



The President's *Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter* Final 2015 – 16 Edition

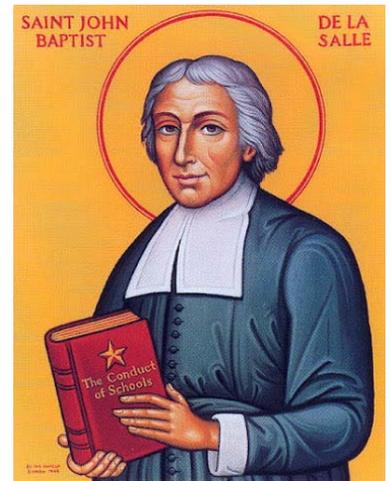


My last newsletter (I hear you cheering!) will be brief. My final Lasallian thought is the same one I use every year at this time: a short excerpt from Saint John Baptist de La Salle's last Meditation for the Time of Retreat to the Brothers entitled: *On the reward that a Brother should expect in heaven, if he is faithful in the work.* Saint La Salle wrote this meditation because the life of the early brothers was VERY hard – and he needed to assure them that they would one day be rewarded by Almighty God. He made sure they read this meditation every year.

I shared the meditation with the faculty last week and asked them to believe that St. La Salle wrote the meditation for them, too, for their lives as teachers are challenging, and they need to believe they are valued by Almighty God and doing His work.

I share the excerpt from the meditation with you, too, because as parents, you are the primary educators of your children as you lead them on the path to salvation. Your work as parent is hard, but it is God's work. I believe, therefore, that Saint La Salle's words apply equally to you, too:

Oh, what glory there will be for those who have instructed children, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people! All heaven will resound with the thanksgiving which these blessed children will render to those who have taught them the road to heaven. Act, then, in such a way by your good and wise guidance of those who are entrusted to you, that you will procure all these blessings and all this glory for yourself.



Thank you for your parental ministry. I am profoundly awestruck by the responsibility you have in raising your children. I am most grateful that you have allowed Saint Paul's to share in your parental teaching ministry. I am confident that the good work we have done this past year will help insure the truth of Saint La Salle's words for all of us when our day of judgment comes and that "all heaven" is resounding with the good example and instruction you provide to your children.

Thanks for 2015 - 16 and here's looking to 2016 - 17 – the sixth year of our second century!



Lucas, Carter, Alex & Berk read from "The Call of Samuel" at Pre-freshman Promotion Ceremony

Final Report Cards will be emailed mid-week. Details of grades are posted on Edline.

Summer Reading: ALL students have a summer reading obligation for their English class. The list and discussion questions are posted on Edline. Please encourage your son to take his summer reading obligation seriously. We limit the number of books to be read in order not to make this an onerous task, and we certainly encourage more reading that just what we are requiring. Toward that end, I offer the following:

- We often see that a student's weakest ACT score is in reading. Why? Students don't like to read! Solution? Read more! PLEASE insist your son devote part of each day (30 minutes? 15? 10?) to reading. He's used to this in school with

SSR (I hope you know what SSR is!) This could be a family activity – set aside time when the whole family reads. Turn off the TV, i-pad, X-Box, phone, the computer – and read.

- And speaking of ACT /SAT scores, summer provides an excellent opportunity to prepare. There are local formal courses, but both ACT and SAT offer on-line prep programs at very reasonable costs. Or just purchase one of the many test preparation books on the market and ask your son to spend 15 minutes a day preparing. Long term preparation is the only solution. You can't "cram" for an ACT or SAT the night before.



Jacob, Nick, Jacob & Johnny receive "Habitat Hammer Awards" from moderator Richard Pichon & local Habitat director for their dedication to Habitat for Humanity

One Last Appeal: If you have not contributed to the Annual Fund or supported SPS in any financial way and are in a position to do so, I would appreciate hearing from you as to "why" you have chosen not to.

