

Sentinel of the Saints



The Mader Family

Families—Trees Bearing Fruit

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Following the last issue of this newsletter, wherein religious vocations were the centerpiece, we now reflect upon the source of these vocations. There is a cause to every effect and as we seek to witness more religious vocations, we cannot neglect to focus upon those who cultivate vocations. The source is very important!

It was said this past May, during the Good Shepherd weekend visit of the Seminary from Dillwyn, VA, that “vocations are the fruit of the tree.” This tree is the family! Families are made from marriages. Marriages come from two individuals, a man and woman, joining in a common life for the purpose of having children—to populate the Kingdom of Heaven!

“By their fruits you shall know them.”¹ We know a good family from the fruits produced. “No bad tree can produce good fruit.”² Our Academy has the honor to call 20 vocations (by the close of 2019) our fruits. These precious fruits do not come from our work alone, it is complemented and often initiated by the good families we have within our community. Many families make great sacrifices to send their children away from home to enter the boarding house—a means to foster a vocation, which otherwise may not have blossomed. Almost half of the vocations we now claim are fruits nurtured in the boarding house!

¹ Matthew 7—Gospel of 6th Sunday after Pentecost

²Ibid.



The Randazzo Family

Marriages—the Start of the Family

Marriages are not only the focus of this current issue, but should be the focus of our daily prayers. If we wish to have vocations, we need families; that means marriages, where the elements of vocations are fostered. There is a moral principle which says, “You cannot give what you do not have.” It is not enough to have just any family or to enter into just any marriage, these unions, the most basic unit of society, need to be good — striving for virtue. Marriages open to life and families seeking to cultivate the necessary virtues required to produce vocations will be the hope of the future. Without them we will have no religious vocations...unless God allows our schools to witness miracles and offer the students what is lacking — which at times does happen!

It was said by the Rector of the Seminary in Dillwyn, VA, “Vocations are found on the laps of mothers and the shoulders of fathers.” Let us support families! Vocations will be the result!

Thank you for your support. We rest upon your benevolence. Rest assured of our prayers!

Under the mantle of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary,

Fr. Richard Boyle

Fr. Richard Boyle
Principal



The Gerrity Family

Statistics:

Thankfully, in the history of our humble Academy, we have had the joy to see beautiful marriages and large families. Although many of the families coming from our Academy are young and thus do not yet have adult children considering the call of God, we wish to highlight their efforts and comment upon their successes. Any year of perseverance in having children for God in this modern age is a victory worth celebrating!

- 4 couples from the parish celebrate their 10th anniversary this year (2019)
- 13 marriages from the parish have children in Academy currently
- 5 marriages from the parish have a spouse as a staff member with children in the Academy
- 23 students of the Academy hail from these 5 families

As we patiently wait for these young souls to ponder the will of God for themselves, be it the religious life or marriage, let us pray that they generously follow the virtues they have witnessed in their parents and teachers. “There is only one decisive victory: the last.”³ So no matter how much good was seen, no matter how long the children were formed, it all rests upon the decisions they make — and we pray they are in accordance with God’s will!



The Zapp Family

Bright light from the “Family”

Recalling the quotes above, let us consider some fruits from the tree. The following are excerpts from letters sent from alumni either to the vice-principal or principal this year. May many more letters be sent and record the victories made due to the hard work the families have done.

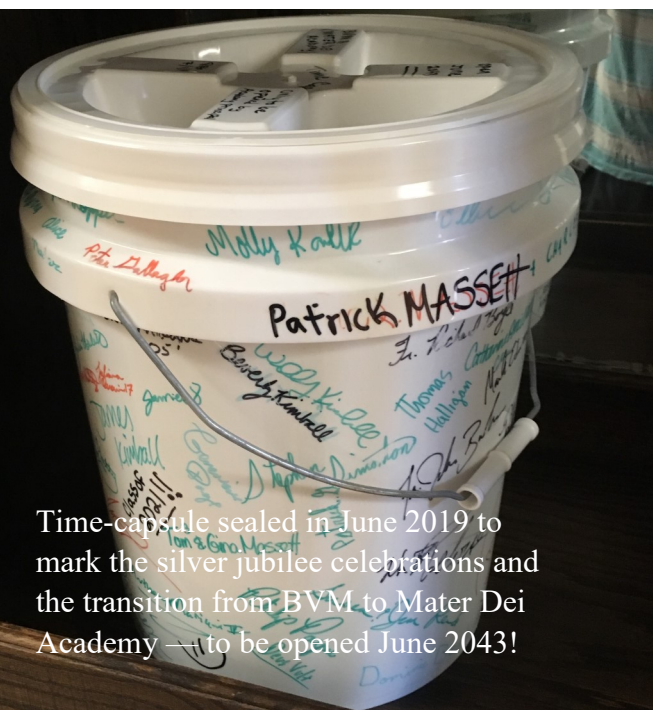
“...I looked at my everyday life and realized all of the things which have been engraved in me from BVM, for example, spiritual reading, a set time to wake up, ..., a time to study after classes, morning prayers, and night prayers. All of these things have kept me on track and without them my life would be very disordered. ...I can confidently say that I would not be the man I am today without the formation I received from BVM...” — MU Class of 2016

