



The President's Newsletter for Nov 17 – 30, 2014



In school & country, we are blessed with abundance. And so my final pre-Thanksgiving message concerns the same one I give each year at this time: the Lasallian commitment to the poor.



St. La Salle distributes bread to the poor of his day.

This commitment to the poor began with John Baptist de La Salle. The first schools were endowed parish charity schools, operating on shoestring budgets and often located in less desirable parts of town. Both rich and poor were welcome, provided all agreed to be treated as equals – revolutionary in those days! All were important.

Equally revolutionary was de La Salle's insistence on impartiality. We often speak of the need for impartiality in dealings with students. Actually, St. de La Salle was very partial. Partiality was shown to those with less attractive qualities; they were to receive the most attention. Those with the least talents were to be supported and encouraged. Those who had extra food were to share it with those who had little. De La Salle was convinced that the poor needed the schools the most. The curriculum, therefore, combined practical & religious training, designed to help the poor succeed. Thus, service to the poor, both directly and indirectly, must be present at SPS if we are to be faithful Lasallians.

But it's not just Saint La Salle's thinking that compels us to care for the poor. Indeed, the **Concern for the Poor and Social Justice** is at the heart of

Catholic social teaching. The United States bishops write: *In a world characterized by growing prosperity for some and pervasive poverty for others, Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.*

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let us be mindful of those who are not blessed with material comfort. Let us strive to reach out to them. Let us find ways to welcome them to SPS.

Mon, Nov 17 (Regular; B C D E F – yes, we have 5 periods today to compensate for Friday's 3 periods)

- **TDIH:** In 1553, the Elizabethan Age begins when Queen Mary I dies and is succeeded by her 25-year-old half-sister, Elizabeth. William Shakespeare will be born eleven years later in 1564.
- **Homemade Bread Day:** Bake bread today! A great family activity!
- **Cross Country** leaves for state meet in Natchitoches today; they return Tue night.
- **Athletic Signings:** Four members of the Class of 2015 will sign baseball scholarships today in the lobby of the Briggs Assembly Center. Carlo Graffeo will sign with Southeastern in Hammond; Louisiana, Nick Chiasson will sign with Springhill in Mobile, Alabama; Peyton Lacoste, will sign with Washington University in Seattle, Washington; and Kyle Schimpf will sign with University of Louisiana at Monroe. Thanks to Karen for handling the arrangements.
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Grace King in rematch of 2014 state finals! (5:30 & 7)

Tue, Nov 18 (Assembly; G A B C)

- **This Day in History:** The Walt Disney Company gives today as Mickey's exact birth date -- the release date of *Steamboat Willie*, his debut film. Happy Birthday Mickey! Celebrate by watching a MM cartoon!
- **President's Assembly**
- **Cross Country:** Varsity runs in State Meet; Geaux Wolves!
- **Basketball:** The games originally scheduled against Dunham tonight have been cancelled.

Wed, Nov 19 (Regular; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** in 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivers The Gettysburg Address which consists of only 272 words yet is considered one of the most famous speeches in history. (Can you quote the first two lines?) Actually, the whole address is worth reading – better yet, hearing. Below is a link to an audio and text version of the address (you have your choice of speakers ranging from Johnny Cash to Colin Powell to Sam Waterston. I listened to both Colin and Sam.) After reading along while listening, you will be moved. At a time when our country seems more divided than ever, I strongly encourage you to listen to President Lincoln and pray for our country. After listening, you can then click on the link at the bottom and see a copy of Lincoln's original copy. Here's the link: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gettysburgaddress.htm>
- **TDIH II:** Not nearly as important as The Gettysburg Address, but on this day in 1959, Rocky & Bullwinkle -- the most famous squirrel/moose combo in history – debuted. Who can forget Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale, Dudley Do-Right, Peabody and Sherman, and Aesop and Son? Watch an episode or two on YouTube and howl!
- **“Have a Bad Day” Day:** Believe it or not, “*Have a Bad Day*” Day was created to have people stop saying "have a good day", and replace it with "have a bad day". DO NOT celebrate this day!
- **World Toilet Day:** The World Toilet Organization (who knew?) created WTD to raise global awareness of the struggle 2.6 billion face every day without access to proper, clean sanitation. WTD also brings to the forefront the health, emotional and psychological consequences the poor endure as a result of inadequate sanitation. Wow. It's amazing the things we take for granted. Remember this as we use this incredible device today.
- **Basketball:** 8th at Boyet
- **Soccer:** 8th & 9th v. Jesuit



