



# *The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter* *Celebrating 100 Years of Christian Brothers at SPS*



*November 12 - 25, 2018*

Welcome to the fifth week (can you believe it?) of the second quarter!

Time marches on; all we can do is make the most of it

Archbishop Gregory Aymond has charged the Catholic schools in his archdiocese to be authentically Catholic – and that EVERY class should be a religion class as we uphold Catholic values across the curriculum. I couldn't agree more.

One of those authentically Catholic values – as espoused by Pope Francis and enshrined as one of the seven social justice issues by the US Catholic Conference of Bishops – is concern for the poor -- one of our five Lasallian core principles.



*St. La Salle distributes bread to the poor of his day.*

In school & country, abundance blesses u. And so my final pre-Thanksgiving message, in keeping with the Archbishop's mandate, the USCCB, and our Lasallian heritage, concerns the same one I give each year at this time: the Lasallian commitment to the poor. This commitment to the poor began with John Baptist de La Salle. The first schools were endowed parish charity schools, operating on shoestring budgets and often located in less desirable parts of town. Both rich and poor were welcome, provided all agreed to be treated as equals – revolutionary in those days! All were important.

Equally revolutionary was de La Salle's insistence on partiality. We often speak of the need for impartiality in dealings with students. Actually, St. de La Salle was very partial. Partiality was shown to those with less attractive qualities; they were to receive the most attention. Those with the least talents were to be supported and encouraged. Those who had extra food were to share it with those who had little. De La Salle was convinced that the poor needed the schools the most. The curriculum,

therefore, combined practical & religious training, designed to help the poor succeed. Thus, service to the poor, both directly and indirectly, must be present at SPS if we are to be faithful Lasallians.

But it's not just Saint La Salle's thinking that compels us to care for the poor. Indeed, the **Concern for the Poor and Social Justice** is at the heart of Catholic social teaching. The United States bishops write: *In a world characterized by growing prosperity for some and pervasive poverty for others, Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.*

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let us be mindful of those who are not blessed with material comfort.

Let us strive to reach out to them. Let us find ways to welcome them to SPS.

### Mon, Nov 12 (Senior HR Breakfast; A B C D)

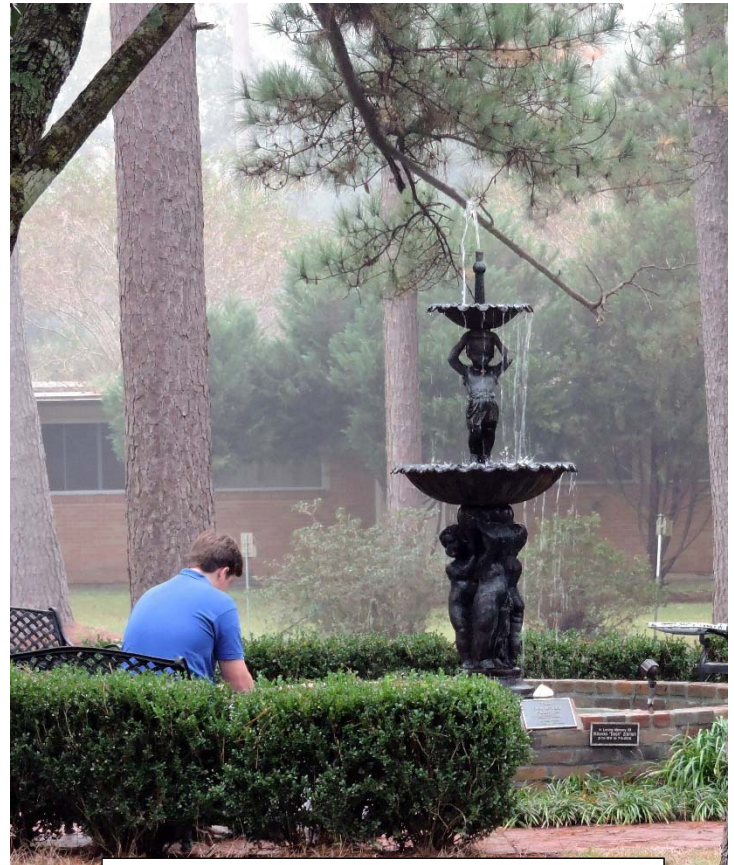
- **This Day in History:** In 2015, we celebrated Trevor and Joe's return from Washington with our Blue Ribbon award with a special school assembly and treats from the Mothers' Club. It was a magical day!
- **TDIH:** In 1954, Ellis Island, gateway to America, closes; more than 12 million immigrants landed there since 1892.
- **TDIH:** In 1920, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was elected the first commissioner of baseball.
- **Pizza with the Works except Anchovies Day:** Enjoy, but hold the anchovies
- **Cross Country Team leaves for state meet in Natchitoches. Geaux CC Wolves!**
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> & JV at Lakeshore

### Tue, Nov 13 (Assembly; Shadow Day; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1805, Johann George Lehner, a Viennese butcher, invented the "frankfurter." Enjoy (if that's possible!) a hot dog today!
- **TDIH:** In 1956, The US Supreme Court rules that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
- **TDIH:** In 1789, Ben Franklin wrote this famous phrase: **"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."** The words were the second half of a sentence he'd written in a letter his friend Jean-Baptiste Leroy. It was shortly after the United States Constitution had been ratified, and his entire sentence was this: "Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency, but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."
- **World Kindness Day:** perform an act of kindness today!
- **Food Drive Ends with delivery to Northshore Food Bank**
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Karr (6)

### Wed, Nov 14 (regular; 7:15 am mass; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** 1968, Yale University announced it was going co-ed. SPS has no plans to imitate Yale – although I do get a request every now and then!
- **TDIH:** Herman Melville's Moby Dick is first published. Can you recite the famous opening line? Answer at end.
- **TDIH:** French painter Claude Monet was born in 1840. He pioneered the impressionist style in his landscapes. See some Monet's works at <http://www.claudemonetgallery.org/the-complete-works.html>
- **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, thousands of different types of pickles exist. Asia consumes



*A moment of quiet reflection before class begins*



more pickles per capita than any other region. Enjoy your favorite pickle today – but don't be one and do stay out of 'em. (Get it?) Interesting etymological fact: William Shakespeare coined the term “in a pickle” in his play, *The Tempest*. In Act V, 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!

