

SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT

ACADEMY BULLETIN



Summer 2000

Summer Youth Program

It's June 15th, five days after St. Louis de Montfort Academy has dispatched five young graduates into the world of adulthood. Another event is already underway — the first session of the annual TFP Summer Youth Program!

The eager group of boys gathered for the Program seem not to notice Pennsylvania's muggy heat as they get acquainted and settle in for ten lively days. The air tingles with the excitement of good Catholic camaraderie. Boys strike up new friendships, some while whacking the ping pong ball back and forth over the net, others while devising and executing boggling strategies at the chess table. Wherever the encounter, everyone manages to get along amicably.

As the opening day winds down, the boys meet with Mr. Richard Lyon, coordinator of the Program, who explains the agenda for the Program and the necessary house rules. It's amazing to see how attentive and imaginative even the youngest boys can be when it comes to seeking loopholes in the boundaries! Mr. Lyon, evidently amused, stresses that everyone should strive to live by the spirit of the law rather than the letter.

The next morning now, bright and early, and the rising bell has interrupted dreams and yanked everyone back to the hard world of reality. All scramble out and line up for morning prayers. It's just six a.m., but no one seems to mind, for today they're off to tour Washington, D.C., with all its history and prominence. Monuments, museums, politicians, soldiers, spies... all there and so intriguing. Spruced up after morning showers, thirteen young men head off, first to attend Mass, then off to the Nation's capital!

The monotonous hum of motors purring along the seemingly endless highway to Washington leaves



After the treasure hunt, winners and losers pose together before sharing the bounty

everyone a bit groggy as we step out into the hot, wet D.C. summer air. First impression? People everywhere, and seemingly all headed to one destination, the MCI Center. We also turn that way, because, like many others, we plan to see the "Spirit of America Celebration," commemorating the United States Army's 225th birthday. This event proves to be a real treat for both eye and ear. Soldiers reenact famous battles with rifles and cannons, filling the arena with a fog of gray smoke. The Old Guard enters on spirited prancing horses for precision equestrian maneuvers, drawing delighted applause from the crowd. Soldiers rappel from the rafters, machine guns chatter, cannons boom, Indians yell on being repelled from settlers' wagons. Occasionally the action subsides and soldiers relate tales of bitter suffering and hard-won glory. The Army Band complements this glorious review with stirring marches of the United States services.

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"Tug-of-war"

Leaving the arena in high spirits, the boys want to penetrate a little further into the heartland of world politics. So we take a driving tour, seeing the Capitol, the Washington Monument, the White House, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and more.

Back in Pennsylvania, the next few days pass quickly. A canoeing expedition on the Susquehanna involves finding Commodore Herndon, getting a treasure map from him, and searching out a treasure chest full of candy and cold drinks. We also venture down to historic Philadelphia for a parade of sailing ships.

Before we know it, the closing days of the Program are upon us. The finalists in the ping pong and chess tournaments are vying for the championships. Lively dinner-table conversations range from deliberating on points from the Program's various lectures to discussing how time flies or the simple

telling of tall tales. Meanwhile, anticipation is building for the approaching climax of every TFP Summer Youth Program, the Medieval Games.

On this final day, a long green field is decked out with numerous heraldic flags and the great red standards of the TFP, floating on a gentle breeze. A multicolored tent enhances this medieval ambience. A helmeted knight in flowing cape welcomes the boys to the "battlefield" and advises them that they are not to fight each other as enemies but in chivalrous competition for the greater glory

of the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth. The boys are divided into teams, vested in colored scapulars emblazoned with crosses or other medieval symbols, and take to the field. Families and friends look on from the protective shade of the tent. A statue of Our Lady of Fatima watches over the contenders as they ready themselves for the games.

"Numbers 3, 5, 7, 9!" A whistle blows and these numbered contestants rush forward in an attempt to retrieve and carry a baton safely back to their line in "steal the bacon." Dodge ball, capture the flag, shield ball, tug of war, chariot races, and three-legged races follow. Last in time but not in import and excitement is the obstacle course, which often decides who carries the day.

After all the exertion, winners and losers alike, along with families and friends, gather for the Medieval Banquet. There is plenty to eat and drink — steaks, burgers, salads, breads, fruit, and much, much more — and plentiful, lively conversation as well. Only the lengthening shadows of evening and the gathering darkness can bring it all to an end. Farewells are exchanged as the crowd slowly dwindles to just a few resolute lingerers. This summer's first TFP Youth Program is over.