Wolves honor all veterans last week on Veterans Day.

Thu, Nov 20 (Mass schedule; DRESS UNIFORM DAY; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1982, the Cal football team wins an improbable last-second victory over Stanford when they complete five lateral passes around members of the Cardinals' marching band, who had wandered onto the field a bit early to celebrate the upset they were sure their team had won, and score a touchdown. After catching the last pass of the series, Cal's Kevin Moen careened through the confused horn section and made it safely to the end zone. Then he slammed into trombone player Gary Tyrell. (A photograph from the *Oakland Tribune* of the jubilant Moen and the terrified Tyrell in the moment just before the collision is still displayed

triumphantly all over Berkeley.) "The Play," as it became known remains one of the most famous in college football history. Wanna see it? Here's a link: <http://www.topendsports.com/videos/829/sports/american-football/play-1982-california-stanford-football-game/>

- **Heuther Conference:** Christian Bobak, Tommy Lahey & Brad Marchese will represent SPS at this annual gathering of hundreds of Lasallians from throughout the region. They meet this year in Chicago with the theme *The Lasallian Mission: Word, Witness & Invitation*. Thanks, guys, for going!
- **Soccer:** 8th v. Mandeville Jr Hi
- **SPS Board of Trustees Meeting (6)**

Fri, Nov 21 (Regular; E F G A)

- **TDI H:** In 1691, things were not going well in the newly found Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. I quote from Brother Donald Mouton, a Lasallian scholar: *The group of teachers founded by John Baptist de La Salle was in a precarious situation. Personal antagonisms, opposition to the Founder's work, internal problems, and fragile health that almost led to his death toward the end of 1690 posed critical questions for De La Salle as to the very future of his enterprise. In this crisis, De La Salle decided to bind himself by vow with two other Brothers, Nicolas Vuyart and Gabriel Drolin, to establish the Society of the Christian Schools at whatever the cost might be, even if all others should abandon it. This "vow of association and union" pronounced on November 21, 1691, often referred to as the "heroic vow" was an act of hope at a time when the work of De La Salle and the early Brothers was in serious jeopardy.*

Today, when times seem tough, the Brothers often refer to this milestone in our history. We give thanks for the "heroic vow"! Because of it, we're still around!



Wolves prepare for Quiz Bowl competition.

- **Great American Smokeout Day:** The American Cancer Society marks the 38th GAS Day today by encouraging smokers to use today to plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. By quitting — even for one day — smokers will be taking an important step towards a healthier life — one that can lead to reducing cancer risk. And let's extend this to e-smoking, too! Remember to remain vigilant on "pen sucking."
- **Thanksgiving Holidays** begin at 3:00 and end at **7:45 am on Mon, Dec 01!**
- **Swimming:** State Meet at Sulphur through Saturday; team leaves this morning.
- **Pizza Day:** Student Council is sponsoring a pizza day today. For \$10 students can get a hot, large pepperoni pizza. Student Council will be taking orders Monday through Thursday.

Sat, Nov 22

- **TDIH:** In 1963, President John F. Kennedy, the youngest man ever elected president, is assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald. Camelot ends and America changes forever (Yes, I know that's editorializing!)
- **Family Volunteer Day:** This annual day of service, held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, celebrates families who volunteer together to support their comm.

