



The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

Lent 2021

Dear Friend,

Over the Christmas vacation, I was sorry to learn that a shy boy had chosen not to return to the Academy. As teachers who follow the example of St. John Bosco—whose zeal for souls drove him to great lengths to save as many as he possibly could—we often undertake missions like the Good Shepherd’s, setting out to find the one sheep who has become lost along the way.

In that vein, we undertook to persuade his parents to have him return. He was doing quite well with us, but our school is meant to be a challenge, bringing boys to the threshold of manhood by leading them with firm gentleness to do things they never thought possible. Every boy has a crisis in his career at boarding school, and this boy’s crisis was upon him.



I was pleased that, after looking at the whole situation carefully with us, his parents judged that the best course of action was for their son to finish what was well begun and continue to strive for the goods that we offer. Though it was very difficult for him, I was proud to see the boy return and assume his place in our community with a brave heart.

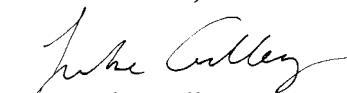
But I was *happy* when, in the first week back, I heard from one of our teachers that during a lively moment in class, this boy who returned with reluctant determination, and who usually sat quietly on the edge of the conversation, suddenly cracked a pretty good joke, ribbing a popular kid. The boy grinned as his classmates laughed.

Our school exists for moments like these when boys learn something about who they are and what God’s will is. I have often heard it said that we all form a relationship with God that is based on our relationship with our parents. As teachers who have the extraordinary role of being *in loco parentis*, we show Who God is to our students, our foster sons. This is especially true during the holy season of Lent, a time when we all need to be found and saved.

During this Lent where the shadows seem particularly deep, the best Catholic strategy is to shine confidently and calmly in the quiet spirit of our salvation, serving our families and neighbors with the peaceful determination of Our Lord. It is our duty as Christians and evangelists to show the love of Christ by going that extra mile and not giving up on anyone until we are given that wonderful sign of success, that heavenly promise—happiness.

Thank you for your loyalty. Our work goes on apace. We are undaunted. We are happy.

In Christ,


Luke Culley
Headmaster



Luke Culley
Headmaster



Academics



The academics at this school teach us about something bigger than ourselves. Through conversations with our teachers, we learn about the importance of goodness, truth, and beauty. They are not just lecturing to us, but having conversations with us about the most important things. — Marco D'Anselmi, Freshman, Poughkeepsie, NY



Music

Music is at the heart of St. Gregory's, a tradition that has been here since the beginning. This tradition grows stronger with every year that passes. Without music this place would not be so full of life, as every day you can hear the songs echoing through the halls. — Isaac Shipman, Junior, Claverack, NY



Liturgy

Of the many beautiful things we do here at Gregory the Great Academy, nothing can compare to the glory of the Liturgy. Hearing the whole student body join as one in prayerful song that has been sung for hundreds of years by our Christian ancestors, there is a feeling only the Divine Liturgy can provide. I truly believe that when we are joined together in prayer as brothers, we are one with the angels in glorifying God. — Jude Stender, Senior, Irving, TX



Sports

Sports are a great way to learn many useful skills, but also to live out the virtue we learn about in class and the chapel. We learn to work well within a team and to make good decisions under pressure. It can be very hard, but doing it with everyone makes it fun and joyful.

— John Balan, Sophomore, Maplewood, NJ



Go for the Guilds Update

It is our pleasure to pass on a hearty “Thank you!” from the boys of Gregory the Great Academy for making the Go for the Guilds Campaign a smashing success. Through your generosity, we were able to raise over \$20,000 to build up the Guild program. These funds will be used to purchase equipment and materials that will benefit our boys for many years, teaching them skills they will carry for the rest of their lives. God bless you all.

The Sophomores finished a custom juggling cabinet as their 2nd carpentry guild project of the year. Thanks to you, there will be many more projects to come!



DO YOU KNOW A BOY LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?



SUMMER CAMP 2021

Gregory the Great Academy is looking for a few good 7th and 8th graders with a spirit of high adventure! Put away the video games this June and get ready for the great outdoors of Northeast Pennsylvania: liturgy, sports, learning, and more.



For more information or to pre-register:
Visit www.gregorythegreatacademy.org/summercamp
or email Daniel Schiller at dschiller@gregorythegreatacademy.org