



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



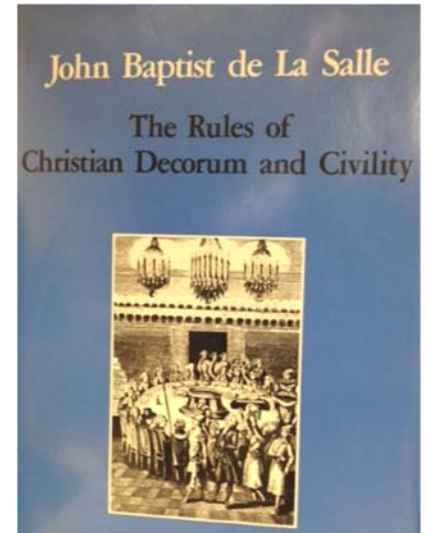
May 08 - 14, 2017

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Welcome to the eighth week of the fourth quarter of the 2016 - 17 school year! Only two weeks left to go!

This is National Etiquette Week (NEW), designed to raise awareness of the importance of courtesy, civility, and good manners in everyday life. Civility is a vital part of the professional and social realms—business, social, dining, travel, technology, wedding, and international protocol. But we need civility in everyday life. Civility was so important to Saint John Baptist de La Salle that he wrote a student reader entitled “Rules of Civility and Decorum.” It’s a masterpiece. Here is a very small sampling of topics covered:

- *What decorum permits or does not permit in regard to interrupting others*
- *How to act when meeting someone*
- *Things you should do before eating; how to eat politely; how to request things at the table; how to take portions for yourself; what to do with gravy and fruit; how to eat soup; how to carve meat; how to leave the table*
- *The nose and the manner of blowing your nose and sneezing*
- *How to enter the house of a person you visit and how to greet the person*
- *Faults committed when you speak against the charity due your neighbor*
- *How to question, inquire, correct and give your opinion*
- *The manner of dressing and undressing*
- *Parts of the body which should be covered and the necessities of nature [I’m sure you can guess what these are!]*



Almost any human action you can imagine (especially in the life of boys!) is covered in this book – which was used to teach reading as well as manners.

While parts are humorous by today’s standards, the overarching message is that

civility and decorum are not optional traits. And our job as educators and yours as parents is to help students adapt to the civil and decorous demands of modern day life. Let’s encourage the boys to practice civility, especially manners,

this week – and let’s all commit to **setting the example** for the young people entrusted to our care.



Seniors concentrate during final exams.

Mon, May 8 (Regular; G A B C)

- **This Day in History:** In 1945, Great Britain and the US celebrate Victory in Europe Day. Cities in both nations, as well as formerly occupied cities in Western Europe, put out flags and banners, rejoicing in the defeat of Nazi Germany.
- **National No Socks Day:** OK with me if you celebrate. I’m not announcing anything, but if the students read this and want to observe NSD, it’s perfectly OK with me and Coach Sears.

Tue, May 9 (Assembly; D E F G)

- **Final President’s Assembly (Yea!)** I’ll try to recognize as many as possible, but undoubtedly some things will get left out; some will roll over until next year!
- **TDIH:** The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee opens impeachment hearings against President Richard Nixon. They will ultimately vote to impeach him on July 30.

- **Band Awards Ceremony (6:30 pm; BAC)** Thanks for a GREAT year, Marching, Concert, & Jazz Wolves.

Wed, May 10 (Assembly; A B C D)

- **Mass at 7 am; come join us!**
- **Level Awards Ceremonies this morning.** Student achievement (Gold P, Blue P, Golden Torch, Course and Service Awards, etc.) will be presented to students this morning at level assemblies.
- **TDIH:** In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad is completed.
- **Lupus Awareness Day:** Lupus is a debilitating, potentially fatal autoimmune disease capable of damaging virtually any part of the body, including the skin, heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain.
- **Clean Up Your Room Day:** OK, everyone, let's do this!
- **Grad Night for the Class of 2017:** Thanks to all who are making this event possible! I pray for a great time for the Class of 2017. They have been wonderful.

Thu, May 11 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day:** We remember those who serve in our armed forces and the sacrifices their families make during deployment. Say a prayer for all military spouses today.
- **Eat What You Want Day:** Health permitting, go ahead and indulge today!
- **TDIH:** 1997, chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov resigns after 19 moves in a game against Deep Blue, a chess-playing computer developed by scientists at IBM.
- **Athletic Awards Ceremony** this morning. I've said it before and I'll say it again: I'll match our athletic program against any school. And ditto for our coaches – and not just for their knowledge of their sport, but for the content of their character, their commitment to Lasallian values, and their unswerving dedication to our students. We have had a great year. While I know the purpose of this morning is to honor the students, our coaching staff deserves great recognition, too. How many schools can boast what we regularly accomplish at district, parish, region, state and even national levels? Wow. Go Wolves!