- **Pre-freshmen Robo-Wolves** travel to Lafayette for State Qualifier Competition
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Rummel Tournament; JV & Varsity in Bulldog Tournament
- **Soccer:** 8th & 9th v. Brother Martin; JV & Varsity at Lafayette
- **Swimming:** State Finals in Sulphur

Sun, Nov 23

- **Feast of Christ the King: Christus Vincit! Christus Regnat! Christus Imperat! We encourage our Catholic families to attend mass on this special day and our other families to worship at church of choice.**

Mon, Nov 24 – Sun, Nov 30 – Thanksgiving Holidays! Enjoy! Note: Now that we are on Thanksgiving holiday, the newsletter won't list all the many, many events (mostly sports – related) for next week. The newsletter is very tired and needs a break and, hence, won't publish next Sunday. Check the web site for all the schedules. Thanks!

DRESS UNIFORM DAY this Thursday, November 20!

Apology: I inadvertently omitted William James from the Ultimate Frisbee List last week. Sorry, William! Thanks for being part of The Dire Wolf Ultimate team!

Thanksgiving Holidays: School offices will be closed during the Thanksgiving holidays. Anticipate needs before Friday – especially the new form for a driver's license. I will be around, if needed, most of the holiday week so feel free to call on me (phone or email) if you need something, but there's no guarantee I'll know how to help. Thanks for your understanding the need for the staff to have a break. They will not be responding to questions about grades, etc.

New Admissions for 2015-16: Applications for new students for next year are due. Students in Catholic schools should have followed the guidelines of the Archdiocese through their elementary school. Students not in Catholic elementary schools apply directly to SPS. PLEASE encourage any family interested in SPS to apply this week. There is NO commitment at this time on either the family or SPS. By applying, the door is kept open for eventual admission and enrollment. We need all our families to spread the good news about SPS. We count on you.

RIP: Mrs. Dot Jenner died last week. Only we “old timers” remember Dot – who along with her husband “Sarge” worked at Saint Paul's for over 15 years in the 70s and 80s. Dot was the school nurse and Sarge was the Assistant Aerospace Instructor for our ROTC program. They, along with their son, Mark, Class of 1979, lived in the old infirmary building, which is now the Development and Alumni Office. It is there that Dot nursed the sick boarding students back to health. If it from there that she was always on call, night or day, to tend to the health needs of anyone on our campus. And she did so faithfully and competently. Even after she and Sarge retired, she continued to keep in touch and visit. For years, she and Sarge lent the Brothers their Florida condo for vacations. She and Sarge helped make SPS what it is today. I have assured Mark that we will remember her in prayer. Please do so.

Zac Update: From Mr. Russ: *Zac came home late Wednesday afternoon. He is doing quite well and healing very quickly. It looks like he will be in a wheel chair until approximately December 1st. He has a transverse fracture in his hip socket that does not allow him to bear weight on his right leg. The left leg is fine. He has a cast*

on his right arm making it difficult for him to use a pen or pencil. He will have random appointments within school hours to see doctors and therapists throughout the weeks ahead. At this point we are looking to your team for guidance about how to best return Zac to school. Counseling is working on such a plan and we give thanks to God for Zac's healing.

Ben Blanchard Update: Ben, a 2000 SPS grad and son of former Trustee and Covington PT Susan Blanchard, has been battling cancer. His brother, Chris, a 2005 SPS alum, sent the following last week: *I am elated to let everyone know Ben was able to make it home today from Houston! As a result of his surgery some of his draining tubes are still in; however his medical team in Houston has agreed to have his tubes taken out in the coming weeks in Covington. It's great to have Ben home! Ben also received very encouraging news from his doctors in his post op visits. His surgeon has confirmed they were able to get clear margins and this has been something they are very excited about. Ben will return to Houston on December 9th to meet with his doctors and to formulate the next step regarding further treatment.*

C & V: As we approach holidays, remember de La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras this week. **We will not begin holiday early; we will work until 3 pm on Friday. We expect the students to do the same.**

Musings on Last Week:

