

VERITAS

Bulletin of OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM ACADEMY

Fall 2011

Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada

Vol. 12, No. 1

NEW CHAPLAIN AT OLSWA:

Fr. Joseph Hattie, OMI



Fr. Hattie, surrounded by first-year Academy students: Dale (Lloydminster, AB), Midori (Drumbo, ON), Nick (Burlington, ON), Laura (Chesterfield, VA), Matthew (Cornwall, ON), Liam (Port Perry, ON).

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom is pleased to announce the appointment of a new associate chaplain, Fr. Joseph Hattie, OMI, who will join OLSWA chaplain Fr. Paul Burchat in ministering to the spiritual needs of the Academy. We are deeply privileged to have Fr. Hattie living in residence next door in the rectory of St. Hedwig's parish, allowing him to be present at OLSWA on a

daily basis and to assist the pastor, Fr. Christopher Shalla, in his ministry to the local community. Fr. Paul, who is a member of Madonna House and has been OLSWA's chaplain from its beginning, will continue to be available on campus for spiritual direction twice weekly.

Fr. Hattie arrived in Barry's Bay in September, fresh from the busy city life of Halifax. He is originally from Nova Scotia, where he grew up just off the Bay of Fundy in the small town of Digby, which is not much larger than Barry's Bay. From there, he went on to St. Patrick's College in Ottawa and attained a Bachelor of Science, before God called him to the priesthood. His novitiate took place in Arnprior, and he spent the remaining years of his scholasticate in Ottawa. He was ordained an Oblate of Mary Immaculate in 1964, which means, he jokes, that "my boss is a Lady." Fr. Hattie immediately began teaching at St. Patrick's High School in Ottawa, where he worked until he was transferred to Halifax in 1974, to work as chaplain at Dalhousie University. Ten years later, he was sent to Rome to study, obtaining a doctorate of Theology in Marriage and Family at

Both articles continued on page 3

Record Enrollment in the 12th Academic Year

Definite signs of growth greeted the Academy at the beginning of its 12th academic year.

The student body has increased once again this year, with 90 full-time students from across Canada and the United States. There are 38 new first-year students, with an even split of men and women—the first time in OLSWA's history when the ladies have not outnumbered the men!

OLSWA's housing facilities have also expanded over the summer months. To meet the needs of a growing student body, a brand new men's duplex has been constructed (photo, page 8). Several OLSWA carpenters, including second-year student Jamie Hanlon and alumnus Ben Baklinski, worked on the project under the direction of James Hanlon, who also designed the attractive building. This double residence has been dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul and blessed by Bishop Michael Mulhall of Pembroke during his September visit to OLSWA. The former St. Paul residence on Stafford Street, which was the Academy's first purpose-built residence, has been turned into a women's residence, now named in honour of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Another new development at OLSWA is the arrival of the new Dean of Students "team," Jason and Sarah Gould. Mr. Gould comes with a number of years of experience in youth ministry and university chaplaincy. He is aided by his wife Sarah, who serves as his Assistant in

Jason and Sarah Gould



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM

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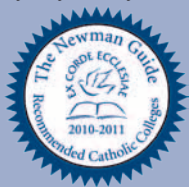
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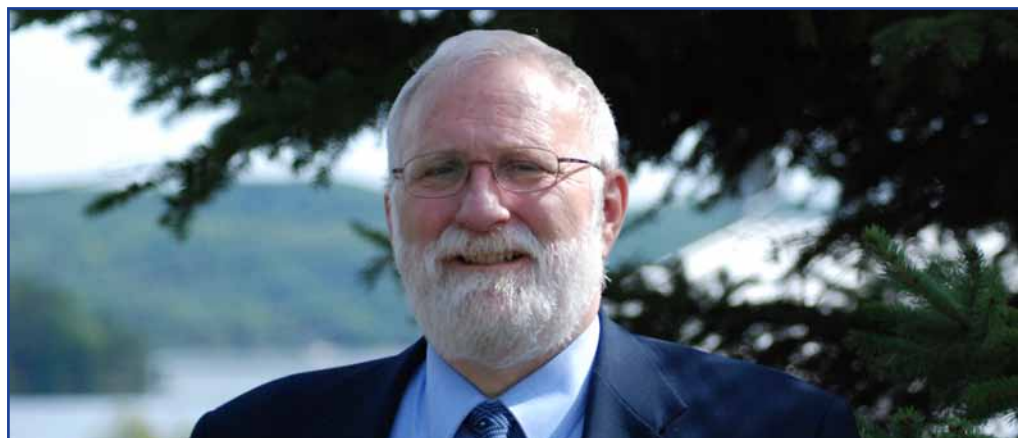
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Dear Academy Family and Friends,