- **National Spicy Guacamole Day:** Ole! Mix up a batch of spicy guacamole and have a “Guac ‘n Roll” party with lots of rock and roll music and play games such as “Guac ‘n Bowl” by using plastic water bottles as pins and clean, dried, avocado seeds as bowling balls! [Who thinks of these things?]
- **Pre-freshman Retreat**
- **Soccer Meet the Team (6:30 in the BAC)**
- **Wrestling: Varsity in dual meet at Jesuit**



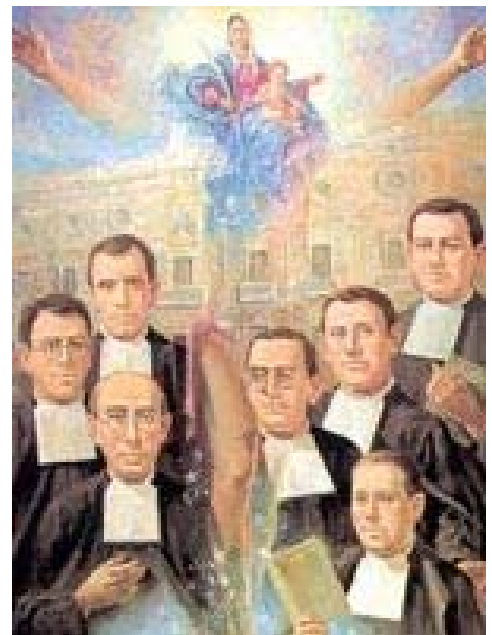
*Mr. Arbo's physics class learn by building and launching rockets.*

### Thu, Nov 15 (Regular; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** 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 of newsletter.
- **TDIH:** In 1864, during the Civil War, Union troops under Gen William T. Sherman burn Atlanta.
- **TDIH:** In 1969, the largest antiwar rally in US history occurred as 250,000 persona marched in Washington, DC to protest the Vietnam War.
- **TDIH: In 1887**, American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (a fav) was born. She favored flowers and desert landscapes. View some of Georgia's works at [https://www.google.com/search?q=georgia+o%27keeffe&rlz=1C1VFKB\\_enUS647US647&espv=2&biw=1527&bih=863&tbm=isch&imgil=5QfE\\_Kf8rMsrzM%253A%253BcWz\\_u8MTdns6vM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fwhitney.org%25252FExhibitions%25252FGeorgiaOKeeffe&source=iu&pf=m&fir=5QfE\\_Kf8rMsrzM%253A%252CcWz\\_u8MTdns6vM%252C\\_&dpr=1.1&usg=\\_\\_xYMqKEEF1FV0JIOL5w\\_wbZTss\\_N4%3D&ved=0CDkQyjdqFQoTCJK1h6PG9MgCFUhbHgodCRcIFg&ei=CdA4VtKMEsi2eYmuoLAB#imgsrc=5QfE\\_Kf8rMsrzM%3A&usg=\\_\\_xYMqKEEF1FV0JIOL5wwbZTss\\_N4%3D](https://www.google.com/search?q=georgia+o%27keeffe&rlz=1C1VFKB_enUS647US647&espv=2&biw=1527&bih=863&tbm=isch&imgil=5QfE_Kf8rMsrzM%253A%253BcWz_u8MTdns6vM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fwhitney.org%25252FExhibitions%25252FGeorgiaOKeeffe&source=iu&pf=m&fir=5QfE_Kf8rMsrzM%253A%252CcWz_u8MTdns6vM%252C_&dpr=1.1&usg=__xYMqKEEF1FV0JIOL5w_wbZTss_N4%3D&ved=0CDkQyjdqFQoTCJK1h6PG9MgCFUhbHgodCRcIFg&ei=CdA4VtKMEsi2eYmuoLAB#imgsrc=5QfE_Kf8rMsrzM%3A&usg=__xYMqKEEF1FV0JIOL5wwbZTss_N4%3D)
- **National "I Love to Write" Day:** Write today – a poem, email, journal entry, newsletter.... Enjoy!
- **National Recycling Day – pretty self-explanatory! Think globally; act locally!**
- **Sophomore WW II / Service Day**
- **Soccer: JV v. Mandeville (5:30)**

### Fri, Nov 16 (Regular; C D E F)

- **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!
- **Great American Smokeout Day:** The American Cancer Society marks the 38th GAS Day to encourage smokers to use today to quit smoking that day. By quitting — even for one day — smokers will be taking an important step towards a healthier life – one that can lead to reducing cancer risk. **And let's extend this to vaping, too!** Remain vigilant on "pen sucking."
- **Swimming:** State meet in Sulphur through Sat. Geaux Aqua Wolves! I hear The Water Music playing!
- **Thanksgiving Holidays begin at 3 pm and end at 7:45 am on Mon, Nov 26**
- **Feast of the Blessed Christian Brother Martyrs of Almeria:**  
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 Almeria bless SPS!
- **Sophomore WW II / Service Day**
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV, & V v. Parkview Baptist (begins at 5)





## Sat, Nov 17

- **TDIH:** In 1553, the Elizabethan Age begins when Queen Mary I dies and is succeeded by her 25-year-old half-sister, Elizabeth. William Shakespeare will be born eleven years later in 1564.
- **Homemade Bread Day:** Bake bread today! A great family activity!
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> in Lakeview Tournament
- **Wrestling:** JV in Rummel Tournament; JV in Bulldog Brawl at F'Bleau
- **Soccer:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> v. Bro. Martin (10 & 12); JV & Var at Alexandria

## Sun, Nov 18

- **TDIH:** The Walt Disney Company gives today as Mickey's exact birth date -- the release date of *Steamboat Willie*, his debut film. Happy Birthday Mickey! Celebrate by watching a MM cartoon.

## Mon, Nov 19

- **TDIH:** in 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivers The Gettysburg Address, which consists of only 272 words yet is considered one of the most famous speeches in history. (Can you quote the first two lines?) Actually, the whole address is worth reading – better yet, hearing. Below is a link to an audio and text version of the address (you have your choice of speakers ranging from Johnny Cash to Colin Powell to Sam Waterston. I listened to both Colin and Sam.) After reading along while listening, you will be moved. At a time when our country seems more divided than ever, I strongly encourage you to listen to President Lincoln and pray for our country. After listening, you can then click on the link at the bottom and see a copy of Lincoln's original copy. Here's the link: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gettysburgaddress.htm>
- **TDIH II:** Not nearly as important as The Gettysburg Address, but on this day in 1959, Rocky & Bullwinkle -- the most famous squirrel/moose combo in history – debuted. Who can forget Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale, Dudley Do-Right, Peabody and Sherman, and Aesop and Son? Watch an episode or two on YouTube and howl!
- **“Have a Bad Day” Day:** Believe it or not, “*Have a Bad Day*” Day was created to have people stop saying "have a good day", and replace it with "have a bad day". DO NOT celebrate this day!
- **World Toilet Day:** The World Toilet Organization (who knew?) created WTD to raise global awareness of the struggle 2.6 billion face every day without access to proper, clean sanitation. WTD also brings to the forefront the health, emotional and psychological consequences the poor endure as a result of inadequate sanitation. Wow. It's amazing the things we take for granted. Remember this as we use this incredible device today.