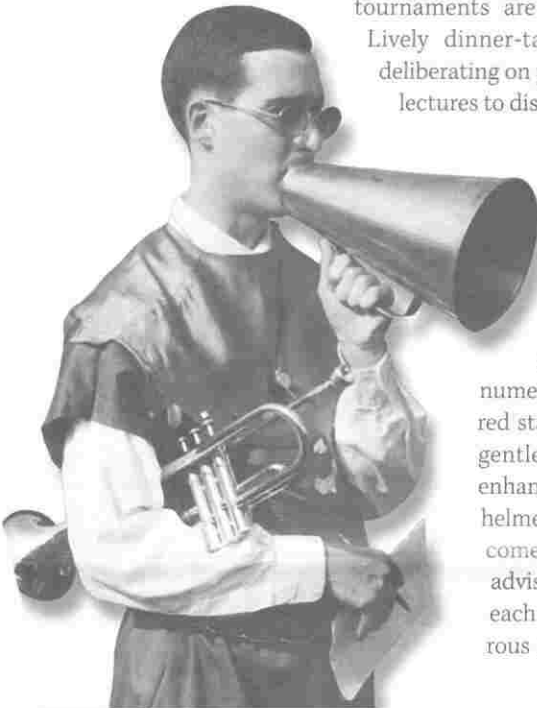
Before long, however, the second one begins.

Just two days after the boom and sparkle of July 4th, another group of boys gathers and, like the first group, quickly becomes acquainted with the surroundings and one another. Over thirty energetic boys — quite a handful — have come for this session, filling the lodgings to capacity.

First things first, Mr. Lyon once again outlines the Program schedule and rules — even more necessary this time, for we are guests at the headquarters of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. Every participant is then assigned a number that he must use during role call so that no one gets left behind in Washington or elsewhere.

Next day, after breakfast, everyone heads outdoors for games. While the older participants choose sides for soccer, the younger ones scurry down to the old

"Numbers 3, 5, 7, 9!"



"Steal the Bacon"



Mr. Michael Drake speaks to the boys on the "Malice of Sin".

stone bridge for a paintball war. After nearly two hours both groups switch games. There is no lack of fun or exertion, and no one has any difficulty falling asleep that night.

Lectures enliven some of the other days, one dealing with important historic figures, another with aspects of our Faith, yet another with the present situation of our confused world. Now and then a lecturer uses a skit or an audio-visual presentation to illustrate a point. Our rock and roll audio-visual, for example, shows how evil and satanic much of that so-called music is, not only because of the sensual lyrics and beat, but also because of the backward masking and other subliminal messages often used by rock musicians to introduce perverse ideas into the minds of their unwitting listeners.

Recurring emphasis is given throughout the Program, in lectures and otherwise, to the importance of prayer as the key to eternal salvation. We want all the participants to learn more about who they are and where they are headed in this world, and that knowing, loving, and serving God requires constant recourse to Him.

Outings during this second Program include a trip to Gettysburg National Battlefield, principally for first-time participants, and another to Antietam Battlefield for "veterans." Both sites saw some of the bloodiest fighting of our Civil War. Everyone is notably impressed standing on these sacred grounds where so many brothers, fathers, and sons shed their blood, often on opposing sides.

In Baltimore we tour a WWII submarine, a Coast Guard cutter, a lightship, and the fabled brigantine warship U.S.S. Constellation. Washington this time presents some new sights: the Washington Monument, newly unveiled after restoration, stands clean and white against the sapphire sky, and the Marine Corps Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial. In bold straight lines, a large formation of Marines performs precision maneuvers, spinning their thirteen-pound M-1 rifles like batons. A special highlight comes when a select body of Marines steps out from the rest for the "silent drill." Receiving just one order, to begin, they perform a complex and breathtaking routine with their bayoneted rifles. It is a truly memorable evening, especially with the resplendent rays of the setting sun striking the bronze memorial commemorating our nation's most famous flag-raising.

In the few remaining days everyone is caught up in hot competition as the ping pong and chess tournaments get under way. One by one, contestants are eliminated, and the real battle begins. Back and forth the white ball whizzes; back and forth the tide of battle turns on the chess table. Finally, three champions remain: David Henderson in the senior ping pong tournament, David Pribble in junior ping pong, and Lionel Valles in the chess tournament. Each ping pong champion receives a small gilt replica of the sword of El Cid. The chess champion takes home a small statuette of an armor-clad knight.

