



# The Minstrel

NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

Summer 2021

Dear Friend,

*“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil.”*

So sang the great Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins more than a century ago. I recently recalled this poem, which all of our students memorize, as I addressed our seniors at their graduation. Now I want to ask you what I asked them: if the poet is right and our world is charged with God's shining grandeur, how is it that men so seldom see it flaming out nowadays?

Certainly this is a complicated question, but my simple answer, which I believe gets to the heart of the matter, is that we live in a world that has forgotten God. The medieval world was one whose every aspect proclaimed the presence of God. Every feature of the cosmic house that medieval man built directed man's gaze on high and helped him hear the song of glory that the creation sings. To be an atheist in such a world was to be alone and forlorn. But today's believer is in the position of yesterday's atheist. If medieval man's house was Chartres Cathedral, our house is Walmart.



Gerard Manley Hopkins



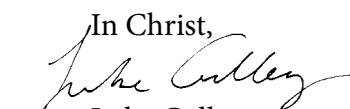
Luke Culley  
Headmaster

As you know, poetry is central to our mission here at Gregory the Great Academy. But to be a poet in Walmart is to live a hellish existence. The philosopher Eric Heller—no Catholic, but a friend of poetry—has argued that poetry is impossible in the modern world because the common language of symbols that the poet must have to communicate with his fellow men has been drained of its meaning. For medieval man the lion symbolized God's kingly majesty, the sea, His infinite power, and the stars were windows letting in the light of His glory. But for us the lion is a powerfully built member of the family *felidae*, the sea, highly saline H<sub>2</sub>O, and the stars, balls of gas. Such is not the stuff of poetry.

So where does this leave us? Well, were you to ask our fifteen graduates whether God's grandeur still shines in the world, and whether poetry is still possible, I think they would say, “Yes, we can still see the grandeur of God and yes we can even be poets; maybe not at the caliber of Hopkins, but we can knock out a pretty decent sonnet or two if pushed.” And I think they're right: the proof is from their own lived experience in a place like this where one is able to foster within the secular culture at large, a Christian culture where God can be seen, felt, and heard afresh. For, in all of their tapestry of activities and experiences, what have they been doing? They have been taking part in the beginnings of a reconstruction of that lost symbolic world of God.

Gregory the Great Academy is forming young men with eyes to see God's grandeur and voices to sing His praises. We work to create a culture where young can grow and thrive in truth, beauty, and goodness.

It is this important and powerful mission that you support with your donations. Please continue to be generous with us so that we can continue to put forth into a drained Church and country men who have a rich vision and leaping hearts, ready to see and sing. Your gift makes the gift of our school possible. Thank you for giving to Gregory the Great Academy and may God bless you.

In Christ,  
  
Luke Culley  
Headmaster



# Meet the Class of 2021

## Jacob Landry

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

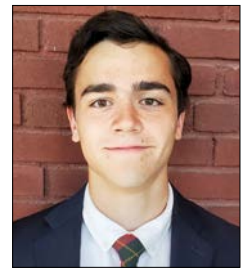
*The Lord of the Rings*

**Prefectship:** Kitchen

**Favorite Song:** "The Town I Loved so Well"

**Thesis Title:** "The True Hero of the Lord of the Rings"

**Next Year:** Wyoming Catholic College



VALEDICTORIAN

## Nathanael Bateman

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Persian Expedition*

**Prefectship:** Farm

**Favorite Song:** "The Black Velvet Band"

**Thesis Title:** "On the Salvation History of the Pagans"

**Next Year:** Wyoming Catholic College



## Simon Ferry

**Favorite Curriculum Book:** *One*

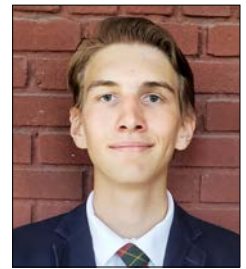
*Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

