



The President/Principal's Newsletter for Oct 14 - 20, 2013



Welcome to the start of the second quarter and **congratulations** on an excellent first one!

Now is a good time to **remind** ourselves of and **recommit** ourselves to the fundamentals of what we do and why we do it. Nine weeks ago, we committed ourselves to being Lasallian and **doing ordinary things extraordinarily well**. In the last nine weeks, we've had highs and lows and maybe found ourselves at times feeling unsure of our mission – and perhaps doing the ordinary in ordinary ways.

As we begin the second quarter, we again commit ourselves to the five Lasallian Core Principles: Provide a quality education, Build an inclusive community, Respect all persons, Show concern for the poor and social justice, and Have Faith in the presence of God

We also commit ourselves to Brother Benilde's path to sainthood: doing ordinary things extraordinarily well. And we do the above by infusing Saint Paul's with the story of **St. John Baptist de La Salle** as we remember his directive to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care!

Mon, Oct 14 (9:00 start; faculty meeting; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis begins, bringing the US & Russia to the brink of nuclear war. I remember our "nuclear bomb drills" in grammar school! We really thought we'd survive by hiding under our desks! Trivia Question: Who were the US President and Russian Premiere involved in this nuclear game of chicken?
- **Columbus Day Observed**
- **National Dessert Day!** Who knew? Treat yourself to some special dessert tonight!
- **Late Start:** Students must be in their C Block class at 9 am. As usual, cafeteria (complete with breakfast service), library, and chapel are open for regular time arrivals.



Pre-freshmen enjoy college dress down day!

Tue, Oct 15 (Assembly; St. Teresa of Avila; G A B C)

- **Saint Teresa of Ávila**, was a prominent 16th century Spanish mystic, Roman Catholic saint, Carmelite nun, writer, and theologian. She was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered to be, along with John of the Cross, a founder of the Discalced Carmelites. **Happy Feast Day to the Carmelite Sisters on River Road in Covington!**
- **National Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity:** we pray in a special way today for respect for all life.

- **Global Hand Washing Day:** Today stresses good hygiene. Wash hands often – it's one of the best disease defenses.
- **National Grouch Day:** You have permission to be a grouch today but you must go back to being nice tomorrow!
- **Sudden Impact Program** for a group of sophomores
- **Football:** Jr Hi v. Ponchatoula (6)

Wed, Oct 16 (Feast of St. Gerard Majella; D E F G)

- **Saint Gerard Majella** is an 18th century Saint whose intercession is requested for childbirth, children (unborn children in particular), & mothers, particularly expectant mothers. Most people are unaware of St. Gerard Majella High School in NO, a school for pregnant high school girls that was forced to close this year due to financial pressures. Pray today for all mothers, especially pregnant ones, and reaffirm our belief in life's sanctity from conception to natural death.
- **Dictionary Day:** In 1758, Noah Webster, considered the Father of the American Dictionary, was born. In his honor, read the dictionary today and learn a new word.
- **PSAT** administered on campus today (see below for more info)
- **Football:** 9th & JV v. Northshore (5:30)

Thu, Oct 17 (Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque; Regular; A B C D)

- **Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque** was a 17th Century French Roman Catholic nun and mystic, who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in its modern form.
- **SPS Historical Fact:** Did you know that the statue in Founder's Circle is of the Sacred Heart? It's non-traditional one commissioned following the Dixon Hall fire in Nov of 1980. Dixon Hall, a large, brick four story building stood in Founder's circle. At the time of the fire, it was unoccupied. A large Sacred Heart statue stood in front of Dixon Hall and literally exploded from the heat of the fire. One of the retired Brothers at the time, Brother Charles Crouzet, had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart, and the then Principal, Brother Jeffrey Calligan, commissioned the statue in Brother Charles's honor. The statue is slightly "bent over" in honor Brother Charles, who was then 90 years old and also slightly "bent over." And now you know!
- **Wear Something Gaudy Day:** "gaudy" refers to something bright, cheap, showy, outlandish, or otherwise not in good taste. We will NOT be celebrating this day at school, but feel free to do so at home or at work!
- **National Pasta Day:** Enjoy one of the more than 600 varieties of pasta today! Ciao!
- **Freshman Retreat / Service Day (see below for more info)**

Fri, Oct 18 (Feast of St. Luke; regular; E F G A)

- **St. Luke the Evangelist** is the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. He is patron saint of artists, physicians, surgeons, students, & butchers. Happy feast day to the eleven SPS teachers & students who have Luke or Lucas or Luc as part of their name!
- **TDIH:** On this date in 1790, John Baptist de La Salle entered the Seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris, beginning his journey toward priesthood. By answering God's call, he opened himself up to future calls which allowed him to found the Brothers of the Christian Schools. May we, too, be open to the call of God in our lives!

