



St. Louis de Montfort Academy Newsletter



Winter/Spring 2009



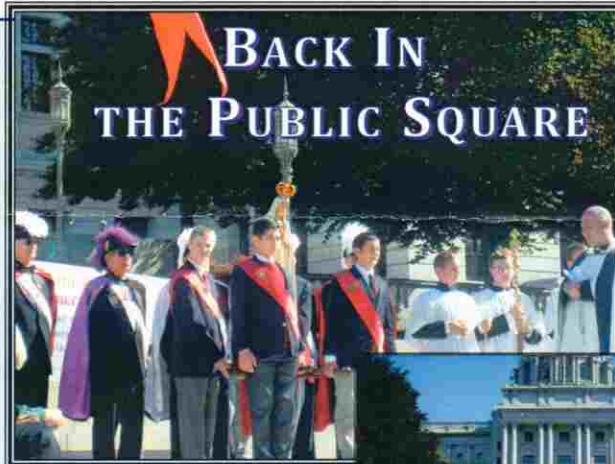
Opening a series of yearly encyclicals on the Holy Rosary one hundred twenty five years ago, Pope Leo XIII exhorted Catholics worldwide through their Shepherds, the bishops, as to the importance of this devotion. *In Supremi Apostolatus Officio*, the venerable pontiff states:

This devotion, so great and so confident, to the august Queen of Heaven, has never shone forth with such brilliancy as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy spread abroad, or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies.

How applicable are these words today as we witnessed over 3500 Public Square Rosaries prayed in the United States and abroad on October 11, 2008, as promoted by the America Needs Fatima (ANF) Campaign.

St. Louis de Montfort Academy participated in two of these rallies: one in front of the United States Supreme Court in the nation's capitol and the other in front of Pennsylvania's State Capitol building.

It is not unusual for the Academy students to proclaim their Faith on the streets. Even during the Academy sponsored youth programs, participants travel to Harrisburg to



protest and pray a Rosary in front of an abortion clinic.

Earlier this school year on September 6, the students prayed publicly in front of the Harsco Science Center in atonement for the "Bodies Revealed" exhibit. Holding signs such as "Respect for ALL Humans, Dead or Alive" and "Rosary of Reparation," they demonstrated their sadness and disgust for the dishonor shown to the deceased.

It is not surprising, then, that on October 11, the students found themselves participating in the ANF Public Square Rosary campaign.



One group of Academy students began the day by participating in a protest in front of the aforementioned Harrisburg abortion clinic where a local pro-life organization

sponsors regular demonstrations. Many Catholics were there to pray for an end to the scourge of abortion and for its perpetrators.

Next was the rally on the Capitol steps organized this year once again by Mr. Robert Charlton. Some Academy students were honored to carry the litter with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima while others served as thurifer and cross-bearer. Father Frank Parinello,



F.S.S.P., pastor of the Mater Dei Latin Mass Community, led the prayers and, after the Public Square Rosary, offered some reflections on the Fatima message to the participants at St. Patrick's Cathedral prior



t o Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The rally drew over a hundred participants.

The other group of Academy students went to Washington, D.C., and joined in the rally led by Mr. Robert Ritchie, director of the America Needs Fatima campaign. Students held banners in front of the Supreme Court building and prayed the Rosary with a crowd who took part in the event.

Not only on special occasions like

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News and Activities

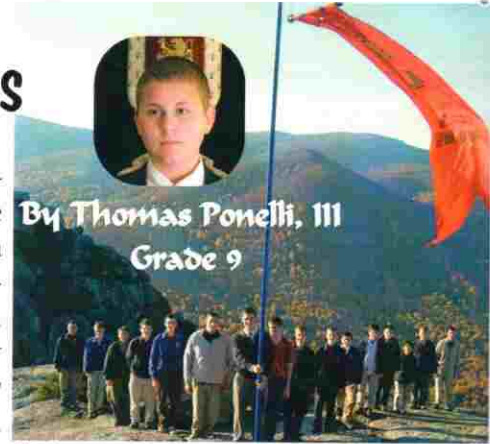
ACADEMY STUDENTS CONFIRMED

The Sacrament of Confirmation makes one a soldier of Christ, an ideal for all young men. On September 21, four of our students received this Sacrament from the hands of His Excellency, Bishop Kevin C. Rhodes of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Besides being a sacrament, this was also a great privilege for them because the ceremony was done in the traditional Latin rite. As such, it was the bishop's first time to use the traditional formula, and afterwards in the reception he made the remark, "I enjoyed getting to actually give a slight slap." We sincerely thank Bishop Rhodes for this opportunity.



