

Sentinel of the Saints

The Newsletter of BVM Academy Vol XV, Issue I: Winter, 2019

2656 Warners Road, Warners, New York, 13164 (315) 320-4085 Fax (315) 320-4093 www.bvmacademy.org



Fr. Deister & Fr. Boyle along with BVMA students and BVM parishioners at the Syracuse March for Life on January 12, 2019

Investments (Being) Made...

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Since the opening of our doors in late August, the wheels here at BVMA have been turning swiftly to keep up our forward momentum. After an historical summer wherein a record number of projects were completed, we have continued to see generosity from one and all in the level of participation and in the willingness to make further investments. It is our goal to look at the term *investment*, as it comes from the theme of this academic year at BVMA.

T. = take
R. = retain
A. = align
D. = direct
I. = inquire
T. = trust
I. = invest
O. = obey
N. = notice

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." — Benjamin Franklin

When it comes to investing, nothing will pay off more than educating oneself. In recent months, we at BVMA have done the necessary research, study, and analysis before making any investment decisions. We hope that the pictures and lists presented below will convey the truth of the matter. Investing in an educational institution is investing in knowledge and we expect only the highest return, having invested much. While we continue to invest each day, the return is already visible!

Investments made:

- in teachers
—by the visit of Miss Marlene Nakelski

—by using Wednesday afternoons for professional development

- in students by investing in teachers
- in parents by offering conferences on our curriculum
- in the building — cf. lists below

The more one invests, the greater probability one has of earning a large return. At BVMA this past fall, we determined to make the professional development of our teaching staff a priority and we wish to update you on the outcome. Even within the last five months, we have made leaps and bounds in this domain.

Some specific areas of emphasis are:

- organizing teachers into departments
- having department meetings periodically
- offering conferences to teachers and parents on education and curriculum
- prioritizing communication with students, parents, and teachers

December 10-14, 2018 we were honored with a visit by our former teacher and current member of the District Education Team stationed in St. Mary's, KS, Miss Marlene Nakelski. She was able to visit the classrooms, offer conferences to the teachers, teach classes, assess the classroom work, and participate in a Q & A session with the parents. These days were filled with work but this investment of time has paid off in the end. The fruits of our labor were made visible, encouragement was offered, and directives for better procedures were set. We look forward to future visits from the US District Education Team.

(Continued next page)



“Sara Crewe”, “Lavinia” and “Jessie” in *A Little Princess*



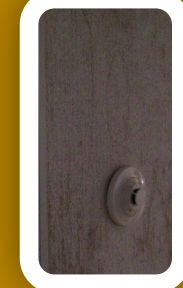
“Miss Salyers”, “Mrs. Carmichael”, “Janet”, “Nora” and “Morris” in *A Little Princess*



The baseball backstop coming down to make room for the new parking lot



A beautiful craft made by the 4th and 5th graders



A side-by-side look at the old, stained ceiling tiles with the new ones replacing them



The kindergartners reenacting the Nativity at the Christmas concert



The new roof of the academy, keeping the rain from leaking through the ceiling into the classrooms



The senior girls visiting the beautiful Catholic city of Old Quebec with Fr. Brown

(continued from front page)

At the aforementioned Q & A session, two of our teachers and department heads were able to present to the parents details of the math and language arts curriculums to foster their understanding of the programs used. This occasion afforded much needed insight into the future manner in which the parents and teachers will collaborate to ensure optimum success for the students. Such a beneficial and well received event will be repeated!

The highlight of our investment has been in the teaching staff. It only stands to reason that if parents offer their children to men and women for essential formation seven hours per day, that those chosen men and women should strive to perfect themselves in the realm in which they operate. Time being precious and money being a question at all points of life, especially within the halls of the SSPX, our schools are not always able to invest much due to limited resources. We find ourselves sticking to the bare essentials without making much ground from year to year. The “immediate needs” and the “practicals” always seem to take the extra time that is available.

In any school one expects to find teachers, desks, etc. and the fundraising aspect! As for the benefactors, they would like to know what is being done with those generous donations. Please see a few areas listed below in which the much appreciated funds have been used.

Projects completed:

- dormitory (x2) re-floored and new furnishings
- roof on elementary side of building and chapel completely repaired
- ceiling tiles in hallways and chapel have been replaced
- funds for the replacement of windows have been acquired — *Deo gratias!*
- Marathon (October 20, 2018) ended successfully with no casualties! —funds gained from this event will go to the new gymnasium —20 runners total — 19 half marathon runners

Projects to come:

- start capital campaign for new gymnasium ~ March 2019
- install new windows on older portion of building ~ June 2019
- remodel current gym ~ June 2019 —a portion of the raffle earnings this year will go toward this project
- remodel chapel ~ August 2019

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the benefactors for making the above projects possible. You do not know how encouraging and peaceful it is to hear the rain (and we have had record rainfall these past months) and yet not see the buckets collecting water nor need to worry where the next leak will be!

