



SENTINEL OF THE SAINTS



Vol. XVI, Issue II: Summer 2020

Students on the Road

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Throughout the lives of many Americans, hundreds of thousands of miles are traveled. Before planes, trains, and automobiles less travel was possible. Now that access to more convenient travel options is available, the average person will take trips which would have previously been much more difficult.

This availability has opened sights to see, lessons to learn, and history to hear that before was only dreamt by many Catholic students. As the world progresses ever farther from its Creator, the advances of modern technology have afforded those most interested in His creation the ability to see the beauty firsthand, learn the facts in person, and hear the history told in the very place it occurred! This is one of the many times we witness how God draws the good out of things which oftentimes bring so much evil (i.e. dangers opened by advances in technology and extreme freedoms brought by ease of travel.)

In this issue we wish to consider the benefits that travel has given to students of our Academy over the years. Part of the life of a student is to see, learn, and hear. There are so many things that the senses can take in when we step outside the classroom and the halls of brick and mortar.

With the crisis of Faith, religious vocations are fewer so the students travel to monasteries, convents, novitiates, and seminaries in order to experience the life of someone they otherwise may think is just a historical figure. As the appreciation for culture diminishes, we want to expose the youthful minds earlier and earlier to the gems of the past. This way their taste for the good, true, and beautiful has the potential to grow amidst the stifling, fake presentations of the modern day. To prove to the impressionable minds that glorious men and women did really live in this majestic country and these students are meant to follow them in leading the future generations, we travel far and wide. Although pictures are worth a thousand words, to see, touch, and taste things in person is worth ten times more than that!

Let us all thank God for the ability to travel and assure the benefactors who make these expeditions possible of our gracious prayers. Any great leader or influential person is one who not only reads good books but also one who imitates what he sees!

In Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Richard Boyle
Fr. Richard Boyle
Principal

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” - St. Augustine



◀ The national shrine of the North American Martyrs stands on the hallowed ground where Sts. Isaac Jogues, René Goupil, and Jean de Lalande received the crown of martyrdom. Hoping to follow in their footsteps, the Mater Dei Saints have become a fixture at the annual SSPX pilgrimage, only two hours' drive east of the Academy.



▼ Quebec and Montreal, only a few hours' drive north, have given our students the opportunity to experience their Catholic heritage through the magnificent churches and convents and rich history. The historic sections of both cities give a glimpse into the European culture and architecture brought to America by our ancestors.



◀ Among the many treasures of Quebec are the relics of St. Jean de Brebeuf and St Anne (at the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, pictured.)



► Philadelphia, PA offers a lesson in American history with a visit to Liberty Hall, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, the Art Museum, and more! The boarding boys pose next to the George Washington monument, before climbing the *Rocky Steps* in the background during their visit this spring. Thanks to the generosity of local benefactors, they were able to enjoy the famous *Philly Cheesesteaks* and a meal at the *City Tavern*, which opened in 1773 and is the site of many significant historical events. This landmark was the unofficial meeting place for the delegates before and after sessions of the first Continental Congress in 1774 and hosted America's first July 4th celebration in 1777.



▲ Central New York is filled with God's beauty in nature; the mountains, waterfalls, caves, lakes, and forests have been the destination of many a hike or camping trip. Among the most notable are the Adirondack Mountains; Letchworth Park (pictured), known as the "Grand Canyon of the East"; Lake Ontario; and the Finger Lakes Region.

◀ Western New York is home to the world-famous Niagara Falls. Nearby, less well know but even more grandiose, is the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory (pictured). Built by Venerable Nelson Baker in 1926, the basilica is a magnificent monument of Catholicism with countless artifacts from all over the world; the most famous being the main altar, personally blessed by Pope Pius XI. A trip to these two wonders has also given our students the opportunity to stop at *The Anchor Bar*, home of the Buffalo Wings!



▼ Washington, DC is also within a day's drive. The March for Life has become an annual event for the high school girls and this year gave them the opportunity to visit the White House, the Capitol Building, and part of the Smithsonian Institute.



RECENT NEWS



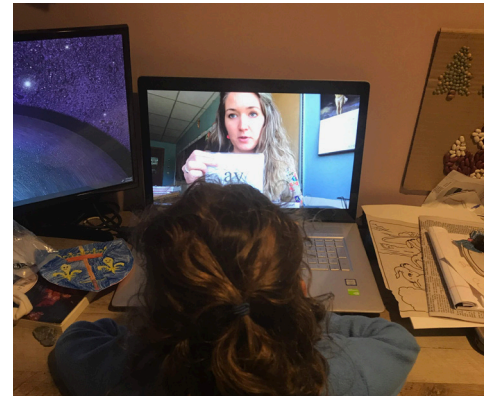
SAINTS VS TEMPLARS

For the second straight year, the Mater Dei Saints met Our Lady of Mount Carmel Templars from Hamburg, ON, Canada, in a weekend tournament featuring basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, ping-pong, chess, and trivia. School spirit was at an all-time high throughout the weekend, highlighted by intense fan support for the volleyball game!



COVID-19 AT-HOME SCHOOLING

Although on-site classes were prohibited due to COVID-19, Mater Dei teachers and students worked remotely to finish out the school year. K-8 classes operated through weekly worksheet packets and recorded videos, while the many online resources allowed the high school to continue via live video.



ALUMNI NEWS

Nicholas Page (Class of 2014) graduated from LeMoyne College this spring with a degree in Business Management.

◀ Michael Urankar (Class of 2016) and Anna Solitario were united in Holy Matrimony on May 16, 2020 in Front Royal, VA. Michael graduated from Christendom College this spring with a bachelor of arts in Philosophy and a minor in Mathematics. He was also a three-sport athlete at Christendom (soccer, basketball, baseball) and one of only a few athletes in school history to start in all three sports.

Silvio Zallo (Class of 2016) received his degree in Physics with a focus in Engineering this May from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY. He will pursue a Masters degree at Syracuse University.

Damian Hall (Class of 2016) finished his undergraduate studies in Clinical Laboratory Sciences at SUNY Upstate in May. He is currently employed at Auburn Community Hospital while preparing for graduate school.