize went to Lonnie Fehrenbacher, Larned, KS. The crowd grew silent. Fr. Beck read the final ticket and the students erupted into cheers. The winning ticket was one bought by Ken Moats, St. Marys, and the $20,000 was to be donated to the New Immaculata Project.

With that the spring fundraiser was over. Ending with a prayer, Fr. Beck invoked St. Joseph, the patron of the fundraiser, whose intercession surely made this fundraiser a success. No doubt the students deserve praise for their hard work and great efforts in going above and beyond reaching their goal, but the wise will send a grateful smile heavenwards, knowing Our Lady has taken care of her school.

Students Score High in Fine Arts Festival

By Veronica Steele, SMA 2017

The Cair Paravel Fine Arts Festival, on March 6, was an unusual talent showcase for artistic students of private schools just like St. Mary’s Academy. With categories in music performance, literature recitation, and visual artwork, the contest offered students a chance to compete against their peers from other schools and exhibit their creative talents.

This year, the Academy’s representatives surprised themselves with the realization of what they are able to achieve. In all of the different categories, the students of the Academy received 26 outstanding ratings (I) and 14 superior ratings (II) and 2 good ratings (III).

Not only did the competing students devote time and energy before and during the competition, but they had to face and conquer the inevitable nervousness that comes with any public performance or showcase. After their exhibition, they were able to observe and encourage their fellow Academy students as they performed their pieces. Whether the students sang, played the piano, recited speeches or poetry, entered paintings, drawings, or sculptures, or participated in on-site drawing, the Academy was well represented. And the results proved the ability of the Academy’s copious talents.

Above all, the quality that made the work of St. Mary’s students so outstanding, was the traditional approach to art, such as substantial and true-to-the-real paintings and time-tried music. Overall, the students exhibited the true meaning and beauty of art, the glory of God.

Perhaps the greatest art is that which combines words with melody, speech with music. When the high school small ensemble sang “But change she earth, or change she sky, Yet will I love her till I die,” it was no small wonder that poetry, harmony, and good voices enthralled the hearts of their hearers.

Senior Mary O’Leary, with her moving recitation of the Chorus from T. S. Eliot’s “Murder in the Cathedral,” was one of five to bring back to the Academy an “outstanding rating.”

Senior Ashleen Plumley, one of the nine on-site Academy artists and one of the five to score an “Outstanding Rating” in the event, gazes at the model with an artist’s discerning eye.
The St. Mary’s Academy chess team ended their first year of actual intermural tournaments with the last and most important tournament—the state chess championship in Wichita, Kansas.

The team had hoped to place first in all divisions, but being that all of the chess teams in Kansas were participating, there was little expectancy of taking the trophies in all divisions.

At the end of the first two rounds, St. Mary’s surprisingly had placed first in all divisions. In the last two rounds, however, the K-8 division (5th - 8th grade) dropped to fourth, but the K-5 (4th - 5th grade) were able to keep their lead. By the end they had claimed first place in their division.

The K-5 boys did very well as a team. As Coach Robert Awerkamp said, “This St. Mary’s Academy fourth and fifth grade chess team really deserved the honor of being called the best in the state of Kansas. These boys had consistently performed well throughout the year. It was not just one or two boys carrying the rest of the team. In fact, if any one or two boys had called in sick on the day of the championship tournament, the rest of the team still scored enough points to take first place.”

Chess Club Claims its First Victory

By Simon Serafin, 8th Grade

Third Quarter House Results