Perhaps it's something I've done or not done and I would welcome the feedback. I have deliberately avoided having people call or directly solicit you as many other schools do with their annual funds. Again, I need your help to continue to make SPS the best school we can be because:

- **SPS cannot prosper** on tuition alone;
- **SPS tuition** is lower than almost every

other boys' Catholic high school in the Archdiocese;

- **Faculty salaries** are lower than public school salaries and we cannot lose good teachers to finances;
- And we've gotten some nice **Grandparent gifts** lately. Thank you! Grandparent gifts are welcome and needed – and they are often happy to help if asked. I don't like to solicit grandparents so I rely on your to do so. They'll get a very nice "thank you" note from me. And if you want me to directly ask a grandparent, send me the address and name.
- Gifts of stock are welcome and no gift is too small.
- If you are contributing to Capital Campaign or supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you!
- Please consider helping **if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so.** Many thanks!

Senior Graduation: The 105th Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School were exemplary. We were honored to have the Reverend Matthew Clark, OSB of St. Joseph Abbey as celebrant. The SPS Class of 2016 outdid themselves with singing, responding, and being "living stones building the edifice of the mystical God and fulfilling the Lasallian Mission of Saint Paul's School in our age." The following seniors earned special awards at graduation:

- Valedictorians: **Luke Anthony Avenel, Patrick James Connolly, Jack Haojing Cheng, Jacob Gabriel Broussard, Leland Matthews van Deventer & Ryan Patrick Meraux**
- Salutatorian: **John Edward Cresson & Ethan Graham Desforges**
- Christian Brother Provincial's Award: **Austin George Grashoff**
- Signum Fidei (Sign of Faith)/Brother Cassian Scholarship: **John Edward Cresson**

BTW, the Salutatorian and Valedictorian addresses are posted on our website. *Ad multos annos*, Class of 2016! We shall miss you! **Want to view the graduation? Here's the link to You Tube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oswmQgCVYwU>

Pre-freshmen Promotion / Awards Ceremony: This ceremony was equally wonderful. The Class of 2020 acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner and the weather was perfect. Thanks to the Mothers Club for providing the reception.

I apologize, however, to pre-freshman Jack Hanks, whose Blue P was omitted from the ceremony! Sorry, Jack! You had a great year and we didn't recognize it!

Major Award Winners: The following students won the top level awards at our recent ceremony:

- National Merit Commended Students: **Jacob Broussard, John Cresson, Ethan Desforges & Harrison Prieto**
- National Merit Semi-Finalist: **Burak Kandil**
- National Merit Finalists: **Luke Avenel, Patrick Connolly, Ryan Meraux, & Andrew Mercante**
- United States Military Academy at West Point Appointment: **Jack Cheng**
- Louisiana National Guard Scholarships: **Jacob Broussard**
- Tulane university ROTC Scholarship: **Logan Buras**
- Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award: **John Cresson**
- Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding American History Student: **Chris Dufour**
- District Attorney's Senior High Award: **Jacob Broussard**
- District Attorney's Junior High Award: **Darrin Lea**
- American Legion Citizenship Award: **Percy Pena**
- American Legion Scholarship: **Austin Grashoff**
- Chosen Path Award: **Matthew Borgatti**
- Francis H. Richard Memorial Habitat for Humanity Scholarship: **Marc Costa**
- Special Habitat for Humanity Awards: **Jacob Broussard, Johnny Crouere, Josh Mascaro, & Nick Rowbatham**
- Benjamin Bragg Memorial Scholarship Award: **Jesse Dufour**
- Daren Boudreaux Memorial Scholarship: **Spencer Cole**
- Eric Kolb Memorial Scholarship: **Nick Ashton**
- Francis R. Sharp Memorial Scholarships: **Jacob Broussard, John Cresson & Ethan Desforges**
- Justin Addison Memorial Scholarship: **Alex Oliveri**
- Beacon of Hope Scholarship & Award: **Colin Quinlan**
- 4 Year Perfect Attendance/Louis Ross Memorial Scholarships: **Luke Avenel, Devin Bresette, Austin Hayes, & Patrick Ikner**
- 5 Year Perfect Attendance / Louis Ross Memorial Scholarship: **Christopher Damare, Matthew Melancon, Peter Olson, Nick Rowbatham, Patrick Stewart, & Leland van Deventer**
- Al Doskey Memorial Outstanding Science Student Award: **Luke Avenel**
- Jan Neumann Outstanding Math Student Award: **Ryan Meraux**
- Modern Languages Outstanding Student: **Matthew Borgatti**
- Public Relations Award: **Jacob Broussard**
- Quiz Bowl/Brother Bill Parsons Memorial Scholarship: **Alex Oliveri**
- Dr. Walker Percy/Brother Bill Parsons Writing Award: **Cray Pennison**
- Walker & Bunt Percy Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Writing: **Alex Paille**



Eight Wolves sign athletic college scholarships in the waning days of the school year.