“I remembered the formation I received at BVM and all the lessons you and the teachers taught me. I realized then that I was given the keys to lead. So I stood up, gathered everyone around and ‘preached.’ I told them of the common good, and the needs of a community. I let them know of a small boarding school I went to, where boys and girls from kindergarten to 12th grade could out-do them in making their beds, being on time, and remaining quiet in classes, PT, and drill formations. I just spoke of what came to mind at the time. My platoon was at the bottom and now is top in the battery. But this would have never happened if I had not received my formation. Unless I went to BVM I would be here with our Article 15, for a non-motivated platoon.” — CM Class of 2019

³The Leader’s Bookshelf, by ADM. James Stavridis, USN (Ret.) and R. Manning Ancell p. 56



Mrs. Amato’s granddaughter holds a plaque made in honor of her memory and all she did for Mater Dei Academy



Time-capsule sealed in June 2019 to mark the silver jubilee celebrations and the transition from BVM to Mater Dei Academy — to be opened June 2043!



The Maders, Zapps, Byrnes and Babsons, all celebrating their 10th anniversaries.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Theme of the year — 2019-2020:

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. will be the word that will unify the students and staff this academic year. But before delving into what this acronym means, let us see the word coming from alumni, who see the need for and the advantages of this virtue.

“Behind those verses [Romans 13:1-2] lies the virtue of *respect* which was due to you and several teachers at BVM because of the authority you have been given and which I did not give to you and many others at all. ...It is through your kindness and humility that I can call [this Academy] my Alma Mater.” — MU Class of 2016

“I became the most *respected* trainee in my platoon and the example I have given is actually inspiring people to want to learn about the Catholic Faith....” — CM Class of 2019

Responsibility, Etiquette, Service, Politeness, Excellence, Charity, and Truth must mark the soul in order for it to be

considered respectful. These virtues will be considered at length this year from different angles. We hope that each student and staff member increases in these attributes and thus can qualify for the title — *respectful!*

Look ahead — invitation to all!

- September 12-14 = Auriesville Pilgrimage
- September 29th = Booster Club Dinner
- October 10th = Homecoming — varsity soccer game against DeRuyter
- October 11th — Patroness' Feast; induction into NHS
- October 12-13 — Old Forge Soccer Tournament
- November 13th — Jog-A-Thon

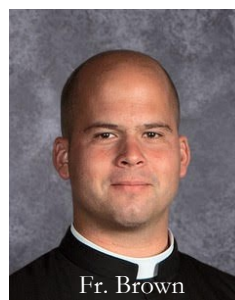
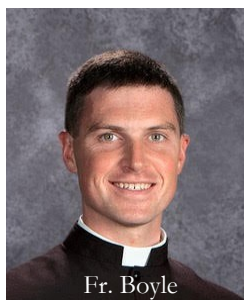


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2019 JOG-A-THON

On **Wednesday, November 13, 2019**, Mater Dei Academy will host its 19th annual Jog-a-thon. The goal of this event is set at \$100,000. Our Academy's future relies on these important yet arduous occasions. Would you please help us — spiritually and/or financially? **You can contribute via www.materdei.academy by clicking the Donate button**, or send a check by mail to Mater Dei Academy, [2656 Warners Road, Warners, NY, 13164](#), payable to **Mater Dei Academy**.

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PLEDGE A FIXED AMOUNT PER LAP (1/12 mile)			ONE-TIME DONATION		
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<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3.00	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

The name of the jogger/priest you are sponsoring _____

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Alumni News



Congratulations to Mr. Gabriel Mariani (Class of 2005) and Mr. Thomas Petersen (Class of 2014) on their entrance to the Syracuse Fire Department! May God bless them in their service to the public.

Two young men from the Class of 2019 are entering the ranks of St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary (here shown visiting on Good Shepherd Sunday) to discern their vocations. That makes eleven total alumni enrolled at STAS.



Are you an alumnus/alumna with news you would like to share with your classmates, alumni and the Mater Dei Academy Community? Weddings, births of children, degrees, career advancement? Please share your exciting news with a submission to alumni@materdei.academy.