

VERITAS

Bulletin of OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM ACADEMY

Fall/Winter 2008

Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada

Vol. 9, No. 1



Maestro Liefländer Named Music Professor

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Uwe Liefländer to the faculty of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom," the Academy's president, Dr. David B. Warner, announced this fall to incoming and returning students.

Maestro Liefländer, the founder of Canada's Sacred Music Society in Ottawa, became affiliated with the Academy in January of 2008. In July he enthusiastically joined the teaching



faculty. He will direct the Academy choir, in December, in a performance of choral favourites, including some movements of Handel's *Messiah*.

Liefländer is currently teaching Introduction to Ecclesial Music, Music Theory,

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Opening Mass Heralds Academy's Ninth Year



Bishop Mulhall celebrates Opening Mass

Diocesan Bishop Michael Mulhall, of Pembroke, inaugurated OLSWA's ninth academic year with an Opening Mass in St Hedwig Church, adjacent to the Academy's Barry's Bay campus.

Included in the Opening Mass were the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity to the Church's teaching authority, or Magisterium, taken by the faculty. Mass was followed by a special celebration dinner and address by Academy president, Dr. David Warner.

Directing his homily to the staff and students, Bishop Mulhall spoke about the sense of hope that a new school year brings. He referred to the sight of fresh faces and the embarking upon new studies as part of a continuing rhythm of life. He referred to the "exhilaration of the first days" when we have a "goal before us appealing to something noble within us."

Especially within the context of faith, Bishop Mulhall said, the studies teach students what is important in life. Referring to the holy temple of the Old Testament, he said, "It's not the gold that's important. It's the sacredness of the place that makes the gold important."

The bishop explained that the studies are

...Article continues on page 4

Students to Perform Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Details on page 5.



“Heart Speaketh unto Heart”

Christianity, the Element and Principle of all True Education

As I explained in the last issue of *Veritas*, “*Cor ad Cor Loquitur*” translates from the Latin as: “Heart to heart speaks,” and is taken from Cardinal J. H. Newman’s motto. Allow me to share a few *cor ad cor* thoughts from Newman and me on the centrality of Christianity to all true education.

Perhaps the single most important educational work written by Newman during his Anglican years was a series of seven letters published in 1841 by *The Times* (a London newspaper), in answer to Sir Robert Peel’s inaugural lecture for the new public library in Tamworth, England.✘ Newman argued that Peel was claiming too much for the benefits of secular knowledge in the increasingly pluralistic society of nineteenth century England. He paraphrased *Peel’s position* thus: “*Useful Knowledge is the great instrument of education. It is the parent of virtue, the nurse of religion; it exalts man to his highest perfection, and is the sufficient scope of his most earnest exertion*” (255).

Newman’s answer to these exalted claims for secular education or “Useful Knowledge” is that religion alone can transform the human heart in the areas that Peel and other secular educators — then and now — desire. The letters are even more explicitly Christian in their argumentation than one finds in his more philosophically conceived *Idea of a University*. For this reason, they are most important for clarifying Newman’s distinctively theological ideas on education.

Newman forcefully denies that “scientific pursuits,” as central as they are to a liberal education, can be “the instrument of an ethical training” (304). In his final letter, he both summarizes his arguments, and unknowingly anticipates several themes that would be more fully developed in his educational projects as a Catholic. His faith and experience lead him to believe that

knowledge does but occupy, does not form the mind; that apprehension of the unseen is the only known principle capable of subduing moral evil, educating the multitude, and organizing society; and that, whereas man is born for action, action flows not from inferences, but from

✘ Originally published as “The Tamworth Reading Room,” and collected in *Discussions and Arguments on Various Occasions* (Longmans, 1872).

impressions,—not from reasonings, but from Faith” (304).

Even more pointed is the following text, which has long served as a signpost for my own work in Catholic education:

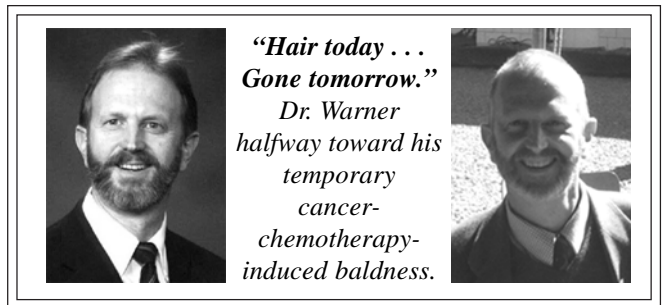
“*Christianity, and nothing short of it, must be made the element and principle of all education. Where it has been laid as the first stone, and acknowledged as the governing spirit, it will take up into itself, assimilate, and give a character to literature and science. Where Revealed Truth has given the aim and direction to Knowledge, Knowledge of all kinds will minister to Revealed Truth*” (274).

