

The President's Newsletter

Mar 21 – April 03

Holy Week through Easter Holidays

Remember that we are dust and to dust we will return

In keeping with the seriousness of Holy Week and as we continue to mourn the loss of Alex, a wonderful young man, my newsletter will be simple and unadorned.

This week, we focus on The Passion of Jesus – who loved us enough to die for us in order that we might gain eternal life. The etymology of passion is from the Latin *passio* meaning *to suffer* – and Christ certainly suffered. But His suffering led to our salvation – good triumphed over evil, life triumphed over death, love triumphed over hate.

We are called, as Lasallians, to have passion for our work. Saint La Salle used the word “zeal” (from the Greek *zelos* meaning ardor) but the two are similar. What exactly does that mean? We must love what we do even if it involves suffering, as that will lead to success, love, and happiness. Let’s face it: our jobs – yours as parent and ours as educators - are not often easy and not for the faint of heart. You parent because you love – and I hope we do what we do because we love.

We are also suffering this week as we grieve over the loss of Alex. We continue to pray for his family and friends who miss him beyond words. We remember the positive things about his life and the good that he did – which was much.

As we remember The Passion this week, let us ask for grace to be *passionate* about our work (whether as parents or educators) and to realize that good can come from suffering. And as I wrote to the faculty, if we are not, we need to go pursue something else. May the grace of Holy Week fill our lives and the lives of our students and children –always.

Note: due to the many weather cancellations and re-scheduling, I may have overlooked an activity. If so, it was not intentional.

Mon, Mar 21 (9 am start; G A B C)

- **Cafeteria and library will be open for early arrivals.**
- **Faculty Meeting at 7:45**
- **Baseball:** 9th at Pearl River (5); JV & Varsity v. Northshore (4:00 & 6:30)
- **Bowling Regionals (Tangi lanes)**
- **Tennis:** Varsity v. Hannan at PAC
- **Golf:** Wolves in Northlake League play at Oak Knoll
- **Lacrosse** v. Holy Cross (7)

Tue, Mar 22 (Assembly; D E F G)

- **Track:** JV at Slidell
- **Baseball:** 8th v. Franklinton (4 & 6); 9th at Northlake Christian; JV & Varsity at Hammond (4 & 6:30)
- **Lacrosse:** Varsity v. St. Thomas More

Wed, Mar 23 (Passion Play schedule; A B C D)

- **Passion Play presented to students in two lunch periods**
- **Baseball:** 9th at Fontainebleau
- **Lacrosse** v. Northshore

- **Scheduling Session for Next Year's new 8th 7 9th grade students in the BAC (3:30 – 5:30) We look forward to welcoming the next generation of Wolves.**

Thu, Mar 24 (Assembly; E F G A)

- The *Mandatum (Washing of the Feet) Ceremony* during this morning's assembly
- **Track:** Jr Hi in SSA meet; Varsity at Ponchatoula
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. Covington
- **Lacrosse:** SPS at St. Martin's

Fri, Mar 25 (Good Friday)

- **Solemnity of the Annunciation:** Ordinarily, today would be the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, which dates back to the fifth century and celebrates the angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord, and Mary's *fiat*—her willing acceptance of God's holy plan. Since today is Good Friday, however the solemnity has been transferred to April.

Sat, Mar 26 (Holy Saturday)

Sun, Mar 27 (Easter Sunday: Alleluia! He is risen!)

Mon, Mar 28 – Sun, Apr 03 – Easter Holidays (not spring break – see below)

Monday, April 04 – Classes resume with periods B C D E

Easter Holidays, not Spring Break: Please use the term “Easter Holidays” and avoid using the term “spring break.” SPS does not give a week off for spring; we give the week off to celebrate Easter. Regardless of the term, however, NPR reported last year on a correlation between the college spring breaks and an increase in traffic fatalities. The researchers studied 14 popular “spring break” venues and found a noticeable increase in traffic accidents and fatalities. I'll let you figure out why, but if you want to view the article, which is worth reading, here's the link: <http://www.npr.org/2015/03/18/393748230/the-dangerous-distractions-of-spring-break>. We pray for the safety of our students during the upcoming Easter holidays.

Report Cards: Report cards will be emailed by Wednesday of this week. Of course, grades are already available on Edline.