On this last Sunday, July 16th, the boys attend Mass and then head for the Academy for the Medieval Games and Banquet. The field is even more colorful than before, with two tents and many more standards. As before, a knight greets the boys as they arrive, while a drum and bugle corps sets a vigorous tempo. Everyone is eager to begin.

After the rigor of the Medieval Games, participants and spectators are equally eager to partake of the Medieval Banquet. With everyone in such high spirits, the conversation is lively, the music cheerful, and, again, only the sun's setting behind the rolling hills of the surrounding landscape manages to bring it all to a close. Nobody seems eager to leave, and many exclaim that they can't wait for next summer.

*Nicholas Burnham,
Class of 2000*



The medieval banquet combined meats, salads and other good foods with lively conversations. No one wanted to leave and many stayed long past nightfall.

Graduation Ceremonies

"Always at the Foot of the Cross"

Graduate, Donald Stephen Lee, receives his diploma from Mr. Luiz Fragelli



Saint Louis de Montfort Academy held its third commencement ceremonies on Saturday, June 10 of this year. As in previous years, the ceremonies took place in the splendid setting of Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. After our five graduating students solemnly walked down the aisle while the Academy's band played "Pomp and Circumstance," Msgr. Michael Fedorovich, pastor of Transfiguration, celebrated the Divine Liturgy according to the Ukrainian Rite of the Catholic Church. The students and staff accompanied the Mass with sung responses.

At the conclusion of the Mass, everyone stood for the National Anthem, played by the band. The commencement ceremonies proper then began with an address by the Academy's headmaster, Mr. Richard Lyon. He spoke of both the beginnings and future of the Academy to remind the graduates of life's ever-present difficulties. Encouraging them, he called to mind the words of Sir Winston Churchill in a legendary address to a graduating class of Sandhurst

Military Academy, following the Second World War. Churchill approached the podium at his alma mater, looked at the assembled students, families, and friends, and said, "Never, never, never quit." Churchill repeated these same words, then left the podium amidst an explosion of

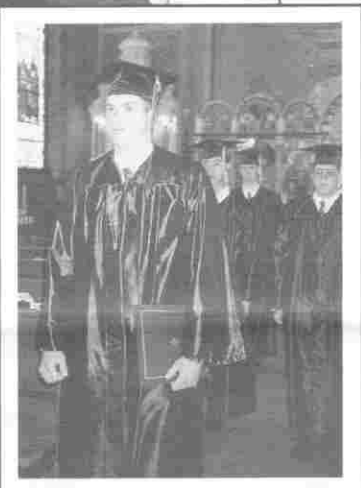


From left to right, graduates: Luiz Berrizbeitia, Nicholas Burnham, Donald Lee, Michael Shibler, and Louis Toenjes respond as the National Anthem is played by the Academy Band

applause. These few but forceful words, so well recalled by Mr. Lyon, served as an inspiration not only to the graduates for all the obstacles they will face in life but for the faculty and staff as well for their continuing efforts in directing the Academy along the right path. Mr. Lyon also focused on the important role of admiration in the formation of youth today. Of course, it is necessary that we admire the right things, he stressed, for we assume attributes of what we admire. Admiring what is proper, we transform ourselves into what we are called to be.

We were honored to have Mr. John Russell Spann, an active member of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property since its founding in 1973, deliver the commencement address. Among numerous other accomplishments, he has frequently written, lectured, and translated for the organization both here and abroad. Mr. Spann encouraged the graduates always to fight for the Catholic Church. "As an old man," he said, "I look upon you with envy, because when I was young I wanted always to fight for the Catholic cause." Mr. Spann then gave a short overview of the persecution the Catholic Church is suffering at this moment in history, noting that Catholics in China are contin-

The graduates file out of the church as the Academy band plays "Canzona Bergamesco"



ually subject to harassment and imprisonment, that in Muslim countries today Catholics are being put to death for practicing their Faith, that publications about Our Lady of Fatima have been barred from entering Russia, and other examples of severe animosity toward Catholicism. Then, speaking specifically about the graduates, but about all present as well, Mr. Spann said, "As men, they and I can now look to the crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and see that all the men present ran away in fear. The only ones who stayed were the holy women and St. John, who returned by the grace of Our Lady. In this new crucifixion the Church...we have a chance to vindicate ourselves and make sure that there are always men at the foot of the cross."

