

## The President's Newsletter for February 02 - 08, 2015



I know it's February, but the final day of January marked two significant Catholic observances which I overlooked in last week's newsletter. And even though I missed them, they are worth noting under the doctrine of "better late than never":

January 31 was the feast day of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Order of Sisters, Brothers and Priests. In many ways, John Bosco was similar to St. John Baptist de La Salle – he had a loving concern for young people and was devoted to meeting their educational needs. Today, the Salesians minister in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by conducting Archbishop Shaw High School and the Academy of Our Lady High School. We thank the Salesians for their work with the young people of the Archdiocese. Here's a sampling of some of John Bosco's words:



SPS – the perfect setting to meditate on Merton & Bosco!

- Do good while you still have time.
- God does not pay us for results, but for effort.
- Nobody can be truly happy in this world unless he is at peace with God.
- Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours.

January 31 also marked the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Thomas Merton, American Catholic writer and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, KY, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. A few of his words:

- We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.
- Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul.
- And one of my favorites: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Both of these Catholic giants are worth time getting to know. Have a great week.

### Mon, Feb 2 (9 am start; G A B C -- Feast of the Presentation)

- WE HAVE A 9 AM START TODAY TO ALLOW FOR A FACULTY MEETING; CAFETERIA AND LIBRARY WILL OPEN AT REGULAR TIME, HOWEVER, TO ACCOMMODATE EARLY ARRIVALS.
- Feast of the Presentation. This feast, told in Luke's Gospel, celebrates the child Jesus being brought to the Temple "according to the law of Moses." It was also the occasion of Simeon ("a righteous and devout man") proclaiming the famous "nunc dimittis" -- "now, Lord, you may dismiss your servant...for my eyes have seen your salvation..." Since the 10th Century, this feast has also been called Candlemas because candles were blessed and carried in procession, a devotional based upon Simeon's words that Jesus is the light who reveals God to all nations. In his meditation for this feast, St La Salle tells the brothers "How good it is to give oneself to God! Even in this life God rewards and fills with very tangible consolations the soul that consecrates itself to God. The more you give to God, the more God blesses you." Today, let's renew our own consecrations to God -- and encourage our students to do, so, too.
- TDIH: In 1887, Groundhog Day, with a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. From the Official GH Day web site: *Pennsylvania's earliest settlers determined if the sun did appear on Feb. 2 so wise an animal as the groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back into its home for another 6 weeks of winter.* Let's hope Punxsutawney Phil sees no shadow!
- **TDIH:** Last year on this day, a memorial mass was celebrated in the G-Plex for **David Decareaux '94**, and his two sons. You may remember the tragedy: David and his sons were camping, got lost, and died of hypothermia. We continue to remember David and his family in our prayer.
- Parent Teacher Conferences (5-7 in BAC) More info below.

### Tue, Feb 3 (Feast of St. Blaise; special assembly schedule; D E F G)

- St. Blaise: Catholic practice calls for "Blessing of Throats" today in honor or Blaise, who according to legend saved a young boy from choking as Blaise was being hauled off to prison for his Christianity. He was martyred in 316.
- TDIH: In 1959, a small plane crashed and killed three American rock and roll legends: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and JP "The Big Bopper" Richardson. Singer songwriter Don McLean wrote a song about the event, "American Pie," in which he dubbed Feb 3, 1959 the day the music died. (So bye, bye, Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy....)



The SPS Spanish Club enjoys lunch last week at a local Mexican restaurant! Ole!