The Center for the Study of Catholic Higher Education

In the pursuit of our common goal to make Christianity the “element and principle of all education,” I would like to draw your attention to **The Center for the Study of Catholic Higher Education**, a new division of the same Cardinal Newman Society which named our Academy as one of the twenty-one colleges (and the only one in Canada) recommended for its strong Catholic identity and mission.

To quote from the Center’s home page: “The Center’s mission is to study Catholic colleges and universities in accordance with the guidelines of *Ex corde Ecclesiae* and in a manner faithful to the Holy Father and Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

“The Center publishes the quarterly *Bulletin of Catholic Higher Education*, produces the biennial *Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College* and works with leading Catholic educators and other leaders to conduct research and publish reports on the most pressing Catholic higher education issues.” **Check out their website at: www.CatholicHigherEd.org.**



Thank you for your continued prayers for my battle with Multiple Myeloma cancer, and for the intentions of the Academy. Have a blessed Advent and Christmastide!

Sincerely yours, *cor ad cor*,

David B. Warner

David B. Warner, Ph.D.

President

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy

Academy Notes

Millette & O'Brien Join Staff

Mr. Daniel Millette and **Miss Elizabeth O'Brien**, both graduates of OLSWA's three-year program, have returned to work at the Academy after completing their B.A. degrees at Redeemer University College, in Ancaster, Ontario. Mr. Millette is the Registrar, and Miss O'Brien is the Faculty Secretary and also runs the Academy's writing centre.

Two Sisters Enrich Student Body

At the Orientation dinner, Dr. Warner thanked God for the presence of two **Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate**, who have joined the Academy as full-time students this semester. The two first-year students are **Sister Mary Catherine** and **Sister Mary Augustine**.

A New Face in the Kitchen

During Orientation Week, Dr. Warner welcomed new lunch cook, **Mrs. Sandra Etmanskie**. He thanked various staff members for their faithful service, including **Mrs. Anne Chabot**, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service as an Academy cook.

Two New Babies

Prof. Colin Kerr's wife Anne Marie gave birth to their fourth child, Stephen Raphael Samuel, on July 28. Jane Victoria, a third daughter to Dr. Ryan and Laura Freeburn, was born on November 4.

Faculty & Administrative Job Postings

The Academy is currently seeking a qualified applicant to fill the position of **Academic Dean**. Prof. Scott Nicholson, who announced his "retirement" from academic administration last spring, has been replaced by Dr. Christine Schintgen as Interim Academic Dean. She hopes to be replaced by July 1, 2009.

Another key position, that of **Director of Development**, is open and can be filled without delay by the successful applicant.

Searches are underway for both positions. Visit OLSWA's web site for job descriptions and the latest information regarding both searches.

Requiescant In Pace

On All Souls' Day, the Academy faculty, staff, and students remembered with deep affection the passing of former classmates and friends, **Janine Lieu** and **Paul Sanders**. Janine and Paul died tragically in an automobile accident last February during a break in classes. Both students were active in the Pro-Life Movement on campus.

Also remembered was the father of Prof. Colin Kerr, Stephen Kerr from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, who passed away on September 27.

New Dean of Students, and English Literature Professor

New and returning students met several new faculty and staff this academic year. Two of the more prominent faces were those of Maja Polic, the new Dean of Students, from Mississauga, Ontario, and Kevin Ashenbach, M.A., the Academy's new Literature professor from Brunswick, Ohio.



Raised in a family of artists and musicians, Miss Polic has pursued the fine arts from a young age. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from York University, specializing in sculpture and painting. Miss Polic served as a pastoral assistant for the Companions of the Cross at York University for five years, where she "loved being a reliable Christian presence on campus for students."

