

VERITAS

Bulletin of OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM ACADEMY

Spring 2011

Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada

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OLSWA Students March for Life in Washington, D.C.



OLSWA students at Capitol Hill for the March for Life.

One quarter of the Academy student body travelled 12 hours to be among the 400,000 pro-lifers marching for the protection and dignity of human life at Washington D.C.'s annual March for Life. Despite the frigid Washington weather, the numbers of participants at the January 24 event were astounding. Throngs of high school and college students made up the majority of the participants, and the 20 students from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom were honoured to represent Canada among them.

"Everything was absolutely mind blowing," said John D'Agostino, one of OLSWA's American students who was happy to defend life in his home country with his Canadian friends. "I've been to the March a few times before, and it is still absolutely incredible to witness thousands of people united against a great evil like abortion."

There is always a large OLSWA contingent in Ottawa at Canada's March for Life each May (which falls after the Academy's academic year), but this year the Academy's

Pro-Life Club also wanted to defend life in Washington. "I believe that we have a duty to help protect the unborn in any way we can," said Pro-Life Club president, Kathleen Dunn. "Just as many missionary groups travel to other countries to help the less fortunate, we, too, can travel to another country and help the unborn children who cannot help themselves. I also feel that America has a great influence on the decisions that Canada makes. If the United States government listens to the voice of the Pro-Life movement, we can hope that Canada will do the same." "We need to band together – Catholics, non-Catholics, religious and non-religious," said first-year student Alannah Walker, "and prove to our governments that we oppose abortion and we value life."

One of the highlights of the weekend was to attend the National Prayer Vigil for Life Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the eve of the March. Ten thousand people packed the largest church in the Americas— with standing room only and all

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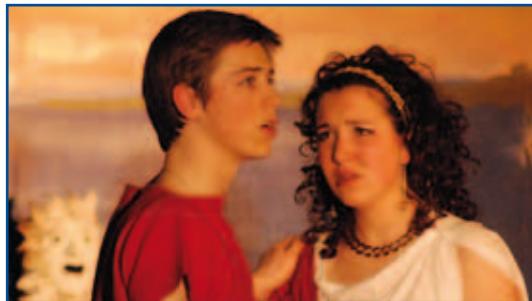
OLSWA's Ninth Theatre Production: A Dramatic Story of Conversion

What if you are an actor, and you have to play the part of someone you hate? Genesisius, a pagan Roman actor and director in the third century A.D., finds himself in just such a situation when the emperor, Diocletian, orders him to put on a play about a Christian martyr for the emperor's own amusement. Playing the lead role of the martyr Adrian, Genesisius is torn between his loathing for Christians and his desire to understand their point of view in order to get into his part. The experience turns out to be life-changing. Genesisius becomes a Christian, and ultimately a martyr as well.

It is a powerful tale that points to underlying truths about the power of drama to change minds and hearts, and about the impact that the

Christian witness had on the pagan Roman world. Henri Ghéon's *The Comedian*, a three-act play based on the legend of St. Genesisius, was presented by OLSWA's Don Bosco Drama Club on March 4, 5, and 6.

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Matthias Bowles and Alexa Bulman star in a final act scene from *The Comedian*.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Academy Family and Friends,



The Academy lives because of the generosity of its supporters. This places us under a constant duty to be able to explain clearly what we are doing, and why, and to answer the concerns our supporters may have.

One question I have heard goes like this: Why start at the top? Should not a Catholic post-secondary institution be the capstone of a Catholic educational system, to be created only after there is a system of education at all lower levels? Once you have orthodox catechetical classes all the way from kindergarten to high school, surely that is the time to construct a Catholic college?

There is an appeal to this argument, but it begs the question: Where will those lower level teachers come from? There are of course other Catholic institutions out there, and splendid programs such as Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). Nor can the Academy fill all of the need for Catholic leaders and teachers. Nonetheless it offers something special and unique in Canada, and plays an indispensable role in the rebuilding of the Church.