Please pray for the five alumni who will take the cassock and one alumnus who will receive the clerical tonsure on February 2, 2019 at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA. These alumni are the return from past investments made. We hope that many more vocations sprout from these fertile grounds now being cultivated more than ever before.

Look ahead — invitation to all!

- 25th Anniversary celebrations will be held in June around graduation
- please inquire through the office for details
- invitations will be sent out shortly

May you all have a blessed new year!

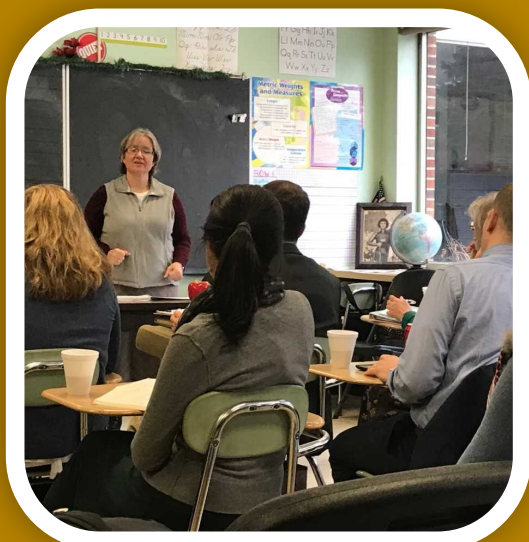
In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Richard Boyle

Fr. Richard Boyle
Principal



Rosary Procession through the streets of downtown Syracuse



Miss Marlene Nakelski of the District Education team giving a language arts conference to BVMA teachers



Fr. Boyle addressing parents at a conference, along with Mrs. Zallo, Miss Nakelski and Mr. Rowe



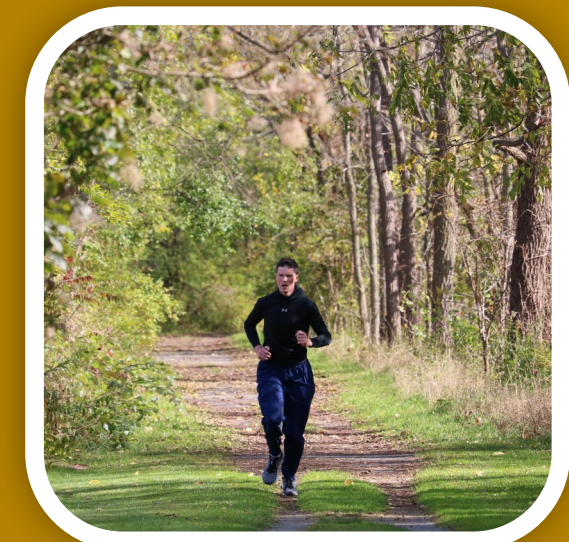
Beautiful water color paintings made by the high school girls



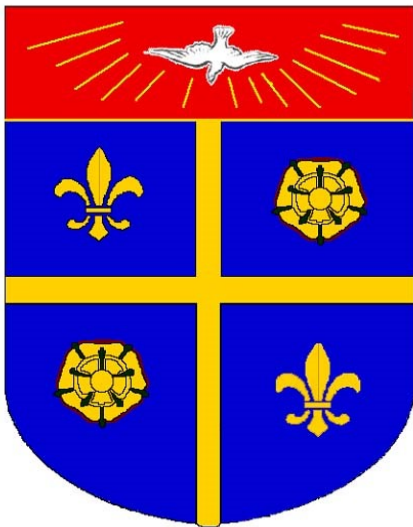
The varsity soccer team with their coach, Fr. Brown, after winning the Old Forge tournament



The cross country team warming up before the Cato-Meridian invitation-al, in which they took first place



Fr. Boyle running the Erie Canalway—the only runner out of twenty to do all 26.2 miles and more



CASH RAFFLE

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Number of tickets (\$10 per ticket) _____

TICKET SELLER

Raffle to benefit:

Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God Academy

2656 Warners Road, Warners NY 13164

\$10,000 in CASH Prizes

10 Chances to win

Grand Prize - \$7,500

Grand Prize Ticket Drawn First

Additional Prizes Drawn in Order Listed:

2nd-5th Prize: \$500 each

6th-10th Prize: \$100 each

Drawing Date: 5/1/2019

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Need not be present to win

Winners will be posted on the website

www.bvmacademy.org

315-320-4085

\$10/Per Ticket



**Please
Support
Our
School!**