

**Warning about the Newsletter:** This is another LONG newsletter, but there's a lot to cover as we begin school. So pour another cup of coffee (or beverage of your choice!), relax, and read. Feel free to take breaks!



***The President's Newsletter for Aug 11 - 17, 2014***  
**2014 – A Year of Family and Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans**



Welcome to the first full week of the 2014-15 school year. We've had a smooth opening. Thanks!

Last week's faculty meetings provided me with several memorable moments. We began our meetings on Tuesday with Student Council President Sam Giberga reminding us of the power of teacher / student relationships. Sam exhorted the faculty to continue being older brothers and sisters to our students, which is in the finest Lasallian tradition. The Lasallian Life Committee then made a presentation to remind us forcefully and beautifully that Saint Paul's must be a place of salvation for the students entrusted to our care – which is what St. John Baptist de La Salle wanted his schools to be.

On Wednesday, we viewed a video on the life of Brother James Miller, whose courageous actions we are using as our theme for this year.

I also showed a brief video of the Christian Brothers' new Superior General, Brother Robert Schieler, who told us that if anything is to get done in the Lasallian world, it's up to the Lasallian family to do it. And that includes the faculty of Saint Paul's.

So what does all of the above have to do with you as parents? Well, I humbly submit the following:

- Just as Sam stressed teacher / student relationships, your relationship with your son is critical to your success as a parent – and with teenagers, that's not always easy!
- Just as Saint La Salle wanted his schools to be places of salvation, your home must also be a place of salvation – both earthly and heavenly.
- Just as Brother James Miller made courageous choices on behalf of those with whom he worked, you as parents daily make courageous choices on behalf of your children.
- And just as Brother Robert said that it's up to us if something is to be accomplished in this world, it's up to you as parent as well, if your son is to be the man God is calling him to be.

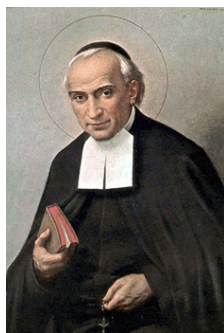
**Let's pray for and support each other as we begin our new school year, the 104<sup>th</sup> year of SPS history, thus continuing the Lasallian tradition of transforming lives since 1680.**

**Mon, Aug 11 (Assembly schedule; B C D E)**

- **TDIH:** 1994, the longest major league baseball work stoppage begins, causing cancellation of the 1994 World Series (the world shrugged.)
- **SSR begins today.** See below for explanation of SSR.

## Tue, Aug 12 (Assembly schedule; F G A B)

- **This Day in History:** In 1981, IBM releases its first personal computer (PC), a Model 5150 that had a whopping 16K memory and used 5.25 inch floppy discs (who remembers these?) Today's most basic phone can do more!
- **TDIH:** In 1939, *The Wizard of Oz* premieres in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto!
- **TDIH:** In 1961, East Germany begins construction of the Berlin Wall.
- **World Elephant Day:** Celebrate the elephant today!



## Wed, Aug 13 (Feast of St. Brother Benilde, FSC; Assembly; C D E F)

- Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Brother Benilde -- the very person after whom Benilde Hall is named. His story should inspire us all. Doing the common things in an uncommon way led to Benilde's sainthood. This was our theme last year, and I don't want us to forget it. Let's get off to a good start! When you pass Benilde Hall, ask this wonderful Christian Brother saint to assist you in doing the common things in an uncommonly good way!

- **International Left-Handers Day:** OK, all you southpaws! This is your day! Celebrate! BTW, 8 US Presidents were lefties. Other famous ones? Queen Victoria, Prince Charles,

Prince William, Jay Leno, Chef Paul Prudomme, and athletes, writers, and musicians too numerous to list – but a list is easily googled!

- **First President's Assembly** (in gym). We will officially welcome our Pre-Freshman at the first assembly, invoke God's blessing on us all, pledge to do our best, and begin recognizing the many accomplishments of SPS faculty and students.

