



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



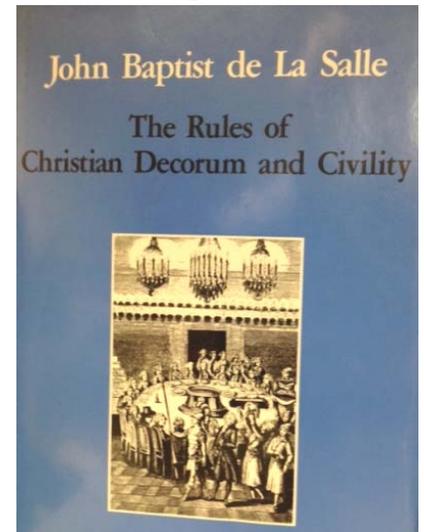
May 09 - 15, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to the eighth week of the fourth quarter of the 2015-16 school year! Only two weeks left to go!

This week is National Etiquette Week (NEW), so it's time for my annual rant advocating civility. The week is designed to raise awareness of the importance of courtesy, civility, and good manners in everyday life. Civility is a vital part of the professional and social realms—business, social, dining, travel, technology, wedding, and international protocol. But we need civility in everyday life. Civility was so important to Saint John Baptist de La Salle that he wrote a student reader entitled "Rules of Civility and Decorum." It's a masterpiece. Here is a very small sampling of topics covered:

- *What decorum permits or does not permit in regard to interrupting others*
- *How to act when meeting someone*
- *Things you should do before eating; how to eat politely; how to request things at the table; how to take portions for yourself; what to do with gravy and fruit; how to eat soup; how to carve meat; how to leave the table*
- *The nose and the manner of blowing your nose and sneezing*
- *How to enter the house of a person you visit and how to greet the person you visit*
- *Faults committed when you speak against the charity due your neighbor*
- *The manner of dressing and undressing*
- *Parts of the body which should be covered and the necessities of nature [I'm sure you can guess what these are!]*



Almost any human action you can imagine (especially in the life of boys!) is covered in this book – which was used to teach reading as well as manners. While parts are humorous by today's standards, the overarching message is that civility and decorum are not optional traits. And our job as educators is to help students adapt to the civil and decorous demands of modern day life. Please encourage your sons to practice civility, especially manners, this week – and let's all commit to **setting the example** for the young people entrusted to our care.

Mon, May 9 (Regular; G A B C)

- **TDIH:** The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee opens impeachment hearings against President Richard Nixon. They will ultimately vote to impeach him on July 30.
- **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day:** Today is designed to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth.
- **Rugby End of Season Banquet.** Thanks for a great season, Rugby Wolves!

Tue, May 10 (President's Assembly; D E F G)

- **Final President's Assembly (Yea!)** I'll try to recognize as many as possible, but undoubtedly some things will get left out; some will roll over until next year!
- **TDIH:** In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad is completed.
- **Lupus Awareness Day:** Lupus is a debilitating, potentially fatal autoimmune disease capable of damaging virtually any part of the body, including the skin, heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain.
- **Band Awards Ceremony (6:30 pm; BAC)** Thanks for a GREAT year, Marching, Concert, & Jazz Wolves!

Friday, May 13, is a Dress Uniform Day!

Wed, May 11 (Assembly; A B C D)

- **Mass at 7 am; come join us!**
- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day:** We remember those who serve in our armed forces and the sacrifices their families make during deployment. Say a prayer for all military spouses today.
- **Eat What You Want Day:** Health permitting, go ahead and indulge today!
- **TDIH:** 1997, chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov resigns after 19 moves in a game against Deep Blue, a chess-playing computer developed by scientists at IBM.
- **Academic & Service Awards Assemblies for grades 9-11.** These awards will be given by levels. Pre-freshmen awards will be given at the Promotion Ceremony on May 16.
- **Pre-freshmen Exams followed by Promotion Practice**
- **Senior Grad Night.** This activity is organized by senior parents for all seniors. The evening lasts from 5-8