## Tue, Nov 20

- **TDIH:** In 1982, the Cal football team wins an improbable last-second victory over Stanford when they complete five lateral passes around the Cardinals' marching band, who had wandered onto the field a bit early to celebrate the upset they were sure their team had won, and score a touchdown. After catching the last pass of the series, Cal's Kevin Moen careened through the confused horn section and made it safely to the end zone. Then he slammed into trombone player Gary Tyrell. (A photograph from the *Oakland Tribune* of the jubilant Moen and the terrified Tyrell in



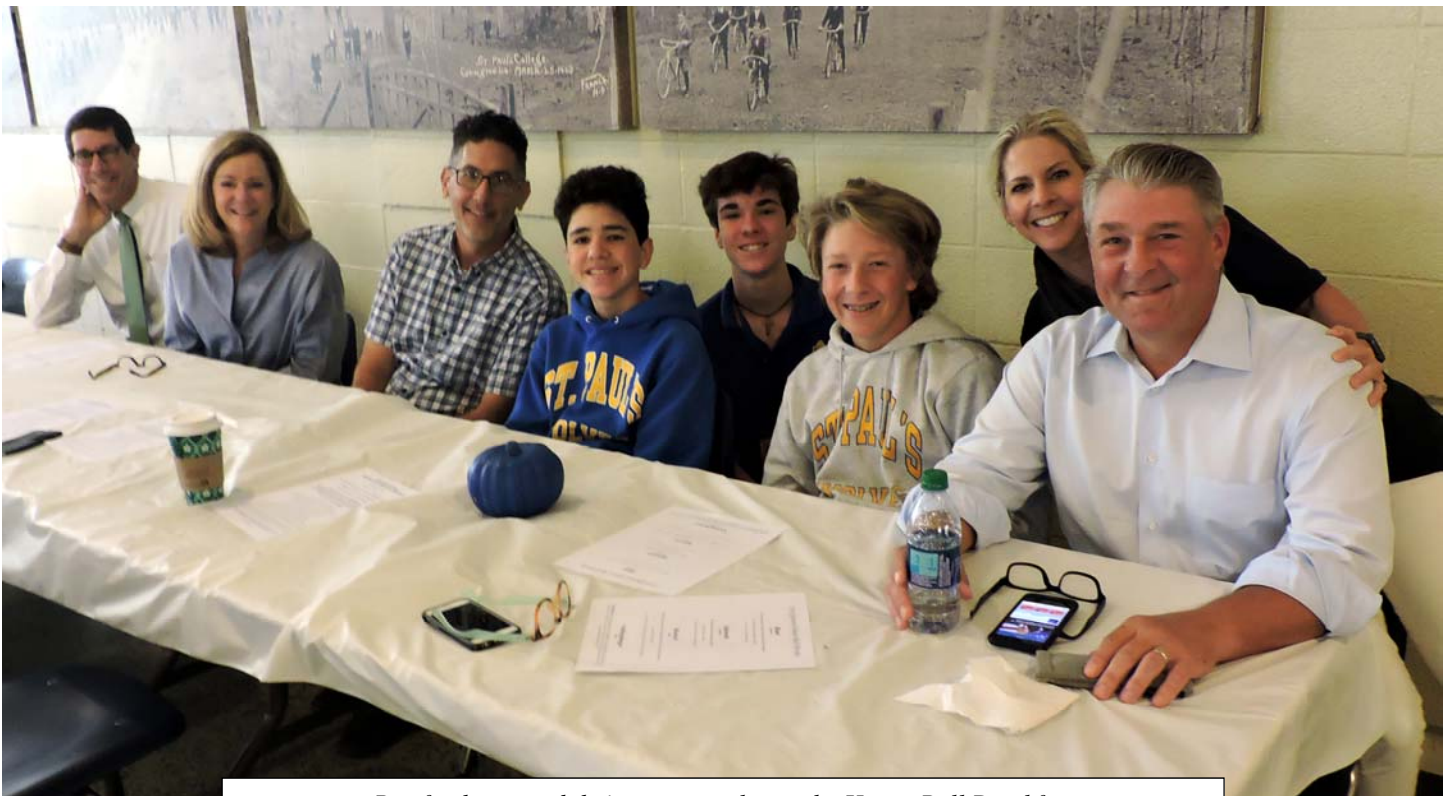
Walker brings breakfast to his parents at the freshman Honor Roll Breakfast.

the moment just before the collision is still displayed triumphantly in Berkeley.) "The Play" remains one of the most famous in college football history. Wanna see it? Here's a link:

<http://www.topendsports.com/videos/829/sports/american-football/play-1982-california-stanford-football-game/>

### Wed, Nov 21

- **TDIH:** In 1691, things were not going well in the newly found Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. I quote from Brother Donald Mouton, a Lasallian scholar: *The group of teachers founded by John Baptist de La Salle was in a precarious situation. Personal antagonisms, opposition to the Founder's work, internal problems, and fragile health that almost led to his death toward the end of 1690 posed critical questions for De La Salle as to the very future of his enterprise. In this crisis, De La Salle decided to bind himself by vow with two other Brothers, Nicolas Vuyart and Gabriel Drolin, to establish the Society of the Christian Schools at whatever the cost might be, even if all others should abandon it. This "vow of association and union" pronounced on November 21, 1691, often referred to as the "heroic vow" was an act of hope at a time when the work of the early Brothers was in serious jeopardy. Today, when times seem tough, the Brothers often refer to this milestone in our history. We give thanks for the "heroic vow"! Because of it, we're still around!*



Pre-freshmen and their parents relax at the Honor Roll Breakfast

### Thu, Nov 22

- **TDIH:** In 1963, at 12:30 p.m. on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the youngest man ever elected president, is assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald. The President was struck in the back, then in the head. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m., the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States was pronounced dead. On board Air Force One, at 2:38 p.m., Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as the 36<sup>th</sup> President. Camelot ends and

America changes forever (Yes, I know that's editorializing!) Like most Baby Boomers, I can vividly recall exactly where I was when we got the news!

