



The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

September 2019

Dear Friend,

You are involved in a mission to make all things new again. As we work together through Christ in bringing souls to Christ, this newness of spirit—and even of all things—must be our purpose. I am reminded of this call to make all things new every time we begin a new academic year. Old faces reappear to begin again the effort to fight the good fight, to complete the course, to keep the faith. New faces appear to undertake the same, perpetuating the sequence of rejuvenation that the Church commands even as the seasons cycle through their eternal splendor.

This excitement of beginning anew is palpable upon the boys' arrival. I am always struck at how happy they are to see each other and resume their adventures together in education, athletics, and camaraderie. They are ready to begin again, to make things new, and live out something so central to being a Catholic man—especially in a world where the just



Luke Culley
Headmaster

are so often forced to fall and begin again. Like Don Quixote and Our Lord, we are all called to keep pulling ourselves back up and making things new, to sally forth again and again, undaunted by failure, beating down discouragement, and determined to be the enemy of evil and a champion for good.

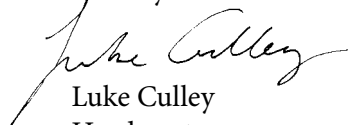
I received a letter from a parent of one of our students that captures something of the happiness of returning to our school, even by way of memory:



[My son] said that throughout the summer, without meaning to, his mind kept going back to St. Gregory's and all that it has given to him: the memories, the friends, the formation, the knowledge of our faith and love of God, etc. The single word he chose to describe what St. Gregory's had given him was JOY! I could not believe I heard him say that, and he repeated that "joy" was the overwhelming feeling or emotion that fills him when he thinks of St. Gregory's!

Your faithfulness has made it possible for us to create this atmosphere of joy for so many young men, where they can find the silence and security to grow into the characters and talents that God wishes them to make new for themselves and for the world. Our work to make all things new would be impossible without your financial support. Please make a gift today and renew your own participation in our wonderful mission.

Thank you and God bless you.


Luke Culley
Headmaster



Alumni Legacy Students

Since the founding of St. Gregory's in 1993, hundreds of alumni have come through the doors of the Academy. Many return to visit their alma mater and it brings a profound sense of joy to both students and faculty to see these grown men make the pilgrimage back to the Poconos to share their experiences and the fruits of the formation they received. These men are the sons of the Academy, men who are changing the world through their actions and vocations.

And the circle will continue to be unbroken, as we receive for the first time as students the sons of these alumni. Jack O'Brien and Michael Miller, sons of John O'Brien and Mike Miller (both members of the class of '98) arrived for soccer camp and will begin their junior and freshman years, respectively. These will be the first of many legacy students coming to Gregory the Great over the coming years, a blessing we have long been awaiting.

We must also thank the wives of these good men for allowing us to take their sons under our tutelage. But in the words of Mrs. Kaylie Miller, Mike's wife, "Michael has waited for this moment since we visited the school shortly before his third birthday. A rite of passage, to be sure."

Let's go second generation Highlanders!



John O'Brien and his son, John with Michael Miller and his son, Michael arrive for soccer camp, the first alumni legacy students to attend the Academy.

A Mother's Testimony

I often tell people, when they ask why I send my boys away to a boarding school, that God helped all of us by giving us the most incredible gift of St. Gregory's. We found there more joy and compassion and deeply lived faith than we have found anywhere else. Our teenage boys came to know Christ through the classroom and dorm room, on the rugby pitch, in the chapel, and through the examples given by the lives of the amazing staff and supporters of the school. As a mother, THAT brings me joy.

We have been connected firsthand to St. Gregory's for about 10 years, but the reality of the presence of St. Gregory's in my family is much more than a 10 year acquaintance. Through our relationships with Howard Clark, Alan Hicks, Luke Culley, and Sean Fitzpatrick, St. Gregory's has become an actual part of the fiber interwoven with our lives. And it makes us stronger and better than we would have been without it. I believe that's how the Holy Spirit works. And He absolutely did not put any of us together by chance. We are living witnesses that the joy imparted by St. Gregory's is not a silly, worldly joy. Rather it is the deep, authentic Christian joy that one finds only by walking the way with Christ, cleaving to him on that cross, and then rejoicing together on His resurrection. You have given us true joy.



Mr. and Mrs. Terry Davis (Utah) and their family at their son Jack's graduation from Gregory the Great Academy.

The Weathered Wallace

The following talk by Assistant Headmaster Sean Fitzpatrick was given at the ceremony for the distribution of the school ties.

At Gregory the Great Academy, we take our uniform seriously, as uniformed men should. The unity of purpose and personal zeal that a uniform signifies is important, for we cannot do what we are setting out to do without unity or zeal. Central to our dress-code are the class ties. The class ties are tartan ties, plaids of Scottish Highland clans. They were selected a quarter of a century ago by the founding headmaster of the Academy, Alan Hicks. The all-school tie is the Weathered Wallace and since we wear Sir William Wallace's colors, adopting them as our own, we ought to have some understanding about him.

William Wallace is ranked among Scotland's greatest national heroes as one of the first leaders of the early resistance against English rule—a resistance that would follow in his footsteps with a war for independence. In 1296, after deposing and imprisoning the Scottish King John Balliol, King Edward I of England declared himself ruler of Scotland. As rebellions began in Scotland, William Wallace, the son of a small landowner, led an army of commoners in executing the English sheriff of Lanark, and from there attacked English garrisons between the Rivers Forth and Tay.

On September 11, 1297, an English army under John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, confronted the combined forces of William Wallace and Andrew Moray at the River Forth near Stirling. The Scottish forces were greatly outnumbered, but Surrey had to cross a narrow bridge over the Forth before he could reach the Scottish positions. The bridge would only allow two horsemen to ride abreast. Wallace and Moray slaughtered the English as they crossed and gained an overwhelming victory.

Wallace invaded England and ravaged the counties of Northumberland and Cumberland. Returning to Scotland, Wallace was knighted and proclaimed guardian of the kingdom, ruling in King Balliol's name. Even so, many nobles gave him only grudging support. In July 1298, King Edward invaded Scotland and Wallace's spearmen were defeated by Edward's archers and cavalry in the Battle of Falkirk.

Although most of the Scottish nobles submitted to Edward in 1304, the English continued to pursue Wallace relentlessly. In 1305 he was arrested near Glasgow and taken to London, where he was condemned as a traitor to the crown even



Fr. Christopher Manuele blesses the school ties during the Orientation events. We are glad to have Father back with us as he recovers from his bout with cancer.



though, as he maintained, he had never sworn allegiance to Edward. William Wallace was hanged, emasculated, eviscerated and his bowels burned before him, beheaded, and quartered.

When we wear the Wallace tartan, we remember the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Whether freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, an army of challenges comes with every academic year. We face them and fight them one at a time, one after another, just as Wallace did on the Bridge of Stirling, seeking the success that lies before us, and finding success overall.



Clockwise from the left: The students and faculty of Gregory the Great Academy. The Academy Fields farm program is growing apace and beginning to put food on the Academy tables! Under the following wind of a successful soccer camp, the Highlanders have begun another promising season.