## Thu, Aug 14 (Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe; G A B C)

- Born in Poland in 1894, Maximilian became a Franciscan. After earning a doctorate in theology, Maximilian did missionary work in Japan and India, returning to Poland in 1936 due to ill health. In 1941, he was arrested by the Nazis and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where on July 31, 1941, in reprisal for one prisoner's escape, ten men were chosen to die. Father Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father. He was the last to die, enduring two weeks of starvation, thirst, and neglect. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982.
- **TDIH:** On this day in 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the Social Security Act.
- **TDIH:** In 1914, the American-built Panama Canal is inaugurated with the passage of the US vessel Ancon.
- **Navajo Code Talkers Day:** Today celebrates the young Navajo men who transmitted secret communications on the battlefields of WWII and played a vital role in helping America win the war.
- **Student News** broadcasts begin this morning. Again, this is an opportunity to do the ordinary in an extraordinary way: monitor correct student behavior (no sleeping, no doing homework, no reading, etc.) MODEL correct behavior (no computer work, lesson planning, grading, etc.) After the broadcast is over, take a minute or two for feedback: ask leading questions, have them think critically about the issues covered, reinforce their connection to the world, draw Lasallian linkage when possible (e.g. there are Lasallian schools in places where there is much unrest, what issues would be solved by Lasallian core principles, etc.)

**Fri, Aug 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption; mass schedule; D E F G)**

- **DRESS UNIFORM DAY!**
- **Today's Feast** celebrates Mary being assumed body and soul into Heaven at her death and being crowned Queen of Heaven. The Dogma of the Assumption was proclaimed infallibly by Pope Pius XII in 1950. May our Blessed Mother shower our school with her protection!
- **TDIH:** In 1914, the American-built Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific, is inaugurated with the passage of the U.S. vessel *Ancon*, a cargo and passenger ship.
- **National Relaxation Day:** Self-explanatory! Celebrate, but don't start until 3 pm!
- **SSA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social (5:30-7) & SSA Back to School Dance (7-10):** Friday is SSA's annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade social for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders of both schools. The Back to School Dance for all levels follows at 7. \$6 entry fee (snacks provided) plus a food item for Covington Food Bank.
- **Note:** We insist that SPS students comply with rules and regulations of events at other schools. We insist that students respect staff from other schools. We will take disciplinary action against SPS students who do not uphold our high standards while they attend such events. **This applies BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER the event.**



*Assumption of the Virgin*  
Francesco Botticini  
1446-1497

**Sat, Aug 16 (Feast of St Stephen of Hungary)**

- **TDIH:** Baseball great Babe Ruth (aka The Bambino & The Sultan of Swat) and rock star icon Elvis Presley (The King) died in 1948 & 1977, respectively, at ages 53 & 42, respectively.
- **TDIH:** In 1812, General William Hull surrenders Fort Detroit to the British without a fight. In 1814, Hull was court-martialed for cowardice and neglect of duty in surrendering the fort, and sentenced to die. Because of his service in the revolution, however, President James Madison remitted the sentence.
- **National Tell A Joke Day:** Celebrate today by telling jokes! I've done my part below in HofW!
- **SPS Habitat for Humanity Work Day:** Our Habitat Wolves will spend the morning in a most Lasallian activity: helping build affordable housing for the less fortunate. Encourage your son to become a Habitat Wolf. See Mr. Richard Pichon in La Salle Hall for more info.
- **Dads Club Steak Night** for new 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families.

**Sun, Aug 17**

- **Let's get the school year off to a great start by attending church services today. We encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass as a family today.** We encourage our non-Catholic families to worship at the church, synagogue, or mosque of their choice
- **TDIH:** In 1978, The *Double Eagle II* completes the first transatlantic balloon flight when it lands in a barley field near Paris, 137 hours after lifting off from Preque Isle, Maine.
- **TDIH II:** In 1969, "the grooviest event in music history"--the Woodstock Music Festival--closes after 3 days of peace, love and rock 'n' roll [and a lot more, too!] in upstate New York.

**The Ugly Dept:** I hate to start off with The Ugly Department, but last week, we became familiar with Yik Yak, a relatively new location-based social media chat room that allows up to users to post ANONYMOUS comments through GPS tracking on their phones. Started earlier this year, the app makers say it was designed for college-age users or above and to act as a virtual bulletin board for college campuses. But high school and middle school students are signing up and using it to cyber-bully by leaving anonymous comments about teachers and other students – and it has caused serious problems in schools across the country. Last week, a responsible student came and showed us a few Yaks posted from our campus – shocking. And there’s no way to track down who posted. Under great pressure from authorities and schools, Yik Yak has now instituted a “No Yik Yak Zone” policy where a school can request that no posts be made from it for a 1.5 mile radius. We did and SPS is now a No Yik Yak Zone. While students can still post from their homes, at least they can’t do it from school.