- Baton Rouge Bar Association Teen Court Members: **John Cresson, Addison Nick, Adam Schmitt, Noah Seiden & Patrick Stewart**
- Baton Rouge Bar Association Teen Court Scholarship: **John Cresson**
- Mock Trial Team Award: **Silas Anthony, David D'Antonio, Bradley Del Rio, Yehia Elkersh, Will Murphy, Miles Ropollo, Chris Weintritt, & Cray Pennison**
- Order of St. La Salle Award for 100+ service hours:



John Cresson receives the Signum Fidei Award from Brother John Fairfax.

- Pre-freshman: **Lane Amedio, Corbin Chitwood, Ryan Hill & Sean Noel**
- Freshman: **Andrew Aceves, Colin Cottrell, Anthony Pennison, & Jonathan Wellmeyer**
- Sophomores: **Hayden Coutrado, Patrick Guidry, Sal Orlando & Jared Thieler**
- Juniors: **Robert Baricev, Stephen Beach, Ford Brasher, Eric Coston, Yehia Elkersh, Andrew Grashoff, Reagan Hill, Patrick Napier, Alex Oliveri, & Max Tepper**
- Seniors: **David Cressy, Seth Dragon, Rutger Fury, Nick Gordon, Austin Grashoff, Garrett Grass, Billy Harrison, Colin Hoy, Andrew Mercante, Percy Pena, Adam Schmitt, Patrick Stewart & Matt Wallace**
- 8th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Blake Bollinger, James Bradford, Blake DiSalvo, Ben Klein, & Jarrett Meibaum, & Adam Smith**
- 8th Grade Superior Academic Silver Medal: **Jesse Cheng, Colin Murray & Mason Vencil**
- 9th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Josh Devier**
- 9th Grade Superior Academic Silver Medal: **John Paul Bourgeois, Nicholas Briggs, Beau Franklin, Cullen Irwin, Michael Phillippe, Blake Ramsey, Josh Rovira, Matthew Vicknair, & Christopher Wilson**
- 10th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medals: **Patrick Baldone, Matthew Borgatti & Andrew Smith**
- 10th Grade Superior Academic Silver Medal: **Kevin Schneider**
- 11th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Alex Oliveri**
- 11th Grade Superior Academic Silver Medals: **Thomas Carriere**
- 12th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Luke Avenel, Jacob Broussard & Patrick Connolly**
- 12th Grade Superior Academic Silver Medal: **Jack Cheng, Christian Flick & Gregory Roy**
- 8th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Alex Klochek & Darrin Lea**
- 8th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Carter Elie & Andrew Lacoste**
- 9th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Andrew Norlin**
- 9th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Cole Chitwood & Ross Hightower**
- 10th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Forge Mathes**
- 10th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Ashton van Deventer**
- 11th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Yehia Elkersh**
- 11th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Ruston Keller & Will Murphy**
- 12th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **John Cresson & Leland van Deventer**
- 12th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Ethan Desforges & Ryan Meraux**
- Salutatorians: **John Cresson & Ethan Desforges**
- Valedictorians: **Luke Avenel, Jacob Broussard, Jack Cheng, Patrick Connolly, Ryan Meraux & Leland van Deventer**

And I annually give out awards to our faculty, celebrating years of service in multiples of five. If you see these teachers, please thank them for their service to SPS:

- Completing Five Years of Service to SPS: **Sgt. A.J. East, Mr. Alex Lacour, Mrs. Kristin Lagraize & Mrs. Rachel Peake**
- Completing 10 Years of Service to SPS: **Coach Kristian Gibbe**
- Completing 15 Years of Service to SPS: **Mrs. Susan Jordan, Coach Chris Stipe & Mrs. Myrle Wiggins**
- Completing 20 Years of Service to SPS: **Mr. Kevin Moore & Coach Mick Nunez**
- Completing 25 Years of Service to SPS: **Sgt. Don Pressley**
- Completing 30 Years of Service to SPS: **Mr. Trevor Watkins**
- A special retirement gift was presented to **Coach Phil Williams** in thanksgiving for his 30+ years of Lasallian Education and as he enters this new phase of his life.
- Finally, I presented the Brother Charles Crouzet Award (our highest faculty award) to **Mr. John Carambat**, educator extraordinaire, who teaches biology, moderates Wolves on Wheels Graphic Design, Science Fair, and is an accomplished artist, sculptor and actor.