Thu, May 12 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **National Limerick Day** (a five line anapestic meter poem with an aabba rhyme scheme – but you knew that.) Here's what many consider the best limerick ever (at least that can be printed in a Catholic newsletter!), written by American poet & humorist Ogden Nash:

*A flea and a fly in a flue
were imprisoned, so what could they do?
Said the fly, "let us flee!"
"Let us fly!" said the flea.
So they flew through a flaw in the flue*

- **Athletic Awards Ceremony** this morning. I've said it before and I'll say it again: I'll match our athletic program against any school. And ditto for our coaches – and not just for their knowledge of their sport, but for the content of their character, their commitment to Lasallian values, and their unwavering dedication to our students. We have had a great year. While I know the purpose of this morning is to honor the students, our coaching staff deserves great recognition, too. How many schools can boast what we regularly accomplish at district, parish, region, state and even national levels? Wow. Go Wolves!
- **Walker Percy Serenity Circle** will be dedicated this morning at 10 am at the Madisonville Library. Dr. Percy, one of the 20th century's most significant novelists, lived just a few blocks from SPS. He and his wife, Bunt, often walked through the campus and attended mass with the Brothers. Three of his four grandsons are alumni of SPS. Upon his death, the family directed memorial donations to SPS, which continue to fund the Walker and Bunt Percy Memorial Scholarship Award. We remain grateful to the Percy Family. Read a Walker Percy novel if you never have – or even if you have! The SPS library is blessed with autographed first edition copies of all of his works and I am blessed with a dedicated volume, given to me as a gift.
- **Pre-freshmen Exams followed by Promotion Ceremony Practice**
- **Theater:** Our drama classes will present their original one act plays this evening beginning at 6. It's always a treat to see what our guys have written, directed and acted in.



*Most seniors pay attention during practice!
Focus, Parker!*

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Fri, May 13 (Assembly; B C Review for A; 1:30 dismissal for all) – Dress Uniform Day!

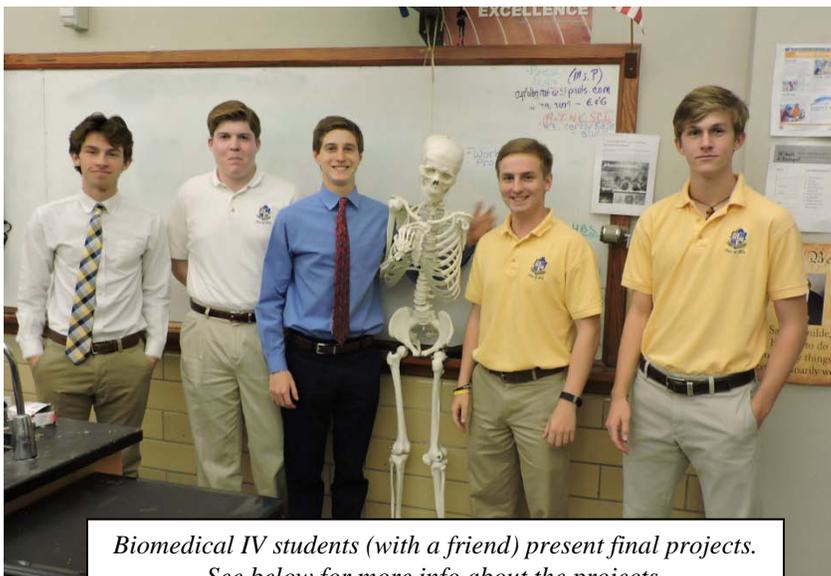
- **Frog Jumping Day:** Be kind to frogs today! They are all over our campus! This day can be traced back to Missouri author Mark Twain, and his first short story “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” – which is worth reading today
- **Fintastic Friday: Giving Sharks a Voice Day:** Who knew that sharks need help? Apparently as many as 100 million sharks are killed each year for their fins. Shark populations have plummeted 75% to 90% in many ecosystems. Worldwide, sharks have little or no protection. Don’t kill any sharks today!
- **Academic and Service Awards Assembly (8 am):** Major academic and service awards will be presented this morning. **This is a DRESS UNIFORM day as many outside presenters will be on campus for this event.**
- **College Athletic Signings (9:30 in the BAC):** Spencer Albright (Track at Spring Hill); Oliver Guice (Track at Birmingham Southern), Kurt Shiell (Tennis at Spring Hill), Michael Boudreaux and Austin Wiles (Soccer at Christian Brothers University in Memphis), Nick Isolani (Soccer at Rhodes College), Jonathan King (Soccer at Spring Hill) and Colin Ross (Soccer at Fort Lewis). Congrats to all of our college athletics signees! Thanks to Karen for organizing.
- **Pre-freshmen Exams followed by Promotion Ceremony Practice**
- **St. Joseph Abbey College Seminary Graduation (5 pm in the BAC)**
- **SPS Staff End of Year Celebration (cafeteria)**