Later she taught high school theology for two years. During this time, she "felt blessed to be an instrument of witness and to see the transformation and growth that came about in the lives of young people." She "first sensed God's call to come to Barry's Bay during a visit to St. Hedwig's Parish," when she said she was "struck by the vibrant fruitfulness of the local families, the Academy, and the entire Catholic community."

As Dean of Students, Miss Polic's aim is "to be a stabilizing and constant presence for the students." At the Academy, she "can contribute in a personal

and creative way to an apostolic work by planning, networking, and addressing people's needs."

Kevin Ashenbach is from Ohio, where he earned his B.A. He later received a Master's in English Literature at Kent State University. His field of interest is Shakespeare and Catholicism, and his studies have explored in depth the possibility of the Shakespearean play *Twelfth Night* as a satire of the Reformation.



Mr. Ashenbach recently heard about the Academy through an article written by a former professor, and he "was drawn to the school because it is a faithful Catholic college where one can teach without having to make faith compromises."

Mr. Ashenbach says his conversion from the St. Pius X Society came about "through discussion with solidly-educated Catholics and by reading the works of Cardinal Ratzinger. Thus, I was drawn to teach at the Academy because I would be able to participate in educating Catholics who can go out into the world and reclaim it for Christ by means of a solid, Catholic, intellectual formation."

At present Mr. Ashenbach is teaching Freshman Writing, Introduction to Classical Literature, and Shakespeare, and he will also offer Dante in the Spring 2009 Semester.

Ninth Year (continued)

important because of their eternal significance as they help people live a more fully human life. In this way, he said, the liberal arts education becomes a tool to realize what's important and what's not important in life. "It's a gift that never goes away."

Directly after the homily, sixteen faculty and adjunct faculty members of the Academy teaching staff knelt before the bishop at the front of St. Hedwig Church. They made a Profession of Faith and swore an Oath of Fidelity, pledging to faithfully uphold and promote the teachings of

the Catholic Church through their example and work as professors.

During the celebratory dinner that followed, Dr. David Warner addressed the students with words of hope and encouragement for the upcoming year. He said it will be a "year of new beginnings," insisting the Academy will push students towards greater academic excellence.

Dr. Warner also emphasized that these efforts must be kept within the wider, more important context of Christian perfection. He explained how their studies provide a further and more profound understanding of how to properly live their lives and reach the ultimate goal of Heaven.

S.O.L.I. Sisters Join Incoming Class

Sisters Mary Catherine and Mary Augustine, both temporarily professed with the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate, have joined 30 other new first-year students at OLSWA this fall. Since its beginning, the SOLI sisters have been great friends of the Academy, valuing highly the education and formation that OLSWA provides.

This year the SOLIs had the opportunity to send two of their sisters to OLSWA to study the Catholic faith with the long-term plan of earning their teaching credentials. These two are loving it! Sister Mary Au-

gustine, older sibling of former Dean of Stu-

dents, Angela Hardy, says that she is very happy here, and for her "it is a real blessing...to participate in the building up of Catholic education in Canada."