Musings on Last Two Weeks:

- **Weather Closures:** Again, you should have received a voice call, a text message and an email announcing school closings. As Trevor explained, last Monday's closing was at the direction of Office of Catholic Schools. The system worked. We hope all survived the heavy rain and wind but we know some students' homes flooded. I am proud of the many SPS students who helped their families and friends recover from damage.
- **Saint Joseph Altar:** Special thanks to **Dr. Ann Kay Logarbo** and her volunteers for an incredible St. Joseph Altar. Saint Joseph! Pray for all of them! In her typical, humble way, Dr. Logarbo declined my invitation to attend Tuesday's assembly so we could thank her. Instead, she sent me the following email: *I sincerely appreciate your request to attend assembly today, but after prayerful consideration, I believe this would turn the attention to me and away from the spirit of the Altar. God knows why I do this and that is sufficient for me. I want you to know that I am honored and humbled that you allow me to totally rearrange and disrupt the order of the day to do this. I know this is not easy for the administration or the faculty. I thank the cafeteria crew for allowing this disruption and opening their hearts to adjust their menu. Your students were amazing this year. Their appreciation of the day and interest in the meaning of the event warmed my heart. Several former students stopped by to visit and get their "fix" of the Altar and*

my heart was warmed. I continue to be amazed at the number of times one student can eat lunch in one day!!! Please know that the KC of St Peter Church was the champion of frying 250# of catfish in 4 hours!!! They swept in and swept out without fanfare, but were crucial in pulling this off. On a final note, Sgt Presley and his maintenance team were phenomenal. They worked tirelessly throughout the day and smiled through the chaos. God bless you all and thank you again. Please let the students know I will spend the next month in adoration praying for their intentions they placed in the book.

- **Sudden Impact:** Another successful and meaningful event for a group of sophomores.
- **Baseball, Lacrosse, Golf, Rugby, Track & Tennis:** Lots of games, lots of cancellations, too much to list. One cancellation that we hated to do:: cancellation of the the Christian Brothers Relays – for which Al Nastasi worked very hard to prepare. We regret the loss of this important meet in the SPS track legacy.
- **Drama:** the Marian Players played to rave reviews with their production of *Joseph and TATD*. If you missed it, you missed some great entertainment.
- **Tree Planting** was also cancelled although we did manage to plant some of the larger ones. While I may not live long enough to see these efforts mature to full fruition, we're leaving a legacy for those who come after us. They will thank us.
- **Beads for Saint Michael's:** Thanks to the basketball team for delivering our mardi gras bead donations to this wonderful school for exceptional children.
- **Spanish Honor Society:** Thanks to Kim George for organizing this activity. Congratulations to our newest inductees: Matthew Borgatti, Landon Chambliss, Robby Ferrante, Hanzala Hussain, Ryan Lavin, Jack Nunez, Luke Avenel, Yehia Elkersh, Leland Van Deventer, and Jacob Broussard. Our society is named after Brother Miguel Febres Cordero, a Christian Brother saint from Ecuador, who was quite the scholar and teacher.
- **Basketball Awards Ceremony:** a successful ceremony to end a successful season. At the event, Coach Phil Williams announced his retirement. Phil has reached the point in his 31 year SPS career which allows him to retire with full benefits – at an age where he is still young enough to be employed elsewhere. We shall miss him as he has been a faithful Lasallian educator. I hope you read the affirming article about Phil in Friday's New Orleans Advocate. Here's the link: <http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/sports/preps/15224010-123/st-pauls-basketball-coach-phil-williams-retiring>
- **Counseling Department:** This department was extraordinary last week. In addition to aiding grieving students, they also dealt with some students in distress over other issues, successfully administered an ACT to our juniors, conducted a college fair/TOPS night, and prepared and sent scheduling packets to our new incoming students in preparation for next week's scheduling evening. Thanks to them.
- **And Speaking of TOPS:** Nola.com produced an informative 1 minute, 30 second video on the current state of TOPS and its challenge going forward. It's worth a look: http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/03/why_tops_as_we_know_it_gone_fo.html
- **Habitat:** Thanks, Habitat Wolves, for your faithful service to those in need.
- **Campus Ministry:** Thanks to CM Jeff Ramon for the successful pre-freshman retreat last week and the moving prayer service for Alex on Friday afternoon.

St. Joseph Abbey Flooding: We extend our prayer and support SJA on the estimated \$3 million water damage it sustained. I am in conversation with them about ways SPS can help the Abbey, which founded Saint Paul's School in 1911. This week, Brad Guillory and The Guerilla Wolves will record and post on You Tube a series of retreat talks which were scheduled to be delivered this week to the 138 seminarians, who have all been sent home. The Archbishop has requested the seminarians to view the talks from their homes. I am also in conversation about hosting one of their major events on our campus if necessary.