We give students the opportunity to develop an integrated understanding of their faith and its place in the world: They not only come out with a thorough knowledge of the teachings of the Church but can see the philosophical framework of these teachings, and the cultural ramifications of their faith. All this is

done in an atmosphere conducive to personal spiritual growth and under the guidance of teachers who are deeply committed to fidelity to the Magisterium.

Our graduates are thus uniquely well prepared to construct and participate in the early level educational and social institutions which the Church needs. It is not paradoxical that you begin at the top: That is where the leaders of the future must be trained and without whom the growth of those institutions will be slow or non-existent.

The Academy helps in building the Church in another way: We draw our students from across North America, and they develop close ties. While here they form friendships that last a lifetime, and forge links that are creating a wide orthodox Catholic network with deep and enduring roots. These bonds of affection and loyalty bind together people across vast distances and make unified action feasible based on mutual trust and knowledge. In the years to come it will be important that as challenges and dangers face the Church, it is possible for someone in New Brunswick to call former classmates in British Columbia and California for support.

Small and apparently isolated as we may seem, for me one of the most striking features of the Academy is how closely it is tied into the life of the Church on this continent and particularly in Canada. As we go about our day-to-day work, the realization sometimes comes: Something very precious and very important is happening here and we are deeply privileged to be part of it.

Best wishes,

Keith Cassidy
Keith Cassidy, Ph.D.
President



Above: Neil O'Connor presents a cheque on behalf of the Madore Agency, the Eastern Ontario division of the Knights of Columbus Insurance.

Right: Norm Edwards and Peter Mahoney of the Round Lake K of C council present Dr. Cassidy with proceeds from a fundraiser.

DONATIONS FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. David Beresford



Any student who has taken courses offered by the Mathematics and Natural Science department at OLSWA can tell you that one of the Academy's most memorable and colourful professors is Dr. David Beresford, who teaches Biology and Environmental Science, among other courses. This past December Dr. Beresford delivered an address at an OLSWA fundraiser dinner on teaching science from a Catholic perspective. He offered some extremely worthwhile insights into the relationship between empirical knowledge and spiritual belief, and the role both play in a Catholic education.

The temporal and the infinite are both at the centre of our faith, and to grow in that faith we must seek to better understand the truth of both. The Catholic approach to attaining truth, Dr. Beresford held, is "to understand all things as wholes and not just as aggregates of different parts." Hence the need to study science, since it brings us to the truth.

Scientific inquiry will never lead us away from the faith, for, as Dr. Beresford noted, "there is no necessary contradiction between a scientific world view and a Catholic world view. Indeed, a scientific world view is a subset of the larger, Catholic one... Actually, the Church is a champion of the scientific method, because the Church is one of the few remaining champions of human reason." Essentially, science sets out with the same objective as faith — to come to the truth. We can be confident that the truth of science and the truth of faith will never diverge, for truth is always one and the same.

Dr. Beresford explained how he seeks to show his classes that true science based on reason is both trustworthy and worthwhile. "Our students must know and reverence the power of science for learning new things; that we use our God-given reason and intelligence to leverage induction coupled with falsification to discover new things about the natural world...Etienne Gilson put it this way: '...far from keeping away from science, a truly religious mind should do its utmost to follow it in its progress, as the most perfect homage rendered by nature to its Creator.'"

He went on to express in his address the need to experience science in a practical and immediate way — to actually walk out into nature and observe rather than simply sitting by and receiving knowledge second-hand. The mere experience of taking a walking stick in hand before venturing out expresses the unity of science and faith: "Both the Catholic and scientific world views are informed by grasping a walking stick: Our need of physical things, our role as tool makers, that reality is mediated by things, and that these have many uses. This last idea is a natural stage from which to teach about sacraments and sacramentals."

The OLSWA professor concluded by observing that science, when conducted properly, should stir in the student a sense both of humility and of gratitude — humility in seeing the awesome grandeur of God and our own limits in using and understanding it, and gratitude for the fantastic gift of it which the Lord has made to us. It is this sense that Dr. Beresford tries to cultivate in his classes by introducing them to the wonders of nature. OLSWA counts itself extremely fortunate to have a professor who exhibits this attitude himself.