- **National Evaluate Your Life Day:** Today gives an opportunity to reflect upon your life -- where it's been, and where it's going. What do you need, or want, to change?
- **National Chocolate Cupcake Day:** Splurge! Enjoy!
- **Living Rosary at OLL:** This annual event is always special; for the 27th year, I will represent SPS as The Apostles Creed. The OLL Fair begins this evening and runs through Sat. We wish them the best!
- **Redi Test for Pre-Freshmen (see below for more info)**
- **Freshman Retreat / Service Day**
- **Football:** Varsity at Northshore (7) Geaux Wolves!



Harry & Sharon Nunez enjoy GP day with Jack.

Sat, Oct 19 (Feast of North American Martyrs)

- Today's feast honors Ss. Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brébeuf and six other martyred Jesuit 17th century missionaries worked among the native populations in North America.
- **TDIH:** In 1781, British General Lord Cornwallis, hopelessly trapped at Yorktown, surrenders to a larger Franco-American force, effectively bringing an end to the American Revolution.
- **Cross Country** runs in Walker Shoot Out. Geaux Wolves!
- **SAT** on campus. This is the re-scheduled test that was postponed by TS Karen.

Sun, Oct 20 -- We strongly encourage all Catholic families to attend mass and all other families to attend church of choice. Spend quality time today as a family.

• **Mission Sunday:** Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves today to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. At Saint Paul's, every Wednesday is Mission Day. We ask students to donate snack or drink money for our brother Lasallian school in Marsabit, Kenya, which is also named St. Paul's. Without our support, that school, which serves poor tribal students in eastern Kenya, could not exist. BTW, the school's students consistently scores high on national exams, thus providing them with the opportunity for university studies and a better life. We also make a donation to the greater Catholic Church's missionary efforts through the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

- **TDIH:** In 1803, the U.S. Senate approves a treaty with France to purchase Louisiana Territory, doubling size of US. Trivia Question: who was president of the US at this time?
- **National Day of Writing:** Today celebrates writers and writing. Celebrate by writing something: email, poem, text message, short story, blog entry, grocery list, a weekly newsletter, etc. Just write!

Friday Football Incident: We regret the incident between Covington PD and referees at Friday night's football game. Please stress that this is between the Covington PD and the referees – SPS is not involved. We do not judge or take sides and will let the process unfold accordingly. We support all and pray for a just resolution. We regret that more attention is not being paid to our team for its great victory over a strong, ranked opponent. Please stress our victory and do not engage in speculation or rumor about what transpired on Fri. We will leave that to the authorities to figure out. In the meantime, we prepare for Northshore on Friday. Geaux Wolves!



Brothers Martyrs of Tarragona

Our Newest Christian Brother Saints: Seventy-four Brothers of the Christian Schools were among the 522 martyrs beatified by Pope Francis yesterday, October 13, 2013 in Tarragona, Spain. Beatification is the final step before official “sainthood” status is conferred by the Catholic Church. This beatification completes the glorification of all Brother Martyrs who were killed in Spain during the religious persecution in the 1930s. It is the largest beatification celebrated until now of the Spanish persecution. Superior General Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría wrote: *the example of heroic generosity that these Brothers offer us should move us to follow, as they did, in the footsteps of Jesus Christ so that our entire life will be a credible witness of the faith we profess, at a historic time in which we are*

surrounded by so many people who deny God and fight against religion. Religious intolerance still produces thousands of victims in many countries. Let's do everything possible so that our educational institutions may become an example of coexistence where life is respected as the highest value and where we build together a world of brothers. And that’s exactly what we try to do at Saint Paul’s School. For a clever, 3 minute 43 second You Tube video on the new Brother Saints, click here:

<http://www.cbmidwest.org/districtnews/?p=10001>. Blessed Brother Martyr of Tarragona! Pray for us!

