



SENTINEL OF THE SAINTS



Vol. XVII, Issue II: Summer 2021

Cornerstones of Saints

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Another academic year is ending and many gifts are being given. Students are graduating, teachers are retiring...tears are flowing! All these things happen as a matter of fact, yet one thing is often missing — gratitude!

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others,” says Cicero. We wish to offer appreciation to our teachers who have offered years of generosity. A quotation found etched on a wooden plaque on the windowsill in Room #104 will help embellish this thought:

“Great teachers have little external history to record. Their lives go over into other lives. These people are pillars in the intimate structure of our schools. They are more essential than its stones or beams and they will continue to be a kindling force and a revealing power in our lives.”

Our Academy has many pillars to rest on, by which we are known, and for which we offer thanks to God. The 260 graduates who have left these halls over the past 28 years are indebted to a good number of sacrificial souls who have dedicated their talents to further the potential of others. These teachers could

be called “reformers, educators, or generous souls” yet we wish to classify them as the cornerstones of the Saints! From these few men and women who have set the tone and marked the perimeters, we have seen the structures develop and fortify the next layer of society. We have confidence that the passing of the torch and the repetition of cornerstone to fortress will establish a new strength for generations.

Enclosed in these pages is a glimpse at the treasures we have been offered and for which we are grateful. Join me in praying for our teachers’ perseverance in acting as the famous educator St. John Bosco said: “It is not enough to love the students, they need to know that they are loved!” The love is present; may the students understand this!

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Richard Boyle

Fr. Richard Boyle
Principal

“To be entrusted with the teaching of the young is a great gift and grace of God.”

- St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle



MR. DOUGLAS ROWE

VICE-PRINCIPAL, ENGLISH & HISTORY HEAD, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR,
BASEBALL COACH

HOME TOWN: Trumbull, CT

EDUCATION: B.A. & M.A. in English, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

MATER DEI STAFF MEMBER: 2002-present; Vice-Principal: 2005-present

“I came to Syracuse in 2002 when there were only about 50 students. I chose Syracuse (I had offers to teach at other SSPX schools as well) because I really liked Fr. Philippe Pazat, the principal and prior at the time. Plus, it was close to my home in Connecticut. I thought he had a real vision for this place, and although I would not necessarily be here long-term, I thought that Father was building an excellent foundation here, and I wanted to be part of it.

“In any event, shortly after arriving, I met my future wife, Bernadette, then a math teacher here, and we married in August of 2003. We now have five children (with one on the way), the oldest four of whom are now students at Mater Dei.

“I’ve been privileged to see our School grow a lot in these 20 years, and it’s clear the Hand of Providence has guided our Academy along the way.”

MR. ANDREW TUCKER

LITERATURE, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY,
CROSS COUNTRY COACH

HOME TOWN: Seattle, WA

EDUCATION: B.A. in English, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI (converted to Catholicism through the influence of a literature professor); M.A. in English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

MATER DEI STAFF MEMBER: 2006-present

“Just as my English studies were the handmaidens to my religious conversion, likewise literature studies should play an ancillary role in the religious formation of our students. Literature is, like other arts, an imitation of nature, of what is, of life. It teaches us to see the world in all its vibrance and beauty, and most importantly, shapes our perception of its significance. We read literature because it takes experience and shows the meaning in it, leading us to crave this meaning in our own lives. And if we find meaning, we have something to write about ourselves, like the psalmist composing praises to God. Thus can literature aid students as a ladder from the natural world to the supernatural, teaching them the pursuit of wisdom in their everyday lives, and hopefully, the ability to express this wisdom to others.”



MR. CHRISTIAN MELNICK

7th & 8th BOYS, SPANISH

HOME TOWN: Philadelphia, PA

EDUCATION: B.A. in Spanish, Western State University, Gunnison, CO; M.A. in Spanish Literature, Binghamton University, NY

MATER DEI STAFF MEMBER: 2000-present

“In my 21 years at this Academy, I have taught many subjects, but it has been a privilege to teach my favorite – Spanish. I fell in love with the Spanish language because of the beauty contained in the rich cultures that have spoken this language. These cultures have displayed many of the qualities that emulate the type of character which demonstrates the true, the good, and the beautiful of family, society, and Church.