Dr. Beresford instructs his biology class in the field on how to measure crayfish attributes.

NEW SACRAMENTALS AT OLSWA

Relic of St. André

On **January 6**, the **men of St. André Bessette Residence** celebrated the first feast of their patron saint since his canonization on October 17. As is tradition at OLSWA, the students honoured their saint by



holding an **open house** for the Academy community. The celebration began with Vespers in St. Hedwig's Church, led by OLSWA chaplain Fr. Paul Burchat. After prayer, the students and professors made their way to St. André's House. There Fr. Burchat formally **installed a first-class relic of St. André**, which was displayed for veneration throughout the evening. Special thanks are due to Jean-Paul Patenaude through whose efforts the relic was secured, and Deacon Robert Probert and his family who provided the reliquary in which it is housed.

Icon: Presentation of Our Lord

January 8 was a day of both solemnity and joy this year, for the day marked the **blessing and installation of a beautiful icon in the traditional Eastern style**. The icon had been commissioned many months before by the Paul and Janine Pro-Life Club and members of the 2010 Graduating Class **in honour of their classmates Paul Sanders and Janine Lieu**, founders of the Pro-Life Club, who tragically drowned in an accident on the Feast of the Presentation in February of 2008. The saintly example of these two students made a deep impression on their class and on the entire Academy community. Paul and Janine's peers felt that the best way to commemorate them would be in some manner that would point not only to them but to Christ and His Mother, as the two did in life. The result was the icon, lovingly and painstakingly "written" by Marysia Kowalchuk of Madonna House, which gorgeously **depicts the Presentation of Christ in the Temple**.



The Comedian

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The General (Julian Zakrzewski), the Chamberlain (Jean-Pierre Giguère), and the Playwright (Ben Baklinski) discuss the politics of The Mob.



Emperor Diocletian (Nelson Morris) praises a reluctant Genesisius (Matthias Bowles) for his acting prowess.



A member of The Chorus (Maria McDonald) invokes the gods and goddesses.



Hermes (Paul Taylor) comically mocks the martyr "Adrian" in the play-within-the-play.



Felix (Donny McGeragle) explains his Christian faith to his brother, Genesisius.

It had been several years since OLSWA had put on a play with a religious theme, and the president of the Don Bosco Drama Club, Dr. Christine Schintgen, thought the time was ripe.

"Many Christian dramatic works are very sentimental, so I was wary of the idea," said director Maria Henry. "But when Christine and I read Ghéon's work, we were both fascinated. Although written in the 1920s, the language of the script is very modern, intelligent, humorous and serious. From the first read-through, the student actors were instantly attracted to it."

The Comedian has an excitement and humour of its own—as well as a good deal of dramatic tension. "Genesisius in the play is struggling to find purpose—and ultimately love—in his life, not unlike many of us in this generation," Henry explains.

Matthias Bowles interpreted the lead role as Genesisius with intelligence and subtlety, drawing the audience into the character's rich emotional life. He was supported by Alexa Bulman as Poppaea who convincingly carried off the part of a classic "drama queen" who wants Genesisius to have eyes only for her. Nelson Morris was a roaring success as the jovial but self-worshipping emperor, and Jean-Pierre Giguère was confident and engaging as Rufinus, the emperor's chamberlain.

Many other colourful characters completed the scene, including a troupe of temperamental actors, a pretentious playwright, a love-sick general, a long-lost brother, a slave, a musician, fierce guards, a Greek chorus, and "the Mob," hungry for blood. Student Rose Nolan designed the flowing costumes, lending the characters an authentic look.

The Roman ambience, complete with marble columns, was created by student Vaughan Usling and his talented crew, and an impressive 24' x 8' seascape painted by student Joseph Ferrant gave the impression of an ancient theatre overlooking the sea.

Director Maria Henry reflects: "I loved working with these students—it is thrilling when a student actor finds the passion, the core or 'the truth' in his or her character—which is what good acting is all about."