**Mon, Nov 19 – Fri, Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Holidays! Enjoy! Note:** Now that we are on Thanksgiving holiday, the newsletter won't list all the many, many events (mostly sports – related) for this week.

And the newsletter is tired and needs a break and, hence, won't publish next Sunday. Check the web site for all the schedules. Thanks!

**I offer the following in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance.**

**ACT Prep:** SPS is very proud of our ACT scores – but we want to do even better. ACT Prep is a marathon, not a sprint – it can't be done a week or two before the test. The time to start is years ahead. AP Joe Dickens promotes the following two sites, which provide a free ACT question of the day. Encourage your son to use these resources. Make it a family activity! Have fun with competition! Here are the links:

- <https://academy.act.org/> (a lot like Khan Academy regarding its prep work and video tutorials)
- <https://www.varsitytutors.com/act-questions-of-the-day> (a lot like Khan Academy regarding its prep work and video tutorials)



*Reed & his mom enjoy HR Breakfast!*

**Admissions for 2019 - 20:** Yes, we are already looking ahead to next year. Here's how you can help: If you know any family who might be interested in SPS:

- Shadow Days: only one left – this Tuesday! Have interested families call for a reservation. Thank you for spreading the good word about SPS!
- Encourage any public school family that is interested in us to apply on time – this week. Priority is given to those students who apply on time.
- **If a family missed Open House but wants to see the school, have them call me and I'll be happy to show them around.**

- We rely on current and former families to spread the word about SPS! I know I can count on you.

**Admissions II:** This is a big week in the Archdiocese. Tue, the 13<sup>th</sup> (and our last Shadow Day), is the last day the Office of Catholic Schools allows recruiting. On Wed, the Office of Catholic Schools will release the “white card” – the official application to any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese. Students in Catholic elementary schools must return the white cards to their principals on Fri the 16<sup>th</sup>, and the elementary schools will let us know on Friday how many students are applying to SPS. Christ Episcopal had another Open House last week, Northlake Christian is working hard, and public schools are touting the latest release of state test scores, the south shore schools are spending lavishly on TV ads – well, you get the picture. Our competition is tough. Even with our Blue Ribbon, we cannot afford to become complacent.



**Adopt-A-Family:** For those of you who plan ahead for these kinds of things:

- November 12-16, November 26 - December 4th (monetary collections)
- December 5th & 6th (shopping)
- Tuesday, December 1 (delivery to St. Tammany Project Christmas HQ)

**Bookstore:** The Bookstore has moved to Benilde Hall! Come see the new and improved Bookstore.

And here are the regular hours:

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am
- M – F: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Also by appointment. Email [spsbookstore@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore@gmail.com).
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds not help fund wonderful activities throughout the year and campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$40,000 worth of school projects this past year.

**Care & Vigilance:** As we approach holidays, remember de La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras this week. **We will be caring, but we will be vigilant. Please insist with your sons that they adhere to all school regulations this week, so that we can begin a problem-free Thanksgiving holiday break.**



**Driving:** Please drive carefully and, if your son drives to school, stress traffic safety with him. Saint Paul's is located in a residential neighborhood, so be VERY careful when approaching campus. Covington Police will ticket violators – and we will take disciplinary action against students as well. And remember: **cell phone use in a school zone is against the law and can be ticketed by police!**

**Drug Testing:** We have begun drug testing, choosing students both randomly and “for cause.” Just because a student is tested does not mean he is suspected. Naturally, you may confidentially request that we add your son to the test list. We have committed more resources this year to increase the number of students tested. Know our policy by reviewing the handbook. A second positive result jeopardizes a student's place at SPS. Pray that students resist the allure of temporary pleasure over finding true meaning in life.

**Fall Food Drive** will run from Monday, November 5th to Tuesday, November 13th. We will deliver to the food bank on Tuesday November 13th.

**Helping Saint Paul's:** Don't forget – here are painless ways to help:

- If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.



**Holidays:** The school offices will close during Thanksgiving holidays. Anticipate needs before Fri – especially the driver's license form, transcripts, etc. I will be around, if needed, most of the holiday week so feel free to call on me but I don't always know how to help.

**Homecoming Dance Photos:** Students who ordered Homecoming Dance photos have received them. If you ordered photos and did not receive them, call Expressions Photography at 985-809-6811.

**ID Cards:** As part of our safety plan, students are required to wear their ID cards on their lanyard on a DAILY basis. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID.** If he forgets, he must purchase a temporary ID from Sgt. Pressley. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10

**Information:** Need More Information? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me

**Jazz n Roll** was a smashing success. We regret the conflict with the football game, but we had no choice but to “go on with the show.” I am beyond grateful for all who helped make it possible. Many, many SPS supporters gathered in the BAC for a memorable evening of food and fun – which involved a LOT of work on the part of our Development Team! Thanks, DT! And, as always, special thanks to the Student Hosts – without whom we could not have done the job!



*Sophs await start of HR Breakfast*

#### **Last Week:**

- **Alumni Outreach:** Thanks to Alumni, Counseling, and others for traveling to SLU in Hammond to meet with our alumni attending school there. It was a worthwhile trip – the first of several. Thanks!
- **Archbishop's Senior Day** went well and our guys were very cooperative.
- **Archdiocesan Faith Development Day:** Thank you for your cooperation last Monday as the faculties of the ten Catholic north shore schools gathered at OLL. I am grateful to OLL for hosting this event.
- **Basketball:** Hall of Fame Games and Meet the Team went well!
- **Debate Wolves** were in action at Mt. Carmel. Thanks to Hal Fox, John Sheffield, Jack Ballard, Charlie Layman and moderator Mrs. Kim Gardner.
- **Football:** Tough, tough loss in the playoffs ends our season. We are proud of our football Wolves!
- **HR Breakfasts** went well with LARGE (and hungry!) crowds in the cafeteria. BTW, my vocabulary words for this quarter were *riant (adj)* meaning **having a cheerful, smiling, happy disposition or manner;**

*splenetic (adj)* meaning **Bad-tempered, mean spirited, spiteful** ; *mensh (noun)* meaning a decent, upright, mature, and responsible person worthy of imitating.; and *nothingburger (noun)* meaning something or someone that has no inherent value or substance. Last month, nothingburger was officially added to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) – the gold standard for dictionaries! I encouraged the boys to be riant at all times and in all that they do, to never be splenetic, and to be menschs of the five core Lasallian principles and never to anything that would cause them to be labeled as a nothingburger. Naturally, they rolled their eyes, but I had fun!

