

# SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT ACADEMY BULLETIN



Spring 2004

## A Day at the Academy

"There is nothing shorter than time, but there is nothing more valuable," says St. Alphonsus Liguori. In the formation of Catholic gentlemen, a well-structured daily schedule is not only indispensable, but also an obligation before God, the Creator of time. Aiming to impart a threefold spiritual, intellectual and cultural formation to its students, the Academy keeps a daily schedule.

As the sun begins to rise, the bell-ringer rings the bell seven times in honor of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady. The students line up along the hallway outside their bedrooms to start the day with a prayer to St. Michael, asking his aid for that day's battle. Punctuality for this and other formations is emphasized, so those who are tardy often make amends by way of push-ups.

The next program is daily Mass at 7:00am in the nearby city of Shamokin. Upon the return from Mass, everyone gathers for inspection, an important practice that helps keep the students



and the school building in order. Students and bedrooms must be impeccable, uniforms pressed, shoes polished, bed coverings taut and tidy.

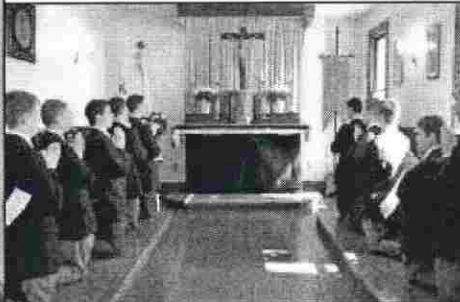
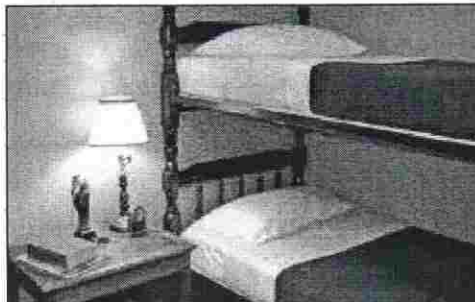
### Prayer in the Chapel

Following inspection, the students assemble in front the school building for the "Raising of the Standard." As the ruby-red standard of the TFP is hoisted, the students sing the Creed in Latin, Gregorian chant style. With a sign from an instructor, the students file out in orderly ranks for the dining room, singing St. Louis de Montfort's hymn, "We Want God". A good book like *The Dreams of Saint John Bosco* is read during breakfast. Before classes commence, the flag-bearer of the week raises the national flag while the students say a prayer for America, invoking the Immaculate Conception and American saints such as St. John Neumann and St.

*Continued on page 3...*



**Christopher Sulzen,**  
9th grade, takes his  
studies seriously.



From rising in the morning (left), to inspection (center) to prayer in the chapel for our donors and a good day (right), followed by studies (above right), there is never a dull moment at the Academy.

## Inside

- A Day at the Academy ..... 1
- Handel's Messiah .. 2
- A different Kind of Fish Story ..... 3
- From Europe to Cross Country Skiing ..... 4

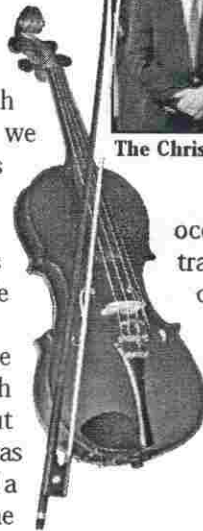


# Handel's Messiah

"He who sings, prays twice," says St. Augustine. Just before going home for the Christmas break, we had the opportunity of attending a performance of George Frederic Handel's Messiah by the Baltimore Symphonic Chorale and Orchestra at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

The performance of the Messiah during Christmas has been a tradition for many years. The words are all taken from the Old and New Testaments. It begins with the prophecies of Isaiah on the life of Our Lord. Then we hear parts of St. Luke's account of the Nativity, various prophecies from the Psalms and, again, Prophet Isaiah illustrates Our Lord's passion and His sacrifice in redeeming mankind. Finally, towards the end, the words speak about the certainty we should have of eternal life through Christ Resurrected.

An interesting contrast could be noted. For one, here we were in a modern city inside a circular building with the roof coming to a point in an odd fashion, without symmetry. Yet, inside this building, in the lobby, there was a nice red carpet, oak paneling, beautiful decoration, and a magnificent Christmas tree. People were dressed for the



The Christ Child always takes center stage at the Academy.

occasion, gentlemen in suits and ladies in dresses. They contrasted with the people in the streets in jeans and T-shirt. The concert hall itself was modern and ugly; yet, as the performance began, we totally forgot about the surroundings. We became enthralled with the beautiful music.

The orchestra was a feast for the eyes and ears and the musicians definitely put their whole hearts into the music. The conductor, Mr. Edward Polochick, was a won-

*Continued on page 3...*

## A Different Kind of Fish Story

No, it isn't your ordinary "fisherman's story" at all. Here at the Academy, we have two beautiful saltwater fish tanks in our main room; both of which serve to lighten our spirits. There is a certain calmness and beauty about such things which affect the soul.

