



# The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

Eastertide 2015

Dear Friend,

Have you ever been stirred by a sunrise? I am sure everyone has. The moment when darkness is broken by a crimson luster has moved the hearts of men for centuries. The lustrations of Homer's rosy-fingered Dawn has arrested us all, and shown us why the ancients looked eastward, to the orient, for hope. Christ is that hope. He became the salvific light for the world, rising from Hades in glory. He is Malachi's Sun of Righteousness, arising with healing in His wings. Christ is the East. He is the Dawn. He is the Life crucified in blood and fire every night only to rise again every day.

Within the cycles of the Church's liturgical year, Eastertide bears the highest and deepest significance, and this is no less true for Catholic education. Easter signifies the very act of learning, for Easter is the dawn of Truth. In fact, when we comprehend something, we often say that it "dawns" on us, as our mind is drawn out of shadows into what Wordsworth called "the light of things." The art of education unites the dawning of knowledge and wisdom with the Dawn of the Resurrection—to connect the fullness of life and light to the illumination of mind and soul. Both the reality and



Sean Fitzpatrick  
Headmaster



the symbol of Easter are central to Catholic vision and virtue. At Gregory the Great Academy, we look to the Resurrection as a rejoicing risen people, striving to take our place in the heavenly kingdom with what worthiness we can.

To fulfill this purpose, our Academy does not indoctrinate students with lifeless subjects that only exist on the pages of textbooks. The Good, True, and Beautiful are alive with the life of Christ and it is in this life that we present them. The students at Gregory the Great experience the life they have been given in the contexts of the life of the world around them and the life of God in all things. Our boys encounter the wisdom of the ages in the classic works. They sing with each other for pleasure and for prayer. They grow in health and friendship through sport. They learn how to partake in the life that Christ made new. Real education participates directly in the Resurrection as it brings boys back to life, leading them out of Plato's proverbial cave and into the brilliance of broad daylight: the Light of Christ.

This is our joyful enterprise—and it is yours as well. Gregory the Great Academy would not be able to give the gift of education, the gift of new life and light, to these boys if it were not for our benefactors. The Light of Christ can only shine if people place it on a lampstand, and that act often requires sacrifice. Your sacrifices have brought the Dawn to these boys, and I thank you for your generosity.

Happily, even more boys are knocking at our door. Applications are beginning to arrive and, with them, the need for financial assistance. Please remember the students of Gregory the Great this Eastertide and make a donation towards their illumination. Your gift is precious, for it is nothing less than a chance for these boys to participate more purely in the glory of the Resurrection.

May the Risen Lord bless you abundantly.

In Christ,

Sean Fitzpatrick



## Academy Celebrates Robbie Burns Supper

There are holy feasts and there are homely feasts, and it is part of a good education to know how they relate to one another. The feasts the Academy observes have a definite direction, like a spire. At the apex is the Immaculate Conception; below her, are the saints with Gregory and Don Bosco given prominence; and below them, is the Scottish poet Robert Burns turning up the furrows of the earth that feeds us all. These are the realities, the hierarchies, the spheres, which frame both consciousness and faith, and inform education, life, and poetry—drawing people, leading their hearts on through beauty beyond the earth to higher, more beautiful places; but it is on earth and with earthly beauties that the work and even the experience of heaven must begin—on earth, as it is in heaven. The Robbie Burns Supper is a night of earthly happiness and earthly poetry, where rustic food and rustic entertainments are enjoyed. The Freshmen class (upper right) are especially given to revel in its traditions as they help make the haggis, recite difficult poetry before guests, and perform the tale “Tam O’ Shanter” with the headmaster (below).



## Guest Lecturer: Alumnus Joseph Bissex



Gregory the Great Academy has been blessed with incredible alumni support. The graduates of St. Gregory’s have stood by with unflagging loyalty, helping both in fundraising and in preserving their school’s spirit and mission. This year, the Academy welcomed alumnus Joseph Bissex (’98) who gave a series of lectures on lyric poetry and *The Odyssey*. His talks were lucid and lively; so much so that Mr. Bissex had a difficult time coming to a close due to students’ interest and continuous questions.

## Mass for the Feast of St. John Bosco

On the feast day of St. John Bosco, the students of Gregory the Great were honored by a visit from Fr. Anthony Mastroeni, a highly experienced university professor and chaplain, whose ministries have included teaching at Franciscan University of Steubenville and Christendom College. He celebrated a Latin Mass for the community and delivered a rousing and arresting homily on the life of St. John Bosco. After Mass, he blessed each boy with a first class relic of the Academy's patron, St. John Bosco.



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

## Highlander Rugby Season Begins

The Highlanders have begun their 2015 rugby season with a scrimmage against a talented and experienced club team from Harrisburg, PA, currently ranked 16th in the nation. Despite driving snow and opposing skill, the Highlanders secured the victory, 21-18. Coach Garret van Beek has helped the squad put into practice the core values of the Academy's athletic program: high work rate, focus, discipline, team unity, and courage. Pray to St. Sebastian that the Highlanders have a successful season.





Gregory the Great Academy needs your help in their first crowdfund campaign. A crowdfund is a way to gain support using the Internet and social media. It involves producing a video presenting the campaign and uploading it to a crowdfunding site that provides statistics of the campaign. The goal of our campaign is to raise \$24,000 toward student tuition discounts for the 2015-2016 academic year. Please go to our website to enjoy our video and to participate in this important community effort.

See our new crowdfund video today and make a donation!  
[GregoryTheGreatAcademy.org](http://GregoryTheGreatAcademy.org)



Scranton Times-Tribune

Gregory the Great Academy continued a long-standing tradition of marching in the Scranton St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Pennsylvanians for Human Life. Despite the grey March day, the boys spread smiles and applause through the crowds with their jugglery and merry singing.

