Koinonia Academy Newsletter

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Headmaster Thomas Appert

Jesus is Lord!

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Upcoming Events

- 2/2 Open House, 9 - 11 am
- 2/5 First Friday Mass, noon dismissal
- 2/8 Mass & Chapel Consecration, 7:30 pm
- 2/15 President's Day, school closed

From the President by Brian Murray

These remarks are excerpted from the graduation ceremony for the KA class of 2010 on January 16th, 2010.

You are the 26th graduating class of Koinonia. If history is any indication you will leave here today with something that is unique to our school, deep friendships. I know of no other school that maintains the kinds of friendships that our graduates treasure. It broadens beyond KA alumni to many others that will join this circle as the year's progress. It is not like a stream that runs itself dry in the desert but rather like a stream that runs to the ocean gathering volume, strength and depth the closer it gets to its goal.

I would like to point out a few observations why this is so.

• Our graduates have a confidence in who they are and an awareness that they are no better than anyone else.

• They quickly forgive one another's faults and offenses.

• They uphold the good and nurture what needs to grow.

• They allow friends to help them to grow.

• They stand by one another in both difficult and happy times.

This is so because of the love of Christ. Jesus says, in Jn. 15: 14

"You are my friends if you do what I command you".

The world you face is also full of wonder, beauty and love. There is evil in the world but love is greater. Christ's victory is real victory and you and I have the privilege of living in that victory and calling others to it.

Let me end with another verse from John 15,

*"It was not <u>you</u> who chose me, but <u>I</u> who chose you and **appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain**, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you love one another".*

God Bless You, Class of 2010!

KA Virtue of the Month: Compassion by Helena Rohal

The virtue for the month of January is *compassion*. The Gospels reveal that Jesus' life is our ultimate example of compassion. He values this virtue so much that He said entrance into the Kingdom is conditioned on our ability to be compassionate to the hungry, the thirsty, the sick and the naked.

In His goodness, God sent a saint to us this past century who lived this virtue and helped others live it too. We all know about Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. During the Virtue Assembly, the children briefly heard about Mother Teresa and another unknown "saint", Bob Hentzen who is presently taking an 8,000 mile hike around Central and South America to let the poor know he loves them and he wants to help them.

Then something both beautiful and inspiring took place in our very own John Paul II Auditorium. The children were asked to share with the audience someone they know who has shown compassion. One by one children came forward and told of a mother who helps a handicapped person, or a brother who has gone to Africa, or a father who is a doctor and volunteers his time each week to help the poor in a nearby city. There were over 15 examples of compassion and we ran out of time to hear more.

Only in a school where parents and relatives are constantly living this virtue could such a response come from their children. It truly was a heart-warming experience. Thank you KA parents!

The proud winners of the first KA National Geographic Bee!

National Geographic Bee by Maureen Debrot

On January 11th, Koinonia Academy held its first school-level National Geographic Bee in an effort to challenge students in their study of geography. Thirty-four students, in grades 4 through 8, participated in the Bee, which lasted 3 hours. The winner of the Bee was Mark Skrzyniarz (8th grade). He is now the KA representative and has submitted a written geography test in an attempt to qualify for the New Jersey State-level Geographic Bee in April.

Other winners were Peter Skrzyniarz (6th grade) who came in 2nd place and Mary Kusik (4th grade) and Andrew Miller (4th grade) who tied for 3rd. A special thanks to John Stein and Kathy Soule for their efforts in preparing their students for the first KA Geographic Bee.

2010 Graduation Dinner and Mass by Patti Kinney

The graduating KA Class of 2010 dazzled at their Senior Awards Dinner.

The weekend of January 15th and 16th was a very busy one for the KA class of 2010. Friday night was the annual Senior Awards Dinner honoring the graduates, this year held at the Berkeley Plaza. The night was filled with joy and anticipation as the seniors were presented awards for excellence in several areas. English, Math, Christian Service, SAT, Bloustein Scholarships, and the new Drama and Spanish awards were given to graduating students who showed excellence in these areas. A Distinguished Teacher Award (also new) was presented to retired teacher Miss Patricia Moran for her years of tireless love and service in the teaching arena.

Speeches by seniors Christiana Molnar and Joseph Buganski exhorted their classmates as well as their guests to remember good times and strive to live a life of faith in the days and years ahead.

The much anticipated yearbook presentation was the last event of the evening. The 2010 class dedicated their yearbook to Mr. Len Forman and made special presentations to Miss Moran, Mrs. Erin Clemente, and Mr. Ed Neri.