- **Lacrosse:** In the fall tournament, JVB had 1 win, JVA had 2 wins, and Varsity won all 3 games! Great!
- **Louisiana Scholastic Press Association Conference:** Our journalism, yearbook, and broadcast students returned with the gold: **Best Newspaper in the State for the third consecutive year!** Geaux Paper Wolf!
- **Math Tournament:** A busload of Fighting Math Wolves were up and at 'em early Sat morning, heading to Episcopal Math Tournament – and returning home with lots of awards.
- **Religion Dept:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thu & Fri went well. Thanks, Religion Dept.
- **Student Council Food Drive:** I appreciate all that the SC is doing for this annual event.
- **Teen Court:** 9 future lawyer Wolves headed to BR on Sat for training as Teen Court members – an innovative project in BR where teens act as judge, jury, and lawyers in actual teen court offenses. Wonderful experience!
- **Wrestling:** Congrats to Coach Matt Pinero on his first head coaching varsity win, beating Mandeville 75 to 3. Wow!

**The Paper Wolf:** We have an award winning (named Best in State by the Louisiana Scholastic Press Association!) digital newspaper, but readership is not where it needs to be. Please subscribe if you haven't already done so. Promote it with your sons and give an encouraging word to the staff. Thanks.

**Report Cards and Semester Grades:** We emailed first quarter report cards two weeks ago. Check your spam folder if you did not receive it. If it is not there, let me know and I'll send you another copy. **Remember that the first quarter accounts for 40% of the semester grade, with the second quarter accounting for 40% and the semester exam accounting for 20%. Remember that the only grade that really counts is the SEMESTER grade – that's the one that goes on transcripts and is used to calculate grade point average.**

**Rosary:** a group of students recite one decade of the rosary each morning in the chapel, beginning at 7:40 on M, T, Th, and F and following mass on W. They would love to have your son join them.

#### **Senior Parents:**

- An important email was sent you last week regarding the senior retreat. If you didn't receive it, email retreat coordinator Lee Pierre at [leep@stpauls.com](mailto:leep@stpauls.com)
- The official March through the Arch pictures are in! I do not want to just hand them to the seniors, as many pictures will end up at the bottom of a book bag or the back seat of a car. If you are on campus, stop by the admin building for the picture. Or give your son a note authorizing him to get the picture for you – after you talk to him about treating the pictures with respect! These pictures are FREE, courtesy of Expressions Photography. Thanks, Expressions!

**Social Media:** Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us at



- Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana
- Twitter @SPSWolfpack



***The Spanish Cooking Club (yes, we have one!) is looking for new members! Come enjoy some delicioso cuisine!***

**Study Hall after School:** The "library" is open every afternoon (Mon-Thu) until 4:30. I encourage you to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. The space will be supervised by faculty. We will offer this service as long as there is a demand.

**Sunday Activities:** I remind you of the policy of Archbishop Gregory Aymond that Catholic schools are not to schedule any activity on a Sunday. Recently, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. RaeNell Houston sent out the following clarification on participation of Catholic school students in events hosted or sponsored by an outside agency: *Schools may participate in activities on Sundays that are hosted or sponsored by an outside entity only if certain conditions are met. The participation of students on Sunday may only be voluntary. Never is an event to be mandatory on Sunday. The voluntary status of each event must be formally communicated to students and their families. Under no circumstance may punitive action take place, including any type of sarcasm, shame, or disgrace, as a result of the decision of the family for a student not to participate in a Sunday event. Anytime our school groups participate in a Sunday activity, it is up the moderator of the group to see that the Sunday obligation of Mass is fulfilled.* Naturally, we will comply with this policy of Archbishop Aymond.

**Tutoring:** National Honor Society tutors are available in the Benilde Hall (first floor) during lunch. In addition to tutoring, essay proofreading services also provided. Please encourage your son to take advantage of this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so!**

**Vaping:** I'm sorry I have to mention this, but please speak to your son about the dangers involved in this latest fad. We continue to hear anecdotal reports of vaping by our students and have even taken disciplinary action against several of them who vaped at school events. We will continue to be vigilant and take strong measures against violators. And Covington Police Department has informed us that it is AGAINST THE LAW for minors to purchase vaping equipment. Please make sure your son knows this – and complies with your wishes and the rules of the school.

**So concerned are we about this issue that we have arranged a medical expert to come speak to the students when we return from the Thanksgiving Holidays.**

**Weekly Humor:** in honor of Thanksgiving, here are my annual Thanksgiving jokes:

- *What kind of music did the Pilgrims like? Plymouth Rock*
- *If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims*
- *Why can't you take a turkey to church? They use FOWL language.*
- *Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive? It had 24 carrots.*
- *What happened when the turkey got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him!*
- *What do you get when you cross a turkey with a banjo? A turkey that can pluck itself!*
- *Who doesn't eat on Thanksgiving? A turkey, because it is always stuffed.*



*Juniors chill before school starts.*

- *Why did the Pilgrims sail to America in the spring? Because April showers bring Mayflowers!*
- *What did baby corn say to mama corn? Where's popcorn?*
- *If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their AGE!*
- *Why do pilgrims pants keep falling down? Because their belt buckles are on their hats!*
- *Why did they let the turkey join the band? Because he had the drumsticks*
- *Mother turkey to her disobedient child: "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!"*
- *Why did the police arrest the turkey? They suspected it of fowl play*
- *What's the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner? The turKEY*
- *What did the turkey say before it was roasted? Boy! I'm stuffed!*
- *What happened to the Pilgrim who was shot at by an Indian? He had an arrow escape*
- *Why do turkeys always go, "gobble, gobble"? Because they never learned good table manners!*
- *What sound does a space turkey make? A: Hubble, Hubble, Hubble!*
- *Why did the turkey cross the road? It was the chicken a day off!*
- *What's the best dance to do on Thanksgiving? The turkey trot!*
- *Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? Yes - a building can't jump at all!*
- *What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus? Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving!*
- *How can you make a turkey float? You need 2 scoops of ice cream, some root beer, and a turkey!*
- *Why did the turkey join the band? Because he had drumsticks!*
- *Where did the first corn come from? The stalk brought it!*
- *How did the Mayflower show that it liked America? It hugged the shore!*
- *OK, I'll stop! Happy Thanksgiving!*



**Words of Encouragement Dept:** Nov 12<sup>th</sup> is the three year anniversary of our celebration for receiving the US Dept of Education's Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. One of the highlights of the program that day was a talk given by then senior John Cresson (now a junior at Notre Dame). Last week, I re-read John's talk. His words are still outstanding and worth a reread. Enjoy!