Following those opportune words, the graduates received their diplomas. We were pleased to have Mr. Luiz Antonio Fragelli, a long-standing member of the American TFP and firm friend of the Academy, confer the diplomas on the graduates. Each of the five — Mr. Luis Enrique Berrizbeitia, who graduated as Outstanding Senior, Mr. Nicholas Robert Burnham, Mr. Donald Steven Lee, Mr. Michael Chad Shibler, and Mr. Louis Patrick Toenjes — approached the steps of the sanctuary in turn to receive his diploma and a word of congratulations and encouragement.

Mr. Michael Shibler delivered the valedictory. He began by thanking Monsignor Fedorovich, the parents, staff, and friends of the Academy for everything they had contributed in the formation of the graduating students. Addressing his fellow graduates in moving words, he encouraged them to hold on to the formation they had received and stand firm in the virtues necessary to persevere

in the moral crisis of the contemporary world. He reminded them of a battle cry, "Advance always, retreat never," that was very dear to the primary inspirer of the Academy, Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, the illustrious founder of the Brazilian TFP. In effort to rouse confidence, he finished with a passage from the "Fiery Prayer" of St. Louis de Montfort, which closes with an invocation to Our Lord: "Gather us from the nations. Call us together, unite us, that we may render all glory to Thy holy and powerful Name."

The ceremonies at Transfiguration concluded with the student body singing the school song, "We Want God." As the graduates filed out of the church, the band played the recessional music, the splendid "Canzona Bergamesco" composed by Samuel Scheidt.

After the traditional photo session on the church steps, the graduates, their families, the staff, student body, and friends proceeded to the Academy for a delicious barbeque served in a medieval setting with tents and banners. Accompanying the wide variety of meats, salads, and other delicious foods prepared by the families was a unique and tasty punch served and kept well-chilled in a huge block of ice carved out as a punch bowl. A special cake for the graduates and a small gift for each of them from the Academy staff brought the meal, but not the day, to a close. Graduates, the other students, their families and friends, lingered in lively conversations throughout the afternoon and into the early evening.

The day's ceremonies brought to mind a beautiful passage from Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira's *Revolution and Counter Revolution*: "When men resolve to cooperate with the grace of God, the marvels of history are worked: the conversion of the Roman Empire; the formation of the Middle Ages; the reconquest of Spain, starting from Covadonga; all the events that result from the great resurrections of soul of which peoples are also capable. These resurrections are invincible, because nothing can defeat a people that is virtuous and truly loves God."

Byron Whitcraft,
7th Grade Teacher



Nicholas Robert Burnham
embraces his mother after
the graduation ceremonies



Michael Chad Shibler receives a
beautiful rosary from Mr. Luiz Fragelli.





May Crowning in Washington D.C.

*We recited the
Glorious
Mysteries of the
Rosary, singing a
hymn to the
Blessed Mother
between each
decade.*

On May 7, 2000, the staff and students of St. Louis de Montfort Academy, at the kind invitation of Mrs. Mary Wallington, participated in the annual May Crowning of Our Lady at St. Mary's church in Washington, D.C. It was a beautiful occasion in which two of the upper classmen carried a statue of Our Lady of Fatima in procession to the front of the church. The rest of the students followed, each carrying flowers to place at Our Lady's feet. Also taking part in the event were the girls of Visitation Academy in Maryland, who crowned a statue of Our Lady belonging to the church. As the procession advanced, both academies sang hymns and songs in honor of the

Blessed Mother. When our statue reached the front of the church, it was placed on a pedestal behind the marble communion rail. The statue in the church was crowned with a wreath of fragrant roses and ours with a crown of gold and velvet.

To accompany the procession and the crowning of Our Lady, we recited the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, singing a hymn to the Blessed Mother between each decade. After the Rosary we chanted the Litany of Our Lady, led by Mr. Ted Hurena, a 9th grade teacher at the Academy. Then Father David Conway, the pastor of St. Mary's Church, gave a most beautiful sermon about Our Lady. That was followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with benediction, enhanced with singing of "O Salutaris Hostia and Tantum Ergo" accompanied by the church's beautiful pipe organ. Following the ceremonies, many people remained in the church to venerate the statues.

Afterwards, the students and other participants had lively conversations about the beautiful occasion in front of the church. Unfortunately, it was getting late and we had a long drive ahead of us. On the way back, we stopped at a pizza shop for dinner. This made a lovely ending for the day. Finally, we were on our way back to the Academy.

We all enjoyed the wholesome day immensely, and have great hopes of being able to attend the May Crowning again next year.