The evening came to a close with final prayer and song and exclamations of "wonderful, simply wonderful!"

On Saturday January 16th, the class of 2010 graduated from Koinonia Academy. The graduation Mass was truly inspiring from the music to Fr. George Farrell's homily. After the Mass and two beautiful songs sung by the choir, the students were ready to receive their diplomas. After they were officially graduated, the graduates, along with family and friends, listened as Marguerite Masterson gave an awesome speech on leadership. This was a timely topic to speak to the class about - what good leadership is - and she encouraged her fellow students to attain it.

The ceremony soon came to an end and the 2010 graduates gladly took their place as the 26th class to graduate from Koinonia Academy.

It was truly a blessed and joy-filled weekend!

God's Gifts of Song by Theresa & Emma Allen

The second grade reminds us of the beauty and joy of Christ's Birth.

On December 18th at 7:30 pm, the Kindergarten-6th grade classes of Koinonia Academy performed "Advent Lessons and Carols" directed by Mrs. Betsy Fierro and Miss Mary Peregrin. The night consisted of the second grade performing scenes from the Christmas Story with narrations by students from each grade. In between scenes, each grade sang an enjoyable Advent or Christmas song. The evening ended with all the students in the K-6th grades enthusiastically singing "People Look East". Thank You to all who made the performance possible.

On the night of January 7th, people traveled to St. James Church in Basking Ridge to hear the KA High School Choir sing in their annual Christmas Concert. The choir began with an explosive piece "Sing We Now of Christmas", and as the evening progressed, it was filled with touching pieces, exciting songs and notable introductions. All the graduating seniors received Bel Canto Awards which honored their participation in the choir. The concert closed with a resounding "Hallelujah Chorus" sung by the combined alumni and choir.

Chapel to Be Consecrated on Feb 8th by Dr. Joe Clemente

To consecrate is, according to Webster's Dictionary, "to solemnly dedicate or set apart for a high purpose". On Monday, February 8th, a Mass and Consecration of the beautiful new Eucharistic Chapel will take place at Koinonia Academy. The celebrant will be Newark Auxiliary Bishop Manual Cruz. The Mass is set for the KA gymnasium - site of an earlier visit from another Prelate of the Catholic Church.

The New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia traces the origins of the solemn rite of dedicating places of worship in the Church to the early third century. Only Bishops or priests delegated to the task by the Holy See are permitted to perform this. If a cathedral is to be consecrated the Bishop is strongly encouraged to fast the day before the ceremony (see Congr Sacr Rit, 29 July, 1780).

I had the privilege of meeting Bishop Cruz in 2007 when he was the Chaplain of St Michael's Hospital in Newark. When I contacted him today, he shared his excitement about the upcoming celebration.

*"**To consecrate** is, according to Webster's Dictionary, **"to solemnly dedicate or set apart for a high purpose"**.*

Cub Scout Physical Fitness Olympics by Henry Hom

Just as athletes from around the world will meet in Vancouver, Canada in February for the 2010 Winter Olympics, Cub Scouts from Pack 3 participated in their own Olympics on January 9, 2010, at KA. The gymnasium and John Paul II Auditorium buildings were converted into one giant stadium for Scouts to compete in various events, such as the quarter mile run, relay race, long jump contest, and power pull-ups. The boys were organized by den and made the rounds through each contest.

Young athletes were encouraged to apply the Cub Scout motto: "Do your best!" A team of dedicated dads judged each event and recorded the individual results of the participants.

The adventure of Scouting will continue when boys and their families return to KA on February 20th at 8:00AM for the highlight of the Cub Scout year, the annual "Blue and Gold" Breakfast, where Scouts perform skits and receive their rank advancement and other awards. **All are invited**!

Cub Scout Pack 3 held its own Physical Fitness Olympics on Jan 9th!

Alumni Corner: The Franciscan University of Steubenville by Maura Conant

Over 375 miles west of Koinonia Academy, overlooking the Ohio River Valley, lays the Franciscan University of Steubenville (FUS). After graduating from KA in '05, I received an Associate's degree from County College of Morris and transferred to FUS. I am scheduled to graduate with a History degree in May.

My experience at FUS has been a deepening of my faith and a continuation of my journey towards holiness. FUS has taught me that holiness is not achieved by following a set of pious, prescribed rules, but instead holiness is "man fully alive." FUS creates an environment for its students to become who they are created to be; physically, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually - all while keeping in mind that we are being created in the image and likeness of God. FUS strives for this integration of the person by having Christ at the center of everything on campus.

