



The President/Principal's Newsletter for January 6-12, 2014



Welcome back to school and Happy 2014 – the third full year of our second century! I hope your vacation was physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered the New Year with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal. I hope, too, that your family came closer during these special days. I know you've missed the weekly newsletter during the holidays, so here's the first edition of 2014.

In his meditation for January 1, Saint John Baptist de La Salle bluntly asks the Brothers the following questions:

- *Is it only in vain that you live the name of Christian and minister of Jesus in the work that you do?*
- *Do you live in a manner that befits these glorious names? Do you instruct those for whom you are responsible with the attention and the zeal God asks of you in so holy a work?*

He then reminds the first Brothers (and us today) to make the following New Year's resolutions:

- *Act in a way that your life may begin today to be holy and edifying and continue to be so in the future.*
- *By your good conduct, make yourself worthy of your distinguished role.*



These sound like good resolutions to me! And while they were written for the first Brothers, they apply equally to parents, the primary educators of their children. Let's pray for the grace to put these resolutions into practice!

At our opening of school prayer service last August 6, Student Council President David Conroy challenged the faculty to make the most of the 2013-14 year. He exhorted us to do our best to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care. He encouraged us to encourage the students to make the most of their year by getting involved and giving their best to all their endeavors. I asked the teachers in their newsletter this week if they have been faithful in doing so and, if not, to renew their resolve to adopt the tried and true methods of the Lasallian educator.

I think parents, too, need to encourage their sons to make the most of the opportunities being given them. I encourage you, therefore, to look for ways to have your sons make the most of each and every day. I wish you a happy 2014 and blessed second semester.

Mon, Jan 6 (Regular; A B C D)

- **Feast of the Epiphany – Twelfth Night!** The Twelve Days of Christmas are over! No more turtle doves, French hens, milking maids, leaping lords or swimming swans. You can keep the golden rings, however. Enjoy the quiet from that angry partridge in the pear tree and those darn drummers drumming!
- **National Bean Day:** Celebrate the lowly legume! Enjoy a tasty bean dish today! The USDA suggests adults should eat more than 3 cups of beans each week to take advantage of their health benefits, which include reduced risk of heart disease and certain cancers. On the other hand, today you may want to avoid crowded spaces.
- **Soccer:** JV v. Slidell (6)

Tue, Jan 7 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **St. Raymond of Penafort:** this 12th century Spanish Dominican Priest was known for scholarly work and holiness. He is patron saint of canon lawyers and all lawyers generally.
- **TDIH:** In 1789, America holds first presidential election (G. Washington won!)
- **I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore Day:** Well, I'll let you decide what you're not going to take anymore. Just hope it's not SPS, although some of you will probably vote for this newsletter!
- **President/Principal's Assembly**
- **Basketball:** 9th JV, & Varsity v. Slidell in District opener.
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Slidell (7)

Wed, Jan 8 (Regular; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1815, two weeks after the War of 1812 officially ended, U.S. General Andrew Jackson achieves the greatest American victory of the war at the Battle of New Orleans.
- **National JoyGerm Day:** This is a day devoted to spreading joy via acts of kindness such as a hug, kiss, love letter, compliment, or any unexpected act of compassion.
- **Argyle Day:** Wear your argyle (diamond shaped blocks against a colored background) today!
- **Feast of the Patroness of Southeast Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.**
This devotion originated with a French Ursuline nun, who brought to New Orleans a statue she had commissioned under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. (Succor means "help.") This statue now stands above the main altar in the Ursuline Chapel on State Street. OLPS played a prominent role in Battle of New Orleans and the great New Orleans fire. Today, we pray to her for help in the New Battle of New Orleans against violence, murder and racism. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!
- **Senior Retreat** begins today. Prayers and best wishes go with the seniors & Retreat Team who begin the annual senior retreat. We owe the team a great deal of thanks for undertaking this important ministry. The group returns Friday afternoon. We are indebted to retreat coordinators Lee Pierre and Renee' Miller. It's appropriate that the retreat begins on the feast day of Our Lady of Prompt Succor! May she hasten to help them!
- **Soccer:** JV. v. Brother Martin
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in dual meet v. Brother Martin



*Original OLPS
brought from
France in 1727 by
Ursuline nuns.*

Thu, Jan 9 (Regular; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first balloon aerial voyage in the New World at the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia at dawn on January 9, 1793. He sold tickets to the event and the excitement he generated was so great that almost the entire population of Philly turned out, in addition to a large number of visitors from the surrounding countryside.
- **TDIH II:** 1493, explorer Christopher Columbus, sailing near the Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids"--in reality manatees--and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted."
- **Static Electricity Day:** Find a Van de Graaff generator to touch and celebrate the wonders of the old balloon-sticking-to-the-wall trick, the hair-raising that takes place after we take off winter hats, and the shock of electricity that we get from petting a cat after scooting across a carpeted floor in socks.