Congratulations, Senior John Cresson: On Mar 09, the Louisiana Department of Education announced the names of the 6 students in 12th grade who were selected as regional finalists (one from each of the six regions) in the state's annual

Student of the Year competition. The finalists will convene at the Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge on April 13 for an awards ceremony and the announcement of the state Students of the Year winners from each grade level.

John Cresson was named Student of the Year for Non-Public Schools in the whole state of LA. That's QUITE the accomplishment!

All public schools and approved non-public schools submitted one candidate. We submitted John, who won Student of the Year designation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which includes all non-public schools, not just Catholic schools. John then competed in regional competition in Baton Rouge for non-public student of the year – and again, he won. Regional selection committees used portfolios of accomplishments created by each student, along with student writing samples and interviews, to assess the communication and critical-thinking skills of each candidate to name the regional finalists.

We couldn't be prouder of John, regardless of what happens on April 13th! By the way, he was interviewed on "Our Schools, Our Future" TV show last week. The show will broadcast each Tuesday in March on WLAE TV, Channel 32, Charter Ch 11 or 711 and ATT, Dish & Direct Channel 32. His performance is worth watching!

The Louisiana Legislature: The special session came to an end on Mar 09. Among the many revenue cuts contemplated was textbook allocation to private schools and required services reimbursement to private schools. The elimination of these two programs would have cost SPS over \$100,000. On the day following the close of the session, Superintendent Lancaster received the following from the private school lobbyist, Mr. Rob Tasman of Citizens for Education Freedom: *Schools WILL INDEED receive their 4th quarter scholarship payments as well as funding for textbooks, textbook administration, nonpublic pre-K and the like. All things considered, this is a major victory given the cuts that were levied against many other industries and individuals.* We are grateful to Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF) which lobbies on behalf of non-public school.

Greater Lasallian World Dept: Archbishop Rummel High School announced last week that its President, Brother Gale Condit, will step down at the end of this school year. Brother Gale has been asked by the San Francisco New Orleans Province to assume the post of Development Director for the Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation (LCBF), which raises funds for the growing needs of retired Christian Brothers. As planned upon his hiring as Principal/CEO in July of 2015, Mr. Marc Milano '90 will assume the President/Principal/CEO role for the 2016-2017 school year. We wish Gale, who ministered at Saint Paul's for many years, the very best in his new position. We thank him for all the good work he has done at Rummel and we wish Marc the very best with his new duties.

Mar 08 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Mar 08 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Students entered the gym to the strains of hauntingly beautiful version of "Parce Domine" – one of the most recognized Lenten hymns. I explained that it's an ancient hymn and we don't really know who wrote it or when. The words "parce domine" mean "spare us, Lord" and remind us that Lent is a time of turning away from sin and toward God – who is "rich in mercy" according to the prophet Joel. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining weeks of Lent. And as the days lengthen, it's a time for us to lengthen our commitment to "put off the things of night" and walk in the daylight.

While the music played, **junior Cade Icamina** lit the prayer candle – still purple for Lent. We prayed in a special way for those who have entered into God's Kingdom since our last assembly: Mr. Charlie Bell, cousin of sophomore Nikita Daigle; Mrs. Elizabeth Robert, grandmother of junior John Birdsong; Mr. Colin Barrett, grandfather of freshman Colin Cottrell; Mr. Perryl Gassen, grandfather of senior Justin Guillory & Mr. Bob Scherer, grandfather of freshman Jacob Scherer.