- TDIH: Four Chaplains Memorial Day. On this day in 1943, four US Army Chaplains gave their lives to save other soldiers when their troop ship, the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed in WW II. The chaplains gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out, joined hands, said prayers and sang hymns as the ship sank.
- **President's Assembly:** Instead of the regular morning time, the assembly will be held 30 minutes before lunch in order to accommodate a group of alums who will be on campus that day. The Development /Alumni team is experimenting with alumni luncheons.
- Basketball: JV & Varsity at Hammond

### Wed, Feb 4 (Regular; A B C D)

- TDIH: In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Premier Joseph Stalin meet at city in Yalta in the Crimea to discuss and plan the postwar world--namely, to address the redistribution of power and influence. Many believe this to be the birth of the Cold War.
- **ASVAB Testing for Seniors:** The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, a free interest/aptitude test in existence since 1968, is designed to help students determine interests and strengths. It is not designed to recruit although that, obviously, is a secondary motive for the Armed Services. It's been a helpful tool for our seniors.
- Tu B'shuvat: Today is the Jewish New Year for Trees Day. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Our Jewish brothers and sisters mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" (Deut 20:19), and reflect on the lessons that trees can teach us. Here's a New Year's "examination of conscience check list" for trees:
- Did I grow towards the sun as a tree should, reaching up higher and higher towards that which I can never grasp, but which nurtures me all the same the more I strive towards it?
- Did I shelter the seedlings that live in my shade -- so they will grow up to be a next generation like myself?
- Did I make sure my roots remain firmly planted in the soil that nurtures them, and did I drop my leaves there in the fall to give back life to that which sustains me?
- Did I ensure that my fruits were sweet and nourished all that came to enjoy them? Did everyone walk away from me with a smile?
- Did I bend gently in the wind, accepting what G-d sends but never breaking or giving up hope?
- Did I grow in strength and wisdom with each new ring this year?
- Come to think of it, not a bad checklist for us humans either!



### Thu, Feb 5 (Special Assembly; E F G A)

- TDIH: In 1971, Apollo 14, the 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands and Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell walk on Moon for 4 hrs. Alan Shepard was USA's first man in space in 1961 in a sub-orbital flight in a space capsule called Friendship 7. This was part of the Mercury Program, which had Americans just orbiting the earth. Mercury would give way to the Gemini and Apollo programs.
- Special Assembly see below for info
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV, & Varsity v. Mandeville. The game has been moved to tonight in order not to conflict with Eve Parade tomorrow night.

### Fri, Feb 6 (Regular; B C D E)

• **TDIH:** In 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. His daughter, Princess Elizabeth, next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

- **Memorial Mass:** A memorial mass for Gus Doskey '71 will be celebrated in our chapel this afternoon at 1:30. Parents: this may cause some traffic issues at dismissal time, but it was the only time we could get priest and family members together. Please be patient and understanding on Friday afternoon.
- Marching Wolves: The MWs kick off parade season tonight by marching in Mandeville's Krewe of Eve.

### Sat, Feb 7

- **This Day in History:** In 2009, the New Orleans Saints defy the odds and win the Super Bowl. Pigs reportedly fly as city celebrates with holidays and parades.
- TDIH II: On this day in 1812, Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. Celebrate the birth of this incredible writer! Read some Dickens today. Who can forget some of his immortal lines such as the opening of A Tale of Two Cities? 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.
- Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day: Greet your neighbors today with a big wave, but to show respect and appreciation, you must wave with all of your fingers, not just the middle one!
- Ice Cream for Breakfast Day: (always 1st Sat in Feb) Indulge if you want, but I'll pass!
- **ACT** administration on campus today
- Wrestling in St. Paul's Invitational, Indoor Track at LSU, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball in Catholic league.
- Lacrosse: JH, JV & Varsity v. Ocean Springs and Rugby at Jesuit (City Park)
- Marching Wolves in Krewe of Olympia Parade in Covington

# Sun, Feb 8 -- We encourage Catholic families to attend mass today & other families to worship at church of choice.

- **Boy Scout Day:** Today celebrates the birthday of Scouting in US. On Feb 8, 1910, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce filed incorporation papers in the District of Columbia to create BSA. SPS is proud to have so many students still actively involved in scouting and reaching Eagle!
- Marching Wolves in Krewe of Carrollton parade in NO.