Sat, May 14

- **TDIH:** 1948, in Tel Aviv, the State of Israel, is established, the first Jewish state in 2,000 years
- **National Chicken Dance Day:** OK with me if you dance like a chicken today – but not during graduation.
- **One Hundred and Fifth Annual Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School** at 4:00 p.m. in Briggs Assembly Center. Admission by ticket only (each senior was issued 8.) In case you haven't heard, **2016 Valedictorians are Luke Avenel, Jacob Broussard, Jack Cheng, Patrick Connolly, Ryan Meraux, & Leland van Deventer, while Salutatorians are John Cresson and Ethan Desforges**

Sun, May 15 (Pentecost Sunday; *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.*)

- **National Chocolate Chip Day:** go ahead and indulge with a cookie or CC ice cream!
- **Traditional feast of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.** Each year, Lasallians honor St. John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and patron saint of teachers, on May 15, known as Founder’s Day. It’s a day to reflect on the rich history of the Lasallian mission and celebrate the man whose vision and dedication to providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, launched the worldwide Lasallian network. Rejoice in being a Lasallian today!



Biomedical IV students (with a friend) present final projects.
See below for more info about the projects.

- **TDIH:** In 1950, Pope Pius XII declares John Baptist de La Salle “Patron of All Teachers of Youth.” Here are the Pope’s words: *Having then carefully considered the matter, we now, with sure knowledge and due deliberation, and in the exercise of our full apostolic authority, constitute and proclaim, by this Brief and for all time, St. John Baptist de La Salle, Confessor, principal patron before God, of all teachers of youth, and we accord him all liturgical honours and privileges appropriate to that title, irrespective of all contrary considerations. Given at Rome, from St. Peter's, and sealed with the Fisherman's ring, this 15th day of May, feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, in the twelfth year of our pontificate. All*

teachers should celebrate their Patron’s feast!

- **Justin Addison Memorial Conservation Cup: This event is very meaningful. Here's what Justin's dad, Dr. Jay Addison, said about the event:** *"We had always intended to leave our land to Justin for his future children to carry on the family traditions of raising horses, hunting, and fishing. His untimely loss has refueled our commitment to the Land Trust for Louisiana - the acres that we protect will be his legacy. His beautiful spirit and love of life live on in our efforts to preserve the land for future generations to enjoy."*

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Good News Dept: An alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous sent me a check last week for \$8500 to be used for sponsoring a deserving but financially needy student. The alum explained to me that he owes "a great deal to the Christian Brothers" for his time at Saint Paul's – which he considers fundamental to his present day financial success – as he didn't think his parents paid any tuition for him to attend here. Even better news: he has pledged to continue this gift for three more years. I am beyond grateful. Join me in praying that the many other alums who the Brothers supported will also, if they are able, help other needy students attend Saint Paul's.