- Recognized The Marian Players who opened “Joseph & Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat” two days after assembly. I encouraged the students to see this wonderful show and to get their tickets early as the shows always sell out.
- Recognized and congratulated the Soccer State Champions. There will be a separate assembly for the team later on in the year, so I didn’t spend a lot of time on their incredible season, but I had to at least acknowledge their three-peat!
- Recognized and congratulated senior Brooks McMahon for his amazing video, “Road to State” – which concerns the soccer wolves’ 2015 state championship. Brooks just learned that his video has been accepted into the All Sports Los Angeles Film Festival and the Pearl River Community College film festival. I then showed the students a trailer of the video, which can be found on You Tube. Just type in “Brooks McMahon” in the search.
- Recognized and congratulated the Student Hosts, who were incredible as they worked Celebrity Waiters Dinner. We couldn’t have done it without them.
- Recognized and congratulated the Regional Science Fair Winners: Alex Oliveri and Yehia Elkersh won first place in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Shane Strander & Max Tepper won first place in Chemistry, Joshua Devier won first place in Microbiology, Alex Nguyen & Alex Paille won first place in Computer Science, Tonner Dougherty won second place in Energy, Cole Chitwood won third place in Energy, Grant Addition won third place in Plant Science and Zac Russ won Honorable Mention in Biomed and Health. And the Overall Grand Prize was awarded to freshman Joshua Devier. Congrats, Science Wolves.
- Recognized and congratulated the Basketball Wolves for their incredible season which included a District Championship and a record 31 game win streak. Recognized and congratulated the following members of the team for making the 6-5A Coaches All-district team: 2nd team: Devonte Allen, Skyler Herbet; 1st team: Timothy Bedford, Parker Edwards; MVP- Harrison Prieto; Clarion Herald Elite team: Harrison Prieto, Timothy Bedford, MVP – Coach of the Year Phil Williams
- Recognized and congratulated senior Jacob Broussard for being named to the LHSAA Composite Basketball All-academic team by virtue of his basketball and ACADEMIC performance!
- Recognized and congratulated The Paper Wolf and The Guerilla Wolves for their outstanding performance in the Louisiana Scholastic Press Association competition. Overall, the two programs won 43 awards, including FIRST Place in the Best Student Media Program. Here are the rest of the awards, which I projected on the screen in the new gym for all to see:
 - **NEWS MEDIUM AWARDS**
 - **Guerrilla Wolves**
 - 1st Place – Sportscast – “Walking with Fitz”
 - 2nd Place – Videography – “Guerrilla Wolves go to Comic-Con”
 - 3rd Place – Newscast – “Guerrilla Wolves News”
 - 3rd Place – Sports Feature – “SPS vs. Denham Springs”
 - **The Paper Wolf**
 - 1st Place – Best Online/Digital Newspaper
 - 1st Place – Best Social Media Presence
 - 3rd Place – Best Overall Newspaper (*judged against printed papers, which included categories where we qualified for zero points*)
- **SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:**
- 35 Individual writing, photography, and graphics awards

- Won 1st place in 21 of 28 eligible categories
- Swept 1st-3rd in both “News Writing” and “Advance News Story”
- **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT JOURNALIST WINNERS**
- **Nick Ashton – 12 awards total!**
- 1st Place – Advance News Story – “Crawfish Cook-off”
- 1st Place – Editorial – “Sister Louise”
- 1st Place – In-Depth Writing – “Marching Bands Keep City Spirit Alive” (*NOTE: this story was picked up by USA Today*)
- 1st Place – Sports Photo – “Weight Room”
- 1st Place – Photo Essay – “Biology Classes ‘Dissect’ Crawfish”
- 1st Place – Sports Profile – “Soccer Drumline”
- 2nd Place – Feature Photo – “Soccer Drumline”
- 3rd Place – News Writing – “Committee to Decide Fate of Benilde Hall”
- 3rd Place – News Photo – “Art Building Demolition”
- **ON-SITE COMPETITIONS:**
- 1ST Place – Copy Editing
- 1st Place – News Writing
- 2nd Place – Broadcast Writing
- **Jordan Kliebert**
- 1st Place – Feature Photo – “St. Paul’s Acquires a Choir”
- 1st Place – News Photo – “Putt-Putt at the Mole-lympics”
- 2nd Place – In-Depth Individual Writing – “Unsung Heros”
- **ON-SITE COMPETITION: 3rd Place – Photo Editing**
- **Adam Satterlee**
- 1st Place – Sports Feature – “Rugby Wolves Have High Tea”
- 2nd Place – Advance News Story – “Christmas Luminarias”
- 1st Place – Reader’s Aids – “Class of 2015 Post Graduation Plans”
- **Luc Hebert**
- 1st Place – Spot Photo – “Principals and Busted Pipes”
- **ON-SITE COMPETITION: 2nd Place – News writing**
- **Kyle Hladky**
- 1st Place – News Feature Writing – “Junior Drum Major”
- 2nd Place – Sports Profile – “SPS Swimming Legend to Head Aqua Wolves”
- **Carson Caulfield (Contributing Writer)**
- 1st Place – In-Depth Team Writing (with Nick Ashton) – “St. Paul’s Urban Legends”
- 2nd Place – Sports Photo – “Offensive Strategy”
- **Parker Layman**
- **ON-SITE COMPETITION: 1st Place – Broadcast Writing**
- 2nd Place – News Editorial – “Man on Campus: The New Gym”
- **Nico Arcuri**
- 2nd Place – Sports Column – “Professional Boxing”
- 2nd Place – Reader’s Aids – “Literary Rally Results”
- **AJ LaCroix**
- 2nd Place – News Writing – “Dumbledore’s Army”
- **ON-SITE COMPETITION: Honorable Mention – Copy Editing**
- **Tyler Petro**
- 1st Place – News Writing – “Parking Situation”