Dr. Keith Ablow, a psychiatrist and member of the Fox News Medical A-Team, calls Yik Yak “the most dangerous form of social media” he has ever seen. Read his article at

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/05/09/psychiatrist-view-yik-yak-is-most-dangerous-app-ive-ever-seen/>

**Parents – please speak with your son about YY. Insist that he delete the app from his phone and not use it. Monitor for compliance.**

Isn’t this ridiculous? What’s next?

**And now on to more pleasant things....**

**All School Mass on Friday for Feast of Assumption – DRESS UNIFORM Required:** Students must wear their dress uniform on Thursday: white long sleeved shirt, school tie, long khaki pants, brown belt.



**Meet the Schools of San Francisco New Orleans:** In order to help us get to know those in our new Christian Brother District, I plan to highlight a school a week. This week: **La Salle High School in Yakima, Washington.** Situated on 40 acres along Ahtanum Creek, La Salle High School of Yakima, the northwestern-most school in the

District, is about 150 miles east of Tacoma in the heart of Washington State. BTW, the word Yakima seems have come from the plural form of the native word for black bear -- yah-kah – as there are many in that region.

Founded in 1998, the coed student body consists of approximately 200 students in grades 9-12, including an international student program – which is a growing trend among the west coast schools. The curriculum is college prep (although they require only 3 math and 2.5 science credits), with a 100% college acceptance rate. Some innovative courses include iOS App Development, Contemporary World Issues, and Servant Leadership. Tuition is \$10,800 plus fees of approximately \$400. Parents can reduce the tuition to \$7,800 plus fees, however, if they participate in a minimum of 30 volunteer hours and fundraising activities. Hmm.... A unique income producer for the school is the lease of some of its acreage to local hops farmers, who produce crops for the many breweries in Washington! Hmm....what could we plant on the soccer field that would fetch a good price? Their mascot is “The Lightning.” Geaux, La Salle Lighting! For more info, visit their website at

<http://www.lasalleyakima.com>.



*Students celebrate returning to school!*

**Cell Phone Policy:** We instituted a new policy last year and it worked fine so we are continuing it: students may use their phones during lunch but only outside. We were losing this battle so we made this concession – but we will be relentless in enforcing the no cell phone ban during class time and inside buildings. So if you need to call or text your son, do so during the lunch hour. With our new campus wide wi-fi, he can now use his phone to surf the internet if needed. And, yes, our security firewalls are in effect. And as mentioned above, we are now a No Yik Yak Zone.

**Student Email Addresses:** We issued each student a unique Saint Paul's email address through which we will communicate with him. If a student asks about how to get to his new email, there's a link on Edline in the bottom right, it says **St. Paul's Gmail access**. The temporary password for all students is **stpauls1**.

### **Musings on Last Week:**

- **Faculty Advisory Board** spent all last Monday morning meeting with Trevor and Joe. Congrats to new Social Studies Chair Kim Gardner, new H & PE Chair Mick Nunez, and to newly created Engineering Chair Rachel Peak.
- **Lasallian Young Leaders** deserve praise for a very successful New Student Orientation on Mon evening – in spite of some rain. 95% attendance was outstanding. I received a number of emails from new student parents saying that their sons enjoyed the program.
- **The Mothers Club Bookstore** staff deserves a shout out as they were open long hours last week. They also provided us with great lunches last week. Thanks, MC!
- **The Physical Plant Staff** deserves a shout out as they worked hard with last minute repairs and cleaning.
- **Football Coaches** had a successful 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sign Up and Varsity Spirit Night last Tuesday. Lots of blue and gold apparel was in evidence. Wolf FB is alive and well! Thanks, FB staff!
- **Cross Country Camp** was a great success and all returned ready to run.
- **Picture Taking** on Thu and Fri went well. The boys looked good in their dress uniforms! And there were very few “iforgots” – my made up word for students who forget what uniform to wear. I love making up new words!

### **All School Mass on Friday – DRESS UNIFORM Required!**



*Faculty pays attention during last week's meetings.*

**LA Tax Info:** The LA Department of Revenue reminds parents that back-to-school shopping can qualify for a \$5,000 per-dependent tax deduction on their state tax returns next year by saving receipts. Items such as uniforms, supplies and TUITION are eligible for tax breaks on the income tax forms

due May 15, 2015. The maximum deduction is \$5,000 per dependent student, he said. More information is available at [www.revenue.louisiana.gov/schooldeduction](http://www.revenue.louisiana.gov/schooldeduction).

