



## The President's Newsletter for Nov 10 - 16, 2014



An application letter I received last week poignantly reminds us of what we do and why we do it. Here's the letter, complete with spelling and grammar mistakes, but pretty fluent for a 7<sup>th</sup> grader:

*Dear Brother Ray,*

*I'll be honest, I was apprehensive about wanting to go to St. Paul's, none of my friends were going there, it was my first private school, and when I saw the campus I was just overwhelmed with the sheer size of the school. However, after listening to the speakers at the open house, I realized that those people embodied everything I wanted to be as I grow older. I also realized that St. Paul's could help me do that. The Eco-Car shop was very intriguing, and is something I would pursue if I get accepted. I also liked the athletics department, and was surprised when I saw that it took up a large part of the campus. The robotics department looked like something I might want to join. When walking around campus, every single person I talked to, was very nice, and asked if I needed something or offered to get me back to my group. I realized that it wasn't just those several speakers that were role models, but every single person on campus was a role model. In conclusion, I think St. Paul's will help me change from a boy into a young man. Helping me by giving me a great education, showing me life skills, like how to build Eco-Cars, which teaches me many things such as welding and designing. The school will also help me, by surrounding me with a caring and safe environment, and hopefully make me into the man I want to be.*

**Wow. Thanks to all the students and faculty who made this young man's experience on our campus last week so powerful. Now we need to make sure we live up the faith he's placing in us!**

### Mon, Nov 10 (Regular; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1969, "Sesame Street," a TV show that would teach generations of children the alphabet and how to count, makes its debut with its memorable theme song ("Can you tell me how to get/How to get to Sesame Street"), SS is the most widely viewed children's program in the world, airing in more than 120 countries.
- **Tongue Twister Day:** Peter Piper and the girl selling sea shells by the seashore are child's play in comparison to what is considered, according to Guinness Book of World Records, the most difficult tongue twister in English: "The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick." Practice it!
- **Swimming:** Turkey Leg Invitational



District Champion Cross Country Wolves!

**Tue, Nov 11 (Pack Time; A B C D)**

- **TDIH:** At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, WW I ended, leaving 9 million soldiers & 5 million civilians dead and 21 million wounded. The “War to End All Wars” didn’t. We pray for all who have served our country, especially those who made “the ultimate sacrifice.” And we pray for an end to war.
- **National Young Readers Day:** READ today – both the young and the young at heart!
- **Soccer:** Meet the Team

**Wed, Nov 12 (Regular; E F G A)**

- **TDIH:** In 1954, Ellis Island, gateway to America, closes; more than 12 million immigrants landed there since 1892.
- **Pizza with the Works except Anchovies Day:**  
Enjoy, but hold the anchovies.

**Thu, Nov 13 (Regular; B C D E)**

- **TDIH:** In 1805, Johann George Lehner, a Viennese butcher, invented the “frankfurter.” Enjoy a hot dog today!
- **World Kindness Day:** perform an act of kindness today!
- **Pre-Freshman Retreat / Service Day**
- **Basketball: Scrimmage** v. Tara & Zachary (away)

**Fri, Nov 14 (Regular; F G A B)**

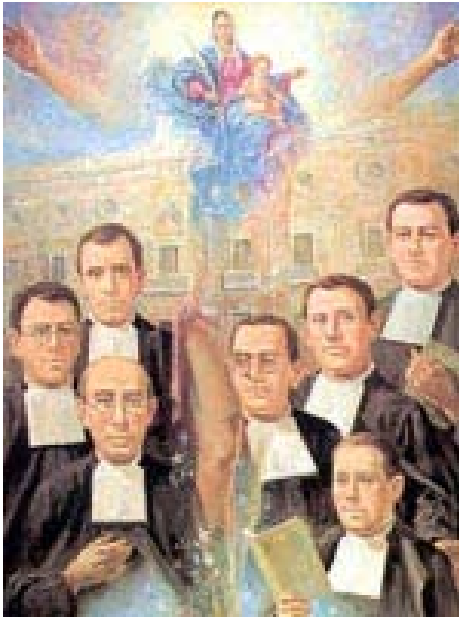
- **TDIH:** 1968, Yale University announced it was going co-ed. SPS has no plans to imitate Yale, although I actually got a call last week asking if there was any way we would admit a girl! I said “sorry, but no!”
- **TDIH:** Herman Melville’s Moby Dick is first published. Can you recite the famous opening line? Answer at end.
- **National Loosen Up, Lighten Up Day:** loosen up today!
- **National American Teddy Bear Day:** I keep one in my office for those really tough days!
- **National Pickle Day:** If you like pickles, you’re in luck: they’re low in calories, have no fat and have probiotic benefits. Cucumbers were probably first pickled 4,500 years ago in Mesopotamia, and spread around the world across trade routes. Today, there are thousands of different types of pickles in the world’s cuisine. Asia consumes more pickles per capita than any other region. Enjoy your favorite pickle today – but don’t be one and stay out of ‘em. (Get it?) Interesting etymological fact: William Shakespeare actually coined the term “in a pickle” in his play, *The Tempest*. In Act V, King Alonso asks his jester, Trinculo, “How camest thou in this pickle?” What Alonso actually meant was “how did you get so drunk?” Shakespeare’s original intent makes sense since many pickling processes used alcohol. Since Trinculos’ drinking does cause trouble for him, the phrase morphed into meaning “being in trouble.” And now you know!
- **Pre-Freshman Retreat / Service Day**