Whew! There were MANY more awards, but space does not allow for a comprehensive list. We are proud of our students who excelled this year. We look forward to even more achievement next year.

Lost and Found Final Call: We'll clear out our lost and found, keeping what's usable and discarding what's not. If not claimed this week, we will get rid of them.

Drum Roll, Please: ANOTHER LSU Golden Achievement Award: I'm pleased and proud to announce that Saint Paul's was **AGAIN** awarded the Golden Achievement Award by LSU. I've lost track, but this is about the 9th consecutive year that we've won the award -- based upon seniors' performance at LSU Spring Testing, is given to the TOP TWENTY schools in the state. Congrats, Class of 2016! Some of our guys are beginning LSU as second semester freshmen! The dollar value of the 132 hours is \$91,608. Again, congrats Class of 2016! And some of our top guys who are going out of state didn't even participate. Wow.

And while I'm bragging on the Class of 2016, we also wish to congratulate the 167 young men on being accepted to over 90 colleges and universities and being awarded scholarship offers totaling over \$15 million – and still climbing as last minute scholarship offers are received. And this does NOT include TOPS! Wow!



Spencer '17 receives the Daren Boudreaux Memorial Scholarship from Dr. George Boudreaux '65

Taylor Scholar Awards: Thanks to The Taylor Foundation, named for Mr. Patrick Taylor for whom the TOPS program is named, we presented qualified students last week with Taylor Scholar Awards. For a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, the award grants one year free admission for student and one parent/guardian to the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectariums, Audubon Zoo, and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

We are grateful to the Taylor Foundation for honoring Mr. Taylor this way. As most know, Mr. Taylor was a successful oilman, philanthropist and educational reformist who wanted all students to have an opportunity to attend college based on their ability to learn and not on their ability to pay.

If your son received this award, plan a day or two this summer and take a group of his friends who also earned the award to visit these incredible educational and entertaining venues. Or maybe treat some students who didn't earn the award and use it as encouragement for them to earn the award next year.

Taylor Awards were distributed at last week's level awards assemblies.

SPS Summer Camps: Just a reminder that SPS offers wonderful one week summer camps in baseball, football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, drama, and engineering for boys age 8-14. More info can be found on our website.

Looking Ahead for Those Returning:

- Tuition for 2016 - 17 is due on June 1st; the first payment for bank financed tuition is also due. Students cannot start school in August if tuition/bank loans are not current.
- **If your son is registered for next year and you change your mind during the summer about his attending SPS, PLEASE let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- **BE VIGILANT during the summer – there are many temptations that will face your sons this summer. Drug testing will resume in the fall!**
- **Monday, August 8, is the first day of school.** It's a FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION and attendance is expected.
- A complete 2015-16 school year calendar is posted on the website. Be informed that the state has tightened the attendance policy and Saint Paul's is complying. **PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.**

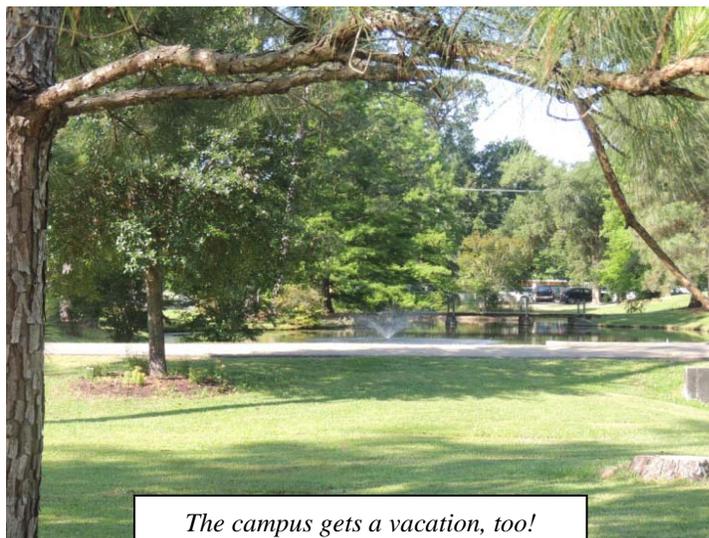
School Supplies for 2016 - 17: The school administration and Mothers Club are working to streamline the school supply process. Info should be sent out soon.