*Today we mark a milestone in our storied 104-year history. Today, we celebrate an award that was not made to us as individuals, but, rather, to us as a community. It is not something we have, like presidential scholar, or a national merit finalist, but something we are. We are a national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. It is something that we can all take pride in, because we all contributed to it, students and faculty alike.*

*This award serves to memorialize our past, celebrate the present, and propel us into the future. This blue ribbon remembers all the hard work of the Christian Brothers and lay teachers of the past who established the foundation of this school, a foundation which all those who have followed have only solidified and built upon. It remembers the thousands of students, now proud alumni, who have walked these beautiful grounds and have helped make St. Paul's what it is today. They set academic precedents, created new clubs and sports, and established the traditions that we now hold dear.*

*This accolade celebrates where we stand today. It celebrates the hard work of Brother Ray and the administrators whose drive and vision have grown and transformed St. Paul's into the exemplary school that we have come to experience. It celebrates the dedication of our current teachers who help us students to grow not only academically, but also, and more importantly, as men of God. I believe that it is due to the hard work and caring attitudes of the teachers that we have reason to celebrate in this assembly center. Lastly, this award celebrates us, the current students of St. Paul's whose different passions and talents and characteristics have created a diverse, intellectual, friendly, encouraging, and brotherly environment. I have no doubt that this environment contributed greatly to us receiving this award.*

*Finally, this award propels us into the future. We do not stop to celebrate, but celebrate as we begin because with this achievement we turn the page and begin to pen a new chapter in St. Paul's history. A chapter in which years from now the halls will be crowded with students, where teachers push their students to work harder, to go further, and to continue to reach for the stars, and where students are state champions in math and football alike. The possibilities are endless, but amidst this change, amidst this progress, the mission of St. Paul's endures.*

*As a student (and faculty member I'm sure) it is truly an exciting time to be at St. Paul's. It is exciting to remember and glorify the past. It is exciting to celebrate and live in the present. And it is exciting to consider the future. It is truly exciting to say with pride and passion that we are a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.*

**Yearbook:** The Conifer staff is hard at work on the 2018-2019 yearbook. Don't let time erase the memories your son is creating today!

- Pre-purchase your 2018-2019 at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com). Yearbooks only available through online purchase.
- Remember to spell out the word Saint when searching for Saint Paul's School.
- Your son's homeroom teacher is his pack teacher. Don't remember? That's ok, we'll find it for you before delivery in August.
- DEADLINE is March 15, 2019.

Senior parents: No need to order a yearbook, ALL seniors will receive a copy of The Conifer in August. However, you can create a personal ad for your senior NOW!

- Go to [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com).
- Search for Saint Paul's School (remember to spell out the word Saint).
- Choose to create a personal ad and get started!
- Deadline is March 15, 2019.
- It's very simple but you can always contact Mimi Monteiro at [m.monteiro@stpauls.com](mailto:m.monteiro@stpauls.com) if you have any questions.

### **A Look Ahead – Far, Far, Ahead:**

- Mon, Nov 12 12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in Cafeteria
- Tue, Nov 13 President's Assembly
- *November 14 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat*
- *November 15 -16 10<sup>th</sup> Grade WWII Museum Trip/Service Day*
- M – F, Nov 19 – 23 Thanksgiving Holidays
- Tue, Nov 27 President's Assembly
- Mon, Dec 03 Late start for faculty meeting
- Tue, Dec 04 Pack Time
- Thu, Dec 06 Snack Day; Luminarias
- Tue, Dec 11 President's Assembly
- Thu, Dec 13 Exam reviews begin
- Fri, Dec 14 Semester Exams begin
  
- Wed, Dec 19 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester; Christmas holidays begin at 11:45 following last exam
- Mon, Jan 07 Classes resume; second semester begins
- W – F, Jan 9-11 Senior Retreat
- Sat, Jan 12 Application Day for Prospective Students (8 – noon); Football Awards Ceremony
- Fri, Jan 25 All School Mass (Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul)
- Wed, Feb 20 On campus ACT for juniors
- Fri, Mar 01 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- M-F, Mar 4 -8 Mardi Gras /Beginning of Lent holidays
- Wed, Mar 13 Mother-Son Dinner
- Mon, Mar 18 St. Joseph Altar Day
- Thu, Mar 21 Celebrity Dinner Event
- Sat, Mar 23 Father-Son Dinner
- Sat, Mar 30 Junior-Senior Prom
- Sat, Apr 13 Alumni Crawfish Cook-Off
- F-F, Apr 19-26 Easter Holidays (not “spring break”)
- W-F, May 1-3 Senior exams
- M-T, May 13-16 Pre-freshman exams
- Fri, May 17 Pre-freshman promotion ceremony (6:30 pm)
- Sat, May 18 Senior graduation ceremony (4 pm)



- M – T, May 20-23 Semester exams for grades 9 – 11
- Fri., May 24 Conflict exam day
- Mon, May 27 Faculty Records Day

And for those of you who really plan ahead, here is the first semester exam schedule:

First Semester Exam Schedule  
December 2018

**Wednesday, December 12** – FGABC (5 period day)

**SPECIAL 5 PERIOD SCHEDULE (No CNN & With SSR)**

(68 min classes; 45 min lunch)

Chimes	8:00
Block 1	8:03-9:14
Block 2/SSR	9:21-10:44
Block 3	10:51-11:59
Lunch	11:59-12:44
Block 4	12:49-1:57
Block 5	2:04-3:15

**Thursday, December 13** – DEFG(A)

Regular classes in periods DEFG - Review for Period A Exam

**SPECIAL EXAM REVIEW SCHEDULE (76 min. classes With CNN&SSR)**

8:00 – 9:31	Period D/CNN
9:38 – 11:09	Period E/SSR
11:09– 11:54	Lunch
11:50 – 1:15	Period F
1:20 – 2:26	Period G (Last class period of semester)
2:31 - 3:15	Period A Exam Review