ACADEMY NOTES

Master Fiddler – On Feb. 3, master fiddler Brian Hebert gave a guest lecture on "Folk Music of the Ottawa Valley." Mr. Hebert interspersed his lecture with live fiddle music, and the evening concluded with an interactive workshop/jam session in which musicians in the audience could participate.

Ignatian study group – Fr. Brian Christie, assistant at St. Hedwig's Church, is leading a group of a dozen students through a weekly study of St. Ignatius of Loyola's teaching on the discernment of spirits.

Praise and Worship – A few evenings each semester, students have led an evening of Praise and Worship. This prayerful event consists of worship music, led by Academy students, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as *Lectio Divina* led by Deacon Bob Probert.

Ottawa Trip – On Feb. 5 students spent a lovely winter day in Canada's National Capital during Winterlude. They had the opportunity to skate on the Rideau Canal, the world's largest skating rink, and admire the ice sculptures.

Messiah Concert – On Dec. 11, OLSWA's Schola choir joined members of the Sacred Music Society and members of the Sparrows Children's Choir in performing Handel's *Messiah* in Ottawa. [You can see the Hallelujah Chorus performance on YouTube: Hallelujah Chorus – Sacred Music Society.]

Ottawa Parliamentary Dinner – On Dec. 7, a promotional dinner for OLSWA was held at the Parliamentary Restaurant. Dr. David Beresford gave the keynote address, about teaching science at OLSWA, in his characteristically humorous Chestertonian way.

Alberta Reception – On Feb. 25, OLSWA hosted an introductory reception for students, parents and supporters from southern Alberta, at St. Anthony's Church in Calgary. President Dr. Keith Cassidy welcomed more than 45 guests, and gave an overview of the Academy and its mission.

Faculty Talk – On Dec. 3, Professor Scott Nicholson spoke to the faculty on Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini*, a work on Sacred Scripture addressed to the whole Church, which was made public in November. The talk focused upon the portion of the document examining the proper manner of interpreting Sacred Scripture.

Promoting a Culture of Life



Alissa Golob



Patrick Craine



Cassie Farrell



Maria Nolan

Respect for the dignity of life is a passion of students both at OLSWA and after they move on from the Academy. Whether it is pursuing studies in Life Issues, as Jenna Henry ('10) is doing at Franciscan University of Steubenville (with a Human Life Studies minor), or simply furthering the culture of life by their participation in Pro-Life events, and by raising faith-filled families open to the gift of life, OLSWA alumni are making a difference. Of particular note are the alumni who have taken on leadership roles in the Pro-Life movement.

OLSWA alumni are serving as presidents of Pro-Life clubs at two colleges this year. Former president of the OLSWA Pro-Life Club, Cassie Farrell ('10), is at Holy Cross College in South Bend, IN, and writes, "Within the first week of arriving at Holy Cross College, I considered it a priority to continue my Pro-Life work in South Bend. Before I knew it, I was elected president of the HCC Saints for Life club."

Jessica Dunn ('08) has been co-president of the Redeemer University College Pro-Life Club for the past three years, serving in her last year with OLSWA alumna Emily Nail ('08). Their work has been to inform the Redeemer community about Pro-Life issues, promote activism, and reach out into the local

Ancaster and Hamilton community. The group (many of whose members are OLSWA grads) has held a number of events including a Life Week, and has established the annual Life Chain at Redeemer.

Maria Nolan ('08) spent last summer volunteering full-time at Aid to Women, a crisis pregnancy centre in downtown Toronto directly beside the Cabbagetown abortion clinic, and now works part-time at the centre. Maria, who does sidewalk counselling every day, admits that "Speaking with women before they enter the abortion clinic is the most challenging and difficult part of my job, but it is also the most rewarding."

Alissa Golob ('08) works full-time for Campaign Life Coalition (CLC), the political arm of the Pro-Life movement in Canada, "the premiere advocate for legal and cultural change in Canada with respect to protecting human life and the family" (www.campaign-lifecoalition.com). Alissa is CLC's youngest employee and serves as the CLC Youth Coordinator. "I love working for the Pro-Life movement," says Alissa, "because it gives me a unique and authentic experience dealing with issues pertaining to family values and how to effectively communicate these issues to the secular world and to our government."