- **Last Friday's Schedule:** Thanks for understanding our need to shorten the day to accommodate the football playoff.
- **Veterans Day Ceremony:** We had a moving ceremony last Tuesday. The students responded exemplarily. We certainly need to thank ALL veterans and those who are currently serving our country.
- **Cross Country:** It's inspiring to see Wolves running so hard while having fun and displaying the epitome of sportsmanship in the process. On to state on Mon!
- **The Paper Wolf:** The staff traveled to the Louisiana Scholastic Press Association conference and competition on Thursday and came back with many awards. Well done, Paper Wolf. I look forward to recognizing them at assembly.
- **Football:** A very exciting game last Friday night in Shreveport ended our season. We remain extremely proud of the incredible season the FB team had. Geaux Wolves!
- **Student Council Food Drive:** Congrats, all, for your great response to the needs of the poor of our area.
- **Soccer:** 8th, 9th, JV, and Varsity played well this weekend!
- **Wrestling:** While I didn't get results from the weekend meets, I'm sure our grapplers performed exemplarily.
- **Gateway to Tech Class:** Pre-freshmen in Julie's class were dissecting sheep brains last week. I could only stay a short while as my stomach was not mean to watch dissections!
- **Basketball:** Varsity defeated Zachary High School last Thursday, 46-37. Well done, Phil and BB Wolves!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** headed to Ben Franklin early Sat morning for intense math competition! Geaux FMWs!
- **Habitat for Humanity Club** worked on Saturday. Thanks, Habitat Wolves!

Mrs. Beck directs Pre-freshman in sheep brain dissection last week!



DRESS UNIFORM DAY this Thursday, November 20!



Lane plays Taps accompanied by Andrew Moran at Veterans Day ceremony last week.

Attendance Office Issues: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. The road construction on Hwy 21 (aka Tyler) is causing many students to be tardy. While we are trying to be understanding, the construction will be ongoing for a while, so students need to start leaving earlier. We are going to stop excusing these tardies. Also, when you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your son and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested.

This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can’t stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a

message – we just don’t have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

From Mary Queen of Peace Parish: *2014 Annual Christmas Mini Market: The Holidays are here; get a start on your Christmas shopping at our annual Christmas Mini Market. It will be held in our Parish Center on Friday, December 5th, 12pm - 8pm and Saturday, December 6th, 9:30am - 6:30pm. 1515 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, La., 7047.1 You will be able to find many handcrafted items such as jewelry, wooden frames, embroidered items and much, much more. Hands on Christmas crafts for the children...Fun, Fun, Fun! Bring your Christmas list for some great shopping*

Food Drive: Student Council is hosting its annual Food Drive to benefit the Covington Food Bank. The drive begins Mon, Nov 3 and runs until Tue, Nov 18. Students may bring non perishable goods to their classrooms for collection. Items that are requested include: canned fruit and vegetables, dried beans, rice, cake mix, pasta, canned meats, and peanut butter. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

Reminder About Important Driver’s License Requirement: Remember that all minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license. Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form. You won’t be able to get a license without one.

Lost and Found: The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it’s probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son’s name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

The Paper Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The students are very excited, so support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf. Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

And Speaking of Edline: Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grade and SPS life. Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.

Tutoring: The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It's easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. The tutors are friendly and helpful!

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: We had another report last week of unsafe driving heading up Jahncke Avenue on Friday morning. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, NO CELL PHONE USE DURING SCHOOL ZONE TIMES, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

Service Hours: Please be aware that students are expected to have complete five (5) of their ten (10) required service hours by the end of the semester. Students should contact their religion teachers if they have any questions. We need parental support of our insistence on service to others, a Lasallian hallmark.

DRESS UNIFORM DAY this Thursday, November 20!

Humor of the Week in honor of Thanksgiving:

What kind of music did the Pilgrims like? Plymouth Rock

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims

Why can't you take a turkey to church? They use FOWL language.

Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive? It had 24 carrots.