Fri, Jan 10 (Regular; C DE F)

- **TDIH:** 1982, San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Dwight Clark makes a leaping catch in the end zone on a pass from quarterback Joe Montana with 51 seconds left in the NFC, sending the '9ers to the Super Bowl & beginning their dynasty of the 1980s. To see "the catch", click here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dCEaAIPytY>
- **Cut Your Energy Costs Day:** Pretty self-explanatory, so do all you can to conserve energy today!
- **B'Ball:** 9th & JV & Varsity at Hammond
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Hammond

Sat, Jan 11

- **National Milk Day:** In 1878 milk was reportedly delivered in bottles for the very first time. Prior to this, milk was brought door to door in large metal cans and they'd ladle you out a portion.
- **TDIH:** In 2012, exactly two years ago, a special blessing and opening ceremony for the newly renovated La Salle Hall was held. In the past two years, the building has served us well, and we continue to marvel at this incredible transformation of the old dormitory into currently usable space. As we mark the two year anniversary, let's not forget to remember all those who helped make it possible and treat the building with respect and appreciation.
- **Human Trafficking Day:** We don't think much about this human horror, so today attempts to raise awareness about the effects of what has been termed modern day slavery.
- **Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of those who are trafficked:** *St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery. Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.*
- **Fruitcake Toss Day:** No guilt today if you toss that unwanted fruitcake. You can't toss it at another person, though!
- **Application Day.** Applicants for next year take the placement test this morning. Pray for a successful day.
- **Soccer:** SPS 8th Grade Tournament; 9th at Catholic (BR); JV in Battle on the Bayou Tournament;
- **B'Ball:** 8th in Catholic League play (v. HC & Jes)
- **Football Awards Ceremony** in the BAC



Sun, Jan 12 – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

- **I encourage Catholic Families to attend mass today and non-Catholic Families to worship at place of choice.**
- **TDIH:** 1969, in the most celebrated performance of his prolific career, quarterback Joe Namath leads New York Jets to a stunning 16-7 victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, held in Miami.
- **National Pharmacists Day:** We salute all pharmacists who often tell us more than the docs who prescribe!

RIP: Mr. Timmy Taylor died on Dec 29. For those of you who don't know Timmy, he was cafeteria manager for many, many years. He came to SPS at age 7 in 1950, when the Taylor Family was hired by then principal Brother Cassian Lange to run the food service program for the expanding boarding program. We ceased needing his full time services when the boarding section closed, and for the past few years he did our honor roll breakfasts. He was a "good and faithful servant" and loved SPS very much. We shall miss him.



Wrestling "Welves" & Santa (aka Christian Fortner) welcome their adopted family.

Welcome to January: Here are some of the causes celebrated in January: Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, National Clean Up Your Computer Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, National Hot Tea Month, National Mentoring Month, National Polka Music Month, National Poverty in America Awareness Month, National Soup Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month. Something for everyone!

Grades, Exams, Report Cards, etc.

- **Report Cards** were emailed on Jan 33 & 4, although grades were accessible on Edline before then. There are no parent-teacher conferences at this time, so email any concerns to teachers.
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience – which will pay dividends in the future.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Second quarter HR breakfast schedule is published below. All breakfasts last from 7:40-8:20. Note: HR is determined by **second quarter grades, not semester grades.**

Application Day: Saturday, January 11, all new applicants for NEXT year's 8th or 9th grade will take the placement exam at 8 am. We will administer the test in the Briggs Assembly Center. **This is the last day I can accept an application so if there's any sibling in waiting out there or a neighbor's or friend's son who wants to attend who hasn't applied yet, please do so this week and come to the testing.**

Dec 17 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Dec 17 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Listened to a beautiful rendition of "Wait for the Lord" sung by the French monastic community of Taize. It's the song that the religion classes sang during Advent. While the music was playing, **junior Davis Neitzschman** lit three Advent candles – including the pink "gaudete" (rejoice) candle. I then invited the students to sing along with the monks and lowered the music. The singing of "Wait for the Lord" by 870 young men was quite powerful. We then prayer for Pope Francis, who was celebrated his 77th birthday that day – it was our gift to the Pope.