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Alumnae Emma Coates ('10) and Emily Nail ('08) participate in the Life Chain at Redeemer.

Alumni Studies *Abroad*

AUSTRALIA

This year sees the first of our alumni heading "Down Under" to Champion College, Australia's first liberal arts college (established in 2005). With a program similar to OLSWA's, including the strong Catholic commitment, Champion has been eager to accept students from OLSWA. This February, Katie Hanlon ('10) and Jonathan Quist ('10) have begun their first and final year of the Champion Bachelor of Arts degree. Champion College accepted most of their credits, and they are settling in to Aussie life well.

Katie Hanlon writes, "Like the Academy, Champion is a small college with a family atmosphere, and it's lovely how welcoming they are to students from OLSWA."

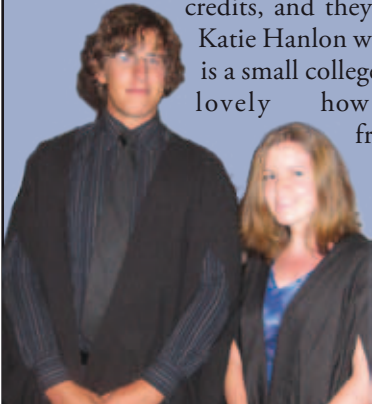
ENGLAND

Sally Beresford ('10), Emma Coates ('10), and Hannah Corkery ('10), were presented with an opportunity of a lifetime to spend a semester at Oxford University, through Redeemer University's Crandall-Oxford Studies Pro-

gramme. As associated students of Regent's Park College, Oxford, they are studying Shakespeare, Drama and Jane Austen, and have access to the Bodleian Libraries and the Clarendon lectures. The ladies write, "We like to start our mornings with Mass at the Oratory (the parish where Gerard Manley Hopkins was priest) before going into Regent's Park, where we hear our lectures, eat luncheon meals and attend Friday evening Formal. We've been able to visit London, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Bath, as well as attend several plays, outings to castles, and historic sites of the country. We're enjoying every minute of this experience and count ourselves blessed to have been given such an opportunity."



Emma, Hannah, and Sally at St. Paul's Cathedral, London.



“The March itself [was] overwhelming and encouraging”

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aisles, side chapels and crypt filled. Students were awed by the 45-minute long procession of hundreds of seminarians and priests, followed by 39 bishops and five cardinals. It was a tremendous sign of hope that witnessed to the vitality of the Church. “The Vigil Mass and the March itself were overwhelming and encouraging. Seeing thousands of others who shared the same beliefs as I do, who were actively pro-life and wanted to make a difference in society was so inspiring,” said second-year student Rebecca Wilson.

While the trip to Washington allowed students to see Washington’s famous monuments for the first time, and to visit the extensive Smithsonian Museum, it was ultimately a pilgrimage offered for the cause of life. “It was a sacrifice; it cost money and time and energy,” said Rebecca. “I chose to go though, to pray for an end to the culture of death in our society and to be a voice for the voiceless victims of abortion.”

The students offer their thanks to the Knights of Columbus of Barry’s Bay, Ontario, as well as the others in the community who offered financial assistance to help cover travel expenses.

“Dedicated Pro-Life news media are now essential”

Continued from page 5

Patrick Craine ('08) and Rebecca Millette (Mombourquette, '08) are writers for LifeSiteNews.com, a non-profit internet service dedicated to providing “balance and more accurate coverage on culture, life and family matters than is usually given by other media.” (www.lifesitenews.com) Patrick is LSN’s Canadian Bureau Chief, where he covers news on life and family in Canada. He sees the vital role that LifeSiteNews plays in covering life issues: “I believe that dedicated pro-life news media are now essential in the Church’s mission of truth. The pro-abortion ideology has taken hold in large part through the lies perpetuated in the secular and mainstream media. So LSN is a powerful means of not only getting trustworthy information to the Pro-Life stalwarts, but of promoting the Gospel of Life among those who might not otherwise hear it.” Rebecca is tasked with researching and writing on important issues from all over the world. She writes, “LSN presents both the challenge of seeing first-hand the evils of the culture of death and the anti-family agenda so prominent today, but also the tremendous hope and joy of the Pro-Life, pro-family movement that will, in the end, win the battle.”