It had been roughly three months since the death of our dear Mr. Edward Parrot, who for years had faithfully taken such care of these tanks. One of our instructors was a little concerned that the tanks were not being properly maintained. Knowing the good that they do—yes, even calming us energetic boys—and the many conversations we have sitting in front of the tanks, he did not want them deactivated.

No one at the Academy had enough knowledge of the tanks to keep them functional, so he decided to look for a professional. Coming across an ad of Thomas Dipasquale, who has a business called "Aquarium Management Systems," our instructor called him to see if he would consider lending his expertise. After taking a look at the tanks, cleaning quite a few things and giving an estimate for regular maintenance, Mr. Dipasquale praised Mr. Parrot on his delightful selection of fish and for his obvious ability to upkeep the tanks on a "shoe-string" budget. He then left. The staff discussed the price and came to the decision that we could not afford it for very long.



"That sounds like a fish story to me! Now, go fish!" The boys play a game of cards in front of the fish tanks.

Mr. Dipasquale returned another day to do a water change. Our budget-control officer informed him that the Academy could not afford the costs of future visits, but asked if he could do the work

for a receipt of donation. Kindly, Mr. Dipasquale agreed. We boys were elated.

Since then, Mr. Dipasquale visits the Academy every five weeks, spending one or two hours doing water changes, cleaning the filters and other parts of the system as well as adding live coral and other enhancements. We are most grateful for his kindness in picking up where Mr. Parrot left off. One day, he even brought a pile of suits for us boys. It is through supporters like Mr. Dipasquale and you, dear reader, that our Academy is continues. Thank you so much! We never forget you in our prayers!

**Bernard Slobodnik,  
9th grade**



Mr. Edward Parrot





... continued from page 1

Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Every class begins with a short prayer, keeping in mind the important role the Angels and Saints have in the students' intellectual formation. There are four periods in the morning, covering the more important subjects of Religion, English, Mathematics and History or Science. Short breaks between classes give the students time to stretch and get some fresh air.

By lunchtime the stomachs of the growing young men are clamoring for attention, but they remember Saint John Bosco's admonition, "Don't live to eat; eat to live." Often, a rule of etiquette or of chivalrous treatment is given at the beginning of lunch. At other times, lunch is enlivened with organized debates — sometimes heated — or a short speech by one of the older students.

Back in the classrooms by two o'clock, the students conclude the afternoon classes and study hall. At four o'clock, it is time for gym uniforms and run for at least half-a-mile to start off their much-needed physical exercise. A small snack follows and, depending on the day, they play organized sports or work on various projects, such as building a Nativity Scene, planting a vegetable garden, or clearing brush on the Academy's twenty-acre property. The games help to instill sportsmanship, while the chores help the students gain a sense of duty and accomplishment. On occasion, in place of games or projects, a member of the staff or a guest gives a short talk on topics related to our Catholic faith and culture

### Afternoon exercise

As the sun begins to dip behind the rolling hills that surround the Academy, the students pray their last Rosary together in the chapel or in the open air. A candle-lit dinner follows. With lively conversation throughout, dinner usually lasts for an hour or more.

Saint John Bosco once told his boys that a group without

... continued from page 2

der himself. He conducted the orchestra, choir and played the harpsichord.

The choir was first rate. At a couple of parts during the concert, when singing about death or sin, they all put their books up in front of their mouths to make their words sound muffled. Suddenly, they would lower the books and sing joyfully and full-heartedly about the Redemption or Resurrection. It made a tremendous effect. Among the soloists, the soprano was unanimously proclaimed as the best. She was gracefully dressed and had a very happy and even motherly demeanor about her, and



Left: The library is considered the favorite room by many. Left below: Prayer precedes every class and activity



music is like a body without a soul. Mindful of this, the Academy conducts a music program which includes a brass band with percussion and a choir. Practice and instruction follow dinner.

After practice everyone gathers in the chapel to say the final prayers of the day: St. Louis de Montfort's Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Bernard's Salve Regina sung in the ancient simple chant. After final prayers, "Grand Silence" begins, allowing the students to get ready for bed

and recollect themselves, by reading or doing some homework. By 9:45pm the final bell of the day rings for "Lights out."

As can be seen, there is no time for idleness at the Academy. Punctuality, esprit de corps and readiness in the context of a structured but rich daily program combine to instill a sense of order and duty in the young men, molding them into eager members of the Church Militant. The goal of St. Louis de Montfort Academy is to provide an environment that will facilitate the healthy growth and maturity of young Catholic gentlemen.

**Michael Gorre**  
Teacher



Karate teaches the boys self-control and channels some of their innate roudiness.

her voice was angelic.