*A sophomore wolf and his mom enjoy Honor Roll Breakfast last week*

## Sat, Nov 15

- **This Day in History:** In 1859, Charles Dickens' serialized novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, comes to a close, as the final chapter is published. Can you quote the famous opening line? Answer at end
- **National "I Love to Write" Day:** Write today – a poem, an email, a journal entry, a thought, a newsletter.... Enjoy!
- **National Recycling Day**
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Brother Martin Tournament; Varsity in Mandeville Open
- **Soccer:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> v. Rummel; JV & Varsity v. Ocean Springs



## Sun, Nov 16: We encourage Catholics to attend mass and non-Catholics to attend church of choice

- **Feast of the Blessed Christian Brother Martyrs of Almería:** Brothers José Cecilio, Aurelio María, Amalio, Valerio Bernardo, Edmigio Primo, Evencio Ricardo, & Teodomiro Joaquin. *Shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, the Popular Front in the Province of Almería gave orders to arrest...priests and religious. Five Brothers were arrested at school; two were taken in the street while on their way to mail letters to their families. The Brothers were condemned to death without trial for the crime of professing and teaching the Catholic faith.* (from the Christian Brothers Website) May the Blessed Brothers of Almería bless SPS!
- **UN International Day for Tolerance:** let's practice tolerance today – everywhere.
- **Take A Hike Day** is either about going for an exhilarating walk, or telling somebody to get lost – I'll leave the interpretation up to you!

**Admissions:** This is a big week in the Archdiocese. On Mon the 10th, the Office of Catholic Schools will release the "white card" – the official application to any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese. We will post it on our website. Students in Catholic elementary schools must return the white cards to their principals on Wed, and the elementary schools will then send the applications to the high schools on Fri. Thus, this Fri, we'll have a pretty good idea as to our enrollment for next year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade, as we also made Fri the application due date for the non-Catholic elementary students. Hannan had another evening last week to showcase its program, Christ Episcopal has Open House this week, Northlake Christian is making athletic headlines and doing advertising, and public schools are touting the latest release of state test scores. Our competition is tough. Thanks for spreading the good news about SPS. **Encourage prospective families to file applications this week.** You are our greatest "advertising."

**Newsletter Delivery:** While I follow the same procedure each Sunday morning in sending the newsletter, I sometimes hear from a parent that he or she didn't receive it. My usual reply is that you should rejoice -- and then I re-send it. I have no idea why this happens. In any event, if you don't receive yours on Sunday morning (I usually aim for 7 am), either email me or check our website. I always (well, almost always!) post a copy on the website ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)) under "news."



*Spanish Club, moderated by Mrs. Brett, pose in front of Dia de los Muertos altar*

**Attendance Office Issues:** Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. The road construction on Hwy 21 (aka Tyler) is causing many students to be tardy. While we are trying to be understanding, the construction will be ongoing for a while, so students need to start leaving earlier. We are going to stop excusing these tardies. Also, when you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your son and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school

to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is

the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can’t stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don’t have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