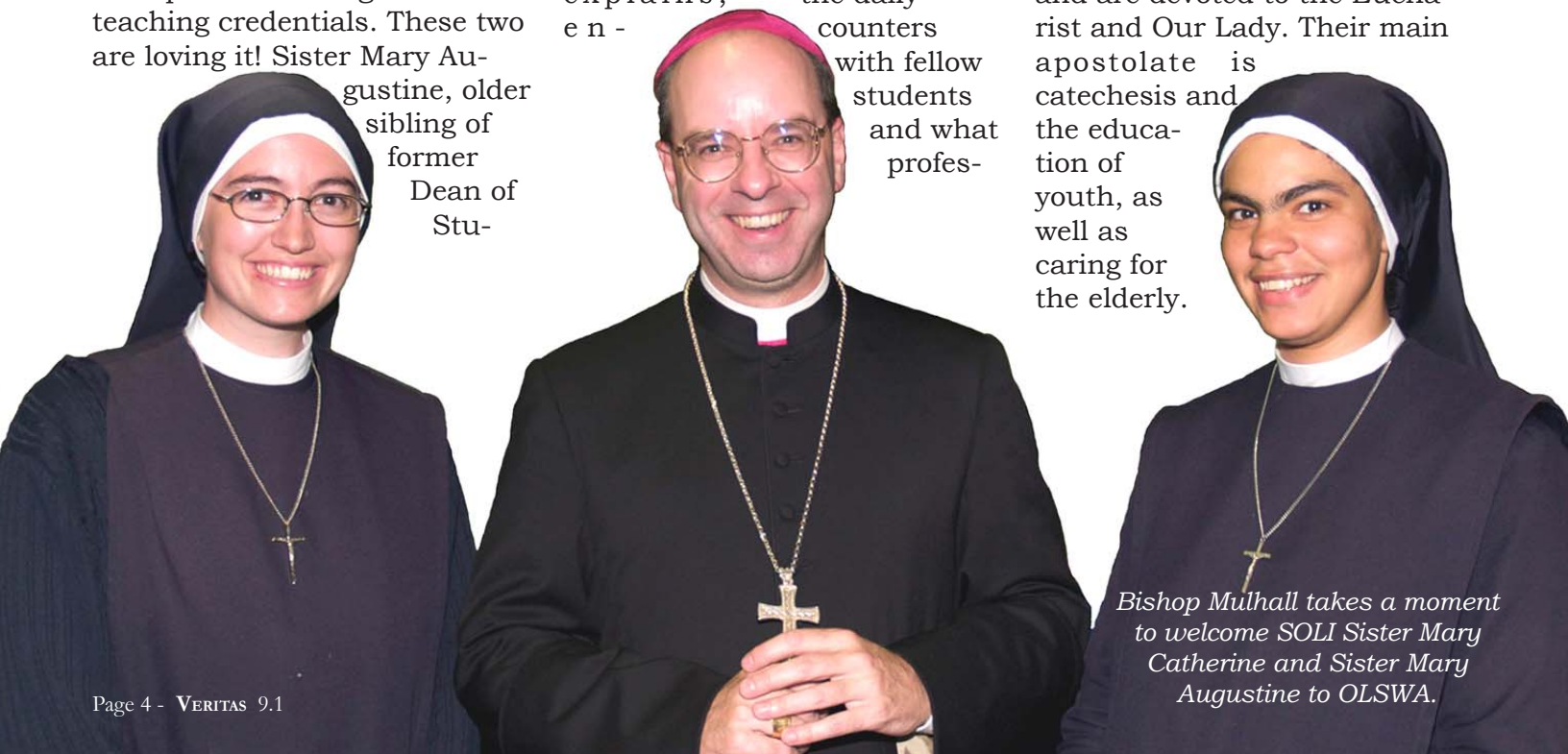
Likewise, Sister Mary Catherine sees the mission of OLSWA as part of the new springtime of the Church in Canada. She regards it as a "real privilege" to study at OLSWA, and finds it freeing to be able to learn the truth from people who are striving to live what they teach.

As Sister Mary Catherine explains, the daily encounters with fellow students and what profes-

sors teach "inspires a deeper love of God" in her.

OLSWA is honoured by the Sisters' presence here and feels blessed by their public witness of consecrated life at the school and within the community of Barry's Bay.

Founded in 1977, the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate are a mixed active and contemplative religious community with their motherhouse located in Cambridge, Ontario (www.solisisters.ca). They are fully faithful to the Magisterium and are devoted to the Eucharist and Our Lady. Their main apostolate is catechesis and the education of youth, as well as caring for the elderly.



Bishop Mulhall takes a moment to welcome SOLI Sister Mary Catherine and Sister Mary Augustine to OLSWA.

Spiritual Life Committee Sponsors Day of Recollection

Early in the fall semester, students, faculty, staff, and Board members of OLSWA met for a Day of Recollection, coordinated by the Academy's Spiritual Life Committee.

The Day of Recollection was held on a beautiful sunny day at a Polish Scouts camp near Barry's Bay. The day featured talks by Dr. Warner, Academy Chaplain Fr. Paul Burchat, and

Deacon Bob Probert.

The day began with Mass, followed by several hours of adoration and silence, talks, shared meals, and a bonfire. According to one participant, students appreciated the time set aside from busy schedules at the beginning of a new semester to be silent, reflect, and pray, and to be renewed in the Spirit.



Students build bonfire for Day of Recollection (Sept. 10)

A Joyful Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Shrine in Wilno

On October 19th, the Academy community made their annual pilgrimage from Barry's Bay to the shrine of St. Mary's in Wilno.