School Safety: The events last week in Mandeville and St. Charles Parish once again shock us. Both on campus and on-line school threats are, unfortunately, a reality. We must remain vigilant at all times. Toward that end, on Friday, Ken Sears & Joe Dickens attended an “Active Shooter Enactment” at St. Charles Borromeo School in Laplace, sponsored by St. Charles Parish SD for Catholic schools of the Archdiocese. Parents – please speak with your sons about the legal implications of bringing weapons to school and making threats, both on and off line. Report anything to us that you feel is suspicious. Students – help each other make safe, healthy choices and report and threat to your safety. We pray……

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month: I have been remiss in mentioning this and it’s certainly more important than National Dessert Day or Frustration Day. As an all boys school, we must not overlook the teachable moments concerning issues pertaining primarily to women, and our boys need to know about this insidious disease, which can strike their grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and future wives and daughters. I encourage enlightened, appropriate discussion of this important health issue with our students when possible. We reach out in prayerful support to any family struggling with this issue. I invite you to pray the following:

A Litany for Healing

We pray for those who are now ill. O God, Source of Life, heal them!

For those who are affected by illness, anguish and pain. O God, Source of Life, heal them!

Grant courage to those whose bodies, holy proof of Your creative goodness, are violated by illness.

O God, Source of Life, encourage them!

Grant strength and compassion to those who give loving care, support and help to overcome despair.

O God, Source of Life, strengthen them!

Grant wisdom to those who labor in the search for treatment and cures.

O God, Source of Life, inspire them!

Grant clarity of vision and strength of purpose to the leaders of our institutions and our government.
May they be moved to act with justice and compassion and find the courage to overcome fear and hatred!

O God, Source of Life, guide them and bless us all!

IMPORTANT! PLEASE HELP: The future of SPS depends on a healthy enrollment. On Nov 3, we will hold our annual Open House for prospective students. Please invite any interested family to attend. This year, we want to send postcard announcements to families. If you know of a family with a son who would benefit from SPS, please email me their name and address. We will mail them a postcard invite. In the past, you, our parents, have been the best source of attracting students to SPS. Please help me now. Again, just email me names and addresses – all we'll do is send them a simple postcard. Thanks!

Musings on Last Week:

- **Dress Down Days** all in all, went OK although a few students pushed the envelope. As I wrote earlier this week, the “thrift shop” day was, in some cases, an insult to thrift shops.
- **Football:** 8th fought hard against John Curtis; JV & 9th grade sailed to victory over the Skippers, and the Varsity win – Wow!
- **Cross Country:** Another Wow due to the 1st place victory in the prestigious Catholic High of Baton Rouge meet. It wasn't even close! Did you read the great article in the NO Advocate on Fri? If not, click <http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/sports/7287310-171/st-pauls-turning-heartbreak-finish#.Ulfrw21YWVs.email>
- **Mrs. Amy Marshall** deserves kudos for her work with homecoming activities. The Sr Hi dance went very well! Thanks to the chaperones! **Over 500 negative breathalyzer tests and NO positive ones! Great!** Post dance? Who knows, but there's only so much the school can do.
- **Grandparent Day** was highly successful with many compliments from the grandparents. I think we had a record attendance. Thanks, Mothers Club, Liturgical Band, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant Dept and all who helped. **We are open to suggestions as to how to improve the day, so let me know if the grandparents have any ideas.**
- **Wolf Packs:** Once again we hammered home the “no texting and driving message.” Parents, please reinforce this message with your driving sons. We pray....
- **Mothers Club:** The MC outdid itself with last week's teacher appreciation luncheon. Thank you, MC!

Local Education News: As reported in The New Orleans Advocate last week, six Opelousas High School students were sentenced to a month in jail for their part in school day fight and a Lafayette elementary teacher was disciplined for allowing a student to be glued to his seat with Elmer's glue because he couldn't stay seated. Just when I think I've heard it all.....What's happening out there?

College Prep? While SPS admires the Ivy League Schools, there's at least one event going on at Brown University that we will not prep our students for: Nudity Week, which just concluded last week at Brown. From naked yoga to naked open mic night to a naked fun run, the Rhode Island Ivy's bare-bodied extravaganza was in full swing. In defense of the week, the school says the nudity is limited to a particular part of campus and the ostensible purpose is to explore negative stereotypes about body image

as evidenced by this great quotation from one of the organizers (which ranks as my quote of the week!): *We're not at a frat party getting naked; this is an intellectual [event].* Ya' gotta love college life!?!?!?