**Last Tue’s Assembly:** I hope the students enjoyed our Nov 04 assembly. Here’s some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to a stirring rendition of the John Philip Sousa’s *Stars and Stripes Forever*, designated by an Act of Congress as our National March. We listened to this patriotic song since it was Election Day in the US, the greatest democracy in the world. I hoped our seniors who are 18 all registered and voted! I reminded the students of the story of how Sousa composed this stirring march while in Europe on Christmas Day in 1896 in honor of a deceased friend. Amazingly, he composed it in his head and didn’t commit it to paper until his return to the US several weeks later. What a genius!
- Prayed in a special way, as the prayer candle was lit by junior **Brooks McMahon**, for the following who have entered eternal rest since our last assembly: **Mr. Paul Sanderson**, grandfather of pre-freshman **Jacob Sanderson**; **Mrs. Estelle Gaudin Huber**, great grandmother of pre-freshman **Mason Impastato**; **Mr. Richard Laird**, uncle of freshman **Rhett Swing**; and **Mr. Philip Katich**, grandfather of sophomore **Kevin Katich**. We also prayed for our country on Election Day and for the continued healing of freshman **Zac Russ**, who remains in Children’s Hospital with injuries from a vehicular accident.
- Welcomed a group of 54 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the local elementary schools who were spending the morning with us to see what makes Saint Paul’s such a great place.
- Recognized and thanked the **Student Hosts** who worked Open House and made it so successful. Special recognition went to the speakers for the afternoon: **John Cresson, Ross Allbritton, Max Gold, Beau Briggs, Luke Avenel, & Philip James**.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Varsity Football Team** for beating Covington High recently and reclaiming the coveted Little Brown Jug. The Jug has been passed back and forth as the prize for winning this rivalry since 1935. St. Paul’s won the first meeting in 1935, defeating Lyon High (what Covington High used to be called) 19-7. Covington held the jug for many years when the two teams did not play each other. Recently, however, the jug has found a home at St. Paul’s with the Wolves winning 9 out of the last 10

meetings. Athletic Director Craig Ketelsen presented the jug to winning head coach Ken Sears while the student body applauded enthusiastically.

- Recognized and congratulated the **Ultimate Frisbee Team**, aka The Dire Wolf. The 2014-2015 edition of the Dire Wolf Ultimate team is led by 5th yr. player and this year's captain, senior **Joe Tanner**. The team has been practicing really well and just recently hosted the 12th Annual Beowulf Ultimate Tournament in Honor of Bro. Bill Parsons on Saturday Oct. 25th. A total of 9 teams from around the region descended upon the campus to play under a beautiful fall day. The Dire Wolf finished 3rd in the Champions bracket besting Jesuit and Rummel while losing to Baton Rouge High and rival Catholic High. In the JV bracket the young pups of the Wolf comprised mostly of 8th graders finished 2nd posting a 3 win 3 loss record. Their biggest wins were against Catholic High and Jesuit in 2 very exciting matches. This past weekend the Dire Wolf sent one team to the 1st ever Aster Memorial in Baton Rouge hosted by LSU Ultimate. The team played in the High School division finishing 2nd overall out



*JV Cross Country were District Champions, too!  
The future of SPS CC looks bright!*

of 6 teams with their only loss again to Baton Rouge High. The Dire Wolf returning starters include **Evan Young, Ben Toups, Gary Cavalier, Keegan Lange, Connor Rees, Parker Rice, Eddie Heap, Alex Ogea, Sam Brown, and Philip James**. Some of the new wolves that have joined the pack include **Matt Dysart, Brett Feringa, John Paul Lea, Bram Love, Michael Stanton, David Durand, and Lane Sumrall**. The team looks forward to their spring season when they will be tested once again by their familiar state rivalries and regional foes. All of the Dire Wolf members stood and the student boy applauded enthusiastically.

- Then, as if by magic, The William Tell Overture by Gioacchino Antonio Rossini (an Italian baroque composer from 1792–1868) started playing – which signals that the **Cross Country Wolves** are again making headlines. On Oct 22, at the St. Thomas Aquinas Invitational, the Varsity finished 1<sup>st</sup> out of 20 teams with **Spencer Albright, Collin Sullivan and Stephen Scholtzman** finishing in top ten over 200 runners; **Patrick Napier & Henry Elliot** were the remainder of our top five runners. I informed the students that we actually tied #1 ranked John Curtis for 1<sup>st</sup> place, so the next runner who crossed the finish line broke the tie: senior **Alex Harp!**
- Recognized and congratulated the following Wolves for earning their letter jackets: **Malachi Dvornak** (football); **Trey Hughes** (golf) & **William Huertin** (baseball)
- Then, miraculously, George Frideric Handel's *Water Music* started playing – which signaled that it was time to recognize The **SPS Swim Team, aka Aqua Wolves**:
  - The AWs scored a decisive 33 point victory over runner up Slidell in the SSA Cluster Meet held Wed, Oct 15. St. Paul's scored 159 points, Slidell 126, Covington 42 and Christ Episcopal 13.