Enjoying the glowing autumn colours, the pilgrims sang hymns and prayed the rosary during the three-hour walk along a former railway track that winds between the two villages. After a final steep climb, the students, faculty, and staff were able to enjoy a

sweeping view of the surrounding farms and lakes before concluding with prayer before an image of the Divine Mercy.



Pilgrims from the Academy arrive at St. Mary's Shrine

Afterwards, the hungry walkers feasted at Professor Christopher and Wendy Zakrzewski's home on steaming Polish stew, fresh bread, mashed potatoes, and homemade pie. Later that evening, the faithful gathered around a bonfire, where people savoured spiced cider and enjoyed one another's company.



Open-House activities on Academy lawn

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy's Don Bosco Drama Club presents...

Shakespeare's The Tempest.

February 13th and 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Madawaska Valley District High School in Barry's Bay, Ontario. February 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Festival Hall in Pembroke, Ontario.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door and can be reserved by calling 613.756.3082 or through Lorraine's Pharmasave in Barry's Bay. Pembroke tickets are available through the Festival Hall box office at 613.735.2613. Discount price for children 16 and under and OLSWA students is \$8.00 in advance; \$10.00 at the door.



First-year students enjoy pizza at Orientation

Buildings Added During Summer Break

Students returned this semester to a greatly expanded campus environment. Among the biggest improvements is the addition of the former County Health Unit building in Barry's Bay, which, on June 30, 2008, became the property of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy.

The 5,000-square-foot building now houses much-needed lecture space, the computer lab, the library, the campus bookstore, and some administrative offices. The new building, renamed St. Mary Hall, is the centre for the rapidly expanding music program, headed by Maestro Uwe Liefländer.

Many residents of Barry's Bay will remember this new building, which is located directly behind the Academy's main facility (see photo on page 8), as the former St. Mary's Elementary School. The building has now been "promoted" to serve the needs of students in higher, post-secondary education.

Jean-Paul Patenaude, the Academy's Chairman of the Board of Directors and a key participant in the negotiations that led to the acquisition, praised the Board and administration for their foresight, and thanked the Township of Madawaska Valley, and the local leaders, business community, and people of Barry's Bay,

for their on-going encouragement and support.

Meanwhile, the Academy's main building, the former St. Joseph's Convent, has undergone renovations – a new reading room and a more spacious student lounge have been created. The grounds have been freshly landscaped. St. Mary Hall is linked to the Academy's main administration and classroom building, St. Joseph Hall, by a gravel pathway.

Also, within sight of the Academy campus, a new student residence was built over the summer months. With nearly 3,000 square feet of space, the house is comfortable and pleasant, in view of the bay, with open green space across the street.

The Academy thanks in a special way the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, for assistance in acquiring the St. Mary Hall building and the construction of the new student residence.



Fr. Chris Shalla of St. Hedwig Church held a special ceremony to bless the newly acquired building, St. Mary Hall, on July 1st, attended by faculty, staff, and parishioners.

'Signs of Growth' Thanks to Your Generosity

The growth that we've seen here at OLSWA over these last few months has been very satisfying. With our biggest first-year class to date, and already a 60% increase in application requests compared to last year, it is clear the Academy offers a program that an increasing number of young people across Canada and the US are searching for—excellence in the liberal arts, within a solid Catholic community.

Our hearts have been warmed by the increasing number of people helping OLSWA in creative ways, such as offering to distribute OLSWA materials to people in their communities, or expressing an interest to remember OLSWA in their will. This is a wonderful way to create a legacy in support of Canadian

Catholic higher education. Simply include OLSWA's legal title in your will: ***Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy for Studies in Christian Culture.***

A growing number of Knights of Columbus councils and Catholic Women's Leagues are seeking to offer us support. We are happy to collaborate with them in the mission of educating our youth in the faith.

Please know how much good your contribution brings to OLSWA. A wonderful way to support us is to offer a regular monthly pledge, either by sending us a series of post-dated cheques for the year ahead, or by subscribing to our electronic donor service (click on "Contribute" in the menu on the left-hand-side of our home page at www.seatofwisdom.org, and follow the link). Thank you very much, and God bless!