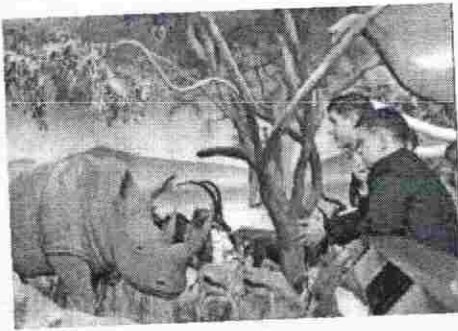
Everyone stood for the "Alleluia," which was beyond doubt the best part. Finally, after the "Amen," which lasted just under five minutes, we left with sore palms and soaring hearts, humming the melodies and words to ourselves.

**Martin Shabler**  
10th Grade



# From Europe to Cross Country Skiing...

... here at St. Louis de Montfort Academy,  
we boys always have our share of adventurous outings!



How would you like to meet one of those face to face? Students admire the stuffed animals at Cabelas.

## Cabelas

A herd of antelope are bounding over a tangle of brush, chased by three lionesses. A large ferocious looking lion looks on majestically, waiting for lionesses to bring the prey. Africa? Safari? NO! Cabela's, the World's Foremost Outfitter. This is what we, the Academy, saw when we went to this massive sporting goods store. This, however, was not the only scene of stuffed animals that Cabela's has. Its walls are decked with deer, antelope, fish, and other American animals. In a 55,000 gallon water tank there were hundreds of fish from Pennsylvania. But that's not all. In a certain section there were many bucks and doe from all over the US and Canada. These deer were shown in realistic and fascinating scenes. The main exhibit was a 30-foot mountain with stuffed bear, bison, deer, moose, fox, sheep and other animals placed in strategic scenes featuring all four seasons. We boys found ourselves truly longing for a good hunt.

After spending 3 or 4 hours there, it was time to go. We left very impressed with those magnificent animals and hope to go back soon.

## Europe

Thanks to some of our benefactors, some of us have been able to travel a bit. Just last summer, a small group of students traveled to Europe. There we visited many different historical places and took full advantage of centuries of Catholic culture. Castles, cathedrals, palaces, and pastries all helped to increase in our young souls a

great sense of reverence for Christian civilization.

The main purpose of the trip was to participate in the International Student Seminar in Gaming, Austria held at the foot of the Alps by the French Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property. Many lessons were learned and there were plenty of new ideas to take home with us: the value of Tradition, Catholic principles, great men in history such as Charlemagne, the Holy Roman Empire and much more.

## Ecuador

On a different note, a recent trip to Quito, Ecuador was a very special experience. Though cultural shock became the order of the day, we were impressed by the strong religiosity of the Ecuadorian people. The number of churches and shrines was impressive and we were amazed to find that almost every church had its own miracle or miraculous statue or image.

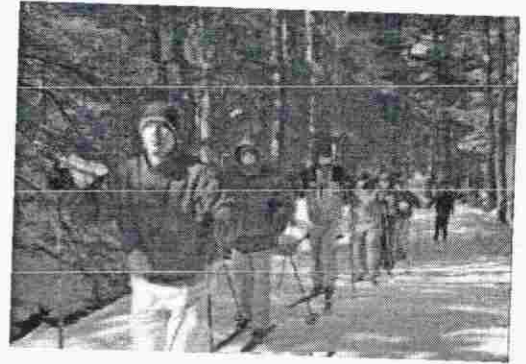
The main reason of our visit was the celebrations around the feast of Our Lady of Good Success. We had the privilege of participating in "The Rosary of the Dawn," a procession that took place at 5 o'clock in the morning. Though very early in the morning, more than 1,000 people participated in the procession.

During this procession we were honored to carry a miniature statue of Our Lady of Good Success. Later that same day, we helped move the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Good Success up to the nuns' choir loft. The story of this invocation is one of the most beautiful and impressive we have ever heard and we hope to publish something about it in a future bulletin.

## Cross country skiing

In another exciting excursion, we went cross country skiing at Crystal Lake Camps.

Our ski teacher, Larry, was very competent and constantly insisted that we fol-



The boys enjoyed skiing through the scenic pine forest.

low instructions to ski well. We learned how to ski forward, uphill, downhill, and to stop and fall properly. Larry remarked that we were one of the best groups he had ever taught because we listened to instructions.

Skiing down hills and through the mountainous terrain reminded us of the freedom fighters of Norway during WWII. As the reader may not know, the Norwegians so loved their country that they were determined to drive the Nazis out. They carried out devastating strikes on the Nazis and then skied to safety. These strikes and then fleeing away made us feel like the Norwegians skiing to safety. With a little imagination, a boy could easily picture himself having just blown up an arms factory and then racing across the mountains and countryside to safety. After four hours at the resort we left tired but happy, with the resolve to come again.

**Jose Ferraz, 10th Grade**  
**Charles Sulzen, 11th Grade**  
**Stephen Duncan, 12th Grade**