**Prefectship:** 2nd Floor Halls

**Favorite Song:** "The Town I Loved so Well"

**Thesis Title:** "Cortez Was Not a Bad Guy"

**Next Year:** Community College



## Aidan Fletcher

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

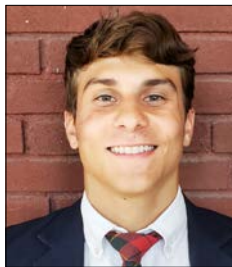
*Nordic Gods and Heroes*

**Prefectship:** Weight Room/Gym

**Favorite Song:** "The Shoals of Herring"

**Thesis Title:** "A Critical Comparison of the Latin Mass and the Mass of Paul VI"

**Next Year:** Ave Maria University



## Sam Guerrero

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

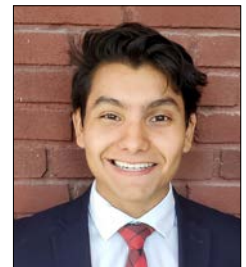
*The Ballad of the White Horse*

**Prefectship:** Refectory

**Favorite Song:** "Carrickfergus"

**Thesis Title:** "St. John Bosco is the Best Patron for Our School"

**Next Year:** Christendom College



## Xavier Hamilton

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Ballad of the White Horse*

**Prefectship:** Refectory

**Favorite Song:** "A Parcel o' Rogues"

**Thesis Title:** "Tolkien's Correction on Beowulf"

**Next Year:** University of Dallas



## Shane Holihen

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Lord of the Rings*

**Prefectship:** 3rd Floor Halls

**Favorite Song:** "The Shoals of Herring"

**Thesis Title:** "Xenophon and the Courageous Man"

**Next Year:** Gap Year



## John Paul Kopacko

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Lord of the Rings*

**Prefectship:** 2nd Floor  
Bathrooms

**Favorite Song:** "The Old  
Churchyard"

**Thesis Title:** "The South had the  
Right to Secede"

**Next Year:** Undecided



## Max Lang

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

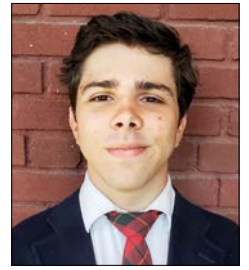
*The Ballad of the White Horse*

**Prefectship:** Commons

**Favorite Song:** "MacPherson's  
Rant"

**Thesis Title:** "A Defense of the  
Barbarian Virtues"

**Next Year:** Wilderness firefighting, dump truck driving  
for a Nevada mine, and learning diesel mechanics



## Isaac Martin

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Song of Roland*

**Prefectship:** Kitchen

**Favorite Song:** "The Black Velvet  
Band"

**Thesis Title:** "Edmund Campion:  
The Saint for Catholic Men  
Today"

**Next Year:** University of Dallas



## Damien Montfort

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Iliad*

**Prefectship:** Outside Areas

**Favorite Song:** "The Foggy Dew"

**Thesis Title:** "The Purpose and  
Necessity of Theology"

**Next Year:** Collegium Sanctorum  
Angelorum



## Jack O'Brien

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*Beowulf*

**Prefectship:** Farm

**Favorite Song:** "Rolling Down to  
Old Maui"

**Thesis Title:** "Vienna:  
Christendom's Greatest Battle"

**Next Year:** Christendom College



## Jacob Reyher

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

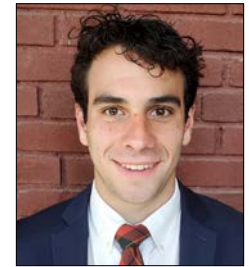
*The Iliad*

**Prefectship:** Stairwells

**Favorite Song:** "Spencil Hill"

**Thesis Title:** "The Sway of the  
Muses Over Us and Over Kings"

**Next Year:** University of Dallas



## Jude Stender

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Song of Roland*

**Prefectship:** 3rd Floor Bathrooms

**Favorite Song:** "The Town I  
Loved so Well"

**Thesis Title:** "Why Roland Is the  
Perfect Example of Knighthood  
and Chivalry"

**Next Year:** Working in Dallas, Community College



## Eli Ziglinski

**Favorite Curriculum Book:**

*The Song of Roland*

**Prefectship:** Classrooms

**Favorite Song:** "A Parcel o'  
Rogues"

**Thesis Title:** "Modern Culture's  
Lack of Patriotism Needs William  
Wallace's Example"

**Next Year:** Mechanical Engineering







There are five reasons why the Highlanders, who hail from a school of 60, have won the Pennsylvania state title four times in the last ten years. They are what the boys call “the Virtues” and they are as follows. **High-Work Rate:** the boys strive to work and train harder than any other team. **Discipline:** the team insists on perfection in everything they do. **Sacrifice:** the Highlanders always sacrifice for their brothers over their individual selves. **Focus:** our athletes are focused on doing the right thing, controlling themselves, and being responsible for their actions. **Courage:** the Highlanders risk failure at every moment, making themselves vulnerable but with unwavering tenacity. Together with a dedicated coaching staff, the Highlander rugby program is a glorious aspect of education at Gregory the Great Academy and one that infuses our students with virtues that will last a lifetime and make them valiant Christian men in the world.