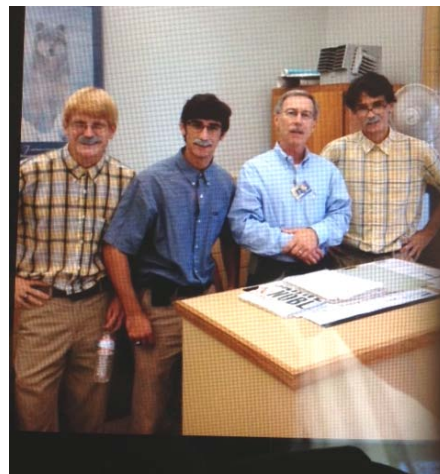
(BTW, did you know that the combination of a question mark (?) and an exclamation point (!) is known as an “interrobang” and is used to ask a question in an excited manner, express excitement or disbelief in the form of a question, or ask a rhetorical question? The word combines “interrogative” (a question) with bang (printer’s slang for exclamation point. Well, now you know!)

E-Smoking: I wrote about this a couple of weeks ago, but unfortunately some of our students are not getting the message, so I’m repeating it. **From the Center for Disease Control Last Week:** *The percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who use electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, in today’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, show that the percentage of high school students who reported ever using an e-cigarette rose from 4.7 percent in 2011 to 10.0 percent in 2012. In the same time period, high school students using e-cigarettes within the past 30 days rose from 1.5 percent to 2.8 percent. Use also doubled among middle school students. Altogether, in 2012 more than 1.78 million middle and high school students nationwide had tried e-cigarettes. “The increased use of e-cigarettes by teens is deeply troubling,” said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. “Nicotine is a highly addictive drug. Many teens who start with e-cigarettes may be condemned to struggling with a lifelong addiction to nicotine and conventional cigarettes.”*

Unfortunately, we have found a few more SPS students with these devices, which look like pens. If you see your son continually sucking on his pen, check it out! Here’s the link to the CDC press release: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0905-ecigarette-use.html>.

Recycling Is Back at SPS: We are starting to recycle again and the community can drop off PLASTIC and ALUMINUM ONLY (no glass, no paper) at the rear of the campus on Jefferson and 13th next to the shed. The tall trash cans will be placed there tomorrow. Do not to drop off items next to the dumpster next to the student center

PSAT: The PSAT will be given this Wednesday (10/16) in the Briggs Assembly Center to the entire sophomore class and select 8th, 9th, and 11th graders. Please have your son report directly to his first period class. Students will be dismissed from class at 8 am to begin the test. Please remind your son to bring his calculator and two #2 pencils. Students will complete the PSAT around 11 am and will then be dismissed for lunch. Good luck to all testers!



Imitation is the highest form of flattery on “twin day.

Freshman Retreat / Service Days: On Thursday and Friday, all freshmen will participate in a retreat day and a service day. The class will be divided, and half will do either service or retreat on Thu and swap on Fri. Service agencies ranging from the Covington Food Bank to nursing homes to community clean-up sites will benefit from our students’ efforts. Detailed info and permission forms will be sent to

freshmen parents. This model has worked well for our sophomores, and we are extending it to the freshman level.

From the Mothers Club:

- **Bookstore:** For your convenience, the MC Bookstore will now be open before school from 7:15 - 8:00, during lunch from 11:00 - 12:30, and after school from 2:30 - 3:30. Anyone interested in working with our awesome team may contact Elizabeth Grashoff at ehgrashoff@bellsouth.net.
- **Safe Environment Training:** There will be a Safe Environment Training at St. Paul's on Tuesday, Oct. 22nd at 10:00 am, in the Briggs Assembly Center. All parents are encouraged to attend this important seminar. Certification in Safe Environment Training is valid for three years, so make sure you are up to date!
- **Pencil Pouches have finally arrived!** Anyone who ordered one in their Supply Pack may pick it up in the bookstore. (The pouches were included in all 8th Grade packs!)

Yearbook Ordering: The yearbook ordering process is *all* digital this year, taking payments directly through our new website -- no need to bring in checks! Anyone wishing to purchase a 2014 yearbook should go to stpauls.com and go to the "Student Life" section where you can order a book, pay for a senior ad, etc. SENIORS DO NOT NEED TO ORDER A BOOK AS ONE WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR SENIOR FEES.