**St. Tammany Parish Library Program for Parents of Teens:** Licensed Clinical Social Worker David Brashear will speak to parents and guardians of teens on the subject of collaborative parenting from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, at Madisonville Library, 1123 Main St. Brashear will give information and advice about teen problems such as pregnancy, STD's, peer pressure and drug and alcohol abuse for approximately 45 minutes. A question and answer session will follow. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. Seating space is limited to adults. Registration is recommended. Please register online at [register.stpl.us/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://register.stpl.us/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp) or call the library at (985) 845-4819. Registration opens two weeks prior to the event.

**Sports Passes:** Clarification from Athletic Director Craig Ketelsen: *We will sell our sports passes again this year to those who wish to purchase them. They are intended for those families who attend Varsity, JV, 9<sup>th</sup>, and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade games to help defray some of the costs of being a fan. However, anyone who wishes to may purchase a sports pass. As always, **the passes are good for 4 tickets** to all regular season home varsity football games and general admission for you and your immediate family to all other contests. The passes **cannot** be used for the following:*

*1 – SPS scrimmage vs. John Curtis, August 20. This is a football fund-raiser so your entry fee will support the football program.*

*2 – The Christian Brothers Jamboree, August 30. Due to contract obligations with Rummel, we are unable to use our sports passes for this contest.*

*3 – The Jesuit game. Again, due to contract obligations with Jesuit, we are unable to use our sports passes for this contest.*

Please contact the Athletic Director, Craig Ketelsen, at [craigk@stpauls.com](mailto:craigk@stpauls.com) if you have questions.

## **All School Mass on Friday – DRESS UNIFORM Required!**

### **Sports Call-Outs:**

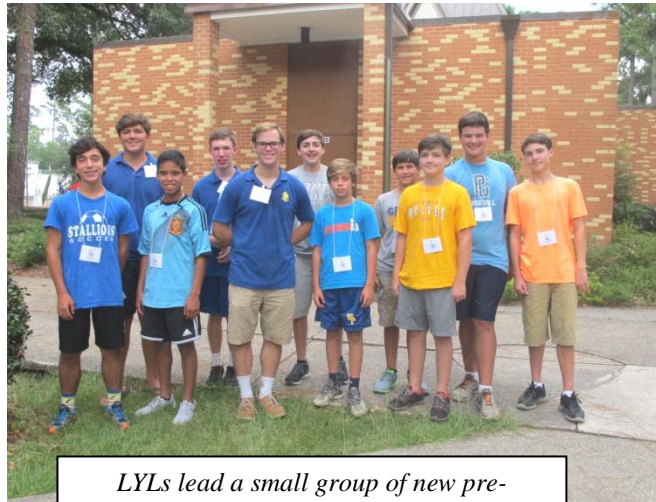
- **8th Grade Football**, the first practice is on Monday August 11th. Meet at the locker rooms outside of the gym at 3:30 wearing St. Paul's PE or Football gym gear. Make sure your physical is turned into the records office by Monday August 11th in order to participate.
- **The Cross Country team** invites any interested runners to come out and join the team on Monday, August 11. Please see Mrs. Wiggins in Room 116 for schedules, team information, and any other information you may need. The team practices daily from 3:30-5:30, with competition on Saturdays. Come join the Running Wolves for an exciting season
- **Swim team members** and anyone who is interested in swimming for the Aqua Wolves, especially 8th graders-- there will be a meeting in Ms. Allen's room, Rm 105, at 3:00 on Monday, August 11th.

**Senior Week:** SW is right around the corner! The Senior Class Moms will be sending senior parents an email with specifics, but here's the basic plan:

- Tue, Aug 19 – Senior BBQ (5:30-7:30) under the Wolf Dome
- Wed, Aug 20 – Varsity Football scrimmage v. John Curtis
- Thu, Aug 21 – March through the Arch at 8 am
- Thu, Aug 21 – Senior – Parent continental breakfast 8:30
- Thu, Aug 21 – Senior Unity Day /Ring Ceremony Practice: 9:30 – 2:00 (maybe earlier if we finish)
- Thu, Aug 21 – Senior Ring Ceremony at **6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center;
- Fri, Aug 22 – Senior Ring Holiday – no classes for seniors

**Traffic Flow on Campus:** *If you drop off or pick up your son you are now aware of the congestion on the roadways in the morning and afternoon around our campus. We would like to ask your help in improving the traffic flow and safety. Please do the following:*

