



The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

Easter tide 2016

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the community at Gregory the Great Academy, I wish you and your family a happy and holy Eastertide.

This is a wonderful time of year for us here at boarding school. The trials of Lent and winter are passed. The academic courses are culminating in the newness of spring. The efforts of the rugby squad are finding fruition in victory on the playing pitch. The labor of education is giving way to enjoyment of things learned, skills acquired, and friendships formed. It is now that the reward that follows sacrifice is at hand. I can only hope that these rewards, which are so palpable to us, may be felt in some way by you, for they are the result of your sacrifices as well. Without your generous support, our boys would not have this life-changing experience of reaping well after sowing well. You have provided this lesson by your gifts, by the gift of this school. Though my thanks are but a small reward compared to what you are owed, I offer them here with all my heart.



Sean Fitzpatrick
Headmaster

The long stretch of school year before the Easter holidays is always very busy for our boys. Besides their full academic schedule, artisan guilds, Lenten spiritual exercises, and rugby training, the boys have done more than you might imagine. They have enjoyed overnight camping expeditions, put on juggling performances for senior homes, sung for Holy Mass in New York City, attended a rugby clinic put on by Christendom College's team, held a rowdy Robin Hood festival with woodland games in the forest surrounding our property, attended lectures on architecture and culture from guest speakers, hosted banquets for their families and friends, and even welcomed an alumnus who is now a priest to celebrate Mass on the feast day of St. Gregory the Great.

As you can see, our boys lead very busy lives, and it is precisely this life, this activity, that educates. It is no secret that boys today are plagued with passivity, and we are blessed to be able to provide direct remedy through a vast array of experiences to enliven the hearts, minds, and souls of our students. This life of activity, which engages all of our students, is a large part of what makes our school unique. At Gregory the Great, there are no bored boys. They are too busy to be bored. At Gregory the Great, school is not dull. And neither should it be. Education, at its best, is truly a form of resurrection as it bestows new life and draws benighted souls into the light of things. This is the joy of learning and living in the life-giving mysteries of the Catholic Faith, and it is the joy of our school.

This Easter Season, please consider making a gift in support of our mission to resurrect boys to new life in the Risen Lord. Thank you for your generosity.

In Christ,



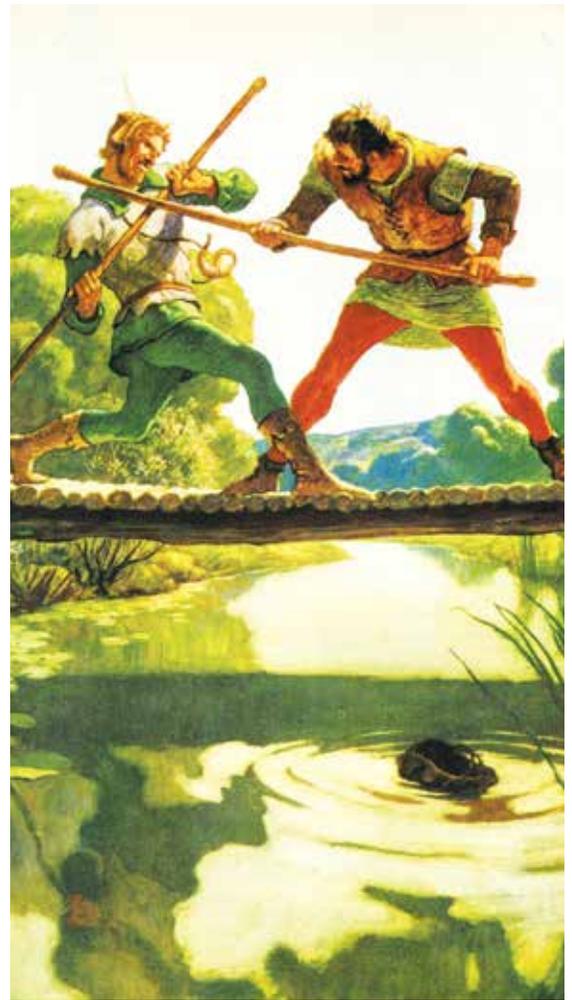
Sean Fitzpatrick



Robin Hood Days



Only at Gregory the Great Academy could you witness students thwacking one another with quarter-staffs, throwing knives at a target, battling over who can start a campfire quickest, and then eating roasted meat without the benefit of forks or dainty napkins.



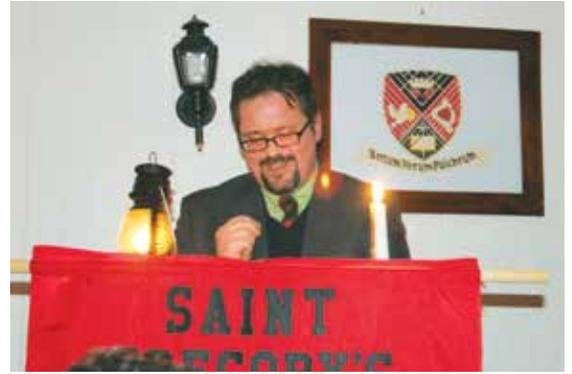
A Glorious Beginning to the Rugby Season!



The Highlanders thoroughly routed Msgr. Bonner, 69-22, in our first match. The battle was won in Scranton on March 20, a windy and chilly Sunday that we warmly celebrated as our day of victory.



Feast of St. Gregory the Great



Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P., whom we proudly claim as an alumnus, honored our community by offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the Feast of St. Gregory the Great. After Mass, the community gathered for a formal banquet served by the senior class and a lecture on the life of St. Gregory by Sean Fitzpatrick.



Camping at New Jersey's Pine Barrens



In hardship there is joy. You can't have a real adventure without obstacles. A below-freezing five-mile trudge across swampy ground, felling trees to cross a stream, rain and cold--nothing dampened our boys' spirits as Mr. McMyne led their trip to New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Fire never felt so good. Camping is a long-standing and beloved element of education at St. Gregory's. Boys discover themselves and the world they live in when they lose themselves in the woods.



Gregory the Great Academy Fundraising Soirée



Thanks to our benefactors' generosity, the first annual Gregory the Great Academy Fundraising Soirée was successful, indeed, it exceeded our expectations. We were honored to welcome the Most Reverend James Conley, Bishop of Lincoln Nebraska as our keynote speaker. He gave a moving presentation on the pedagogical thought of John Senior and the history of Gregory the Great Academy. Headmaster emeritus Howard Clark ran a lively auction to raise much-needed scholarship funds. The St. Gregory's Schola Cantorum was present and regaled the company with beautiful music led by the Academy music director, Matthew Williams.

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