but it is well worthwhile. At the top, we raised the TFP standard, formed in the customary v-formation, and prayed the Rosary there as well. After viewing all the golden colors and a quick snack, it was time to head back down. These hikes remind us of St. John Bosco's dream "Hiking to Heaven" and help us realize how important it is to keep our sights on high.

By Thomas Ponelli, III
Grade 9



HORSE SHOW

Whether it be thoughts of a knight riding on his steed or some childhood dream, some of the dreams of the young men of Saint Louis de Montfort Academy are about horses. On October 18, 2008, this dream was fulfilled. The troop traveled to the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg where the Pennsylvania National Horse Show was being



held. Beside the jumping competitions, the Canadian Mounted Police also made an appearance adding masterly horsemanship. If only we had our own horses to ride at the Academy!

HIKES

After a long weekend of school, one is just dying to get outside and do something. Several trips have been made for hikes: one was up Peters Mountain and the other Old Rag in West Virginia. At the former, while the fast boys shot to the top and started exploring some of the caves, the others took their time and got to watch some eagles. When we arrived to the top, we prayed a Rosary as a final act before the descent. One of the Academy's favorite hikes is to Old Rag Mountain. This mountain in Virginia is known for its vantage points for viewing the vast foliage. The hike itself can be exhausting,

DINNER WITH FR. EUTENEUER

Candlelight dinners are common for us, but not with such distinguished personalities like Fr. Thomas Euteneuer, President of Human Life International. On Saturday, November 8, Pennsylvania for Life held its annual Respect Life Dinner in Wilkes Barre. The honored guest that night was Fr. Euteneuer, and he had some somber words to offer on the day after the elections. The main thrust of his talk was the importance of the Cultural War in our daily lives, a battle we need to wage now that pro-abortion politicians are in power. At the end of the meal we were blessed to take a photo with that warrior against the scourge of abortion.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Communist teacher, caroling, and eggnog were what this year's Christmas Open House was about. The play titled "Come Infant Jesus" is the story of a school boy named Angelo in Communist occupied Hungary. The student, suffering much persecution from his atheist teacher Mr. Gustav, invoked the Infant Jesus, who miraculously appeared. After this came our choir caroling traditional Christmas hymns. Of course, the snack table was full of goodies and eggnog, making the 2008 Christmas Open House a success.



MARCH FOR LIFE

On January 22, the day Roe vs. Wade was passed, the annual March for Life is held. As usual, the Academy joins the TFP with its band and with its standards and banners, to literally march with hundreds of thousands in defence of life, particularly that of the unborn. With the recent elections and the reality of many trials in the near future, this year's theme was confidence. Making this year even more special was the presence, for the first time, of the miraculous International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady that wept in New Orleans. She was held by four honor guards in the ceremonial TFP habit. The students always look forward to defending the unborn at the March.

OUTDOORS SHOW

Archery, hunting, pocket knives, and food: all a boy could ask for, and that is what we found at the Pennsylvania Outdoors Show in Harrisburg. Students went about enthusiastically trying to see all the show had to offer. Hunting and tour companies from Africa, Alaska, Texas, and any other game land imaginable had stands there. The African Safari stands with elephant and buffalo heads were by far the best. The Marines also had a stand there with a pull-up bar for testing one's strength with prizes awarded to the stronger ones. At events like this, time seems to stand still.



Persuasive Essay: OF WOMEN AND WAR

Ever since World War I, women have been slowly infused into the military, which had previously been reserved exclusively for men. Inch by inch they managed to be accepted on the grounds of "equal rights." They have gone from answering phone calls, to carrying firearms, to commanding troops. To this very day, the number of female militants increases in its slow, but steady climb towards complete equality. Yet, despite this apparent success for women, this transformation in the military is merely a facade behind which hide some major bad effects which harm not only the military, but especially, the women themselves.

