



SENTINEL OF THE SAINTS



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Music & Arts: Leading souls to God!

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Traditionally the “Seven Arts” are: *music*, sculpture, *painting*, literature, architecture, performing, and film. The “seven liberal arts” are: grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, *music*, and astronomy. According to Webster’s Dictionary, “fine art” is art (such as *painting*, sculpture, or *music*) concerned primarily with the creation of beautiful objects. As we are a traditional school, we seek to form the students with as many of these arts as possible. Only two are highlighted here.

Part of the formation of students is to lead them to God. This seems to imply a conversion. St. Augustine, a convert from the ways of the world to the profound depths of wisdom and understanding, can be an example for any student. We would want all souls to convert from a worldly spirit and learn of God more surely. Let us then take some quotations and thoughts from this image of conversion and apply them to the arts we teach.

St. Augustine is famous for saying: “One who sings, prays twice.”¹ That is one reason we encourage the students to sing. But this same saint has another fruitful quote: “Only the lover sings.” It can be said that song is the marriage between poetry and music and the cause of that marriage is love.... One who sings goes beyond the ordinary because he desires to express something which otherwise could not be expressed. Catholic

life is a life of love and thus singing is so natural to a Catholic — for only the lover sings. A selfish man does not know how to love — and therefore he is unable to sing. Whether one sings to God, to his beloved, or even to his homeland, he sings out of love.¹

To move from the realm of the saintly to that of the philosopher, Josef Pieper says: “Music opens the path into the realm of silence.” Is that not a reason for the students to sing, to compose, and to play instruments — it leads them to prayer — an act leading them to God?

One word must also be said about the art of painting. “He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.”²

Thank you for supporting these fine arts in this select school. Mater Dei students will perform tomorrow what they learn today. We acknowledge, with gratitude, the benefactors of today!

Under the guidance of St. Anthony Daniel,

Fr. Richard Boyle

Fr. Richard Boyle, Principal

¹ Preface of The Traditional Book of Folk Songs

² St. Francis of Assisi

“Only the lover sings.” – St. Augustine

The purpose of true education is to help the student love God. By being shown the order and beauty of creation, the student learns of God’s love for him. Studying good music fosters a love of beauty, which in turn cultivates a knowledge and love of the good God whose creation is filled with order and beauty.



When the opportunity for playing an organ presents itself, you take it, as did this happy boarder.



First & second grade girls sing their piece for the annual Christmas Concert.



Campfires are an integral part of an enjoyable evening with these high school girls. Fr. Haynos’ banjo or guitar often accompany such events.



The high school joined The Holy Name of Jesus Academy to sing the praises of Our Blessed Mother in the Magnificat Concert.



Seniors prepare for a busking trip to Pittsburg.

“Art is the grandchild of God.” – Dante

Dante wrote in his Divine Comedy that “Art is the grandchild of God.” Caryll Houslander echoes that thought by stating that children must create in order to know God the Creator. At Mater Dei Academy, art education is emphasized in order to cultivate this creativity, helping the students to know God, the Supreme Creator.



High school boys explore the use of charcoal while studying architecture and perspective.



A fifth grader has a little more compassion for Michelangelo after copying his style of painting the Sistine Chapel.



Fourth grade girls prepare a sawdust design for the feast of Corpus Christi.



Sixth graders dabble with oil paint for the first time.

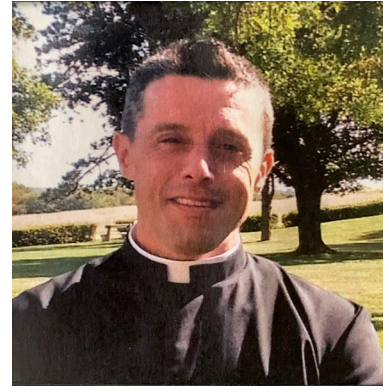


Fifth grade students study Fra Angelico and replicate his portraits using colored pencils and gold leaf.

ALUMNI NEWS



Rev. Mr. John Hatty, Class of 2017, spent his summer apostolate in Mexico preaching two women's retreats. He also assisted the priests in their normal ministry of preaching and giving the sacraments. He was happy to have the opportunity to visit the beautiful churches and shrines dedicated to the many apparitions of Our Lady in this beautiful once - Catholic country.



Please pray for Br. Isaias (Dominic Caley), Class of 2016, and Br. Timothy (De Benedetti), house father, as they prepare, God willing, to take their first vows as SSPX Brothers on September 29, 2024.



Joseph Mariani earned a lacrosse scholarship to attend Thomas More University in Kentucky.



Charles Hatty, Class of 2021, spent his summer apostolate with fellow seminarian Caleb Moss in the Philippines working with Fr. Tim Pfeiffer on four boys' camps. It was a humbling experience with many rewards as he learned the many varieties of pesky biting insects in this beautiful country.

Prayers for those preparing for upcoming marriages:

- Margaret Hatty, Class of 2013 -- November 2024
- James Massett, Class of 2011 -- October 2024

Are you an alumnus? Email alumni@materdei.academy to reconnect and share your news!
We like to hear from our SAINTS in the world!