Service Opportunity: The 2013 Crescent City Cyclist Ride for Kids benefiting Children's Hospital of New Orleans will be on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at St. Benedict's Church at the corner of Smith Road and Stafford Road in Covington. See campus ministry to sign up. Lots of opportunities to gain hours.

Lunches: PLEASE don't bring lunches to school for your sons as we definitely are not equipped to deliver lunches to students. We don't have the personnel, so please don't ask us. And PLEASE encourage your son to take care of his lunch box if he brings he school. We have MANY, MANY lunch boxes ALL over campus.

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 about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

Attendance: Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

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 much easier to be tutored early in the quarter than to wait until later in the quarter. The tutors are very friendly and helpful!

Contests: We've added a webpage listing various contests for students to enter (<http://www.stpauls.com/academics/academic-contests/>). Why enter contests? Many reasons:

- Students can win prizes (a number of our guys won cash prizes last year)
- It looks great on college resumes
- It prepares students for the competitive life of the real world.

Yes, it's a little extra work, but the rewards are worth it – even if students don't win. Encourage your son to explore academic, artistic, musical and other contests.



Jordan & grandparents on GP Day

Community Coffee Seals: We are now collecting these, too, which can be redeemed for cash to help SPS. Your son should bring them to his math teacher.

From the Counseling Office: the following college will visit SPS this week:

- 10/14: Northwestern State in Natchitoches
- 10/15: Samford
- Interested students should check with the counseling office for times of visit

Important Fact of the Week: The September 12, 2013 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* published the following: *Despite progress in reducing youthful impaired driving, 20 percent of high school students reported driving after heavy drinking in 2011.* The researchers concluded: *substantial numbers of America's high school seniors continue to put themselves and others at risk for harm.* The study can be found at: [Driving After Drug or Alcohol Use by US High School Seniors, 2001–2011](http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov) (Source: www.stopalcoholabuse.gov)

Humor of the Week: More business signage humor!

- *At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet is to miss a payment."*
- *Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."*
- *In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"*
- *At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."*
- *In a Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."*
- *In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."*
- *At a Propane Filling Station: "Thank heaven for little grills."*
- *And don't forget the sign at a CHICAGO RADIATOR SHOP: "Best place in town to take a leak."*

- *Sign on the back of a Septic Tank Truck: "Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises."*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead

- October 14 – Late start (9 am) for teacher meetings
- October 15 – President/Principal's Assembly
- October 16 – PSAT test in the BAC
- October 17 – 9th Grade Retreat/Service Day
- October 18 – 9th Grade Retreat/Service Day – Redi-Step test to 8th Graders
- October 19 – Special election in the Covington & Mandeville areas – plan on voting!
- October 21 – Teen-Life-Counts (TLC) program begins for sophomores during religion classes
- October 22 – Pack Time – TLC for sophomores
- October 23 – TLC for sophomores
- October 24 – TLC for sophomores
- October 25 – TLC for sophomores
- October 29 – President/Principal's Assembly
- November 1 – Mass
- November 4 – Late Start
- November 5 – Pack Time
- November 12 – President/Principal's Assembly
- November 14 – 8th Grade Retreat/Service Day
- November 15 – 8th Grade Retreat/Service Day
- November 19 – Pack Time
- November 22 – No classes meet – Faculty to Huether Conference
- December 2 – Parent/Teacher Meetings in BAC -6:30 – PLAN test to Sophomores
- December 2-6 – PLAN Test to Sophomores during W. History classes
- December 3 – President/Principal's Assembly
- December 9 – Mass
- December 10 – Pack Time
- December 12 – Snack Day
- December 11-13 – Reconciliation in Chapel
- December 17-20 Exams (Christmas holidays begin at 11:15)

Whew! I've really worn you out this week! 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! Believe it or not, we've begun 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 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's – our 102nd year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Still Learning New Things as the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School

Trivia Question Answers:

Oct 14: John F. Kennedy was President of the US and Nikita Khrushchev the Russian Premier who stared eyeball to eyeball with each other in this incredible episode in US history.

Oct 20: Thomas Jefferson was the President of the US responsible for the Louisiana Purchase. Often been described as one of the greatest real estate deals in history, the US paid France \$15 million 828,000 square miles.

SPS -- where we do ordinary things extraordinarily well



...and where we do ordinary things extraordinarily well