- At last week's NO Metro Meet, The AWs scored an historic third place in the New Orleans Metro Swimming Championships at UNO. The following swimmers all helped propel SPS to a third place finish: **Harrison Prieto, Jack Cheng, Griffin Guzan, Jacob Elliott, Kyle Hladky, Myers Morgan, Jordan Wyble, and tri-captains Jack Dubreuil, William Munn, and Jacob Elliott.** This is the first time that St. Paul's has left this meet with a trophy – which the tri-captains presented to AD Ketelsen.
- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly! (Yes, I've got Eagle Scout material, confirmations, and many other things on my list!) But before we dismissed, I again reminded the students of the importance of Election Day. I asked them to respectfully stand and to sing a rousing, but respectful, rendition of Our National Anthem. And, wow, they did! It was great!
- We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the activities going on around school.
- As the prayer candle was extinguished by junior **Brice Falgout**, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. The students exited to the strains of “The Stars and Stripes Forever.” It was a great assembly! I least I thought so!

#### Mary Queen of Peace Parish:

- Fleur de Fall – the annual gala—is Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds directly benefit the church and/or school. They are in need of HS student volunteers to assist in serving our guests and maintaining the grounds. It's a wonderful, safe way for St Paul's students to earn 8 service hours while having an active presence in our local Catholic community. The hours are 4:30-11 pm (at the very latest) and students are asked to dress in Khaki pants and a white collared shirt. For more info or to sign up, call Mrs. Mary-Catherine Scriber at 504-236-1262. I encourage all SPS students from MQP to help if at all possible.
- *MQPCS 2014 Annual Christmas Mini Market: The Holidays are here get a start on your Christmas shopping at our annual Christmas Mini Market. It will be held in our Parish Center on Friday, December 5th, 12pm - 8pm and Saturday, December 6th, 9:30am - 6:30pm. 1515 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, La., 7047.1 You will be able to find many handcrafted items such as jewelry, wooden frames, embroidered items and much, much more. Hands on Christmas crafts for the children...Fun, Fun, Fun! Bring your Christmas list for some great shopping*



*Pre-freshmen engaged in Hornbeck Offshore Gateway to Technology program*

#### Musings on Last Week:

- **Shadow Day:** our final SD was a huge success. Many thanks to all who helped make it possible and who welcomed the prospective students into their classes. And we are getting very positive feedback. Here's one email from last week: *My son had a great time shadowing today. He loved everything about his day at St. Paul's.*

- **Football:** Congrats on final regular season win against Fontainebleau. On to the playoffs!
- **CLs/ MWs/GBs:** rose to the occasion, too, on Friday night.
- **Cross Country:** Congrats for ANOTHER District Championship – with only one senior on the starting seven! And JV won, too, so the future looks bright! Find an opportunity to congratulate these Wolves – they work VERY hard and represent us well. It’s a shame that the CC has few students cheering them on to victory.
- **Mothers Club:** Thanks, MC, for the great Teacher Appreciation Day!
- **Religion Dept:** First Friday adoration went well. Thanks, religion teachers!
- **ASPIRE Testing:** Counseling Dept did a GREAT job in administering this successor to PLAN and EXPLORE. It’s VERY complicated and the administration was a nightmare!
- **SAT:** Again, Don Pressley and staff administered a problem-free test on Sat.
- **Athletic Training Field Trip:** Our aspiring trainers attended the Student Athletic Training Day at SLU.
- **Soccer:** Let the games begin! Great showing against Catholic and Jesuit.
- **Quiz Bowl:** Our first tournament on Sat was a success. SPS A Team finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, just barely out of 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to Jan Gardner who was a reader, Emile Allen, the moderator, and a host of Quiz Bowl Wolves & parents. It was a great experience!
- **Meet the Teams:** Basketball and wrestling teams had meet and greet nights last week.
- **Wrestling:** The young grapplers did great. Lots of medals! 3<sup>rd</sup> (John Birdsong, Grant Hughes, Jacob Bouton); 2<sup>nd</sup> (Christian McHugh, Jarred Theiler, Christian Fortner, Nathan Bagnell); 1<sup>st</sup> (Josh Mascaro & Bandon Stein.)