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A Sign of Contradiction

In the eyes of the world, there is much about OLSWA that just does not make sense. How does a five dollar bill and a heartfelt wish of a few struggling families become a three-year Catholic liberal arts program? How do we continue to exist without any endowments and with a very minimal budget? Why do people work here for half of what they could make elsewhere, or even give up their salary, as our president has? Why do young people choose to spend a year or two or three of their lives in an obscure rural Ontario town to study philosophy, theology and the liberal arts? Why do supporters from across North America sacrifice by giving from their own limited resources towards the needs of this unusual and still relatively unknown place?

In the eyes of the world it seems foolish to give up one’s salary, to work for less, to study philosophy, to give away one’s hard earned cash.

But with the eyes of faith we see more. We see intelligent and articulate young people versed in their Catholic Faith who have discovered that studying the liberal arts is in fact one of the most freeing of experiences. We see a thriving student body studying not just for themselves, but also to share what they have received with others (see youth retreat article). We see over 200 alumni furthering the culture of life and civilization of love. We see the sacrificial commitment of staff and faculty who believe in the great importance of Catholic higher education. And we see the hundreds of donors sharing their treasure which they recognize has come to them through God’s Providence and is meant for furthering the kingdom. Their gift bears spiritual as well as material fruit for they are participating in a work that is not only of this world.

The more our world loses its proper reference point—Christ—the more places like OLSWA are a contradiction. Like the Cross, OLSWA is for us a sign of faith, hope and love. It is a place of faith in an increasingly faithless society, a sign of hope for both young and

old, and it strives to be an embodiment of the civilization of love and culture of life.

As you see in this issue of Veritas, the culture of life is being lived both by our students and our growing body of alumni by their Pro-Life work. Also, part of forming the culture is to create beauty in the arts. The Academy play this year was not only a superb dramatic production, conveying beauty, but also witnessed to the contradiction, the foolishness, of the Cross. That though it be foolishness to the world, our faith is worth dying for.

An update on our financial situation:

We are so grateful for the support we have received in our recent appeals. Most heartening have been the notes of encouragement and prayers many of you included with your gift, as well as gifts from those able to give for the first time. We are still short at least \$110,000 to safely make it through the rest of this fiscal year. Please pray for the success of our Lenten appeal.

We are moving ahead with building a new residence for our growing student body. The new energy-efficient residence will allow us to drop some more expensive rental property, and its mortgage will be covered by room and board fees. We have not received enough funds for an annex at this time, so we will be renting the Legion Hall in town for our largest classes.

God has blessed us to continue this work even through worse financial times than these, and we continue to rely on Him and make the most of what He has provided through the generosity of so many of you.

Thank you for your sacrificial and loving commitment to this important work.



Maria Reilander
Senior Development Officer

“A Valentine for St. Hedwig Parish”

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy is very blessed to be part of the parish community of St. Hedwig Catholic Church, and there is much that we receive from the parish on so many levels. As a way to say “Thank you,” the Academy decided to put on a Valentine Cabaret on February 12, both to raise funds for the church renovation fund, and to share with the community the gifts and talents of members of the Academy. The goal was to treat guests to a lovely evening of entertainment and delicious desserts, and by every account, the Academy definitely succeeded.

Over 150 guests arrived to find the parish hall transformed into a classy café decorated with elegant white drapings, glistening red hearts, and glowing candles. The atmosphere was made complete by live background music, which ranged from the carefree, classy rumble of 1930s jazz to the otherworldly beauty of Celtic ballads. Seated at café-style tables, guests were waited on and ordered from a variety of delicious desserts including cheesecakes and home-made tortes and carrot cake.