- I then projected a letter that journalism teacher Mrs. Christie Simoneaux received from Dr. Jerry Ceppos, Dean of LSU's Manship School of Mass Communications following the competition. I quote in part from the Dean: *I was dazzled by the number of awards your students brought home from LSPA. Please know our faculty is available if you ever need help in a specific area or if you'd like us to talk about the Manship School. My goal is to lure your students here.* Wow. I love Dean Ceppos's verbs: dazzled and lure. We should all be very proud of SPS student media.
- Recognized and congratulated three seniors who were invited to participate in the Presidential Scholar Program. What's unique about this program is that you have to be invited to apply by the US Department of Education. Only 55 seniors in Louisiana were invited and Saint Paul's had 3: Luke Avenel, Patrick Connolly, and Ryan Meraux. That's quite an accomplishment! Congrats to these three seniors!
- As I was running out of time, I told the students that I had many more recognitions (ranging from rugby to lacrosse to math tournaments to spring sports to writing awards to Literary Rally winners and many more) that will roll over to the next assembly, so I had them sing our fight song to encourage everyone in the final months of the school year to do their best.
- I then did a tribute to Harper Lee, one of the greatest writers of modern times. I projected excerpts from her classic, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, while the beautiful musical theme from the academy award winning film version of the book played in the background.
- We ended with the whole student body standing and singing the fight song and a very moving rendition of that Lenten favorite, "O That Shame." It was powerful. **Junior Christian Evans** extinguished the prayer candle while Parce Domine played in the background. I again begged the student body to concentrate only on "the good" during this Lenten season and to make safe choices. I closed by reminding the students what the candle represents – the love of God, the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I exhorted them to spread God's love to all whom they meet.

Free Money: Last week we received a store credit of \$222 to Office Depot, which is the result of giving SPS's name at checkout every time you purchase something at Office Depot. This is a BIG help, especially with the way we are using printer ink these days! Remember to mention SPS when you shop at Target or Office Depot – and collect Box Tops for Education which you can give to Susan. Every little bit helps!

Louisiana Income Tax Tuition Deduction: Under LA Revised Statute 47:297:10, those with children in private and parochial schools who file LA income tax returns are allowed a deduction for tuition and other qualifying expenses. Don't forget to take advantage of this benefit for the 2015 tax year. The Archdiocesan lobbyist feels the statute appears somewhat vulnerable for 2016 given the state's fiscal condition.

ANNUAL FUND REMINDER: Please – if you have not supported SPS this year and are in a position to do so, please contribute to the Annual Fund. **ANY amount is needed as** I need to finish paying for the new gym. Interested in having part of the new gym named after you? Just contact me and we'll talk.

From the Mothers Club: Students who ordered a tuxedo last week may pick up their tux on Tuesday, March 22nd at 3:00 in the BAC. Payment is due at this time (Cash, Checks made payable to Tuxedos to Geaux, or Credit Card). If you are still interested in purchasing a tux, you may still order one on Tuesday.

A Look Ahead

- March 21 – 9 am start for faculty meeting

- March 22 – President’s Assembly
- March 23 – Passion Play (two lunch schedule)
- March 24 – Mandatum Ceremony
- March 25 – Good Friday holiday
- March 28 – April 1 – Easter holidays
- April 5 – Pack Time
- April 7 – Mass (SJBDLS) – dress uniform day
- April 9 – ACT on campus
- April 11-15 – Leadership week
- April 11 – Challenge Night 6-8 pm
- April 12 – President’s Assembly –Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- April 13 – *Leadership Breakfast in Cafeteria*
- April 14 – *Guest Speaker Assembly*
- April 15 – *Year-In-Review Assembly*
- April 18 – Late start 9:30 am
- April 19 – Pack Time – Snack Day
- April 20 – Life Skills day for seniors –*Freshmen HR Breakfast*
- April 21 – *Pre freshmen HR Breakfast*
- April 22 – Blue Ribbon Holiday
- April 25 – 10th Grade HR Breakfast
- April 26 – President’s Assembly
- April 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
- April 28 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast - Sophomore Service Day/Retreat
- April 29 – Sophomore Service Day/Retreat
- May 3 – Pack Time
- May 4-6 – Senior Exams in BAC
- May 10 – President’s Assembly – *Band Awards* in Evening
- May 11 – 13 – Pre Freshmen Exams
- May 11 – Grad Night
- May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
- May 13 – Academic Awards in am
- May 14 – Senior Graduation 4:00 pm in BAC
- May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion
- May 17-19- Exam Schedule
- May 20 – Teacher records day

Again, we continue to pray for all affected by the weather and all those who are grieving.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for God’s Mercy This Holy Week as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School