- *Consider an alternate pick up location for your son other than Founder’s Circle. These include the drop off area by the Gene Bennett Sports Complex, the parking lot on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. You can drive through these parking lots or wait in a parking space there without holding up traffic elsewhere.*



*LYLs lead a small group of new pre-freshman at last week’s orientation evening.*

- *DO NOT pick up your son using the shoulder of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is a dangerous area with poor visibility and further backs up traffic when you stop to load or unload.*
- *If you use the LaSalle Drive (main entrance) car line, please wait to the left so that thru traffic can still move through our campus using the right lane.*
- *Coordinate with your son about where and when you will meet him in the afternoon. If he is not present when you drive through, please proceed to a parking lot and wait for him there. If you stop in the car line to wait, you are holding up all cars behind you.*
- *Remind your son to be on the lookout for your car as you drive up.*

*Our primary concern is safety, so please adhere to all speed limit and traffic rules in the school area. We are working closely with the Covington Police Department to find solutions to traffic around school. Working together we can improve both safety and circulation around our campus.*

**Student Driving:** We were very vigilant and pro-active at dismissal last week concerning student drivers. I personally put two students on notice about their driving – that they will lose the privilege if they don’t obey traffic laws. Again, our new driving policy has a series of fines for infractions, in addition to other disciplinary action, and leading to loss of driving to school privilege. Take heed!



*Another group of pre-freshman at orientation*

**New LA Laws:** In case you weren't aware, the following legislative acts became law on Aug 1:

- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:**

Motorists are now prohibited from using any type of hand held wireless communications device while traveling through schools zones during posted hours. The law includes use of a cellular/wireless device for engaging in a voice call, accessing, reading, or posting to a social networking site, and/or writing, sending, or reading a text-based communication. The school zone cell phone ban does not apply if the device is being used to report an emergency, is being used in a hands-free manner, or while the vehicle is lawfully

parked. Upon first violation of the school zone ban the fine is \$175, subsequent violations can be up to \$500, and if a crash occurs during the time of the violation, fines can be increased.

- **LA Litter Law Updates:** Amendments to the LA litter law now specifically include cigarettes and cigarette butts to the official definition of litter. Additionally, the fine for a first offense increases to \$300 with 8 hours of community service in a litter abatement program, second offense to \$700 with 16 hours of litter abatement, and a third and subsequent offense to \$1500 with 80 hours of service in a litter abatement program.

**New Parent Reception & Information Meeting:** A welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** will be held on Mon, Aug. 18 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. The reception begins at 6:30 pm and an information meeting starts at 7:00 which will be over by 8:00. We hope you will be with us! I'll send out more info this week.

## **All School Mass on Friday – DRESS UNIFORM Required**

**Orientation:** Please discuss with your son the four assemblies he had last week and through Tue of this week:

- A chapel prayer service
- A meeting with Level Teachers to review handbook and policies
- A meeting with the counseling department
- A meeting with Coach Ken Sears to review expectations of conduct. **Note: during this assembly, Coach Sears will conduct the Archdiocesan-mandated Child Protection/Safe Environment presentation which informs students about the dangers of abuse, how to prevent it, and what to do if it is suspected.** Please discuss this with your son.

**Important Tax Info:** The Louisiana Department of Revenue reminds parents that back-to-school shopping can qualify for a \$5,000 per-dependent tax deduction on their state tax returns next year by saving receipts. Items such as uniforms, supplies and TUITION are eligible for tax breaks on the income tax forms due May 15, 2013. The



maximum deduction is \$5,000 per dependent student, he said. More information is available at [www.revenue.louisiana.gov/schooldeduction](http://www.revenue.louisiana.gov/schooldeduction).

**Helping Saint Paul's:** Don't forget – If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!



*Students show their joy at being back at school!*

**Seniors:** Want to earn \$200 or more in one day? The St. Tammany Clerk of Court has opportunities for you as an Election Commissioner on Election Days. 17 year old US citizens enrolled in 12th grade as well as 18 year old and older registered voters are eligible. You must attend a training class. See your Civics teacher for more information or go to the St. Tammany Clerk of Court website: [www.sttammanyclerk.org/main/elections.asp](http://www.sttammanyclerk.org/main/elections.asp)

**Service Hours:** We remind all of our students of their obligation to do at least 10 hours of service this year. Last May, a number of seniors did not receive their caps and gowns because they had not completed their service hours. If a student does not want to help others by giving of his time, Saint Paul's is not the place for him.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Clubs and teams are already forming. Encourage your son to get involved. Research shows correlations between academic achievement and extracurricular involvement.