What happened when the turkey got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

What do you get when you cross a turkey with a banjo? A turkey that can pluck itself!

Who doesn't eat on Thanksgiving? A turkey, because it is always stuffed.

Why did the Pilgrims sail to America in the spring? Because April showers bring Mayflowers!

What did baby corn say to mama corn? Where's popcorn?

If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their AGE!

Why do pilgrims pants keep falling down? Because their belt buckles are on their hats!

Why did they let the turkey join the band? Because he had the drumsticks

What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient child? "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!"

Why did the police arrest the turkey? They suspected it of fowl play

What's the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner? The turKEY

What did the turkey say before it was roasted? Boy! I'm stuffed!

What happened to the Pilgrim who was shot at by an Indian? He had an arrow escape

Why do turkeys always go, "gobble, gobble"? Because they never learned good table manners!



What sound does a space turkey make? A: Hubble, Hubble, Hubble!
Why did the turkey cross the road? It was the chicken's day off!
What's the best dance to do on Thanksgiving? The turkey trot!
Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? Yes - a building can't jump at all!
What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus? Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving!
How can you make a turkey float? You need 2 scoops of ice cream, some root beer, and a turkey!
Why did the turkey join the band? Because he had drumsticks!
Where did the first corn come from? The stalk brought it!
How did the Mayflower show that it liked America? It hugged the shore!
OK, I'll stop! Happy Thanksgiving!

Another Application Letter: I continue to be humbled by the level of trust that our applicants are placing in us. We must all live up to that faith. Here's another application letter:

Dear Brother Ray,

Before I start my letter, I would like to thank you for giving me a chance to share why I want to come to St. Paul's. I would love to come to St. Paul's. I feel that St. Paul's is the best choice for academics and athletics. My faith with God will become stronger and my relationship with God will become better. I believe that St. Paul's will help me become a mature, strong, young man. I would love to come to St.

Paul's because I have heard so many great things from my brother about St. Paul's. I feel that whenever I am troubled that at St. Paul's will always have someone to guide me through my problems.

I love that at St. Paul's you are not all just friends, you are all brothers. It shows that I will always be safe and have someone by my side. I have realized that not only do you care academics but most of all you care that we have a strong relationship with God. I love that even when someone messes up you give them another chance and believe that they can recover. I love how much care each individual at St. Paul's gets. It amazes me that students who have passed away are always remembered there. I am so thankful that every morning you start off with a prayer. For the last four years, I have heard amazing things about St. Paul's and just can't wait to go to St. Paul's. It is amazing how much St. Paul's has done for students and I can't wait for St. Paul's to do that for me

A Look Ahead:

- November 18 – Food Drive ends
- November 21 – Thanksgiving Holidays begin at 3:00PM
- December 11 – Luminarias – Snack Day
- December 16-19 – Semester Exams
- December 19 – 11:00 AM dismissal for Christmas (not winter) Holidays
- January 5 – Classes resume
- January 6 – President's Assembly – Snack Day



Beau, Ross, Philip, Max, Luke & John helped make letters like this one possible with their Open House talks.

January 7-9 Seniors on Retreat
January 29 – Career Day
February 13 – Teacher Retreat; no classes
February 26-27 Junior Retreat/Angola Trip
March 3 – Teacher Appreciation Day/Snack Day
March 9 – St. Joseph Altar
March 13 – Third Quarter Ends



Lasallian Young Leaders sort items from Warm Hearts drive.

Whew! Enough for this week! **You get a break next Sunday as the newsletter goes on Thanksgiving holiday! Enjoy your Sunday morning without my musings!**

As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Pray that things go well! We're already reached the seventh week of the second quarter! Time marches relentless on, and the only

thing we can do about it is decide how we use each second of each minute of each day of each week of each month of each....OK, you get the idea.

May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul's – our 103rd year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Grateful that I've Made It to Thanksgiving as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



...and doing ordinary things extraordinarily well by making courageous choices.

Did I mention we have Dress Uniform Day on Thu, Nov 20?