Although exceptions might exist, the majority of women in the war-zone create multiple problems for their fellow troops. For one, women are generally not as capable as men to persevere through the mental, physical, and psychological stress that always accompanies bloodshed in war. There have been cases in which women break down simply because they hear the distant explosion of an RPG round or the rattle of an AK47. Another situation that occurs when women are present in battle is the constant inclination of men to protect women. In their very nature, men are more apt to concentrate more on

By Andrew Womack,
Grade 10



the defense of women than of men. This is not a bad inclination, but it distracts the male soldiers from their mission and only adds another difficulty in combat.

In addition to all these factors, women in the military do create complications morally. Not overlooking the general immorality already present in the military, women in the ranks will definitely not help the following of the Sixth and Ninth Commandments. They may live in the same barracks as men, live in the same rooms, and even share washrooms. With all these circumstances considered, one should not have any illusions about the difficulties that women's presence can introduce in the military.

In order to analyze the dilemma of women in the military most efficiently, however, one must recognize the deep chasm that separates the nature of women from the spirit of warfare. From the very beginning, women have always been more sympathetic and loving than men. Unfortunately, these characteristics do not help a soldier to destroy his enemy, to kill when needed, to pull the trigger when those poor, despair-filled eyes of a

wounded terrorist stare into those of his American adversary. Quite to the contrary of the purpose

of war, women naturally want to heal and comfort those in pain and not to kill.

They want to preserve life, not destroy it. The very backbone of the military is its ability to be rough and tough, to get the job done no matter the cost. Surely this is not the role of a woman. As one can easily see, the nature of women does not combine with that of war.

Ultimately, in this conflict between the nature of war and the nature of women, the main victim is women themselves. Since God did give women a certain nature, a nature more compassionate, loving, and gentle than men's, this nature is undoubtedly good. With this in mind, one must also admit that the life and soul of the military is the complete antithesis of women's nature. Although appearances may seem otherwise, by joining the military, women are freely accepting the destruction of their own nature. That picture of the kind, motherly, and feminine woman is freely handed over to the commanding officer - and



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burnt. In the military, women have to give up their more feminine sentiments and replace them with those more fitting for men. As is apparent, women are harmed, not benefited, by joining the military.

With all this considered, one can readily recognize the damage that is

done to the military and, above all, to women, when they are made part of the fighting force. There is nothing wrong with women's nature, quite the contrary. But, this nature does not fit with war. In the military, women are forced to give up their nature, to give up qualities that are

inherent to their souls. Because of this conflict, multiple problems arise which hinder the success of the military and do harm to women. In sum, the whole matter boils down to this: women were simply not made for the business of war.

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these is the importance of the Rosary stressed to the students, but also in their daily life at the Academy. It is regularly prayed together going to and from Mass in the morning as well in the chapel just before dinner.

They are well aware that in history the Rosary has wrought many a victory for the Church against Her enemies. As Pope Leo XIII states in the encyclical cited above "[Besides Lepanto in the sixteenth century,] important successes in the last century were gained over the Turks at Temeswar, in Pannonia, and at Corfu; and in both cases these engagements coincided with feasts of the Blessed Virgin and with the conclusion of public devotions of the Rosary."

Exhorting his fellow bishops, he later continues:

You have before your eyes, Venerable Brethren, the trials to which the Church is daily exposed;

Christian piety, public morality, nay, even faith itself, the supreme good and beginning of all the other virtues, all are daily menaced with the greatest

when the great Dominic introduced the use of the Rosary of Mary as a balm for the wounds of his contemporaries.



perils.

Nor are you only spectators of the difficulty of the situation, but your charity, like Ours, is keenly wounded; for it is one of the most painful and grievous sights terror, precipitated into the abyss of eternal death. Our need of divine help is as great today as

The Sovereign Pontiff appealed not only to the frequent recitation of the Rosary, but also that it be prayed publicly. To this end he was "pleased to open the heavenly treasure-house of the Church," to grant generous indulgences for those who

"shall have taken part in the public recital of the Rosary and the Litanies, and shall have prayed for Our [the Holy Pontiff's] intention."

Taking this to heart, Academy students are ever ready to proclaim their Faith publicly with the Holy Rosary, not as proud pharisees but as humble publicans wishing that God's name and that of his Blessed Mother be praised in every square throughout the United States.

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St. Louis de Montfort Academy admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.