



# The Minstrel

ONE FAITHFUL HARP SHALL PRAISE THEE

September 2013

Dear Friends,

The continuation of the mission of St. Gregory's Academy by Gregory the Great Academy is a joy and a comfort to me. These are times of varied emotions for my family and me as we close one chapter of our lives and embark upon another. I have begun teaching for the Diocese of Wichita, and I am enjoying being back in the classroom and back in Kansas with my children and grandchildren. But that being said, there is much that I am still getting used to, and there have been more than a few occasions when there has been an ache in my heart for a return to the familiar and loved.

I am grateful to have played a part in the growth of St. Gregory's. Now the school, like me, is moving to a different stage. I am happy to say that, as President of Gregory the Great Academy, I have still been able to be involved with the school, working closely with Sean Fitzpatrick. Though not on site, I have been advising Mr. Fitzpatrick through the application process and helping with curriculum development. It is also my intention to visit the new school

several times during the school year, perhaps the first time being on the Feast of All Saints.



God has richly blessed me with many friends through my work at St. Gregory's, and I am both grateful and proud to be a member of this extended community as it forges into the future. That future will have its challenges. This new endeavor will take vision and energy. Vision I can supply—but I am no longer a soldier. I have moved into the age Shakespeare calls "The justice...with eyes severe and beard of formal cut, full of wise saws and modern instances." The soldiering is where you come in. Your generosity is crucial to keep the school solvent. Without

major financial support from our benefactors and friends, the mission to establish Gregory the Great Academy cannot possibly succeed. Please remember us in your charitable giving this year, and help us gain a firmer foothold as we strive to win souls for Christ through the work of Catholic education.

Thank you for your generosity, and know that you and your intentions remain in my prayers.

In Christ,

*Howard Clark*

Howard Clark  
President, Gregory the Great Academy



## Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your support and encouragement throughout these hard times. I am fortified by your enthusiasm and confidence in this venture (or adventure) to rebuild St. Gregory's Academy.

Affairs continue to proceed apace. Mr. Clark has been guiding Mr. Culley and me in the application process. To date, we have accepted 23 students to Gregory the Great: 4 seniors, 8 juniors, 6 sophomores, and 5 freshmen. We have always held that 25 would be an outer-limit number considering the space we have available, so our numbers are perfect. 10 of these boys attended St. Gregory's Academy and 9 have brothers who are alumni.

God has blessed us with a local priest who has been granted permission to administer to our community as chaplain. Fr. Michael Salnicko is a Ruthenian Catholic priest whose parish church of St. Nicholas stands only a few miles from the resort. Fr. Michael is a very interesting man with many experiences and interests, which include but are not limited to flying, scuba diving, hunting, sailing, firefighting, agriculture, and winning souls for Christ.

As we make preparations for this year we are also continuing the search for a place we can call home. (Keep your ears to the ground for leads.) The resort is pleasant, but not a permanent solution. Please remember this intention in your prayers. Also, the figure for our fundraising goals hangs over our heads like the sky. A critical part of our fundraising tactics this year is to raise the amount of monthly giving. Can you help us reach this all-important goal by signing up on our website for an automatic monthly donation toward the future of our school?



necessary for our survival. The number of our supporters is small, and so we have to count on everyone pitching in—everyone. Please subscribe for any amount that you can afford and play your part in bringing St. Gregory's Academy to its new realization.

Thank you for your prayers, your support, and your sacrifice. Together we will keep alive what still exists beyond the old brick walls of Elmhurst. New halls await us to give that spirit voice in song. Help us arrive there.

In Christ,  
Sean Fitzpatrick  
Headmaster



Please support  
Gregory the Great  
Academy by sending  
your tax-deductible  
donation today!

