

Our Lady of Sorrows Academy

THE CAVALIER

April 2023 Volume 1, Issue 7



Cavaliers

*Sinite Parvulos Venire Ad Me
(Let the children come to me)*

Spring in Full Swing

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

March madness has ended, and I am not referring to basketball. Lenten penances, first communion testing, a field trip to the zoo, St. Thomas Aquinas field day, the St. Joseph silent auction, and Fr. Beck's visit to the school - all of these events kept us busy this month.

I would like to highlight here the visit of the superintendent of schools, Fr. Gerard Beck. Father is stationed in Platte City at the District House, and is in charge of all the SSPX schools in the USA. He works continuously to oversee curriculum development, teacher resources and training and anything to do with education. He even keeps an eye on the principals!

Periodically he travels to each of our 22 school to visit them and get to know each one, as each has its individual character. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet him and get real time feedback from classroom observations, and to benefit from his advice. He keeps the big picture in mind, while directing all toward this unified goal of education which always remains the same - the formation of true virtue and intelligence in children so that they might reach their eternal end.

Wishing you a most blessed Holy Week and Easter. Thank you for your support of the auction as well!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Pedersen".

Fr. Christopher Pedersen, Principal



ABOUT OLSA

The Spring Auction

On March 19th, 2023, in honor of the feast of St. Joseph, we held our 17th annual spring silent auction fundraiser. There were exciting bidding wars on auction items, delicious food was served, like our famous egg rolls and breakfast burritos, awesome door and raffle prizes were announced every hour, and there was never ending fun for the kids in the bounce houses. The silent auction raised **\$27,000** for Our Lady of Sorrows Academy! The success of the fundraiser will help provide outdoor lighting for the area around the the Performing Art Center and so much more. Thank you to all that donated, volunteered, and attended our annual silent auction. A special thank you to Mrs. Rena Violette, Mrs. Emily Torzala and Mrs. Monique Taleck for their outstanding efforts on making this day possible.



St. Thomas Aquinas Field Day



On March 7th, 2023, in celebration of St. Thomas Aquinas' feast day, the students enjoyed a fun day filled with field games, trivia and an early dismissal from school. It has been a long tradition at the school to have a day of fun on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas because it is a second class feast day and he is the patron saint of schools. After a Sung Mass in the morning, the Lower Academy students played exciting field games, such as tossing water balloons and competing in obstacle courses. The Upper Academy students engaged their minds in trivia games with their classmates. At dismissal, the students were treated to yummy popsicles. A big thank you to our teachers that organized all the field games and trivia questions, the students were so grateful for your hard work.





OLSA INTERVIEW

with Fr. Roman Pons - Upper Academy Boys & Girls

Q: Describe your journey to Phoenix, AZ. A: I was born in Paris, France. Since my father was in the military, my family moved a lot in France, almost every 3 years. When I was 18 years old, I entered the seminary in France for the year of spirituality and I continued the ecclesiastical studies in philosophy and theology in Ecône, Switzerland. In 2007, at the end of my seminary, I was sent as a deacon to a school of the Society in Quebec. After my ordination in June of 2008, I stayed 3 more years at that school, then I was assigned to the District House of Canada near Montreal for 3 years, and finally I came back to the school. After 5 years there, Father Wegner assigned me to go to Phoenix.

Q: What is your favorite dinner entree and dessert? A: Difficult question! I enjoy French food, like duck leg confit and chocolate mousse. But I also appreciate a lot a good steak and sushi.

Q: You're the school's choir director, how do you prepare for that role? A: For the English songs, I ask Fr. Pedersen to help me choose. For the Gregorian chant, I don't do anything special for it, because I usually already know the pieces. For the polyphonic pieces I try to listen to them a few times before if I don't know them. I always lived with classical music in my life: my parents love it, my brothers and sisters mostly love it. Sunday night was a privileged time for my family to stay in the living room reading and listening to a CD chosen by my father. We were also able to assist in some concerts. Music is one of the best expressions of life and beauty, which could be easily turned toward God.