Alex poses in front of our new media backdrop, which was donated by the Student Council. Thanks, SC!

Fri, May 12 (Assembly; B C D E)

- **National Limerick Day** (a five line anapestic meter poem with an aabba rhyme scheme – but you knew that.) Here's what many consider the best limerick ever (at least that can be printed in a Catholic newsletter!), written by American poet & humorist Ogden Nash:

*A flea and a fly in a flue
were imprisoned, so what could they do?
Said the fly, "let us flee!"
"Let us fly!" said the flea.
So they flew through a flaw in the flue*

- **TDIH:** One year ago, the **Walker Percy Serenity Circle** was dedicated at the Madisonville Library. Dr. Percy, one of the 20th century's most significant novelists, lived just a few blocks from SPS. He and

his wife, Bunt, often walked through the campus and attended mass with Brothers. Three of his four grandsons are alumni of SPS. Upon his death, the family directed memorial donations to SPS, which continue to fund the Walker and Bunt Percy Memorial Scholarship Award. We remain grateful to the Percy Family. Read a Walker Percy novel if you never have – or even if you have! The SPS library is blessed with autographed first edition copies of all of his works, and I am blessed with a dedicated volume, given to me as a gift.

- **Academic and Service Awards Ceremony:** Major awards will be presented this morning with many guests present.

Sat, May 13

- **Frog Jumping Day:** Be kind to frogs today! They are all over our campus! This day can be traced back to Missouri author Mark Twain, and his first short story “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” – which is worth reading today
- **Fintastic Friday: Giving Sharks a Voice Day:** Who knew that sharks need help? Apparently, as many as 100 million sharks are killed each year for their fins. Shark populations have plummeted 75% to 90% in many ecosystems. Worldwide, sharks have little or no protection. Don’t kill any sharks today!
- **One Hundred and Sixth Annual Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School** at 4:00 p.m. in Briggs Assembly Center. Admission by ticket only (each senior was issued eight.) In case you have not heard, **2017 Valedictorians are Thomas Howell Carriere, Yehia Gamal Elkersh, Lloyd Joseph Guillot, & Alex Joseph Oliveri, while Salutatorians are Andrew Grashoff, William Paxton Murphy, & Jeffrey Maxwell Tepper. Admission is by ticket only.**

Sun, May 14 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

- **TDIH:** 1948, in Tel Aviv, the State of Israel, is established, the first Jewish state in 2,000 years
- **National Chicken Dance Day:** OK with me if you dance like a chicken today.
- **Happy Mother’s Day!** We wish all of our SPS moms a blessed and special day!

Apology to Junior Carson Caulfield and Senior Robert Baricev: In last week’s newsletter, I inadvertently omitted Carson and Robert from the list of ACT 30+ members. Both Carson and Robert scored well above this milestone and deserve the recognition. Sorry, Carson and Robert! I am very proud of your ACT accomplishment!

Musings on Last Week:

- **Law Day:** Mr. Greg Pellegrini took Wolves to the LD Ceremony in Baton Rouge. The boys were invited because they won prizes in the BR Bar Association Law Day Essay Contest: Congratulate Isaac Hebert, Miles Roppolo, Adrian Milan, JC Flick, Jacques du Passage, Trey Smith and Matthew Gros. Only seven prizes were given – and SPS took all seven! **Our boys can write!**
- **Brothers’ Day:** The retired Brothers were deeply touched by the ceremony in front of their residence last Monday. Thanks to all who cooperated with this gift on “Brothers Day.”
- **Deanery Meeting:** I attended a meeting last week of the pastors, DREs, Youth Ministers, and chief school administrators of the West St. Tammany Deanery concerning “the young church” – our students. The meeting was to collaborate and strengthen our outreach to the young people of St. Tammany. We pray that the seeds planted at that meeting will bear much fruit as we minister to the young people entrusted to our care.
- **AP Exams** went well. Thanks to teachers who taught and proctored and to the many students who enrolled in AP courses this year.
- **Graduation Practice** went very well. I look forward to the ceremony.
- **Ice Cream Party:** The cafeteria ladies treated the seniors to an elaborate ice cream party on the first day of practice. A good time was passed by all. Thanks, Cafeteria ladies!
- **Cap & Gown distribution** went well. As always, though, a number of seniors didn’t believe we were serious about clearing all obligations to the school.