**Friday, December 14**

**SPECIAL EXAM/MASS/PRESIDENT’S ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE**

8:00 -8:15	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:15 – 9:45	Period A Exam
9:50-10:50	Advent Mass
10:55- 11:40	Period B Review
11:40-12:25	Lunch
12:30-1:05	President’s Assembly (Gym)
1:05-1:15	Break
1:20 – 2:05	Period C Review
2:10	Dismissal

**Monday, December 17**

8:15-8:30	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00	Period B Exam

10:00-10:10 Break  
 10:10-11:40 Period C Exam  
 11:40-12:25 Lunch  
 12:30-1:15 Period D Review  
 1:20-2:05 Period E Review  
 2:10 Dismissal

### **Tuesday, December 18**

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announc.  
 8:30 -10:00 Period D Exam  
 10:00-10:10 Break  
 10:10-11:40 Period E Exam  
 11:40-12:25 Lunch  
 12:30-1:15 Period F Review  
 1:20-2:05 Period G Review  
 2:10 Dismissal

### **Wednesday, December 19**

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announc.  
 8:30 -10:00 Period F Exam  
 10:00-10:10 Break  
 10:10-11:40 Period G Exam  
 11:45 Dismissal  
 12:00 Faculty Party in Cafeteria

Whew! Enough for now! I can't believe we are starting the fourteenth week of the school year – the fifth week of the second quarter!



*Matthew donates to the Food Drive.  
Thanks, Matthew!*

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to any more since WWNO stopped broadcasting the show but I'm still LOLing over past shows on its website!): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family and call on me if I can help! Again, thanks for being part of the 2018 - 19 edition of Saint Paul's School.

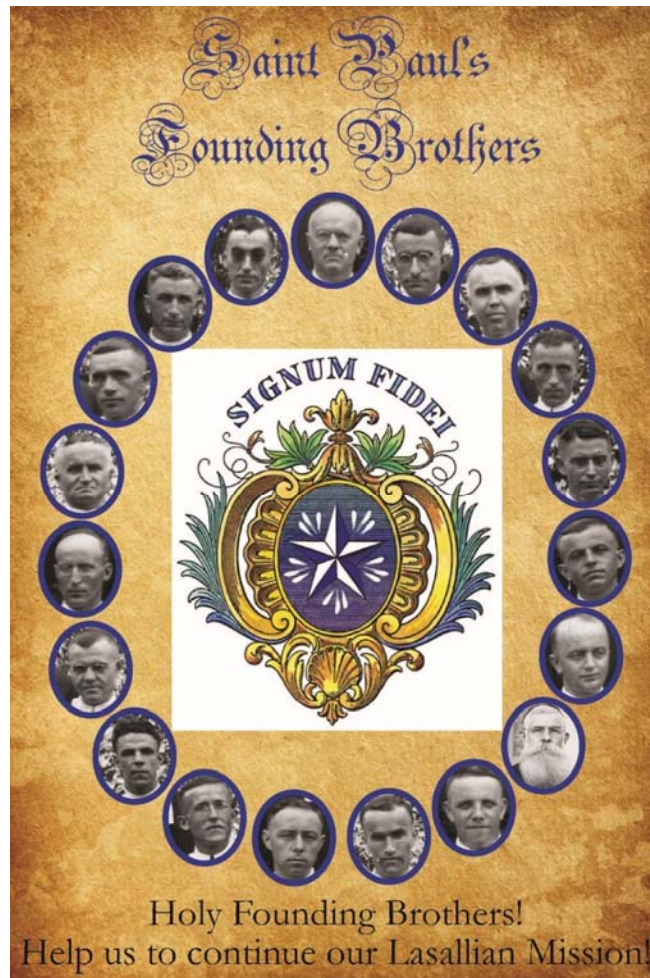
Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Giving Thanks Daily for the Privilege of Being the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School

**“Preach by example; practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”  
 (SJBDLS)**



*...and doing ordinary things extraordinarily well by making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, and continuing our Lasallian Mission!*  
Let's give it our best this week and begin the holidays with no problems – as befits a Blue Ribbon Lasallian Catholic School.



Nov 15 Trivia Question. Here's the opening line of Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens: *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\*







# Breakfast with Santa

**DECEMBER 1, 2018**

## **OUR LADY OF THE LAKE SCHOOL**

**MSGR. JOSEPH CHOTIN CENTER • 10:00 AM - NOON**

**TICKETS: \$55 EACH**

**RESERVE A PREFERRED TABLE FOR 6 GUESTS: \$375 PER TABLE**

**PRICE INCLUDES A PORTRAIT WITH SANTA DIGITAL PHOTO DOWNLOAD BY  
HEIDI BOWERS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Visit with Santa and receive a gift.  
Enjoy the children's activity area and story time with Mrs. Claus!

To purchase tickets,  
visit [ourladyofthelakeschool.org](http://ourladyofthelakeschool.org) or call (985) 626-5678.