Musings on Last Week:

- **Prescription Drug Abuse Assembly & Follow Up:** While it wasn't perfect, the info was good – and disturbing. I hope your son told you about it, especially faculty member Christie Simoneaux's personal testimony at the end. God put Christie in the gym that morning to make sure that the message hit home. The Covington PD also collected a number of prescription drugs on Wed morning in car line. We have received positive response from several parents who are facing this exact problem with family members and friends. The problem is real. Please speak to your sons.
- **AP Exams** went well. Thanks to teachers who taught and proctored and to the many students who enrolled in AP courses this year.
- **Art Exhibit:** Hope you had the chance to see all the great work that our guys did this past year.
- **Graduation Practice** went well. I look forward to the ceremony.
- **Cap & Gown distribution** went well. As always, though, a number of seniors didn't believe we were serious about clearing all obligations to the school.
- **Senior Finals** went well. Thanks, senior teachers!
- **Cafeteria ladies** treated seniors to ice cream sundaes on 1st day of grad practice. Thanks, ladies!
- **Athletic Physicals** kept coaches, athletes and doctors busy Sat morning. We are very grateful to the medical

community for providing this service to our students.

- **Pie Bowl:** Our annual end of spring football ritual was fun and successful. Geaux Wolves!

- **Biomedical Projects:** Chris Stipe's biomed IV students made great presentations last Mon night – which ranged from Tristan Smith's internship at the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office (and describing his witnessing an autopsy as "cool") to Leland van Deventer's internship at a urology surgery center (again, with vivid descriptions that had my weak stomach turning) to Nick Isolani's internship at a dental clinic (where he assisted in a root canal!) to Austin Groeneveld's internship at a breast reconstruction center in NO (again, where he assisted in the surgery) to Austin Grashoff's invention of an auto sleeve scrubber for surgery under less than ideal conditions.) The future of biomedical education at SPS looks bright –but we need a new sponsor as the Harry T. Howard Foundation's grant has expired. Contact me if interested!

- **Give NOLA Day:** Our first participation in this event netted 45 gifts for SPS totaling \$3970. Considering the site has technical problems for most of the day and that we didn't really push this drive, I am pleased. I am appreciative to Danielle Lavie for organizing and promoting this event.



Seniors prepare to enter the BAC for their final exam of their high school career. God bless the Class of 2016!

- **Teaching Mass:** The final mass (for period F) was held last Tuesday. Father actually stops during the mass to explain to the students what is happening and why. Sometimes our assumptions that students understand our mass are not correct. Thanks, Jeff Ramon & Religion teachers, for this valuable spiritual lesson. Thanks to Father Gregory Usselman for celebrating mass and teaching the mass for us last week.
- **Quiddich Tournament:** Broomsticks and capes were in abundance as Wolves celebrated their magical game.
- **Wolf Jam:** Thanks to our LYLs for organizing this benefit for San Miguel High School in Tucson. The evening was successful. More info in next week's newsletter.
- **Track:** Congrats to junior Eric Coston, who won state championships in the 1600 & 3200 meter races at state meet. Watch Eric discuss his wins at http://www.nola.com/prepsports/index.ssf/2016/05/meet_the_local_winners_from_th_1.html#7

• ***Friday, May 13, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

Bookstore Clearance Sale: Our 4th Annual Sidewalk Sale will be on Thursday, May 12th from 9:00-4:00. Come take advantage of huge savings and great bargains with pre-owned uniforms, clearance items, and overstock sales! If you have



Garrett studies hard for his final high school exams.

any St. Paul's clothing items that you would like to donate, please drop them off in the bookstore (weekdays 7:15-8:00, 11:00-12:30, and 2:15-3:15) anytime between now and May 12th!

Alumni Phone-a-Thon: Approximately 30 alums gathered last week to conduct an Annual Fund Phone-a-Thon, contacting their classmates to gain updated contact info and ask them to consider a gift to the Annual Fund. I am most grateful to them. We have not done this peer to peer solicitation in twenty years and while still a small event, it's a beginning. Thanks to AI for organizing.