The musically talented academy students treated the audience to two entertainment sets which included the vocal acrobatics of favourite operatic arias by Mozart and Bizet (sung by Alexa Bulman and Marie-Claire Bissonnette), nostalgic folk songs like “Come Back to Sorrento,” harmonious instrumental Irish tunes, and playful old war-time hits. One highlight of the evening was St. Hedwig’s Fr. Brian Christie taking the violin in hand and joining students Kathleen Dunn and Elliott Warner for a lovely performance of a folk tune. The guests did not want the evening to end and sang along with an encore presentation of Alec McCune’s “I Love the Sunshine of Your Smile.”

The Academy successfully raised \$1,677 dollars for the Parish Restoration Fund. It seems little compared to all that the parish does for OLSWA. The Academy is grateful to Fr. Shalla, Fr. Christie, and all of the community for all the ways we experience their generosity. Without St. Hedwig’s Parish, the Academy could not be what it is today. We hope that the cabaret and the funds it has raised will show something of our love and thankfulness to the parish.



Kathleen Dunn, Elliott Warner and Father Brian Christie perform a folk tune at the Valentine Cabaret.



Mr. Michael and Dr. Christine Schintgen share a moment over coffee and desserts.

OLSWA Students Serve Diocesan Youth

Eighteen Academy students spent a weekend serving at the second annual Diocesan High School Youth Retreat held in Pembroke from January 28-30. Over seventy teenagers from across the Pembroke Diocese participated in this event. Entitled “A Revelation Revolution,” the retreat was based on Jason and Crystalina Evert’s “The Pure Life” series from EWTN.

As at last year’s youth retreat, the OLSWA students contributed in a big way. They helped with music ministry, gave talks and testimonies, performed in skits, led small groups, facilitated games in the gym, and chaperoned the teens overnight, sleeping on gym floors. They shared with the teens their own personal journeys of striving for purity in their lives, and for truth and real love in their relationships with God and others. Talks given by members of the Academy included: The Power of Modesty, Pure Pressure, Virginity, Standards, Finding the One, and Starting Over.

Yvette Bourque, Director of Family Life and Youth Ministry

for the diocese, and coordinator of the retreat, expressed her thanks to the OLSWA volunteers, “I am personally very grateful to all the Academy students who generously volunteered their time and God-

given talents to help. The students have a maturity and spiritual formation that is essential for the roles they take in the retreat.” Fr. Paul Burchat, who gave one of the talks, also noted the important leadership offered by the students from the Academy, “most especially for the witness the students gave to the participants that living chastely is not only possible in today’s culture but is a very real and satisfying alternative to the sexually immoral lifestyle that society is promoting.” The Academy students were more than happy to be there and found the weekend a marvellous opportunity to do ministry and outreach in a practical, hands-on, meaningful way.

“It was a blessing to spend the retreat weekend with high school students who are in love with Christ and are not afraid to joyfully follow Him,” said third-year student, Anne-Marie Doyle.