- Began by apologizing to two students: junior **Lucas Waldron** for not giving him proper credit for his wonderful Eagle Scout project recently and to senior **Dylan Monies**, for omitting him from the list of seniors invited to compete for LSU's top scholarship by virtue of having a minimum 33 on the ACT.
- Congratulated all who helped with our annual luminaria celebration: Student Council President **David Conroy** gave an inspirational reflection on "Gracia"; the liturgical band sounded great in the chapel; the Student Council worked hard getting the campus illuminated. The cafeteria looked very festive -- thanks to Mother's Club; the Jazz Band was great. It was a beautiful conclusion to the evening. I don't think we could have "planned" it better.
- Recognized and congratulated Academic All State Football Composite Team member **Peter Yager** and Academic All State Cross Country Composite Team member **Michael Burke**
- Recognized and congratulated the following juniors from St. Peter Parish for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation: **Jacob Authement, Andrew Brouillette, Kyle Cleveland, Chase Cochran, Jack Genova, Zachary Hagan, Austin Ho, Aaron Hodgman, William Kenyon, Peyton Lacoste, Connor Lyons, Sam Moore, Brent Neal, Justin O'Rourke, Walden Perry, Andrew Richard, Max Robin, Myles Robin, Patrick Rudiger, & Joseph Tanner.**
- Recognized and congratulated the following SPS golfers: junior **Beau Briggs** who won the Robe Noel Arrowhead Classic at Money Hill in November. The two day tournament included most of the top junior golfers in Louisiana. He was the only golfer to score under par in one of the rounds, shooting 70 in the final round (2 under). Beau also accepted a scholarship offer to play golf at Ole Miss. Senior **Thomas Ruli** finished 3rd in the tournament that Beau won. He has accepted a full ride to play golf at Spring Hill and study to be a doctor. **Jack Statton, Trey Hughes, and Tanner Ledet** also competed in the tournament. Recently, Jack finished third in the USSSA Junior Tournament at Santa Maria Golf Course in Baton Rouge.
- Recognized **Beau Briggs** again for being featured on channel 26 WGNO NEWS for his charity work. If you missed the TV spot, here's the link: <http://wgno.com/2013/12/17/talented-junior-golfer-making-birdies-for-charity/#axzz2os6a8trM>
- Recognized and congratulated junior **George Cazenavette** who recently won the 1st chair for All-State Honor Band. This is quite a significant musical achievement and George certainly deserves the recognition.
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Zachary Albright** for winning the Wendy's High School Heisman Award for Boys for the entire State of Louisiana. The award has set the standard for high school student athletes. We also recognized SSA senior **Carley Boyce**, sister of SPS student Garrett Boyce, for winning the Girl's Heisman. Pretty good showing for the town of Covington!
- Recognized and congratulated the 9th Grade Basketball Team for winning First Place in the Fontainebleau Junior High Basketball Tournament on Dec 7th. The Wolves defeated Fontainebleau Junior High, Destrehan Junior High, and Salmen Junior High to earn the trophy. Team members are **Aiden Heap, Thomas Celestine, Kiefer Napolitano, Beau Monteiro, Roy Ford, Corey Williamson, Parker Edwards, Tyler Babcock, Adam Savoie, Owen Waguespack, Sam Kenney, and Coach Luke Barwick.**

- Recognized and congratulated the **Varsity Basketball Team** for winning first place in the Lasallian Classic at De La Salle High School recently.

- At this point, I interrupted the assembly to give the student body a treat: one of my favorite pieces of Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel’s masterpiece *Messiah* (not “The” Messiah!) For three minutes and 45 seconds, the gym was transformed into an 18th century concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.



Lasallian Classic Champions!

- Before closing, I recognized **Tripp and Zachary Russ** for performing a corporal work of mercy. Their elderly neighbor called me before Christmas to sing their praises: her husband was hospitalized and they were unable to decorate the outside of their home, as was their cherished custom. When she returned from the hospital one night, she was overjoyed to see her home beautifully decorated. This lifted her spirits and those of her husband, too, when he eventually returned home. This had been done by Tripp and Zach. What a wonderful Christmas gift Tripp and Zach gave to their neighbors!
- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly! We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the activities going on around school.
- Then, while listening to the Mr. Gene Lipps’ rendition of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, junior **Matthew Dysart** extinguished the Advent candles and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world. I exhorted them to leave the gym and spread God’s love to all whom they meet. The students joined in with singing the refrain to the song. It was a very great assembly!