Soon to be Saint Brother Solomon: Brother Solomon was a Christian Brother who was martyred on Sep 2, 1792 during the French Revolution. Last month, the medical consultant of the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared that the unexplained cure of a Venezuelan girl who had been bitten by a venomous snake was, in medical terms, "a miracle". The theologians can now use that same term to declare that the fact "cannot be explained by science". It is "miraculous" and occurred through the intercession of Blessed Brother Solomon

Leclercq. His canonization could now take place before the end of this year, 2016. The years taken up by this cause are of truly biblical proportions. Brother Solomon was martyred in Paris on September the 2nd, 1792. He was beatified on October the 17th, 1926. And he will probably be canonized in 2016.

Summer Reading: It's not too early to start thinking about summer reading requirements. All summer reading questions for English and social studies (if your son is in honors or AP history/civics) are posted on our website. **Please note that your son will independently have to obtain his own summer reading books for social studies if he is in honors or AP.** Click on the link for summer reading at the bottom of our homepage, www.stpauls.com, and find the class(es) applicable to your son.

Attention Students: Perfect Attendance has been posted for ALL GRADES on the bulletin board outside of Ms. Erin's office. It is very important that you check this list as soon as possible and see Mrs. Erin with any questions.

Award Ceremonies: Here's the info on our end of year awards ceremonies:

- **Athletic Awards** will be at 8 am on Thursday, May 12th in the BAC. Grades 8-11 will be in attendance. Senior athletes who want to receive their awards must attend. All other seniors are invited, but not required, to attend.

Parents of the major athletic award winners will be notified and issued a special invitation to attend. Other parents are welcome to attend.

- **Band Awards** will be Tuesday evening, May 10th, in the BAC.
- **Academic Awards** for 8th graders will be given at the 8th grade promotion ceremony on Monday, May 16, at 6 pm in the BAC.
- **Academic Awards** for grades 9-11 will be given as follows:
 - Most of the awards (the gold & blue P, the course medals, etc.) will be given in level assemblies on Wednesday morning, May 11. That way, all of a student's peers can see him get the award and perhaps aspire to be in that number next year. We will give the major awards (Superior Achievement, Superior Academic, etc.) at an all school assembly on Friday morning, May 13, at 8 am. Parents of the major award winners will be invited to attend. Other parents are welcome to attend.
 - Awards for seniors were given on Friday morning, May 06th.

Tutoring continues every Mon, Wed and Fri at 7:15 in LaSalle Hall Room 212; Tue and Thu during lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 211. The tutors are very friendly and encourage students to come for help.

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Graduation or Confirmation Gift: Looking for something different?

Buy A Brick! We are about to order the third set of bricks for installation in La Salle Hall's courtyard this summer. If you want to get in on this installment, order your brick soon. This would make a nice graduation gift! You can pick up an order form in the administration office, the records office, and the Alumni & Development Office. It's also in Wolf Tracks or you can go on line to the school's web-site, stpauls.com. If you need more information, call Danielle or Al in the development office. Cost of a brick is \$125.

Service Hour Reminder: I'm disappointed at the students who have not met their service hour requirement. It makes me want to question whether Saint Paul's is the place for them. If your son is in that number, please urge him to get those service hours in – or re-evaluate why he wants to be at St. Paul's.

Senior Graduation, as stated in our handbook, is a privilege, not a right. Please note the following:

- Graduation is Saturday, May 14, at 4 pm.
- Admission is BY TICKET ONLY. Each senior was issued EIGHT (8) tickets on May 08.
- The ceremony takes place within the context of a Catholic mass. Proper behavior FROM ALL is required. The ceremony lasts **about two hours** and is a beautifully moving event, but is **NOT a "small children" friendly event.**



Father Gregory explains the mass.

