When we received the news that the Academy might have to close, the staff and students decided to have recourse to our greatest intercessor with Our Lady: St. Louis de Montfort. We desired that as many of us as possible should go to his shrine in France to plead with him for our spiritual and financial needs.

Remains of our patron saint.

After we entered the neo-Gothic church and visited Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we knelt before the tomb of St. Louis and prayed a rosary imploring assistance for the Academy and for the donors who have been so generous throughout the years. To finish we prayed the formula for consecrating oneself to the Incarnate Wisdom through the hands of Mary Most Holy, and with this once more placed the Academy under the special protection of our patron.

Next to the basilica is the convent of the Daughters of Wisdom, founded by St. Louis himself. A nun of the order was kind enough to give us a tour. Much to our surprise, among the other relics she showed us was the table where the great Marian apostle wrote his Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

What an honor it was to be "ambassadors" for our peers on a pilgrimage to such hallowed grounds. It was a trip to remember for years to come.

(continued on last page)
A Day at the Academy

The time is 5:40 a.m. and everyone is asleep at the Academy except for one person: the bell ringer. At 5:45 sharp the large wake-up bell tolls with the birth of a new day.

The students rush for their slippers and robes and line up in the hallway for the St. Michael Prayer, asking for success in their battles throughout the new day and for strength to fight the new temptations each day brings. After dismissal, they quickly prepare themselves for departure for Mass at 6:25.

On the way to the Holy Sacrifice, these devout slaves of Our Blessed Mother say a rosary in her honor, and on the return trip, a second set of mysteries is prayed. These two practices, namely, the reception of the sacraments and devotion to Mary Most Holy, are the pillars of their spiritual lives.

Arrival at the Academy is announced by the bell ringing for inspection at 8:15. Here the students' uniforms and rooms are scrutinized. Woe betide the untidy student, whose arms will be strengthened by the push-ups he will pay. When inspection is completed, everyone heads to the singing of the Creed in Latin, an occasion to affirm the Faith the Church has taught us. From here they proceed single file and in step to the school song to the first meal of the day.

During breakfast the students listen to a lector as he reads about the life of saint or some important historical event. When the meal ends, the difficult part of the day begins.

Just before studies commence, the pupils gather to pray for our country as the flag is raised. Classes begin at 9:10 and are separated by five and ten-minute breaks, besides the Angelus at noon. At 12:45 the staff and students pray in the chapel specifically for the intentions of the donors and benefactors of the Academy. Lunch follows. Classes resume after a period for nap or study.

The school day ends at 4:00, and the fun part of the day begins. Every other day the students have karate class. On the remainder of the days they have games, work on different projects, or free time.

When 6:15 arrives, one finds the students saying their last rosary of the day, and then heading to dinner. Dinner is an occasion to feed not only the body, but also the soul with conversation and camaraderie. Until final prayers at 8:30, the students have band or choir practice, or sometimes more free time to play a game of chess, or to call and see how things are at home.

The end of the day is marked by the Consecration to Mary taught by our patron saint, the singing of the Salve Regina, and the bell tolling seven times in remembrance of the seven sorrows of Our Lady. Thus begins a period called Grand Silence, for recollecting oneself, finishing prayers, and preparing for bed.

Signs of life at the Academy seem to end at 9:45, as the lights go out for the night.

Charles Sulzen
11th Grade
At Fort McHenry

A Star-Spangled Day

On September 13, 2003, the 6th Grade

Joe Walter Presents

After the reenactment, a
even a spy-pondered,

the Fort

were particularly interested in a unit

muster drill and the nation for

a loop of soldiers marched onto the

ground, willing to defend their

Fort, as the accents of the
display were the chant of the oars.

Fort 3-foot American flags were raised in

Just as it started, a 8-gigantic 90 by

display were the chant of the oars.

Front Porch, the box of

an American audience, and ended with

military band performed some

experiences. After the reenactment, a

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Before our trip to France, we attended the 2003 International TFP Summer Seminar held in Gaming, Austria, in the foothills of the Alps. Students from different parts of the world participated in the special event. It was an occasion to meet many new friends. As guest of honor, His Excellency Bishop Juan Rodolfo Laise, offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily.

A wide variety of topics were covered in the conferences. They ranged from the dawn of the Holy Roman Empire with Charlemagne to the message of Our Lady at Fatima.

An old Carthusian house was the perfect setting for such an excellent series of meetings, uniting the religious with the cultural and historical. And as if this were not enough, several outings to historic places, including Vienna, made the topics of the lectures very tangible.

For me, the most important part of the event by far was the presence of the miraculous International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Everyone took great pleasure in making prayer vigils throughout her entire stay with us.

From its beginning in Austria to its end in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, the journey was blessed and unforgettable.

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**Thanks for all you've done**

The Staff and Students of St. Louis de Montfort Academy express their heartfelt gratitude to all who supported us with prayers and donations throughout 2003.

With the Magi and poor shepherds, we kneel at the feet of the Infant Jesus to beseech His blessing upon you and your families for the year we have begun and always.

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