English Books: All English paperback books will be purchased on-line this year through MSB, our virtual bookstore. This will save you money as you can purchase new, used, or e-editions of books. You only have to purchase books you don't already have (e.g. an older brother may have had the same book.) **And you can sell the books back to MSB when your son is finished with them at the end of the year.** Go to our website, www.stpauls.com, and click on "Order Your Books Here" on the right side.

Feedback: We spend time in the summer evaluating the past year and planning for next year. Toward that end, feel free to email me a suggestion if you think we need to "beef up" an area of life around here. While I can't promise we will implement every suggestion made, I assure you we will consider it. Be aware of our limitations in terms of personnel, finances, facilities, and interrupting class time when emailing me your suggestion.

Lasallian Youth Leaders: Congrats and thanks to the new officers:

President- Patrick Napier
Vice President- Reagan Hill
Secretary- Max Tepper
Service Coordinator- Yehia Elkersh
Treasurer- AJ Lacroix
Chaplain/Sacristan- Zach Scheurich
Public Relations Officer- Hanzala Hussain



The campus gets a vacation, too!

An Important Message from Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, to the Young People of the Archdiocese: In the past, Archbishop Aymond issued the following letter at the end of the school year. While he didn't issue it again this year, it's worth reading again. I encourage our students to heed these words of the Archbishop:

I pray in a special way for each of the young people in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Know that you are important to all of our ministries, in parishes, schools and other programs.

I am aware of the educational experience you have received in regard to the use of electronic media. You know very well how to use the tools and you know intellectually the consequences when social media is not used respectfully.

I want to reach out to you at the moral level and beg you to remember that it isn't how much you know that is crucial, but rather, the respect that you show for God, yourself, and others when you communicate through cell phones, computers, and other technology.

Always treat other people in a manner that shows your awareness of their reflecting the image of God. In all ways let your friends, classmates, and acquaintances know that they are respected. Speak out if you know someone is being abused or bullied. Share the information with a parent, priest, or teacher who can step in and help. The Archdiocese of New Orleans has the staff available to help you in abusive or bullying situations.

One of your many responsibilities at this time is to make choices which will allow you the opportunity to make decisions about your future education or career choices. Choose wisely. Choose only those opportunities and interactions which will give you a greater chance to achieve all of the goals you set for yourself and those which God has in store for you.

If you need help, please let a member of the clergy, a Catholic School Administrator, a Director of Religious Education, or your Youth Minister know.

Summer Office Hours: We will gradually start reducing our summer office hours. While you can pretty much count on the office being open every morning during the summer, we will soon start closing the office at noon, so please contact us in the mornings if you need us. I will be available throughout most of the summer if needed. Call or email me if I can be of assistance. I'll be working enough to "earn my keep" and justify my existence at SPS but will take an occasional day off. I will be out of the office from June 20 - 24, attending a meeting with the administrators of the 20 Lasallian schools in the San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers. Otherwise, I'll be around.

Service Hours: Summer is a great time for your son to earn his mandatory ten hours of service – and to do even more, perhaps even earning the Brother Alfred Service Award or Order of St. La Salle Service Award.

Service Hour Opportunity: From Pen Jensen, Host Coordinator for Family Promise at St. Michael's Episcopal in Mandeville: *Family Promise is a non-denominational program to help homeless families with children transition back into a home of their own. St. Tammany's program has 19 host and supporting churches. Each host church services the families in the program for a week at a time. Part of that includes fellowship and activities with the children each evening. We've learned through experience that the children love having older kids helping and playing with them. Our church will be hosting again June 26-July 2. The hours each evening when we need volunteers to work/play with the children are 6:00/630-8:00pm. All of us who have volunteered our time with the families so far have received much more than we've given. The families are so thankful and grateful for the help they're receiving.* If a student is interested in helping, email Pat at pat.jensen.ejr@gmail.com.