New Year’s Resolutions: Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions!

- If your son is absent, phone Erin Abney before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**
- Have your son check Lost & Found which contains: coats, sweaters, shirts, lunch boxes, belts, etc.

2014-15 Registration: Please note the following:

- **Current 8th graders:** registration information will be emailed on Tuesday, January 21. **Current 8th graders planning to return for 2014-15 will have until Jan 31 to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9th grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- **Current 9th – 11th grades:** registration will take place in early - Feb. You don’t need to do anything now
- **Current 12th grade:** You don’t need to register for SPS for 2014-15! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involve the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

Annual Fund: Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. 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 \$10 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- While we are not sending requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! 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.
- 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! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the 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!

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

San Francisco New Orleans District Leadership: The Superior General, Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, has announced that Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, will serve as the first Provincial of the new district of San Francisco New Orleans (which begins on 01 July). Brother Donald is currently in his first term as Provincial of the District of San Francisco. Please keep him in your prayers. See a photo of him at <http://delasalle.org/brother-donald-johanson.shtml>.

Musings on Past Few Weeks:

- Exam week went well. We had few “issues” and most understood semester grading policy.
- Thanks to Barrett Baumgartner for organizing the Christmas Prayer Service. It was wonderful. Special thanks to the liturgical band and all who read, reflected, sang, played, prayed, and participated.
- Thanks to the Mothers Club and Sgt Don Pressley who organized Christmas luncheon for the faculty on the 20th. A good time was



Dad’s Club decorates Leyland Pine on campus for Christmas.

passed by all and, as usual, the MC outdid themselves with food for the faculty.

- Thanks to all who helped with Adopt a Family. The results were so great that we adopted more families this year than in the past. We were also able to donate \$500 to the Covington Food Bank and \$500 to the Rotary Club Feed the Needy Program (see below for more info.)
- Congrats to Wrestling Wolves who adopted a family and had a party for them in the wrestling room, complete with Christian Fortner dressed as Santa Claus! It was a memorable Christmas for that family – and the

wrestling Wolves! And on January 4, the Wrestling Wolves brought home another District Championship – our third one so far this year! Congrats, Grapplers!

- Thanks to all who helped the Rotary Club with their Feed the Needy program. Over 1500 Christmas meals were prepared in our cafeteria and delivered on Christmas morning. It was quite a sight!
- Thanks to all the coaches who kept our student athletes focused on their seasons by having practices during the holidays, including Christmas and New Year's Eves. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.
- The 31st Saint Paul's Holiday Soccer Tournament, which attracts 16 of the top teams in the state, was both an athletic and PR success, bringing the #1 ranked Wolves a lot of publicity along with a nice 1st place trophy!
- Thanks to Brother Ken for organizing the 10 pm Christmas Eve liturgy in the school chapel. A large crowd, composed largely of alums and current families, attended.
- Congrats to Richard Pichon and the Habitat for Humanity Wolves for their work day on Dec 21.
- Thanks to Erin Abney and Myrle Wiggins for chaperoning a group of students on The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO) retreat from Jan 3-5.
- And the holidays didn't stop Danielle Lavie from publishing a December Wolf Tracks! Excellent issue, Danielle! Thanks!
- BTW, if you missed the TV spot on junior Beau Briggs' charity work that I wrote about recently, here's the link. It's worth the view: <http://wgno.com/2013/12/17/talented-junior-golfer-making-birdies-for-charity/#axzz2os6a8trM>.

Application Letters Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines from next year's application letters:

- *I will give passion and hard work through Christ in all things I do, achieve, and love.*
- *I might not have the best grades but I will try hard. I might not be the smartest in the class but I will try to understand. If I get lost in what we are going over, I just have to ask a teacher and that teacher will help me.*
- *I admit I wasn't interested in applying to St. Paul's. I was not even interested in attending the Open House, but my parents ultimately won that battle. However, after hearing the students talk in the meeting, I became more interested. They all raved about the academics, the activities, the sports, and the fellowship. I found myself wanting to read the material in the folder. I became interested in the idea of the tour. After the tour around the campus I had changed my mind completely. I knew I wanted to be a part of this amazing school.*
- *My brother goes to SPS and I've seen him grow smarter over the years. St. Paul's will make me smarter too.*

Humor of the Week: Some semester exam excerpts?

