

Sentinel of the Saints

The Newsletter of Mater Dei Academy Vol XV, Issue II: Summer, 2019

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Vocations—Ten-Year Plan

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The time has come for making the step that has been mentioned in the past months. You may have been aware that the name of our Academy is reverting to the original name — *Mater Dei*. This was the name given to the Academy in 1993 under the charge of Fr. Timothy Pfeiffer. It was renamed *Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God* in 1997. Now that we have celebrated our Silver Jubilee and established a new coat of arms — to streamline and clarify our image to the general public — we transition to the traditional name and reclaim *Mater Dei* as our own as of July 1st. The Church attached to this Academy has an adjusted name as well and is now called *Blessed Virgin Mary Church*, a shortened version of the previous title.

Exciting as it is to announce the name change, there is much more coming from Warners, NY, to animate your minds. Since the last newsletter, there has been a long list of events and renovations that have taken place. The hope is that the pictures can provide visual proof of progress made and shed light on a few momentous occasions, while the following words can paint the big picture and highlight the details.



The motivation behind all the activity here these last few months is a desire to instill a greater interest in and love for religious vocations. The United States (US) District is now numbering the most faithful in one country for the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX). The US District is producing many religious vocations. Yet, the amount of vocations is not keeping up with the amount of faithful attending our chapels. Our schools supply over 80% of the vocations we see...if we need more vocations, they will come from our schools!

Hence, Mater Dei Academy has embarked on a ten-year plan to help foster religious vocations. All the things we are doing to cultivate these necessary *answers to God's call* are focused not only on the seniors of today or the high school students of the next few years; they are emphasizing the 5th and 6th graders who possess the innocence of soul and wonder of mind that will enable them to embrace more easily the atmosphere Mater Dei is trying to encourage.

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The Franciscan Sisters joined Fr. LeRoux, Fr. Wiseman and Fr. Boyle at the Good Shepherd Sunday Banquet.



The new Vocations' Board in the Chapel hallway, asking for prayers for all our priests, seminarians, brothers, and sisters.



The new windows being installed in the gym along with the new walls.



The bulldozer spreading tons and tons of gravel for our new parking lot over Easter Week.



Fr. Boyle with Tony Stafki, who painted a beautiful mural for our refurbished Teachers' Lounge.



Alumnus Mr. James Hewko and fellow seminarian address the 9th & 10th High School Boys.

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The current ten-year plan seeks actively to build upon the foundation of the past 25 years. In years past there was so much to do to establish and keep the Academy afloat. Resources were low, energy was spread thin, and personnel was stretched. Now that we have set our feet on solid ground and offered gratitude to our forefathers, we wish to propel forward with a greater zeal in promoting a hidden treasure — religious vocations!

The recent renovations of the Academy have imbued the building with a new vitality; in the same way we wish to create within its walls a fertile environment for the blossoming of future vocations. Our Academy walls are the same, but new paint is put upon them. The ground is the same, yet stones are placed upon it to expand the parking lot. The building remains old, but the new windows allow for heat to remain in and the snow to remain out! — in addition to a more beautiful facade for all to see! In the same vein, the students we have within our walls today are from many of the same families as before; they possess the same human nature as all men, but now, with a more active presentation of what the religious life is, the visitation of living examples, and a bright atmosphere in which the formation is transmitted, the students have a more conducive soil from which may blossom the vocations of the future.

If you visit our chapel hallway you will behold the vocation board which indicates the following (there are six more vocations connected to the Church as well):

- two priestly vocations
- one religious sister
- one religious brother
- twelve seminarians

These generous men and women are examples for the students of today. We hope and pray that many more of the youth will join the ranks of what may be called the “hidden treasure” of God.

It was a tremendous honor to host, in Warners, the seminarians from St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, VA, on Good Shepherd Sunday. The seminarians' visit coincided providentially with the visit of two Franciscan Sisters from Kansas City, MO. Both religious houses helped make Mater Dei Academy a possessor of great wealth by their living example of joyfully answering God's call. The hardest part of the weekend was not preparing...but allowing the visitors to depart! May the fruits be forever reaped — here and elsewhere.

O Lord grant us many holy priests; many holy religious vocations!

Thank you to all who attended the 25th Anniversary celebrations. There is a DVD of the slideshow and a commemorative booklet available for any interested party. Please contact the office for details.

New Contacts:

- email address for main office — secretary@MaterDei.Academy
- new website — www.MaterDei.Academy
- new fax number — 315-320-9220

Look ahead — invitation to all!

- August 26th = first day of classes
- September 12-14 = Auriesville Pilgrimage
- September 29th = Booster Club Dinner

May you all have a restful summer!

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Richard Boyle

Fr. Richard Boyle
Principal



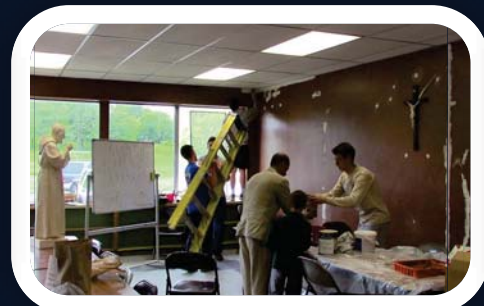
Former principal Fr. Timothy Pfeiffer addresses the graduates of 2019, encouraging them to stay close to Our Lady.



Fr. LeRoux celebrates High Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday at beautiful St. Cecilia's Church.



The Class of 2019 poses for a picture with priests and principals, current and former.



Senior class students paint and refurbish the new café in addition to providing funding for new tile to be installed.



The old single-paned (or in some cases, no-paned) windows, which besides letting much heat out, were terribly ugly.



The beautiful new double-paned windows, which will keep the heat inside in winter!



New windows being installed above the entry way of the Academy.

Mater Dei Gym Renovation Project



Sponsor a new seat for \$250

Recent Capital Improvements:

- New windows in east wing of Academy (thank you generous benefactors!)
- New gymnasium walls
- Painted crown-molding in gymnasium
- Refinished stage
- New roof for Academy

- Refurbished Teachers' Lounge
- Extended parking lot

What's next?

- Replace dilapidated gym seating
- Install new tile in class rooms
- Paint classrooms
- New doors in East Wing

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Donation Amount _____

If you have questions, or if your company participates in corporate matching, please contact the main office for details: 315-320-4085.