Maria Reilander, Development Officer



Dr. Peter Kreeft Joins Advisory Board

The Academy is honoured to announce the addition of internationally known Peter J. Kreeft, Ph.D., to its growing Board of Advisors. Dr. Kreeft is a professor of Philosophy at Boston College and the King's College in New York City. He is a regular contributor to several Christian publications, is in wide demand as a speaker, and the author of over 45 books. See: www.PeterKreeft.com. A long-time friend of both the Academy and of fellow-Advisory Board member, author/artist Michael D. O'Brien, Kreeft has donated books and offered us advice over the years. We welcome his wisdom and collaboration in Catholic higher education.



Maestro Liefländer (continued)

Music Conducting, Chorus, Instrument and Voice, Piano, and Pedagogy.

Born in Germany, Liefländer had a passion for Church music even as a young child. At the age of 11, he first heard a recording of a Bach fugue that he compared to a "lightning strike." The music so inspired him that from that point onwards, he decided to devote his life to traditional Church music.

Liefländer entered the Academy for Church Music at Regensburg at age 18, and for many years afterwards, he fought against the liturgical abuses that were rampant during the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. After non-stop battling, he reached a crisis point of faith, and in 1998 decided to meet with Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, to ask what type of music was at the heart of the Church. At this meeting, the Cardinal supported and encouraged Liefländer's mission to promote traditional Church music.

"There are millions of Catholics who need this music for their salvation, and you must not leave them alone," Cardinal Ratzinger advised Maestro Liefländer in 1998.

Liefländer is greatly inspired by Pope Benedict XVI, whom he sees as inspiring a major liturgical turnaround within the Church. Commenting on this reform, Liefländer stated, "There is a huge revolution happening. It's as big as any reform that's happened in the Church."

Liefländer is working with OLSWA's academic administration and with Bishop Mulhall to produce a certification that will attest to a student's solid formation in the area of Church music. (More information about this development will appear in the next issue of *Veritas*.)

Liefländer also offers a weekly training session and local children's choir called the Sparrows Music Choir. The Sparrows have become an integral part of training for Academy students during their classes in music pedagogy. Through their involvement with the children,

VERITAS

OCCASIONAL BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS, ALUMNI, SUPPORTERS,
AND FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY

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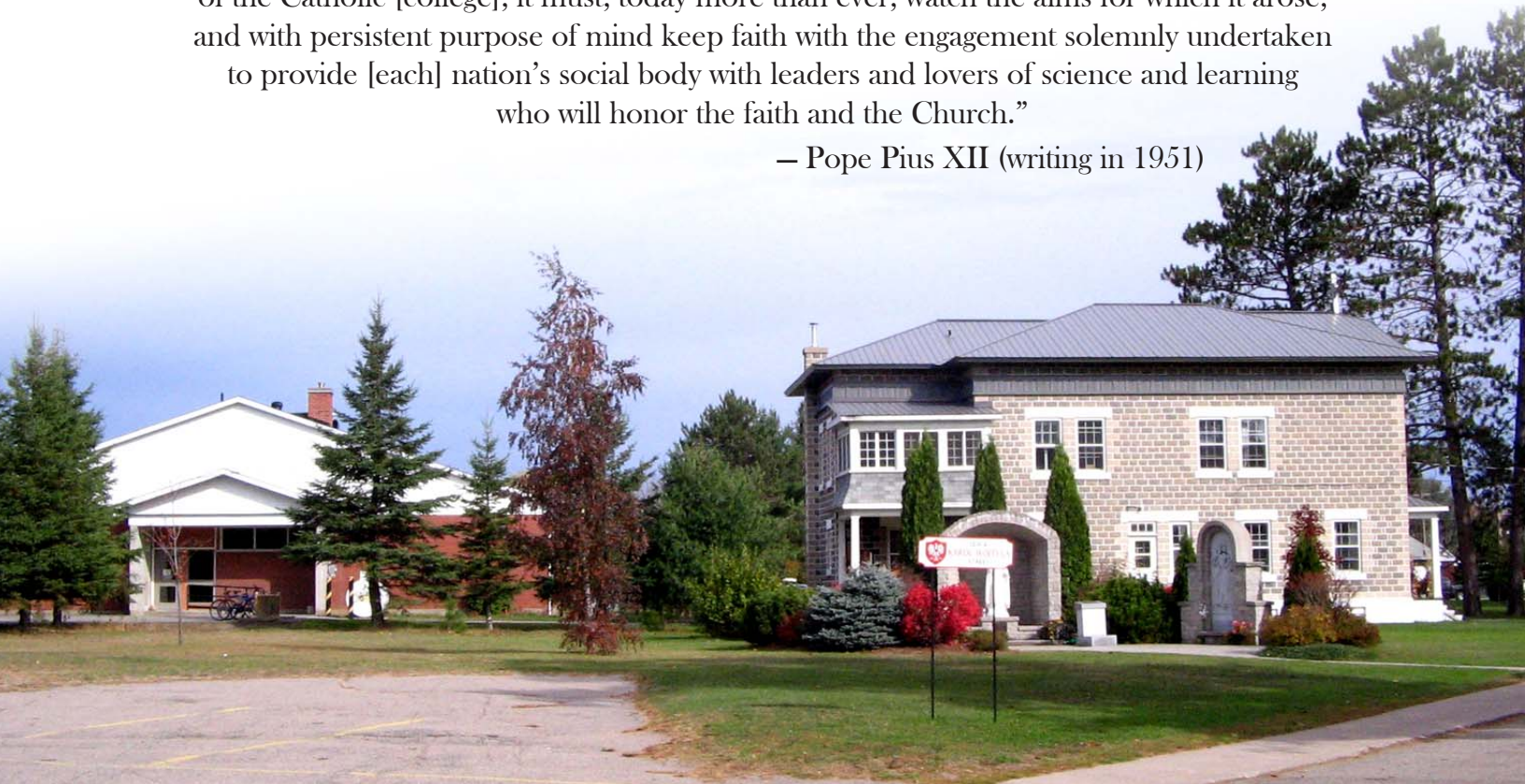
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they will gain direct teaching experience.