- *In what battle did Napoleon die? HIS LAST BATTLE.*
- *Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.*
- *The River Ravi flows in which state? LIQUID.*
- *What is the main reason for divorce? MARRIAGE.*
- *What is the main reason for failure? EXAMS.*
- *What should you never eat for breakfast? LUNCH & DINNER.*
- *What looks like half an apple? THE OTHER HALF.*
- *If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become? IT WILL SIMPLY BECOME WET.*
- *How can a man go eight days without sleeping? NO PROBLEM; HE SLEEPS AT NIGHT.*
- *How can you lift an elephant with one hand? YOU WILL NEVER FIND AN ELEPHANT THAT HAS ONLY ONE HAND.*

- *If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four Apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have? VERY LARGE HANDS*
- *If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? NO TIME AT ALL; THE WALL IS ALREADY BUILT.*
- *How can u drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? ANY WAY YOU WANT; CONCRETE FLOORS ARE VERY HARD TO CRACK.*
- OK, I'll stop!

Worth Reading But Sure To Be Controversial Dept: Over the holiday, I read Amanda Ripley's latest article: *The Case Against High School Sports*. Ms. Ripley is an Emerson Fellow at the New American Foundation and specializes in education issues. This latest article appeared in *The Atlantic*. Here's the link that'll get you "riled up" -- on both sides of the issue:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/10/the-case-against-high-school-sports/309447/>.

Some excerpts:

- *Imagine if Americans transferred our obsessive intensity about high-school sports—the rankings, the trophies, the ceremonies, the pride—to high-school academics. We would look not so different from South Korea, or Japan, or any of a handful of Asian countries whose hypercompetitive, pressure-cooker approach to academics in many ways mirrors the American approach to sports. Both approaches can be dysfunctional; both set kids up for stress and disappointment. The difference is that 93 percent of South Korean students graduate from high school, compared with just 77 percent of American students—only about 2 percent of who receive athletic scholarships to college.*
- *One study of 30,000 students at the University of Oregon found that the grades of men who did not play sports went down as the football team's performance improved. Both men and women reported that the better their football team did, the less they studied and the more they partied.*
- *During football season in particular, the focus of American principals, teachers, and students shifts inexorably away from academics. Sure, high-school football players spend long, exhausting hours practicing (and according to one study, about 15 percent experience a brain injury each season), but the commitment extends to the rest of the community, from late-night band practices to elaborate pep rallies to meetings with parents. Athletics even dictate the time that school starts each day: despite research showing that later start times improve student performance, many high schools begin before 8 a.m., partly to reserve afternoon daylight hours for sports practice.*
- *When Marguerite Roza, the author of *Educational Economics*, analyzed the finances of one public high school in the Pacific Northwest, she found that the school was spending \$328 a student for math instruction and more than four times that much for cheerleading—\$1,348 a cheerleader. "And it is not even a school that prioritizes cheerleading," Roza wrote. "In fact, this district's 'strategic plan' has claimed that math was the primary focus."*

Scholarship Opportunity: St. Peter Church Knights of Columbus Council 12906 would like to invite seniors to participate in the KC Youth Leadership Award. This competition is open to all Catholic high school seniors. **You do not need to be a parishioner at St. Peter to participate.** The Local Council award is a \$100 scholarship. The area award is a \$500 scholarship and the State award is \$4,000 scholarship. Applications can be found in the counseling and record offices. The deadline for submission of the application is January 27.

Mark Twain's Classic Seasonal Quotation: *New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*



And as the Christmas season fades into history, let us not forget the inspiration provided by the Student Council on luminaria night with the word "GRACIA" (Spanish for "grace") brilliantly proclaimed with candles in Hunter Stadium. As proclaimed by Pope Francis, let this be a Year of Grace for SPS -- and let it begin with each one of us.

A Look Ahead

January 6 – Classes resume with Periods ABCD

January 7 – President/Principal's Assembly

January 8-10 – Seniors on Retreat

January 13 – 9:00 AM late start

January 14 – Pack Time

January 20 – MLK Holiday

January 21 – President/Principal's Assembly

January 22 – 2:30 Student Dismissal for All-Faculty meeting

January 27-30 & Feb 3 – Honor Roll Breakfasts (in this order: 12, 11, 10, 9 & 8 on Feb 3)

Whew! I've worn you out again this week, but you had the last two weeks off!

Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows which I'm listening to now as I complete the newsletter and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Again, please 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.

Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Blessed to See 2014 as the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School

...and where we do ordinary things extraordinarily well!