### **Prayers Requested**

- We continue to hold SPS staff member Mary Pierson in our prayer as she recovers from surgery. Initial
  report was that Friday's surgery went "well" but that it would be 48 hours before any prognosis could be
  made.
- We continue to hold SPS alum Ben Blanchard '00 in our prayer for his struggle with cancer. Last week, Ben received the bad news that he will require more chemotherapy
- We continue to hold De La Salle High School President and SPS alum parent Mike Guillot (and the whole DLS community) in our prayer in Mike's recovery from his stroke last week.
- We continue to pray for all SPS families who need and want our prayers.

**Third Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences** will take place in Briggs Assembly Center on Monday, February 2, from 5-7 pm. We will limit conferences to 3-4 minutes in order to respect all. If a longer conference is needed, set that up with the teacher. Thanks for respecting the time of those waiting in line behind you. Naturally, if no one is waiting, feel free to speak with the teacher longer.

**How Trevor Spent Last Thu & Fri:** Trevor Watkins attended the LHSAA annual convention and participated with over 300 principals as they voted on many proposals affecting LA high school athletics. The most important, perhaps, was the vote to table the proposal to split all sports' playoffs into select and non-select categories – as it currently done in football. We'll see if the new Executive Director can help prevent this from happening. I did not miss attending the convention!

### **Musings on Last Week:**

- **Manresa retreat** went well. The juniors returned grateful for the experience.
- Law Studies Field Trip: Wolves got to see Supreme Court in action! Thanks, Justice Guidry, for making this memorable field trip possible.
- Career Day: All went well! Thanks, Alumni & Development Team! Juniors seemed very responsive.
- Honor Roll Breakfasts: Thanks to those who attended. The breakfasts went well. Mr. John Dubreuil, representing the SPS Renaissance Board and an SPS senior parent, gave a wonderful talk to our senior honor roll students.
- Soccer: Wow. Big wins over F'Bleau and Slidell. Another (ho-hum) District Championship. Well done, Soccer Wolves! On to the playoffs!



Freshmen learn science through mouse-trap car project.

- Catholic Schools Week Mass: A group of Wolves represented us well at St. Dominic Church.
- Wrestling: Tough night last Wed against powerhouse Bro. Martin. Coach said he was proud of the effort and that the score did not represent the level of our intensity and ability. The Wolves represented us well at Ken Cole Tournament over the weekend.
- **Basketball:** Great 9<sup>th</sup>, JV & Varsity wins over F'bleau and a thrilling varsity win on Fri against Slidell. Go District-leading Wolves!
- Marching Wolves: The MWs were a hit at OLL's Catholic School Pep Rally on Friday and also at the Endymion Den event on Sat. Let the parade season begin!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** were up and at 'em early Sat morn heading to BR for math competition. They returned home with lots of gold. Geaux FMWs!
- Lacrosse: The LAX Wolves had games all day Saturday. See below for results!
- Rugby: The Rugby Wolves played SAT, led into battle by bagpipes and drums and WON, 41-0! Wow!!
- Wolf Tracks: Congrats, Danielle Lavie, on another excellent issue!
- **AP Biology Trial:** Donnie Midkiff's students again debated creationism v. evolution. VERY INTERESTING! The boys on both sides were excellently prepared and made great lawyers. Faculty served as witnesses. Very creative way to teach science and other subject matters as well.

**Attention Junior Parents:** St. Paul's will offer the ACT test without the writing portion on **Tuesday, March 17, 2015**, to all eleventh grade students. This ACT test is official and will count as a qualifying score towards your son's college admissions and TOPS requirements. In addition we think it is to your son's advantage to take the ACT during normal school hours, which has previously been unavailable. The fee for this test administration per student is \$38.00. Please send a check payable to **St. Paul's School** for \$38.00. *In the memo line, please put* 

<u>your son's name.</u> Checks can be dropped off to the Counseling Office in La Salle Hall or mailed directly to: **The deadline to submit payment is Tuesday, February 24th.** 

Unedited Application Letter Excerpt: [My current school] no longer feels like home. Open House at St. Paul's felt welcoming and exciting. The size and history of the campus was amazing. My tour guide, Ross Allbritton, seemed sincere in his love of St. Paul's. I've never met anyone who has been, or is, a student a t. Paul's who doesn't feel the same way. I am looking for a change in environment, one that feels comfortable an encouraging. I am seeking teachers and administrators who are true to their Christian teachings and serve as good role models, leading by example. All the teachers and administrators we met at Open House were enthusiastic and exciting. And the students who were there didn't seem to mind giving up their Saturday to show us around and explain their classes. As your motto states, I am looking for "a good place to grow up." I feel that St. Paul's is where I belong. [I think this guy's gonna' make it in!]

