



The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

Feast of St. John Bosco

Dear Friend,

Every morning, before praying together in the chapel, the teachers at Gregory the Great Academy receive a community update from the Residential Dean. This update includes schedule reminders, reports on student matters, and a short passage from the writings of St. John Bosco. One of the unique aspects of our school is that our faculty and staff work hard to follow Don Bosco's pedagogy as closely as we can—and this, I think, is one of the main reasons why boys love our school.

Boys flocked to Don Bosco because he was not afraid of youthful vigor. Many teachers are not so brave. Don Bosco understood the nature and spirit of adolescence,



knowing therefore the critical, and even dangerous, balance between order and disorder, between discipline and spontaneity—and the truth that nothing is so important as joy. In his wisdom, he allowed for the freedom of playful laughter and rough expression. Don Bosco was a powerful teacher because he was willing to join the gang, to whip up the fun, to meet boys where they were, and harmonize the wonder of grace with the wildness of youth.

There is a beautiful photograph of John Bosco hearing a boy's confession amid a pack of companions. This picture is an inspiration to us, for we, as teachers of boys and pupils of this saint, strive to listen with the same attentive charity to every individual boy even as we stand in a noisy crowd of young friends. It is a wonderful image, and a difficult one. John Bosco was a great saint because he was willing to bring the love of God into the frolicsome fray of boyhood as a friend and father; and he was loved not simply because he loved, but because he showed his love.

St. John Bosco's motto was, "Give me souls." God gave him souls, and he, good servant that he was, gave them back to God in better condition than he received them. We are blessed to have been given souls as well, and we pray every morning to St. John Bosco that he will help us return them to God by the same system of reason, religion, and kindness that he championed.

Please join us in praying for the souls we have in our care and that we may be given many, many more. Thank you for your good faith and support.

In Christ,

Luke Culley
Headmaster



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Headmaster



Reason, Religion, and Kindness *at Gregory the Great Academy*

Don Bosco's educational strategy followed St. Francis de Sales' words, "You can catch more flies with a teaspoon of honey than with a barrel of vinegar." The Salesian spirit chiefly consists in a friendly approach, in supervision with the aim of building character and guarding against harmful influences and preventing falls instead of punishing them. "This system," John Bosco wrote, "is based entirely on **reason, religion, and kindness**," and they are the pillars of the education at Gregory the Great Academy.



Reason

Educating the young requires an understanding of young people and how they learn, while fostering the ability to communicate with them. **Reason** dictates reasonable measures to affirm the young emotionally and psychologically as they learn with teachers, who Don Bosco called "loving fathers," that encourage, correct, and praise at the proper moment.



Reason in Action

- ◆ A curriculum designed for boys, with tales of adventure, heroic history, hands-on science, and manly music
- ◆ A challenging sports program that highlights the virtues and camaraderie
- ◆ A masculine atmosphere, rough and ready, where boys can be themselves

Religion

Religion in Action

- ◆ A life of robust, reverent ritual and prayer, structured around the Sacraments, the Divine Office, and the Rosary
- ◆ A central, solid spirituality that forms and informs, instead of simply decorating the fringes of activity
- ◆ A palpable liturgical rhythm, with communal devotions, petitions, fasts, and feasts

The Gospel is an integral, indispensable part of education as the light that leads through shadow. The loss of light through cultural collapse and disregard for moral restraint are tragedies that wreak havoc on the development of youth. The remedy is **religion**, which grounds and governs the actions of the young, effecting permanent change for the good of the individual and society.



Kindness

The school must create a persuasive, friendly environment, fostering trust and communication, and establish that confidence so needed by today's youth. This is accomplished through **kindness**, which invokes the first school, the home, and the first teachers, parents. Salesian educators develop a familiar and familial spirit whereby all are united in joy, love, and purpose.



Kindness in Action

- ◆ A life of teachers living with the boys, providing wisdom, instruction, and leadership
- ◆ A community of mutual support, of positive peer pressure, of good will and trust
- ◆ A friendship between faculty and students in Christ that founds a friendship with Christ

Cars for Christmas Campaign a Success: The Fleet Has Arrived

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our Cars for Christmas Campaign. We set out with a goal of raising \$75,000 to replace our aging vehicles with new, more efficient vans. We are pleased to report that because of your incredible generosity, we were able to reach and exceed that goal! Thanks be to God. New vans have been purchased and the boys are thrilled and thankful for the fleet of Ford Transits which will be ferrying them around for years to come.



With the new vans, the boys have already traveled to parishes and schools in New England to perform their Christmas juggling show (below left), as well as making the trip to Washington DC to participate in the annual March for Life (below right).



Welcome, Brian Redmond



Gregory the Great Academy is pleased to announce the arrival of our new dormfather, Brian Redmond. Mr. Redmond graduated from St. Gregory's in 2008 and, after taking a year off, he attended Missouri State University, graduating with a BS in Civil Engineering in 2014. Later that year, Mr. Redmond was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant intelligence officer in the United States Marine Corps. in December 2019. Mr. Redmond is excited to return to work at the Academy as a dormfather, college counselor, and rugby coach. He also looks forward to introducing the students to skills he learned in the USMC, such as orienteering, self defense, and the intricacies of geo-politics.