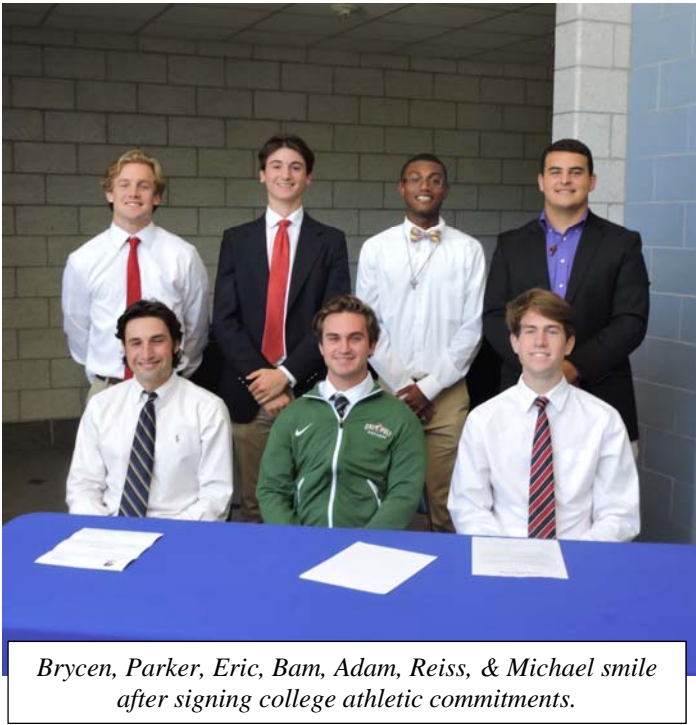
Charlie Legendre leads student body as they sing for the Retired Brothers’ Community on Brothers Day.

- **Senior Finals** went well. Thanks, senior teachers!
- **Athletic Physicals** kept coaches, athletes and doctors busy Sat morning. We are very grateful to the medical community for providing this service to our students.
- **Pie Bowl:** Our annual end of spring football ritual was fun and successful. Geaux Wolves!
- **Give NOLA Day:** Our second participation in this event netted \$7315 v. \$3070 last year. I am appreciative to our development office for promoting this event – and even more appreciative to those who donated!
- **Baseball:** The 2017 season ended Sat with a tough loss to Catholic of BR. The team had a great season, though, with a District Championship and first round playoff win. Congrats, Baseball Wolves!
- **Track:** The team finished 8th in state. Eric Coston won the 1600 m run and the 3200 m run for the third consecutive year. TJ Bedford finished sixth place in the long Jump.
- **Lacrosse:** End of year banquet at TCC was icing on the state championship cake! Well done, LAX Wolves! You deserved the celebration – and much more!
- **Band:** Fumi Nagasaka, the New York based Japanese photographer, was on campus last Monday taking pics of The Marching Wolves. And the band's concert on Saturday was GREAT! Well done, Marching and Concert Wolves!
- **Bookstore Clearance Sale:** The Mothers Club had their annual sale on Fri and Sat. Thanks, MC, for this service!
- **Tennis:** Congratulations to the Tennis Team for a great season. The team went undefeated in district play capturing the District Title. The regional team competed for the regional championship during the Easter holidays from which people could qualify for the state championship. The regional consisted of #1 singles junior Kent Shiell and #2 singles junior Jordan Edney. The doubles teams were: #1-junior Alex Krake and 8th grader Luke Beckendorf; #2 Freshmen Paul Stolin and Davis Heebe; and #3 junior Joel Fernandes and freshman Graydon Hall. The team won the Regional Championship with Kent Shiell winning the Singles championship and Alex Krake and Luke Beckendorf the Doubles Championship and all 5 teams qualified for state. It was then off to the state tournament in Monroe the following week. Kent Shiell played through to the finals in the tournament but lost in the finals in Single's play; hence, Kent is the #2 singles player in the state. When all the points were added the team captured 4th in the State Tournament.
- **College Signings:** Congrats to our latest batch of athletic signings last week: Eric Coston (LSU track and cross country), Brycen Brown (Rhodes football), Michael Longo (Christian Brothers U soccer), Reiss Theiler (Cal Poly soccer), Parker Hagood (Belmont Abbey lacrosse), Brandon Barriero (Spring Hill rugby) and Adam Schellang (Christian Brothers, soccer). Thanks to Karen Hebert for arranging the ceremony.
- **Quiddich:** And the Quiddich Wolves were practicing their "sport" on Saturday, with capes flying, broomsticks riding and snitches being caught. It was quite the sight but all seemed to be having great fun.

