

St. Louis de Montfort Academy Newsletter



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

An Unforgettable and Grace-filled Pilgrimage

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.



The morning of the pilgrimage to the tomb was hot and humid, but otherwise pleasant. We enjoyed the charming and picturesque French countryside along the way. Upon arrival at the town of St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, we had lunch near a quaint stream next to the basilica that houses the mortal



remains of our partron 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.

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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.



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

A Star-Spangled Day at Fort McHenry

were particularly interested in a unit repeating the numbers "1, 2" Inquired as to what they were doing, the drillmaster jokingly replied, "They don't know how to count any higher." The troops, who were in formation, muttered and grunted in protest. "Silence in the ranks!" shouted the drillmaster. He explained that the numbers actually were to assign them places in the next marching formation



The main event of the day started with compliments to the benefactors of the ceremony, followed by an historical account of the commemoration. All of the sudden, a troop of soldiers marched onto the field. They began to reenact the fighting formations used in the War of 1812, such as the checkerboard-



We had learned that a movie was going to be shown. With our curiosity aroused, we filed into the auditorium. It proved to be an historical portrayal of the writing of our glorious national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*. We were happy we made it, as it was the last showing that evening.



Jose Walter Ferraz
10th Grade

On the September 13, 2003, the students left the Academy for the first outing of the year. This was no ordinary field trip, however; it was to the famous Fort McHenry for Defenders Day with a ceremony celebrating the writing of *The Star Spangled Banner*. This fort is a relic of the 1812 war between the Americans and English. It provided an excellent opportunity for us students to see our early history.

Upon arrival we went to the visitors center. Much to our surprise, we were told there was no admission fee that day! Many buildings had exhibits of different aspects of life in the early nineteenth century. Also on display were two American flags: one had been raised at the end of World War I and the other at the end of World War II.

We then saw the outer defenses of the fort. These were well made, with many cannons protruding from them.



It was also a surprise to us that the local Army Reserve had brought out five 105 mm howitzers. They were being test-fired for an upcoming event. Visiting time was shortened so that they could be prepared for the presentation.

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In the surrounding park grounds, there was a military camp where colonial soldiers were drilling. We



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.

Anthony Lucki, Grade 10

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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