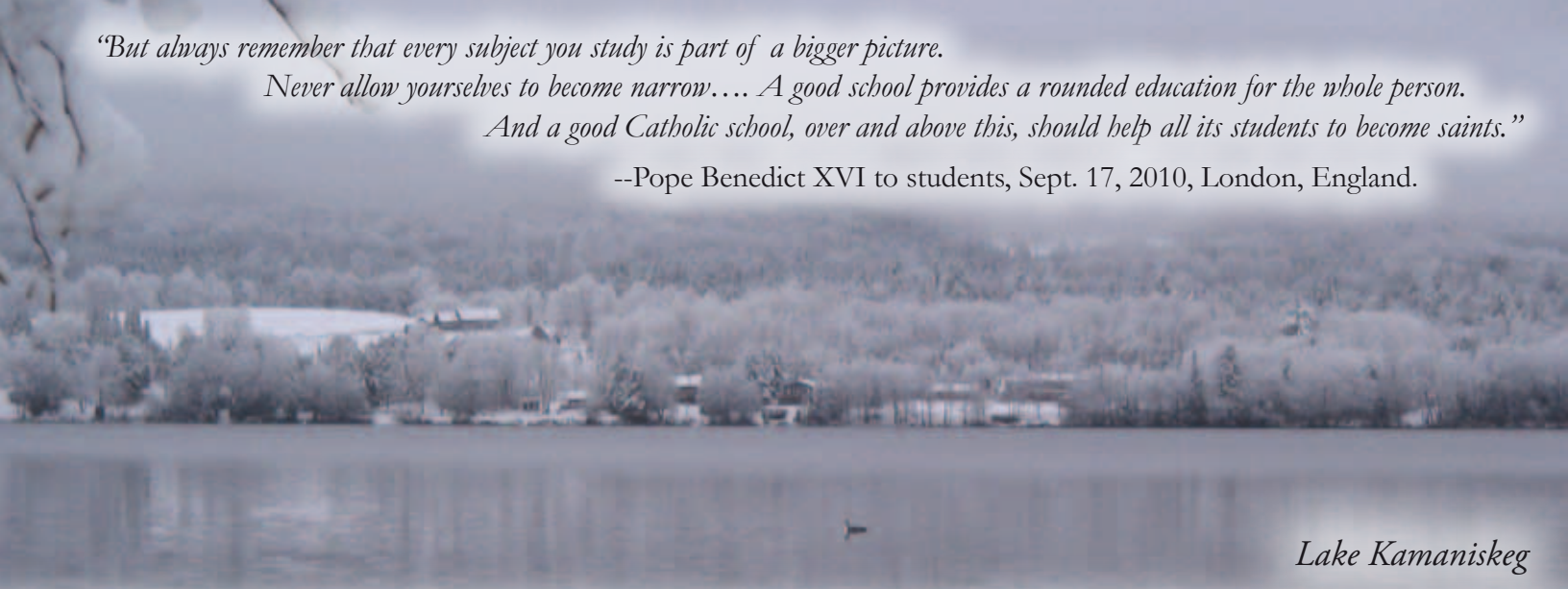
Kathleen Dunn and Rory MacIntyre give a talk to the high school retreatants.

"But always remember that every subject you study is part of a bigger picture.

Never allow yourselves to become narrow.... A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person.

And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

--Pope Benedict XVI to students, Sept. 17, 2010, London, England.



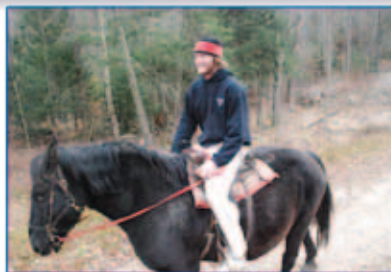
Lake Kamanisgeg



Students enjoy Beaver Tails after skating on the Rideau Canal.



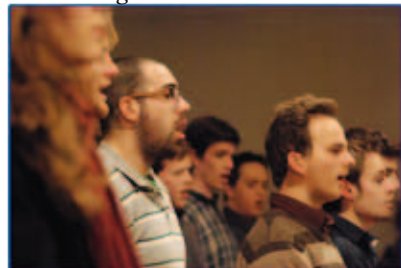
Fr. Paul Burchat blesses a relic of St. André at his residence of honour.



Student Donny McGeragle during a Frassati Outdoors Club excursion.



Students look on from the bench during a weekly Friday night hockey game.



OLSWA men contribute their voices to the choir at Academy Mass.



OLSWA representatives march for the Pro-Life cause in Washington, D.C.



Students pray at the location of St. Jean de Brébeuf's martyrdom.



Mr. and Mrs. Sanders stand with alumni of Paul's class after the icon presentation.

Come Visit Us!

*We would love to have you experience the beauty of Barry's Bay, as you partake of our rich educational experience. **Schedule your visit today!***



Students smile from the lookout over Georgian Bay at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, ON.



OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM is approximately 2 hours from Ottawa and 4 hours from Toronto. Call us toll-free at 1-877-369-6520 for detailed assistance.