Alumni Phone-a-Thon: Approximately 30 alums gathered last week over two nights to conduct an Annual Fund Phone-a-Thon, contacting their classmates to gain updated contact info and ask them to consider a gift to the Annual Fund. Thanks to alumni director Al Nastasi for organizing. And thanks for alum Keith Frentz '96 of NOLA Restaurant for donating delicious dinners both nights!



Seniors thank cafeteria ladies for the ice cream treat following graduation practice.



Brycen, Parker, Eric, Bam, Adam, Reiss, & Michael smile after signing college athletic commitments.

H of the W: In honor of Frog Jumping Day on Sat:

- *Why are frogs so happy? They eat whatever bugs them!*
- *What do you call a lady with a frog on her head? Lilly.*
- *What's a frog's favorite game? It's croak-et!*
- *What's the difference between a cat and a frog? A Cat has nine lives but a Frog croaks every night!*
- *Why are frogs so good at basketball? Because they always make jump shots.*
- *What kind of shoes do frogs wear? Open toad!*
- *What's a frog's favorite flower? A croakus!*
- *What do you call a frog hanging from a ceiling? Mistletoad.*
- *How do you make frog legs? In a croak-pot.*
- *What's the preferred car of frogs? The Beetle.*
- *What do you get if you cross a frog and a dog? A croaker spaniel!*

Service Opportunities:

- **CEEP, Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program**, is an educational outreach program of the church for low-income children entering grades 3-6. They would love to have some wonderful SPS young men volunteer to serve as counselors with them this summer to earn service hours. This is a great program, and I hope some of our students can help. Contact Christ Episcopal Church in Covington for more info.
- **Family Promise.** *St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Mandeville will be hosting families this summer June 11-17. If any of your young men are interested in earning some service hours with us we'd love to have them! The time each evening would be about 6:00-8:30. And if they'd like to join us for supper that would be about 5:30. The times, of course, are flexible and we'd be very happy and grateful for anytime someone is able to give. Each of the young men from St. Paul's that we've had the privilege of meeting have been outstanding! Hopefully these dates fit someone's schedule. Please give my contact information to anyone who might be interested: Pat Jensen H - [985-321-7582](tel:985-321-7582) C - [281-797-8337](tel:281-797-8337); pat.jensen.ejr@gmail.com*
- One of our students, Cullen Irwin is volunteering this summer to work at Christ Episcopal's at risk children's summer camp by teaching guitar lessons three days a week. He is seeking donations of old guitars to buy guitars to give to the students at the end of the month long camp. If you have an old guitar and want to get rid of it, contact Cullen at cullen.irwin.2019@stpauls.com or bring the guitar to school and we will get it to him.
- **Warm Hearts Drive:** The Lasallian Leader's project 'Warm Hearts' project will collect new and gently used blankets, coats, hats, socks and gloves. They will collect the entire week after Easter holidays (not spring break) and stored until next winter. This is a great opportunity as you do your "spring cleaning" to get rid of unneeded warm items that can help those in need.

Post Easter Holidays (not spring break) Grooming and Dress Issues: Our guys are starting to look shabby. It's not summer yet and we will continue to enforce our rules until the end of school. Parents: please help by trimming hair, making sure he shaves (if applicable), check his uniform before he leaves and encourage good hygiene. Help us by insisting your son conforms to policy. I'm not willing to ignore these rules during the final four weeks.

From SSA: SSA is sponsoring Theology Uncorked: Wine, Cheese and Theology for local Catholic PARENTS of high school students on Tuesday, May 9, from 7-9 pm at Columbia Coworking (215 N. Columbia St) here in Covington. Tuesday's topic is "Faith and Reason", led by Dr. Chris Baglow of Notre Dame Seminary. The program is free. For more info, contact Rafael Flores at SSA (rflores@ssacad.org)



Brothers Christopher and Ryan congratulate each other on state championship!

WHY DO I CONTINUE TO INCLUDE ANNUAL FUND REMINDERS?

- Because every time I do, I get responses. So, 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.**
- Interested in having part of the new gym named after you? Contact me and we'll talk!
- **And we need grandparent support!** Please invite them to participate if they are able or I'll invite them with your permission. Just send me names and addresses.

2017 - 18 Calendar: We will start on Monday, August 7 WITH A FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION and NO book day – which corresponds to what we did this year. Please plan vacations accordingly.