His goal is for as many as 300 children to participate in the program, which Liefländer expects will have a huge impact on the community. Many of the children will spread the seeds of traditional Church music throughout the area. Others may choose to study at the Academy after high school.

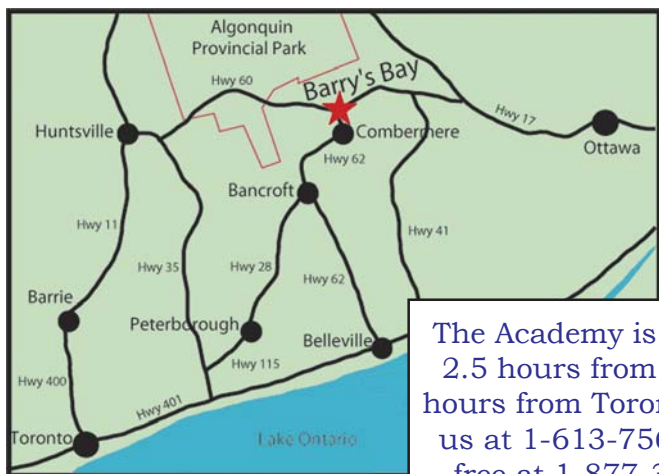
“In accordance with absolute fidelity to Christian principles, which are the whole reason for existence of the Catholic [college], it must, today more than ever, watch the aims for which it arose, and with persistent purpose of mind keep faith with the engagement solemnly undertaken to provide [each] nation’s social body with leaders and lovers of science and learning who will honor the faith and the Church.”

– Pope Pius XII (writing in 1951)



The Academy expanded its campus over Summer 2008. Newly dedicated St. Mary Hall is shown at left (see Dedication story on page 6). Recently renovated St. Joseph Hall appears at right. St. Hedwig Catholic Church stands to the right, off camera. Also within walking distance of campus are various residence halls and other facilities.

Planning a Visit to OLSWA?



The Academy is approximately 2.5 hours from Ottawa and 4 hours from Toronto. Please call us at 1-613-756-3082 or toll-free at 1-877-369-6520, for detailed assistance.

The Newman Guide editor Joseph Esposito writes: “We were so impressed by Our Lady Seat of Wisdom....The Academy has accomplished much in a short period of time, and we look forward to it being an influential force in Catholic higher education. We are pleased to recommend Our Lady Seat of Wisdom to Canadian and American parents and students.” Read about *The Newman Guide* and OLSWA at: www.cardinalnewmansociety.org.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Visit our website: www.seatofwisdom.org