



SENTINEL OF THE SAINTS



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Saints in the World

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Formation is only part of the picture; implementing what has been learned, and persevering in this manner of life is the key to success. Even after 13 years in a Catholic school, more tests for the soul await. Although much of the formation is complete, the true test — being tried by fire — is yet to come.

We do not set out to be students. We set out to be saints! “The best [saints], in my experience, do not spring forth fully formed. They are forged through a combination of parenting, teaching, training, educating, and gaining vibrant real world experiences — effectively practicing to be better [saints].”¹

As we complete our 28th academic year this June 2021, we will have invested many “man hours” of formation. Hundreds of students have had to endure long years of development. The question is not how many graduated, but how many are still standing (i.e. practicing the Faith and influencing the world by virtue.) Looking back at the history of our Academy, it is encouraging to see all those who are indeed living as saints in this world!

The integrity of the students who have left these walls, embarking on the future, is the true measure of a good formation. These men and women have sought to use their talents in their daily life and are found standing amidst the fragile and volatile circumstances in which we live.

We are proud of all the alumni who have set forth into the world. Yet we are especially pleased by those who have set out to illuminate the world with their sacrifices in the religious life, Catholic marriages, medical fields, and professional careers. Not one of these aspects of life is easy. As Christ has said, “The disciple is not above his master”²; “Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me.”³ The life of a saint in the world is not meant to be easy!

The students who have been formed to be saints are now practicing this virtuous life within the world — for once a saint, always a saint! May they hold this title dear and lend to the support of all future saints!

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Richard Boyle
Fr. Richard Boyle, Principal

¹ *The Leader’s Bookshelf*, by Adm. James Stavridis and R. Manning Acell, p. 1

² Matthew 10:24

³ Luke 9:23

“A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.”

- G.K. Chesterton

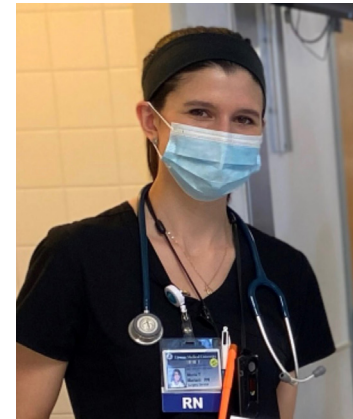
“Science without sanctity is dead weight!”⁴

October 22, 2020 presented an example of how saints survive in the world and more specifically why we need saints in this world. This occurrence happened to be a varsity soccer game of our Saints vs. a large local school. It was an evening game, under the lights, on an impeccable turf field and expectations were high. The end result was glorious! Despite the football season being canceled and thus, all elite athletes being available for the opponent's soccer team and our enrollment lower and not possessing the same level of excellent athletes on our roster as in the past, we came out on top, and not just on top: the scoreboard showed 7 - 0 at the end!

The glory was not in the score, but in the moral victory that was brought home. Throughout the game the Saints were inundated by the world in the form of music and flashy images on the digital advertisement board. As time went on and the goals increased, it became apparent that there was a lack of chemistry on the opposing side. That led to a breakdown of teamwork which led to the ending defeat. Within this worldly atmosphere was the science of the saints bleeding out sanctity! Despite the vast discrepancy in size and wealth between the two schools, the Catholic school possessed what the world did not have.

This occurrence is not foreign in our history books — it is the reality when saints practice what they learn and preach. The world has no equal to the formation of a Catholic education, so long as that formation is fostered and lived out. We are grateful that such an example highlighted this point during a year when the “going got tough...but the tough got going!”

⁴ *The Arduous Ascent*, by Martial Lekeux, O.F.M., p. 221



Maria Mariani - Registered Nurse at Upstate University Hospital

Class of 2010

After high school I moved to Arizona for a few years where I completed my nursing school pre-requisites. A year after moving back to NY, I was accepted into nursing school. After graduation, I took my state boards to become a registered nurse. Since becoming an RN, I now work at Upstate University Hospital on the trauma/surgery floor.

Besides giving me a strong foundation in the Catholic Faith, my education at Mater Dei helped me to develop the academic ability needed to succeed in nursing school and the interpersonal communication skills that are important to have in the nursing profession.



Thomas Hatty - Azure Digital Specialist at Microsoft

Class of 2014

Upon graduating from Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God Academy, I began classes at Le Moyne College. Always interested in technology, I decided to pursue this path. I graduated from Le Moyne in 2018 with a Bachelor's in Computer Science and a Minor in Classical Humanities. Immediately afterwards, I was moved into corporate Microsoft. I currently work as an Azure Digital Specialist, designing modern architectures and moving legacy applications from on-premise to the cloud. This role had several openings across the US, and I chose to head over to Fargo, North Dakota. To further my knowledge in support of my job, I just received my Master's in Science from Ashford University in Technology management. The job demands diligence and professionalism which BVM imparts to her students.