*By Peter Shibley,
7th grade*






Renovations at the Academy

Little by little over the years, with careful saving and budget-stretching, we have made various improvements to our old buildings and grounds. This past summer, while the Academy's second Summer Program session took place at the American TFP's headquarters in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, two dedicated supporters of the Academy, Messrs. David and Michael Shibler, dedicated some of their valuable time and skills for some long-needed and rather Herculean excavation projects. Two of their nephews, Messrs. Gabriel and Paul Shibler, both former students of the Academy, gave them able assistance.

Part of the work actually began back in May, when Mr. Michael Shibler, using equipment lent by our neighbor, friend, and benefactor, Mr. Marty Fels, leveled our often-used but quite uneven volleyball court and cleared out some old tree stumps and such from the lawn and grounds. In July, following graduation and the first session of our Summer Program, he was joined by the other three (Mr. David Shibler came all the way from Kansas to help out) to undertake the long-awaited task of installing a drainage system to prevent the frequent seepage and not infrequent flooding of our basement, especially the

Activity Corner



What do you know about Francisco Marto? Is he a hero, a martyr, or just a common lad of some past time? Send us your answer in a well-written paragraph, telling us what you think about him. The one who submits the best essay will win a prize and have his paragraph printed in the next issue of our Bulletin. Give it a try!

Congradulations to the winners of the previous activity:
Megan Allain, Kim Marin, and Andrew Curry

part where our kitchen is installed. This involved excavation on three sides of our main building. While digging behind the kitchen, they conceived the idea of going a bit further and building a room-size annex that opens up a whole realm of possibilities for eventual expansion of our kitchen and pantry facilities. They also installed a 1700-gallon water storage tank, with new filters and pumps, in the hill behind the house to give us a backup supply of water.

Providentially, the only lengthy dry spell in an almost monsoon summer here coincided with their two-week work schedule. Then, on the final day, a terrific storm proved that the work had been excellently done, as not a drop seeped into the building.

The faculty and students extend their sincerest gratitude to them for this generous assistance to the Academy.

*Michael Shibler,
Class of 2000*

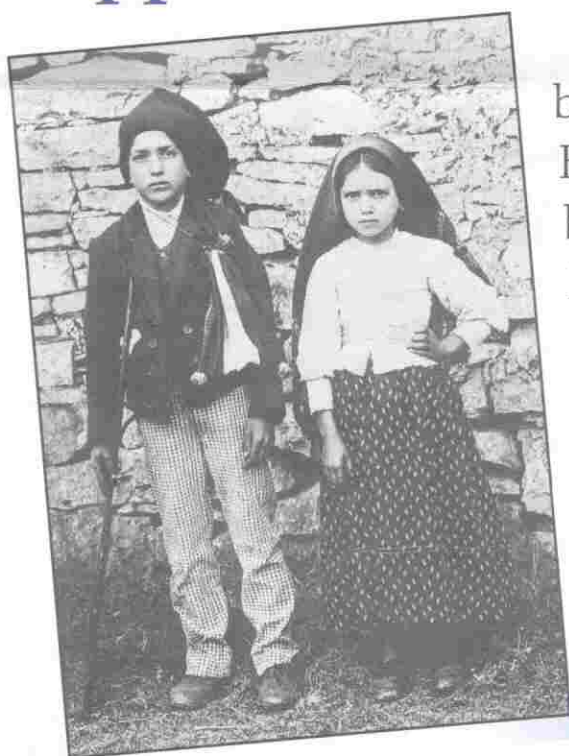
St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort

Priest, preacher, prophet, apostle, confessor, founder, writer, missionary. These are some of the titles given to this eighteenth-century French saint. However, he is best remembered as the apostle of True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Inspired by his example and his writings, the directors and faculty of this Academy volunteer their time and efforts to giving youth a Mary-centered formation. We pray that Our Blessed Mother bless our humble and imperfect endeavors, so that our young men may be part of the spiritual conversion of our country and the world, which we see as the only true solution to the contemporary crisis.

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



Support St. Louis de Montfort Academy,



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An excellent and inspiring photo decoration for your child's room.

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Our Special Thanks to...

- ◆ Mr. David Shibler and Mr. Jim Kreider for their generous contributions towards the renovations of our Academy.
- ◆ Messrs. David, Michael, Paul and Gabriel Shibler for dedicating their time and efforts in various improvements in the buildings and on the grounds.
- ◆ Parents who brought food for the graduation reception, and the summer programs.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Wohlstadter for their contribution towards gym uniforms for the boys.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bascom for their donation of an air conditioner and a set of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.