Senior Graduation Information:

- **Last Friday, each senior was issued EIGHT (8) tickets with the cap and gown – if all of their obligations to the school were fulfilled.. The tickets were handed directly to each senior on this day. We are not responsible for lost tickets and they will not be replaced.**
- Mon – Thu, May 8 - 12: seniors **do not** report to school unless they are coming for an awards ceremony or AP Exam
- Thu, May 11: Athletic Awards Ceremony; only senior athletes need attend
- Fri, May 12: Academic Awards Ceremony. Only those seniors getting awards need attend **in dress uniform.**
- Sat, May 13: the 106th Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School; 4 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. Doors will open at 3 and **admission is by ticket only.** The beautiful ceremony, **within the context of a Catholic mass,** lasts about two hours.
- Note: Everything seniors need to know for graduation is part of a printed set of instructions given to seniors on Friday, May 5th. Ask your senior son for a copy.

Summer Camps: SPS offers the following camps:

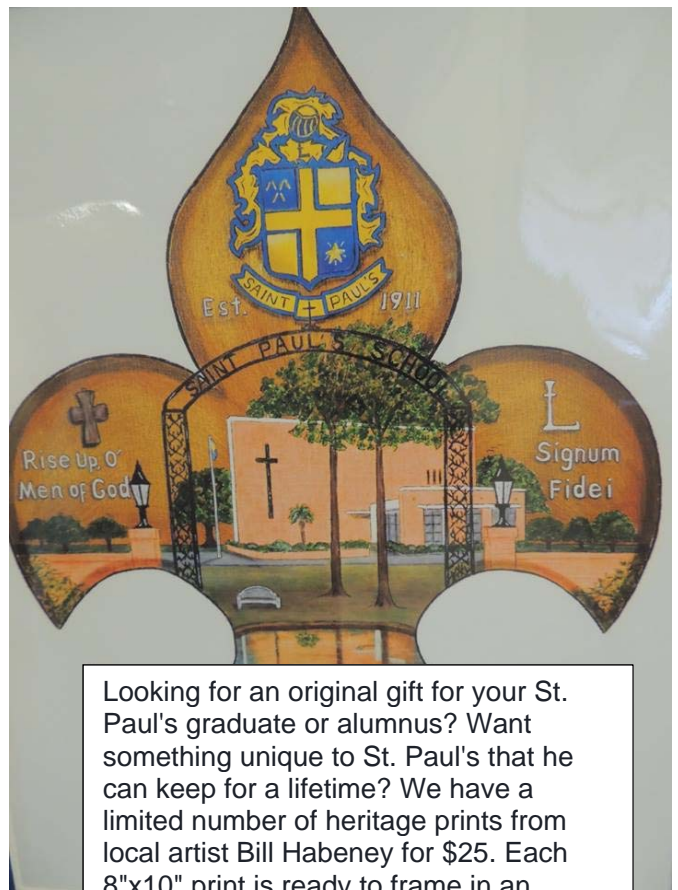
- Boys (8-14) Sports: baseball, football, wrestling, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, speed/strength
- Robotics (rising 5th – 8th graders)
- Video Production (boys and girls, 10-14)
- Creative Writing (boys and girls 10-14)
- Drama (boys and girls 9-13)
- For more information, consult our website: www.stpauls.com

A Look Ahead

May

- 8 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG – Pres Assembly – Band Awards
- 10 – ABCD
- 11 – EFGA – Athletic Awards in AM
- 12 – BCDE – Academic Awards in AM
- 13 – Senior Graduation in BAC 4:00 PM
- 15 – FGAB – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 16 – CDEF – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 17 – GABC – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 18 – 9-11th Final Exams begin
- 19 – 9-11th Final Exams – **Pre Freshmen Promotion & Awards in BAC at 6:30PM (yes, this is the correct date). This is a liturgy of the word and a very nice ceremony!**
- 22 – Final Exams
- 23 – Final Exams
- 24 – Records Day

Please stress with your son the need to follow all rules in this last stretch of the school year. We had a couple of students make bad decisions recently. They are suffering consequences, as we will not overlook these poor decisions. We will teach until the end. Let's start the final stretch of our school year on a positive, problem-free note.



Looking for an original gift for your St. Paul's graduate or alumnus? Want something unique to St. Paul's that he can keep for a lifetime? We have a limited number of heritage prints from local artist Bill Habeney for \$25. Each 8"x10" print is ready to frame in an 11"x14" mat. Contact the Development Office to get yours today!



*Seniors on stage as they practice for their graduation ceremony on May 13!
Rise Up, O Men of God!*



Congratulations, State Championship Lacrosse Wolves!

And even though it's May of 2017, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to as I write and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's School! I wish you a blessed week!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe The Class of 2017 has Finished Their SPS Careers and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School

Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God's presence – our mantras this week, throughout 2017, and always!



**...by doing ordinary things
extraordinarily well, making
courageous choices, doing
God's will, and remaining
faithful!**