The Paper Wolf: Good stories this week. Check them out <http://thepaperwolf.com>

Amazing Statistic: A recent survey of British youngsters found the time they spend online tripled in a decade to more than 27.5 hours a week at the end of 2014. It's not just people in their late teens and early 20s who are gorging on the Web: The average adult Internet user claims to spend over 20 hours online every week, double the time from a decade

ago, according to U.K. telecoms regulator Ofcom. Last year alone, the average time spent online climbed by 3.5 hours per week. And I can't imagine American kids are any different. Imagine spending a whole day each week online!

Well, I wasn't brief with this newsletter as promised. Sorry! But you get a break as the newsletter goes on summer vacation. I'll only be sending things out periodically during the summer. **And for the Class of 2016, this is the final newsletter you'll receive.** Thanks for putting up with them – and with me, too. Naturally, you can always access the current newsletter on the SPS website if you get nostalgic or need a newsletter “fix”.

On a personal note, I apologize to anyone whom I've overlooked recognizing this year or offended or disappointed in any way by something I did, didn't do, said, or didn't say. I'm very aware of my failings and limitations, and I will definitely try to do better this coming year.

Thanks for having been part of the 2015 - 16 edition of Saint Paul's – the fifth year of our second century of existence. If the next 105 years go as well as this past year, Saint Paul's will have had an incredible second century of existence.

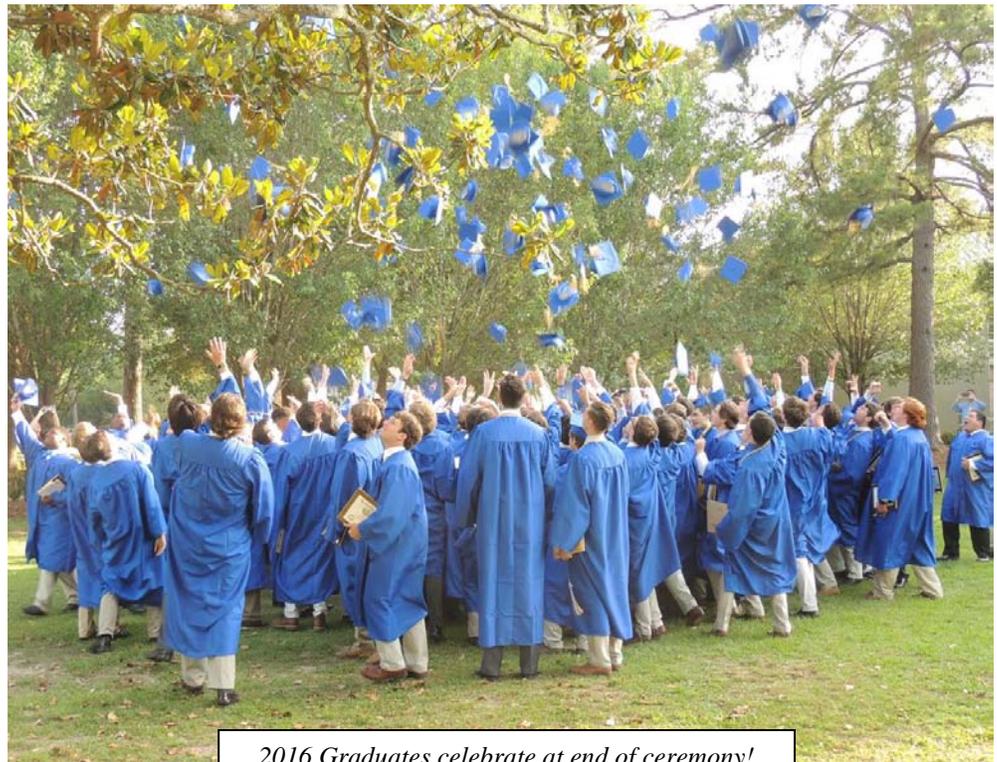
Enjoy the final days of May. May they be ones of grace and blessing. Know of my prayer for you throughout the summer, particularly for the safety and good decision-making of our students.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
The 17th Christian Brother President of St Paul's School

Have a great Lasallian summer but remember: the Core Principles of Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God NEVER take a vacation!

Care and Vigilance and Faith and Zeal -- Hallmarks of the Lasallian Teacher and Parent throughout the summer!

******** SPS begins for all students on August 8 with a full day of instruction ********



2016 Graduates celebrate at end of ceremony!