FUS offers 40 under-grad degrees and 7 MA degrees, NCAA III sports, intramurals, the Sacraments: 3 daily masses, confessions, spiritual direction, and households which could be described as Christian sororities and fraternities. They provide Latin, Byzantine, and Spanish Masses and for the charismatic in the crowd, most of the other masses are charismatic. FUS is a tremendous place for young people to develop their relationship with Christ and to discover their unique gifts, talents, and who they are created to be.

KA grads who have attended FUS are: Michelle (Campbell) Bonneson KA '86; Mary Joyce (Campbell) Crofford KA '98, FUS '02; Jim Campbell, KA '00, FUS '04; Angela Coppa KA '01, FUS '05; Maria Doman KA '01, FUS '05; Joey Doman KA '03, FUS '07; Annie Clemente KA '07, FUS '10; Ann Conant KA '08, FUS '12; Sarah Clemente KA '09, FUS '13.

Save the Date: 2nd Annual KA Alumni Picnic on June 12, 2010.

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

This continues a series of articles about KA alumni and their various pursuits after high school

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Pat Moran Distinguished Teacher Award by Bob Filoramo

At the recent dinner honoring the graduating class of 2010, the first ever Distinguished Teacher Award was presented to Miss Patricia Moran. Miss Moran is one of those extraordinary teachers who understand that teaching is a vocation and who embraces that vocation with deep commitment and exceptional love for students. Pat Moran went even further and saw her vocation as a mission to teach children about God's love for them and their dignity as sons and daughters of God.

She succeeded in this by modeling Christ-like behavior for the children and her colleagues. One key aspect of that Christ-like behavior is the willingness to give without reservation, giving even when there seems to be nothing left to give. While Pat is now retired, the impact she has had on so many young lives will go on. Congratulations, Pat Moran!

KA Sports: The Pink Crusaders by Maureen Debrot

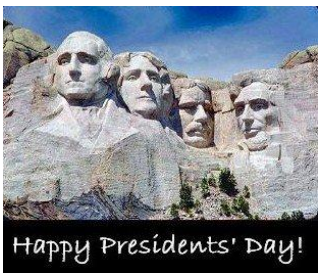
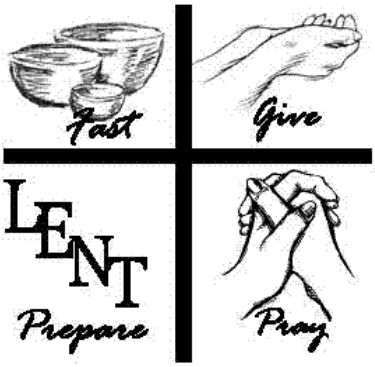
With winning scores like 8 to 2, 9 to 1 and 18 to 0, the Pink Crusaders are hard to beat. They are a group of Koinonia middle school girls who teamed up to play in an indoor hockey league.

This team's success is fairly typical for KA, and is the result of the school's sports program which actually begins with gym class, called Christian Character Workshop. During the school day, 7th through 12th grade students spend many weeks developing the skills to play a particular sport, including football, basketball, volleyball and field hockey. This intense focus on a limited number of sports is unlike most schools where gym is just an opportunity to dabble in various physical activities.

Moreover, our gym teachers, Pat Weyand and Bob Filoramo, are equipped to teach not only the skills of the game, but to use sports for Christian character formation. This is in concert with Pope Benedict's reference to sports as a "school of formation in human and spiritual values."

KA is currently focused on building its participation in sports leagues which now includes high school level cross country, basketball and field hockey. The support of KA parents is needed to further expand our sports program.

February 2010 Events



Tuesday, February 2nd – Open House, 9 – 11 am
Friday, February 5th – First Friday Mass, Noon dismissal (Mass, periods 2,4,6) - Faculty meeting
February 5th & 6th – Guarding Your Heart Girl's Retreat, grades 6-8
Monday, February 8th – Mass and Chapel Consecration, 7:30 pm
Monday, February 15th – Presidents' Day—school closed
Tuesday, February 16th – Buehler Science Center class trip (grades 5 and 6)
Wednesday, February 17th – Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
Friday, February 19th – Progress reports due
Saturday, February 20th – Cub Scout's Blue and Gold Breakfast, 8 am