“Reinforcing the love of these cultural qualities is the philosophy of Mater Dei Academy. Our Academy’s philosophy, combined with this love, have been a motivating factor for teaching at the Academy. The desire to form the entire individual, both spiritually and academically, resonates with my personal goal to achieve this formation of soul, mind, and body for myself and my students.”



MR. GREGORY RANDAZZO

HISTORY

HOME TOWN: Bridgeton, NJ

EDUCATION: B.A. in Education, St. Mary’s College, St. Mary’s, KS

MATER DEI STAFF MEMBER: 2005-present

“In the spring of 2005, I began talking with some friends in the Syracuse area who mentioned the idea of teaching in Syracuse. After hearing a conference by Bishop Fellay in St. Mary’s, I was pretty certain that the leadership of the SSPX offered the stability I was looking for in the traditional community and I began seriously to look into Syracuse. I had visited several times in the past and was impressed with what I saw.

“Fr. Philippe Pazat accepted my application and in the fall of 2005, I began teaching US History to the 7th, 8th, and 12th grades, which was quite intimidating for me since I had only just turned 22. The seniors were almost my peers. Over the 15 years I have taught in Syracuse, I have taught American History, Early Modern History, Ancient History, Introduction to Latin, 7/8th grade Math, Government/Economics, Physical Education, and even a 4th grade Math course!”



MRS. MARY PAGE

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, GEOMETRY

HOME TOWN: Parma, MI

EDUCATION: B.S. in Chemistry & Biology, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI

MATER DEI STAFF MEMBER: 2005-present

“I so enjoy teaching students science and mathematics as it allows them to see and absorb God’s order and beauty in their daily lives – even in the photosynthesis of plants or the construction of right triangles. I hope it can lead their minds and souls to love God as a good God, and see that He is really “everywhere”. In the end, knowing we teachers are just planting the seeds in the hopes that God will reap a bountiful harvest makes each day a great day at Mater Dei Academy.”

MR. ANTHONY ZAPP

EARTH SCIENCE, ALGEBRA

HOME TOWN: Powers Lake, ND

EDUCATION: B.A. in Liberal Arts, St. Mary’s College, St. Mary’s, KS

MATER DEI STAFF MEMBER: 2005-present

“What makes me stay is hard to pinpoint down to one single thing: Mater Dei possesses some very devoted priests; I have a loyalty to this Academy where I have taught for the past sixteen years; the church community provides a wholesome support group; my colleagues remain teaching alongside me, aiming for the same goals and ideals; and most specially — my family has planted its roots here and I have the pleasure of seeing my children every day at school.”



ACADEMY NEWS

“Our Lord always blesses those who obey His commands.” — St. John Bosco

March 27, 2021 was another day in the life of the boarding house. The students woke-up to a weekend filled with mileage, events, and reception of gifts. Palm Sunday was the occasion and with energy the students embarked to enjoy the scenery of Buffalo and serve the Liturgical Ceremonies in our mission chapel there. All went as planned until the last location — the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory. Many Saints have entered this majestic church to receive the spiritual gifts it offers, but only this group received a material gift as well! “What a beautiful surprise...to see so many young men praying to Our Lady... You gave me hope in this sad world.” The generous lady expressed her thoughts and promised to treat the Saints to food and drinks. The \$300 donation increased to \$500 when she heard the Academy was offering in-person learning all year! Just another manifestation that when you honor Mary, God sends His blessings!



West, north...south — the high school boys took on the challenge to compete against a sister school in Walton, KY. Assumption Academy opened their doors to a two-day event: chess, basketball, pingpong, and soccer. The face-off started slow for the Saints by losing the first day's events. Thankfully they turned the tables the second day with great victory! This ending balanced out the rough start... as the students had to pray the bus along during the 12 hour trip...breaking down 17 times! The return trip was flawless...more details in person!

Traveling to the north country in New York is still a desired event in the winter time! The extra day off for the feast of St. Joseph enabled the high school girls to experience a traditional figure skating lesson. A miracle on ice happened — no one was injured...and the girls were able to sing their spring concert song while skating to the tune!



~ Special mention of an alumnus, class of 2012, who recently became a U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd class ~

Are you an alumnus? Email alumni@materdei.academy to reconnect and share your news!

We like to hear from our SAINTS in the world!