**Silent Sustained Reading:** On Monday, we begin daily SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) during the first 15 minutes of Block 2. During this time, everyone in the school (students, teachers, administrators, and staff) will read silently for 15 minutes. This is not a time for homework, tutoring, studying textbooks or doing assigned reading, but is designed to make reading a school-wide priority by reading for pleasure. We hope to develop a population of self-motivated readers. The program was created over 30 years ago at the University of Vermont and over the years has resulted in increased vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, writing quality, improved standardized test scores, increased background knowledge on a wide range of topics, and increased reading time out of school. Students were instructed to bring their own reading material but we will have classrooms stocked with magazines, novels, short stories, etc. Help your son prepare for this initiative and have him come prepared on Monday and every day thereafter. You might want to consider initiating a family SSR time, too! I'll keep you posted as to how things go.

**Student – Parent Handbook:** The signature card indicating that you and your son have read and agree to abide by the Handbook is overdue. It can be found on our web site home page under “news.”

**Cafeteria:** Again, for those families experiencing difficult financial times, the free and reduced lunch/ breakfast program can help. **Applications can be picked up from me or the cafeteria manager.** This does not embarrass your son as no one knows. It's all very confidential. Also, even if a student doesn't qualify for free/reduced lunch/breakfast, he can receive a free meal by helping to serve in the lunch line. It actually can be fun – I do it occasionally myself! Have your son approach me if he is interested.

**Lost & Found:** We are already finding shirts, books, lunch boxes, etc. left around campus. PLEASE stress responsibility with your. And please CLEARLY mark his clothing with his name to facilitate return of lost items. BTW, the lost and found locker is located outside the School Attendance Office.

## **All School Mass on Friday – DRESS UNIFORM Required**

**Driver's License Proof of Attendance:** Don't forget: you son will need proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit. The forms are in the counseling department or the administration building. I feel terrible when a parent waits two hours at the DMV only to be turned away b/c the son doesn't have his proof of attendance. This is a legislative act, so don't blame me!

**Humor of the Week:** If you've read this far, you are entitled to HotW. So, in honor of World Elephant Day on Wed & to prepare for National Tell a Joke Day on Sat, I offer the following elephant jokes. Some are absolutely hilarious:

- *What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelephant [I'm LOLing!]*
- *What's big and grey and wears a mask? The elephantom of the opera!*
- *What do you get when you mix an elephant with a rhino? Elephino [say fast with a long I! LOL]*
- *What do you call an elephant at the North Pole? Lost!*
- *What's grey, has a wand, huge wings and gives money to elephants? The tusk fairy!*
- *What's grey, beautiful and wears glass slippers? Cinderelephant!*
- *When should you feed milk to a baby elephant? When it's a baby elephant!*
- *Why did the elephants get kicked out of the pool? Because their trunks kept falling down*
- *What do you call a passenger plane shaped like an elephant? A dumbo jet [Sorry, Walt Disney!]*
- *What did the grape say when the elephant stood on it? Nothing, it just let out a little wine! [LOL!]*
- *What do you get if you cross a parrot with an elephant? An animal that tells you everything that it remembers!*
- *What did the elephant say when the man grabbed him by the tail? This is the end of me!*
- *Why do the elephants have short tails? Because they can't remember long stories!*
- *What do elephants sing at Christmas? Noel-ephants, Noel-ephants... [HA!]*
- *Why don't elephants like playing cards in the jungle? Because of all the cheetahs!*
- *Teacher: "Name six wild animals" Pupil: "Four elephants and two lions!"*
- *What name do you call an elephant that lies across the middle of a tennis court? Annette! [Hilarious!]*
- *What do you call someone with an elephant on their head? Squashed!*
- *What do you get when you cross an elephant with a fish? Swimming Trunks*
- *What animals were last to leave the ark? The elephants as they had to pack their trunks!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

Whew! That's enough for now! I'm sure I've forgotten something so email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to as I write and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Pray

that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Off to a Great Start as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

PS: Oh, did I mention there's an **all school mass on Fri & DRESS UNIFORM is required?**

**“Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”**

~ St. John Baptist De La Salle (Meditation 99.2)