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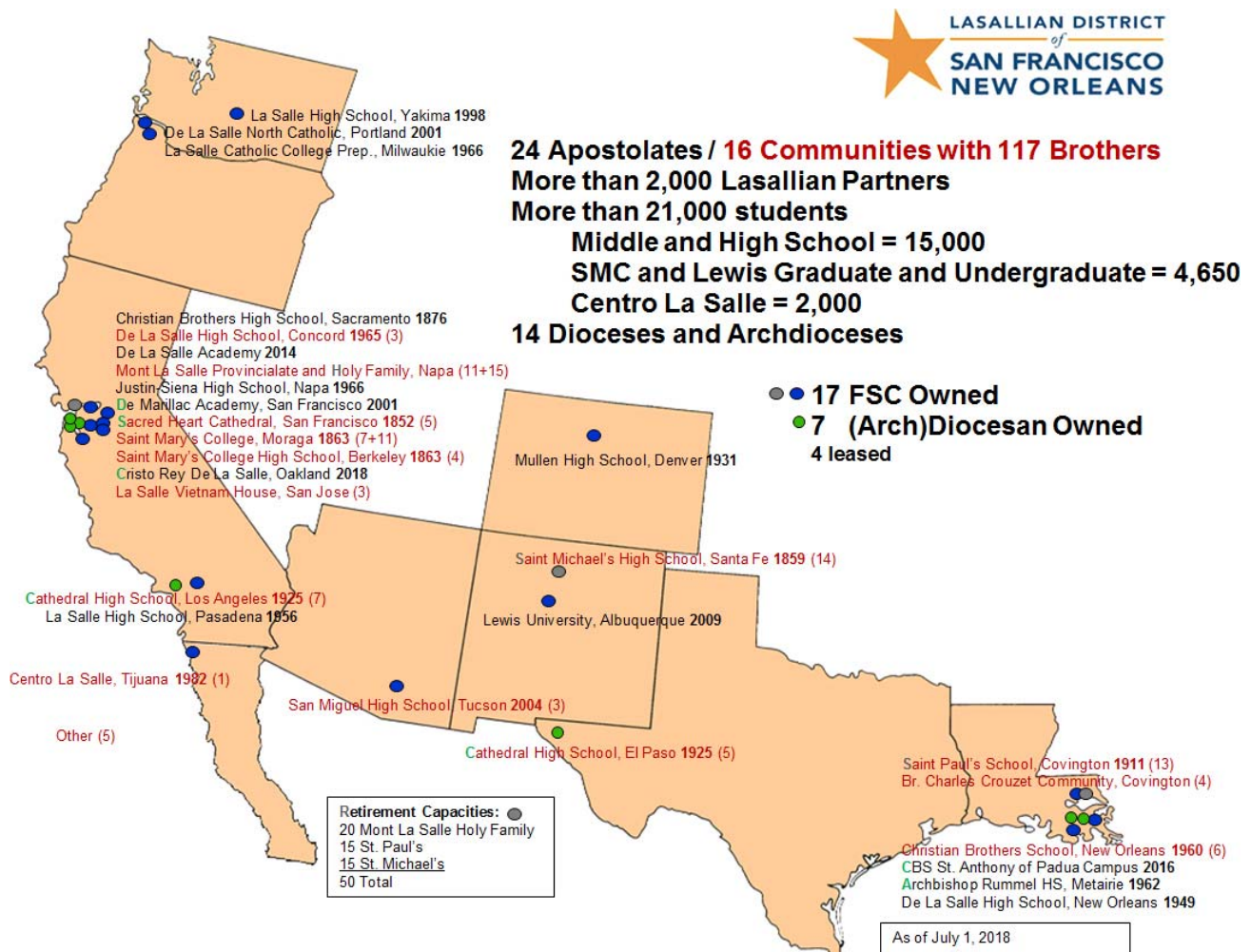
Reserve  
Now!  
**LIMITED  
TICKETS**

**Pediatric**  
**DENTISTRY**  
MICHAEL J. VON GRUBEN, DDS

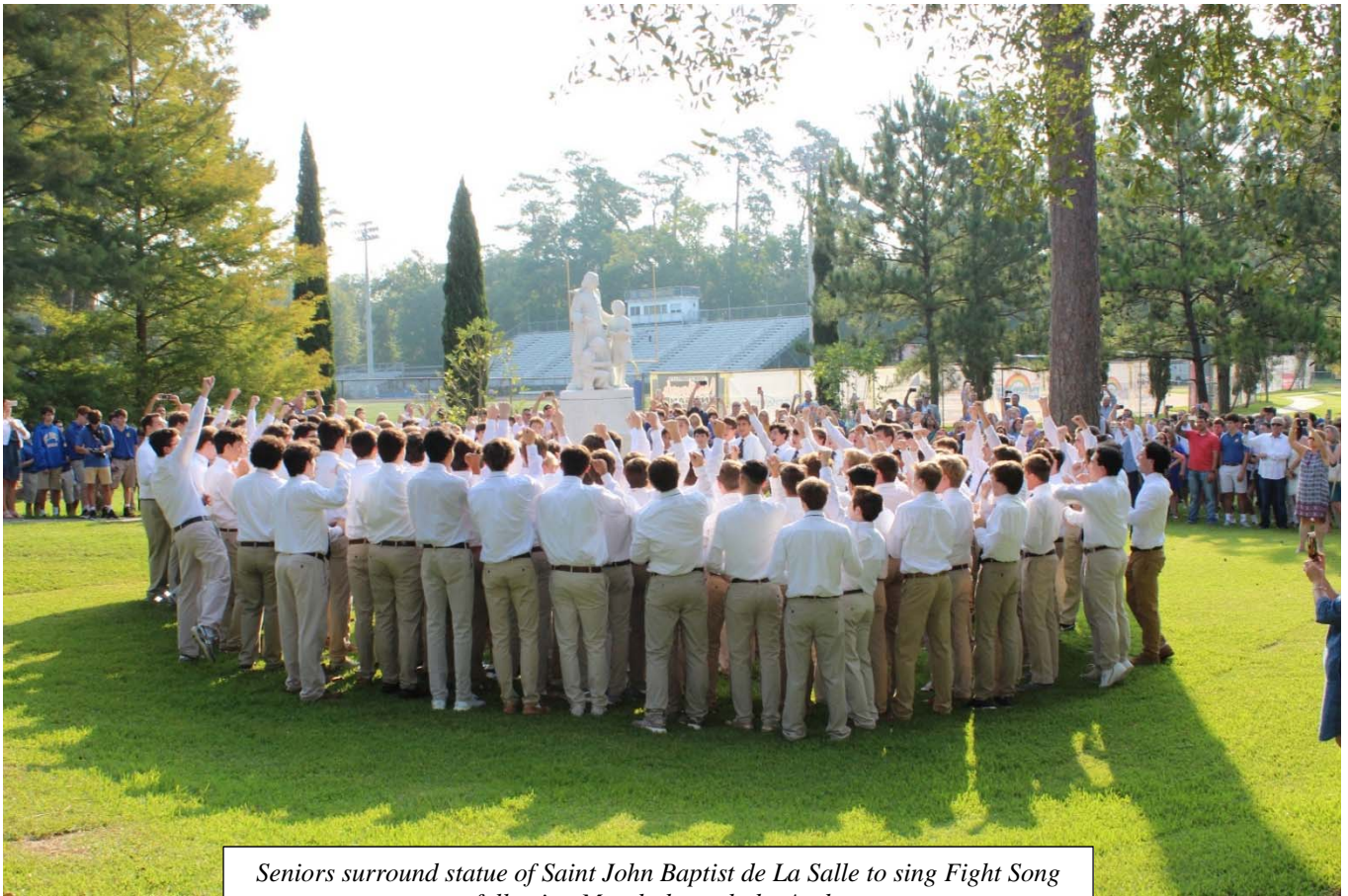
**Dr. Kathryn Oubre, M.D.**  
Board Certified Pediatrician

**Dr. John C. Oubre, M.D.**  
Board Certified Internal Medicine & Pediatrics









*Seniors surround statue of Saint John Baptist de La Salle to sing Fight Song following March through the Arch.*