Q: Do you have any plans for your Easter Break? A: Rest and read!! Also, there will be a family from Quebec who will be visiting Phoenix during the week, so I will do some activities with them.

Field Trip Fun

On March 20th, the first and second grade students took a special field trip to the Phoenix Zoo! They enjoyed seeing the animals, some for the first time, and spending an educational day in nature. They spent all day playing "I Spy" looking for the animals. They had a most riveting time and learned why flamingos are pink!



Student Composition

City of the Night

Written by Angela Pham, 7th Grade

Prompt: Miss Dowd asked her students to write a commentary on a 1939 American novel *The Web and the Rock* by Thomas Wolfe.

This is an introduction of a passage from *The Web and the Rock* City of the Night. "The city has never seemed so beautiful as it looked that night" is the description that the writer Thomas Wolfe gives to the readers. A city, well, any city really, will always have tall towers, brilliant buildings, many people and by nightfall all the lights of the city let out their brightness, so bright that one will feel enshrouded in brightness. Thomas Wolfe continues to say, "the textures of the night itself, seemed to have the architecture and the weather of the city's special quality." The city with its many towers, lights, streets, and chaos is not the only thing that would amaze one's eyes and mind but as for the man-made things, there is also another wondrous thing that seems to the common folk ordinary, but to the men who observe it better, it seems celestial wonder.

The skies, clouds, and stars of the city are all a simple scene too many, but complex at the same time. The sky during the day is bright and cheery, always in its finest robe of blue and, shining, the radiant sun beams to the city. The night appears to be gloomy and dull but "the city's special quality" is echoed by night especially. When the lights of the city turn on at night, the bright lights, common during the daytime, shine more brightly at night, because the darkness of the night almost highlights the brightness of the city, making the city look more attractive and welcoming.

As the passage continues it says, "a touch of April... even in the midst of clear and bitter cold." "A touch of April" probably is felt also in the night despite the cold weather. April is a month of birth, new life and bloom, and in the city there might not be as much growth or bloom but the city has a sky over its head that may seem the same all year round, but is actually not. In the winter the sky is a dark grey-blue from clouds and snow. In the fall and summer the sky is partly cloudy and blue but in the spring, that is, April, the sky is usually crystal clear with twinkling stars that seem to spring out of the sky as a sign that spring gave a little touch of life to them.

In conclusion, Thomas Wolfe ends with him feeling "overwhelmed" by the city's loveliness. The city is in and of itself a place full of discovery, chaos, fun, and beauty. It is overwhelming to have all of the qualities combined all in one bundle. Really, the city is a lovely place to be.



A picture of the Upper Academy girls rehearsing their play after school. The Upper Academy girls will perform their play, *An Ideal Husband*, on **May 12th and 13th!** This is a comedic play written by Oscar Wilde in 1895. In the play, a successful politician whose past mistakes are threatened to be exposed by a blackmail scheme, must face the consequences that follow as he struggles to uphold his reputation and maintain his marriage. The Upper Academy girls have been working hard at rehearsal and their director, Miss Bridget Dowd, is doing a fantastic job helping the girls bring their characters to life.



Our Upper Academy boys baseball team is currently **undefeated with a record of 8-0.** You and your family will have fun cheering on the Cavaliers at one of their baseball games (*and they've got a great concessions stand at their home games*). May their team captain, Joseph Young (*Senior*), continue to lead the Cavaliers to victory this season. Go Cavaliers!

OLSA APRIL SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS



April 6th - 17th:
Easter Break

Cavaliers Baseball Game Schedule

- April 17th: Away Game @ 2:30pm
- April 18th: Home Game @ 6:30pm
- April 21st: Home Game @ 6:30pm
- April 24th: Home Game @ 6:30pm
- April 26th: Away Game @ 4:00pm
- April 27th: Away Game @ 4:30pm

OLSA STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Miss Caroline Thomet



SPECIAL FEAST DAYS

April 6th:
Maundy Thursday

April 7th:
Good Friday

April 9th:
Easter Sunday

April 23rd:
St. George - Patron of Knights + Scouts

April 25th:
St. Mark the Evangelist

April 26th:
Solemnity of St. Joseph



