



The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

Graduation 2019

Dear Friend,

Another academic year has ended at Gregory the Great Academy, but it has been a year of beginnings. The renovation to create a large formal library has begun. The agriculture program has enjoyed a rich inaugural year, replete with chickens, pigs, chores, and good grass-fed food for our boys' tables. The seniors wrote, presented, and vigorously defended an academic thesis, a practice that will carry on. And for the first time in our history, the Highlanders won the championships in both their soccer and rugby seasons. The year is over, and our work to bring souls to Christ is well begun.

With the close of this school term, we graduated twelve fine young men from our school. They have come a long way, and I hope that they will continue to apply the lessons they learned here as they strike out on new adventures.



Luke Culley
Headmaster



I recently returned with them from a pilgrimage in Italy, walking from Florence to Assisi. We travelled without money, slept under the stars, and juggled and sang in town squares for our bread as did the troubadours of old. As we walked in the footsteps of Saint Francis under the blazing Tuscan sun, I remember thinking that this journey is a joyous passion – it is a hard, difficult, raw experience with little comfort to soften the blows and yet it is dense with happiness and joy. I found myself continually heartened at the toughness of our boys, who cheerfully accepted the many difficulties of the way without grumbling. I pray that this pilgrimage will give our newly-graduated seniors a glimpse into the meaning of the larger pilgrimage of their lives and serve as a kind of paradigm and rehearsal for what they can and must do with their education in the wide world.

Such glimpses are rare in a culture where young men have largely lost the concept of beginnings and ends. Many young men today have never experienced the joy of making a beginning with a difficult but noble end in mind. They have never tasted the sweet glory of reaching that far off port, whether it be finally arriving at the incomparably beautiful basilica of Saint Francis in the town of Assisi after countless miles of walking in the hot sun, or finally seeing the beauty of intellectual form emerge after struggling for nights and days to shape wayward thoughts into an intelligent thesis, or holding in one's hands the championship trophy after months of arduous training.

But by your generosity and sacrifice, boys have the the chance to come to our doors and make a good beginning. After a few years, we send them off as young men to make yet another. Will you help us in this good work once again and make a gift during this summer season? Your donation will help us accept strong applicants who are ready for the new beginning we offer. I know we can count on you. Thank you and God bless you.

In Christ,

Luke Culley
Headmaster



Graduation 2019



“Could it be that to be a man one must learn to fight? And that fighting is one of the chief virtues of a man? I dare say that it is, and it is a virtue that is sorely needed especially by Christian men today.”

— Luke Culley, Headmaster

Nathan Bird

Hometown: Sykesville, MD

Favorite Book:

The Lord of the Rings, J. R. R. Tolkien

Rugby Position: Lock

Favorite Song:

“Spencil Hill”

Thesis: “The Symbols of Salvation in *The Great Divorce*”

Next Year: Franciscan University of Steubenville



Aidan Hofbauer

Hometown: Towaco, NJ

Favorite Book:

The Crusades, Harold Lamb

Rugby Position: Flanker

Favorite Song:

“Stirling Brig”

Thesis: “A Christian Defense of the Crusades”

Next Year: Montclair State University



Michael Kaufman

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Favorite Book:

Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle

Rugby Position: Prop

Favorite Song:

“Haughs o’ Cromdale”

Thesis: “The Problem of Self-Deception Through *Till We Have Faces*”

Next Year: College choice pending



Joe Landry

Hometown: Westminster, MD

Favorite Book:

The Aeneid, Virgil

Rugby Position: Flanker

Favorite Song:

“The Idiot”

Thesis: “Was *The Iliad’s* Marauding Through the Night Episode Justified?”

Next Year: Franciscan University of Steubenville



Declan O’Reilly

Hometown: Front Royal, VA

Favorite Book:

The Inferno, Dante

Rugby Position: Wing

Favorite Song:

“Rolling Down to Old Maui”

Thesis: “A Critical Examination of Dante’s Placement of Ulysses in Hell”

Next Year: Dorm assistant at VA International Academy



Sebastian Adamowicz

Hometown: Middletown, NY

Favorite Book:

The Great Divorce, C. S. Lewis

Rugby Position: Prop (captain)

Favorite Song:

“Loch Tay Boat Song”

Thesis: “A Consideration of the Nature of Happiness Through ‘The History of Rasselas: Prince of Abyssinia’”

Next Year: Christendom College



Joe Bell

Hometown: Inola, OK

Favorite Book:

The Aeneid, Virgil

Rugby Position: Inside Center

Favorite Song:

“The Shoals of Herring”

Thesis: “The Role of Guilt in Redemption Through Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*”

Next Year: Benedictine College



Aidan Gibbons

Hometown: Manassas, VA

Favorite Book:

The Odyssey, Homer

Rugby Position: Scrum Half

Favorite Song:

“Roddy McCorley”

Thesis: “Why the Slaughter of the Suitors was Necessary to Restore Order in *The Odyssey*”

Next Year: Working as a floor installer



Paul Hebert

Hometown: Stuttgart, Germany

Favorite Book:

Beowulf

Rugby Position: Wing

Favorite Song:

“Rolling Down to Old Maui”

Thesis: “The Historical Distortion of Cortez”

Next Year: Franciscan University of Steubenville



Peter Kelly

Hometown: Ho Ho Kus, NJ

Favorite Book:

Othello, Shakespeare

Rugby Position: Inside Center

Favorite Song:

“Auld Lang Syne”

Thesis: “On the Nature of Evil and the Character of Iago from *Othello*”

Next Year: Christendom College



Francisco Stender

Hometown: Irving, TX

Favorite Book:

The Song of Roland

Rugby Position: 8-Man

Favorite Song:

“Cam Ye By Atholl”

Thesis: “What is Christian Knighthood?”

Next Year: Virginia Military Academy



Paul Reilly

Hometown: Inola, OK

Favorite Book:

Beowulf

Favorite Song:

“Is There for Honest Poverty”

Thesis: “Beowulf: The Humble Hero”

Next Year: Working as a blacksmith and preparing for entrance into the American College of Building Arts



“The journey of Gregory the Great Academy is one that rings with the laughter of friends. It is full of excitement, new people, trials, and triumphs, but what is most important is that it challenges us to live life to its fullest for the greater glory of God.”

— Francisco Stender, Valedictorian



Congratulations to the Highlanders for their victory as Pennsylvania state rugby champions! It is wonderful to see our school of 60 boys achieve so much against enormous schools. There is something powerful in the brotherhood our school fosters and forms, allowing our students to rely on one another and succeed in remarkable ways. Many thanks to our community whose donations helped see that the practical needs of the team were met, as well as the fans who united with us at the matches. Your prayers and enthusiasm were a source of great motivation and encouragement.