## The Muster

*The days pass, and never return, and the South still waits for you. Take the adventure, heed the call, now ere the irrevocable moment passes! 'Tis but a banging of the door behind you, a blithesome step forward, and you are out of the old life and into the new!*



The Wayfarer to the Water Rat,  
From *The Wind in the Willows*  
— Kenneth Grahame

We are beginning the 2013-2014 school year by heading out into the wilderness for a hike along the Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail extends from the southern Appalachians in Georgia to the peak of Mt. Katahdin in Maine. It is 2,100 miles long and would take us at least 5 months to complete in its entirety. If we could read fifty books, learn Latin, Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Literature, Theology, Logic, and Rhetoric all while walking and camping out we might attempt the whole thing. But I strongly suspect many if not most of the books would be lost by the side of the trail or burnt in the campfires. So, as a kind of compromise we are tackling a small but respectable portion of the trail that will require 7 days of hard and good walking to accomplish.



Andrew Szemborski and Nicholas Dalimata, two new members of our faculty and dormstaff, will be leading the expedition. Both young men are SGA alumni and have extensive NOLS wilderness leadership experience from their time as students at Wyoming Catholic College. Andrew Szemborski is also a licensed Wilderness First Responder.

This outdoor adventure will be a great way to kick off the year, giving new students an opportunity to meet faculty and dormstaff and old students a chance to renew old friendships while extending the torch of comradship and tradition to the newcomers.

## The Correspondence Program

Since we cannot take possession of the resort until mid-October, our students will be taking a correspondence program for the first month. You can take a look at the material on our website. Coach van Beek has a familiarly intense regimen of pre-athletic training for the boys, with designs that they will compete in cross-country 5k races and, yes, in the Division 2 rugby league.

The purpose of the academic program is two-fold: to guide our students through a challenging course of studies as a beginning to school-year rigors, and to read good works together as a community. Through this program, we hope to hone our students' reading and thinking skills and provide much food for thought and discussion over the year. Reading in common is always a good occasion for communal learning, and the teachers will be joining their students in reading these works.

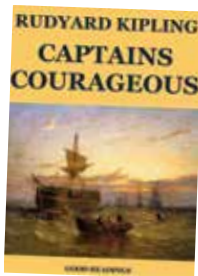
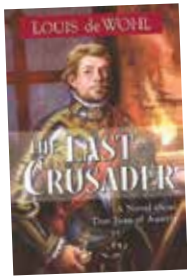
The materials we have selected are:



*Captains Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling, a coming-of-age story of a young man who finds himself aboard a New England fishing craft;

*String, Straight-Edge and Shadow* by Julia E. Diggins, a work delineating the origins and principles of fundamental mathematical concepts and the people who discovered them;

*King Solomon's Ring* by Konrad Lorenz, a volume on animal behavior and how man can learn things from animal nature through the approach of natural history;



*The A - Z of Classical Music* by Keith Anderson, is a two-CD collection of some of the greatest classical masterpieces accompanied by an illustrated book detailing the lives of the great composers as well as many lesser known musical masters;

*The Last Crusader*, by Louis de Wohl, the story of Don John of Austria and the famous Battle of Lepanto that saved the Christian West in 1571.

These selected texts and assignments are also designed to make the correspondence program easy for students to follow and for parents to supervise while offering a substantial and balanced academic challenge for all grade levels. We have even encouraged parents to read all or some of the books along with their sons. This will be a great opportunity to taste a bit of the education we provide and to converse with their sons about the books they are reading.



## Clairvaux Institute Sponsors Seminar

### *On Science and Poetic Education*

On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> members of the faculty of Gregory the Great Academy, along with some former faculty of St. Gregory's Academy, met for a seminar on the place of empirical science in poetic education. The class was the first of five projected



seminars aimed at revising the science curriculum of Gregory the Great Academy in order to bring it more fully into line with the aims

of poetic education. Paul McCleary of the Clairvaux Institute lead the seminar that explored the approach to science pioneered by the German poet and scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The four sessions of the seminar compared Goethe's approach to nature with the approach embodied in the scientific method, especially with regard to the theme of parts and wholes. The seminar opened with Mass and closed with vespers.