### **Humor of the Week:** More student answers:

- Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines
- When Mary heard she was the Mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- The three wise guys found Jesus in the manager.
- The Golden Rule says do unto others before they do one to you.
- The people who followed Jesus were the 12 Decibels.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- St. Paul cavorted to Christianity and preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- Christians have only one spouse, which is called monotony.
- *OK*, *I'll stop!*



Biology Wolves listen intently as they prepare to build DNA models.

**Annual Fund:** 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 \$20 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!



A sophomore family is all smiles at the Honor Roll breakfast – I hope they were still smiling after my vocabulary word lesson!

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: With the exceptionally cold weather last week, we relaxed our rule and allowed heavy coats and other warm weather gear. Now that things are more seasonal, we return to policy: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If this presents a problem, please contact me. We have some pre-owned sweatshirts in good condition which I'll be happy to distribute. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son.

IMPORTANT: Many parents have <u>not</u> opened their Edline. We are using Edline for attendance contacting and for our SCHOOL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM! PLEASE, PLEASE make sure you have activated your Edline account so you can receive important SPS notifications. Call Mike Holmes at 892-3200, ext 1044 if you need assistance. Parents need to create their own account and not rely on their son's account.

Saint Peter Parish Father-Son Human Sexuality Program for fathers and their 11-14 year old sons will be held Sunday, February 8, 2015, from 5-8 PM in St. Mary's Hall, St. Peter Church, Covington.

This is an excellent, annual program where fathers and sons grow together in God's special gift of human fertility and the wonder of growing up and becoming a man. Topics include: the changes in a young man's body as it prepares for fatherhood; the functions of the male and female reproductive systems; the sacredness of human life; appreciation and reverence for our sexuality and the virtue of chastity; and a confidential question and answer segment. The program is based on the teachings of Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body".

The program provides an atmosphere of love and learning to discuss the important topic of growing up and establishes a foundation for continued communication between parent and child. Presenters include peers, health care professionals and fathers. For more information, please contact St. Peter Office of Marriage and Family Life, 985.892.9353 or email mfl@stpeterparish.com. The cost of the program is \$25. A light dinner will be served and reservations are required. I can email you a registration form if you would like. Just let me know.

2015-16 Calendar: St. Tammany Parish Public Schools has published next year's calendar. They will begin on Fri, Aug 7. Accordingly, I have completed our calendar, which follows their calendar when possible. We must schedule 178 days per archdiocesan policy. We therefore will start on Thursday, August 6 WITH A FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION and NO book day – which corresponds to what we did this year. Please plan vacations accordingly.

**Paper Wolf Update:** Please encourage your students to read The Paper Wolf on line (<a href="www.thepaperwolf.com">www.thepaperwolf.com</a>) and read it yourself. Compliment the staff. Subscribe. Support the future.

### **2015-16 Registration:** Please note the following:

• Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders: registration information was emailed last week. Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to return for 2015-16 have until Jan 31 to re-register. Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept. Call me if you have questions.

- Current 9<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> grades: registration will take place next week. You don't need to do anything now
- Current 12<sup>th</sup> grade: You don't need to register for SPS for 2015-16! Rejoice!
- Registration will involved the payment of the \$300 registration fee.

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!

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: If your son needs one and you can't afford it right now, just have him come see me. This will be confidentially. ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted.