**LHSAA:** The second dual playoff system pairing takes place today, Sun, Nov 9. Not sure where the Wolves will end up in the “select” category, but we’ll be ready. Speculation has us traveling to Shreveport (ugh!) to play Evangel.

**Food Drive:** Student Council is hosting its annual Food Drive to benefit the Covington Food Bank. The drive begins Mon, Nov 3 and runs until Tue, Nov 18. Students may bring non perishable goods to their classrooms for collection. Items that are requested include: canned fruit and vegetables, dried beans, rice, cake mix, pasta, canned meats, and peanut butter. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

**Reminder About Important Driver’s License Requirement:** Remember that 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. Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form. You won’t be able to get a license without one!

**PLEASE:** Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can’t stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don’t have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

**Lost and Found:** The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it’s probably in our lost and found.

Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

**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. Here's the link: [www.thepaperwolf.com](http://www.thepaperwolf.com). Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

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

**PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING:** Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, NO CELL PHONE USE DURING SCHOOL ZONE TIMES, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

#### **Humor of the Week:**

- *And the Bartender said "we don't serve time travelers in here." A time traveler walks into a bar.*
- *Psychic Convention Info: you know where and you know when.*
- *Customer: Can I have a book by Shakespeare. Clerk: Sure, which one? Customer: William.*
- *You don't need a parachute to skydive. You just need one to skydive twice.*
- *What did the water say to the boat? Nothing; it waved.*
- *When does Sean Connery arrive at Wimbledon? Tennesh.*
- *Why did Beethoven get rid of his chickens? All they said was "Bach, Bach, Bach!" [hilarious!]*
- *Why did the weekly poker game with Vasco de Gama, Ferdinand Magellan, and Christopher Columbus break up? Chris and Vasco couldn't beat the Straits of Magellan!*
- *How do math teachers scold their students? "If I've told you n times, I've told you n + 1 times."*
- *How many ears does Mr. Spock have? One on his left, one on his right and the final "frontear"*
- *What do you call cheese that's not yours? Nacho cheese!*
- *Confucius say: "man who run behind car get exhausted"; "man who run in front of car get tired" [hilarious!]*
- *Three men walked in to a bar. You think one of them would have seen it!*
- *Why was the employee fired from the orange juice factory? He couldn't concentrate.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



Swim team captains present AD Ketelsen with trophy from Metro Meet

#### **A Look Ahead**



November 11 – Pack Time  
November 13-14 – Pre freshmen retreat/service days (on campus)  
November 18 – Food Drive ends  
November 21 – Thanksgiving Holidays begin at 3:00PM  
December 1 – Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7 PM  
December 11 – Luminarias – Snack Day  
December 16-19 – Semester Exams  
December 19 – 11:00 AM dismissal for Christmas Holidays  
January 5 – Classes resume  
January 6 – President’s Assembly – Snack Day  
January 7-9 Seniors on Retreat  
January 29 – Career Day

Whew! Enough for one week!

I usually close the newsletter with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I listen to faithfully on Sat mornings while writing the newsletter and LOL.)

As most of you know, that line comes from *Car Talk*, NPR’s most popular show, hosted by Tom and Ray Magliozzi. Now I don’t know anything about cars, but the Magliozzi brothers, a pair of MIT graduates, are absolutely hilarious with their unique combination of self-deprecating banter and trustworthy advice. Over 4 million listeners a week tune in.

The brothers retired in 2012, but the show lives on in re-runs – still hilarious. Last week, one of the brothers, Tom, died from complications of Alzheimer’s disease. Thanks to those of you who emailed this information to me, although I was struck by how many news programs had tributes to him. In his honor, therefore, I’ll continue to sign off my newsletters thusly: well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Pray that things go well! We’re already reached the fifth week of 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 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul’s – our 103<sup>rd</sup> year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Giving Thanks in November That I’m Still the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

Answer to TDIH question for Fri the 14<sup>th</sup>: The opening line to Moby Dick is: *Call me Ishmael*. It’s considered one of the best opening sentences ever.

Answer to TDIH question for Sat the 15<sup>th</sup>: *A Tale of Two Cities* begins with one of the most famous opening lines in the history of literature: *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the*

*season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way...*



**...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well and making courageous choices!**