Senior Graduation Will Be Live-Streamed: Watch our wonderful ceremony on You Tube: Here's the link:

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

2016 - 17 School CALENDAR!: Here's the first semester:

Mon, Aug 08	Full day of instruction
Mon, Aug 15	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30)
Thu, Aug 18	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Ceremony
Fri, Aug 19	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 29	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Mon, Sep 05	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 14	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 14	Grandparent Day begins at 11:30
Mon, Oct 17	Fall Break (no classes)
Mon, Oct 24	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 29	Prospective Student Open House (1 pm)
Mon-Fri, Nov 21-25	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 28	Classes resume from Holiday
Tue - Fri, Dec 14 - 16	Semester Exams
Fri, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:30 following exams (public schools begin Holidays on Tue, Dec 20

And Speaking of Next Year:

- We are in the process of finalizing course offerings and staffing for next year. It's imperative, therefore, that your son turn in his course selection sheet if he has not already done so.
- If your son is not returning and you have not informed us, please let me know so we can offer his spot to someone in our waiting pool.
- Tuition invoices have been sent to returning students. Tuition is due by June 1.
- **Bank loans must be secured by end of this week. Go to any branch of Resource Bank.**

I'm Still Begging: I had an excellent response last week! Thanks to those who each week respond to my request. But PLEASE – I need everyone's help, including alumni and grandparents. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). **More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. WONDERFUL!**
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What's important is that everyone participates.
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thanks. Can you send \$10 to Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! Several grandparents approached me on GP Day about donating and asked why they aren't solicited like other schools do. I replied that we need and welcome their support and they all replied that they would contribute. **If you would like to inform your son's grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I'll personally appeal. I'll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.

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Dress and Grooming Rules: With nature sprouting all over, our students' hair seems to be growing a fast rate, too. We are about to embark on "haircut" rule enforcement, so help us by insisting your son conforms to policy. And we will insist that students follow the dress code through the last second of the school year. Parents – please examine your son's dress before he leaves for school.

SAFE DRIVING: PLEASE stress with your sons the need to respect the residential nature of our neighborhood. Students MUST drive appropriately – and parents must set the example and expectations.

Important Driver's License Requirement: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. 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. These forms can be obtained in the administration building or the counseling center.

Several students went for licenses over the holidays and were turned away because they didn't have the form – in some cases they waited several hours before being turned away

Free Money: Don't forget the cash back programs at Target, Office Depot, Box Tops for Education.

Pre-Freshmen End-of-Year Schedule 2016

Wednesday, May 11

8:00 – 8:15	Report to Chapel for Prayer Service
8:20 – 9:35	Spanish Exam
9:35 - 9:45	Break
9:50 – 11:20	Math Exam
11:20 – 12:00	Lunch
12:00 - 1:30	Graduation Practice in BAC
1:30	Dismissal

Thursday, May 12

7:45	Pre-Freshmen report to their Science Exam Room before going to assembly
8:00 – 9:15	Pre-Freshmen at Athletic Assembly
9:15 – 10:15	Science Exam
10:15- 10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	English Exam
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch
12:00- 1:30	Graduation Practice in BAC
1:30	Dismissal

Friday, May 13

8:00 -	Pre-Freshmen report to their Geography Exam Room for announcements
8:15 – 9:30	Report to BAC for Major Academic Awards Ceremony
9:35 – 9:50	Study Period in Geography Exam Room
9:50 – 10:50	Geography Exam
10:50 – 11:30	Lunch
11:35 – 12:35	Religion Exam
12:35 - 1:30	Graduation Practice in BAC
1:30	Dismissal

Monday, May 16

5:30 PM	Pre-Freshmen report to Wolf Dome
6:00 PM	Pre-Freshmen Promotion Ceremony in BAC

Look Ahead

- May 10 – President’s Assembly – *Band Awards* in Evening
- May 11 – 13 – Pre Freshmen Exams
- May 11 – Grad Night for Seniors
- May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
- May 13 – Academic Awards in am – **Dress Uniform Day!**
- May 13 – St. Joseph Seminary College Graduation (5 pm in the BAC)
- May 14 – 105th Commencement Exercises of the Saint Paul’s School -- 4:00 pm in BAC
- May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6 pm in BAC)
- May 17-19- Exam Special Schedules
- May 20 – Teacher records day

Thank you for being part of the 2015 – 16 edition of Saint Paul’s

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

The 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



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