**2015 Summer at Camp Abbey Seeking Staff:** Camp Abbey, a ministry of the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, has begun preparations for its 2015 summer program and is seeking high school student applicants for junior counselor positions and graduating seniors, college students, and

Coach Pierre's chemistry classes celebrate Mole Day with some scientific competition. Read about Mole Day in The Paper Wolf (www.thepaperwolf.com)

older for senior counselor and administrative positions. Although all positions are paid, staff may decline stipends in favor of service hours if applicable. Camp includes opportunities for prayer, Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration, as well as activities such as volleyball, basketball, softball, flag football, arts & crafts, archery, swimming, boating, performing arts, camping, and hiking.

If you enjoy the outdoors, want to share your Catholic faith, and desire to serve as a mentor and role model, consider applying for summer staff at Camp Abbey. Boys' camp staff serves during June 2015, and girls' camp staff serves during July 2015. For more information or applications, visit www.campabbey.org or contact campabbey@arch-no.org or 985-327-7240.

**From the Mothers Club:** The traditional Mother-Son Brunch will now be a Mother-Son Supper on Wednesday, April 22, at 6:30 in the Briggs Assembly Center. Since we can no longer hold school events on Sunday by directive of Archbishop Aymond and since the MC was not able to find a conflict-free Saturday, we will experiment this year with a weekday supper. Details will be sent by the MC later.

From the Baseball Home Run Club: Mark your calendar! Baseball Meet the Team for 2015 for players on Varsity- 8<sup>th</sup> grade team – Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm in the Briggs Center. All players must attend; family members and friends are invited. This is a great time to purchase all of your baseball spirit items to support the Diamond Wolves, volunteer, meet all players and coaches in the baseball program. Jambalaya will be provided to all...hope to see you there!!!

Mardi Gras: Mardi Gras (not my favorite season) for the Marching Wolves begins this weekend as they march in Mandeville, Covington and New Orleans. PLEASE respect the MWs as they pass by your area. In certain areas of Mandeville and Covington, unfortunately, the MWs are sometimes subjected to harassment. We will have plenty of chaperones and security, but anything you can do to assist is welcomed. I am indebted to the Band Boosters who do so much for our coveted band program. Pray with me that this Mardi Gras season is safe for all.

**Lacrosse:** On Friday night, Varsity LAX Wolves traveled to Lafayette and defeated St Thomas Moore 9-7. On Sat at Hunter Stadium, LAX Wolves had a full day. The Wolf Squad had a win over Bro Martin, 5-0, and a loss to Carrolton Park, 0-5. The varsity wolves then took on a brand new lacrosse team from St Martin's, and the SPS Wolves had a big win over this new team, 26-0. JV beat Rummel, 14 – 0 and I'm told freshmen beat Central of BR but have no score. Quite a dominating weekend of Wolves Lacrosse!

**Thursday's Assembly:** State troopers will speak to our students on Thursday about safe driving decisions. I am grateful to the Mothers Club for organizing these long overdue topics. In case you did not know, they are also organizing talks on some of these topics for parents. More on that later. Parents are welcome at Thursday's assembly, from 9:30 - 10:30.

#### A Look Ahead

Feb 10 – 8:00 AM Mass Schedule – Feast of St. Scholastica – DRESS UNIFORM DAY!

Feb 13 – Faculty Retreat Day – no classes

Feb 26-27 Junior Retreat/Angola Trip

Mar 3 – President's Assembly/Teacher Appreciation Day/Snack Day

Mar 5 – Celebrity Waiter Dinner

Mar 6 - 9:00 AM late start

Mar 9 – St. Joseph Altar – all periods meet (FGABCDE)

Mar 10 – President's Assembly

Mar 13 – Third Quarter Ends

Mar 17 – ACT for all juniors in BAC

Mar 19 – Mass – Feast of St. Joseph

Mar 25 – Life Skills Day for Seniors

And even though it's 2015, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I write 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,



Juniors listen intently to SPS alum and local businessman Chris McDonald (Mug Shots) at last week's career day.

especially as we march forward through 2015! Again, thanks for being part of the 2015-15 edition of Saint Paul's – our 104<sup>th</sup> year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC Still Thanking God for the Privilege of Being the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