Dominic Petersen - Radar Systems Engineer at SRC, Inc.

Class of 2012

At the SRC, Inc headquarters in Syracuse, NY, I work on multiple DOD contracts supporting new development and lifecycle support of counterfire and fire control radar systems. This involves developing more efficient ways of filtering and processing data, running engineering tests to troubleshoot and prove new functionality, and attending live demonstrations for the customers.

Following high school graduation I worked for a year in home renovation while I saved for college. I then entered Onondaga Community College to complete the first two years of a Mechanical Engineering degree. After obtaining an Associates of Science from OCC, I transferred to Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. I interned at a biotechnology startup (Quadrant Biosciences) and General Electric before graduating from Clarkson with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Mathematics. I then went to work as a Systems Integration & Test Engineer for General Dynamics Mission Systems in their Nuclear Weapons Security division for a year and a half before moving back to Syracuse and starting in my current position at SRC.

The formation at BVM gave me a strong foundation in the sciences and mathematics that would enable me to succeed in advanced education. Because of this I was able to test out of the first few semesters of required mathematics at OCC, which in turn opened the opportunities and class slots to take specialized math and science courses that were more specifically tuned for engineering majors. In addition to this, the faculty and staff at BVM welcomed and supported me even after I had graduated, giving me mentoring as well as tutoring in Chemistry in my first years at OCC. Spiritually, the priests remained available to me throughout college helping me to make the decisions required to succeed in college as well as reminding me to remain balanced in my spiritual learning as well.

ALUMNI NUMBERS

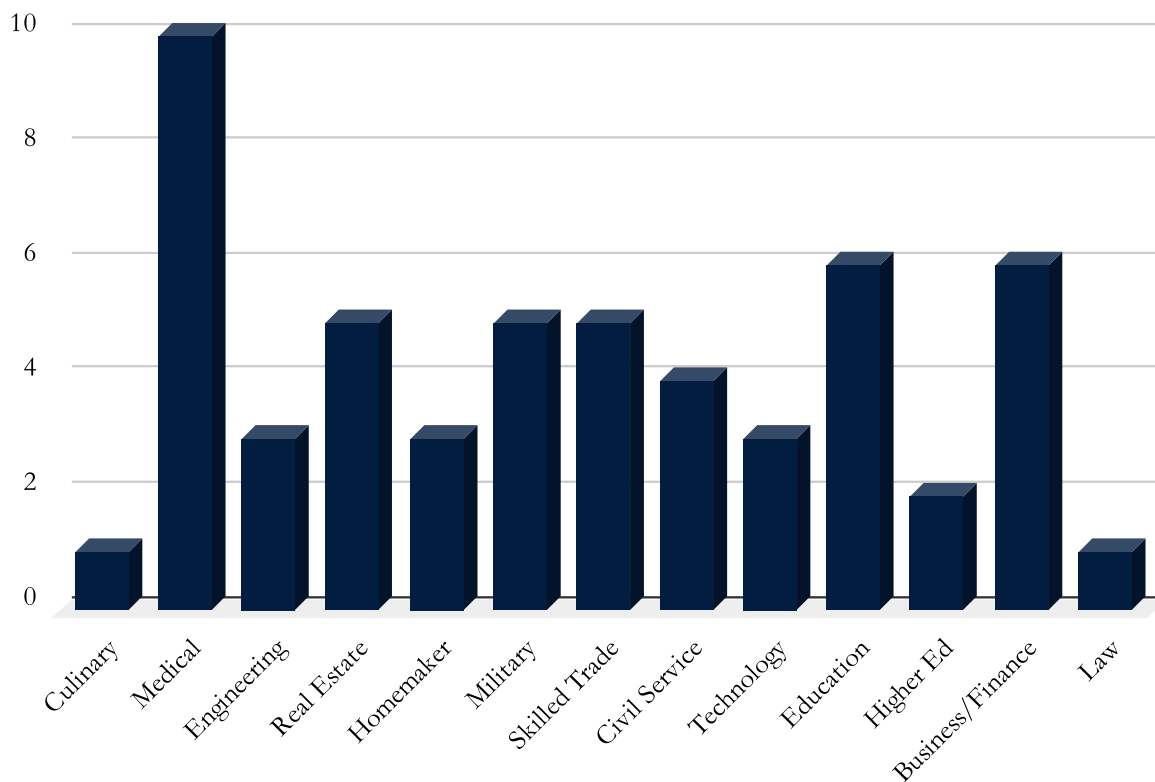
251 GRADUATES IN 27 YEARS

102 Girls: 54 Townies, 48 Boarders

149 Boys: 55 Townies, 94 Boarders

11 Living the Religious Life

50 Marriages



* These numbers are approximate, based on data received from alumni.

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