In my last letter I talked about the concern expressed in many quarters about how much students are actually learning at post-secondary institutions across the continent. A recent study, titled *Academically Adrift*, suggests that very little real learning is going on at many campuses: students take easy courses, are rewarded with inflated grades, and receive diplomas intended to serve as tickets to good jobs rather than as proof of enhanced abilities. I had suggested that our demanding liberal arts focus, with high expectations in terms of the amount of reading and writing to be done by students, was in line with the recommendations made by the book's authors. I would like to explore some other themes related to student learning.

An important factor in student learning is faculty-student interaction. Here at the Academy, with our relatively small student enrollment (90 full-time at present), we have small classes and an excellent teacher-student ratio. The largest class has 40 students. The great majority have fewer than 20. Faculty get to know students well over the course of their years here, and interact with them freely in the classroom and see them outside of it. Faculty are not distant and aloof figures: they are approachable.

One thing we do not have here is elaborate high-tech systems of classroom learning: PowerPoint presentations, using a digital projector, are about as technical as we get. Are our students disadvantaged?

Consider the results of a survey of technology in higher education, reported on by the *National Post* on September 8, 2011. As the paper noted, "In fact, the first Canadian study of its kind has discovered that students prefer—and learn more—when a live lecturer stands at an unadorned podium." The author of the study

said "It's not the portrait we expected whereby students would embrace anything that happens on a more highly technological level. It's to the contrary—they really seem to like access to human interaction, a smart person at the front of the classroom." That is decidedly the approach we take here: intelligent, committed instructors, talking to small numbers of students, with the opportunity for questions and discussion.

What really makes a difference is not technology, but study. In our orientation talk to new students, we encourage them to spend two to three hours studying for every hour in class. One problem we have is providing adequate study space. We hold some evening Study Halls, but these are not a satisfactory substitute for a large, quiet area associated with the Library, specifically set aside for study. A major concern in our planning for the future is the provision of more study space, and I would urge you to think about this as you consider providing financial support for the Academy.

Despite our limited resources, we do a good job of teaching. We cannot be complacent, however, and one thing I would like to see introduced is a regular system of evaluating student learning, with entrance testing of reading, writing and critical reasoning skills, and similar tests at the end of the program to see what progress has been made. We can use this information to assess and improve our approaches to pedagogy, and ensure that we move closer to our goal of giving our students the best liberal arts education possible.

Best wishes,

Keith Cassidy, Ph.D.
President

“He was an unshakable rock. And he’s still the same man.”

Continued from page 1

the John Paul II Institute at the Lateran University. In the fall of 1986, Fr. Hattie travelled west to the Archdiocese of Vancouver where he established the Office of Marriage and Family Formation and worked for thirteen years. He then spent five months with his fellow Oblates at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. From there, he returned to his home province of Nova Scotia to continue another ten-and-a-half years in the Office of Marriage and Family Formation for the Archdiocese of Halifax, until he moved to the Madawaska Valley this September. Fr. Hattie is also currently a board member for Priests for Life Canada, as well as spiritual director for WOOMB Canada (World Organization of Ovulation Method Billings) and WOOMB International. He is also the author of books on sacramental marriage and manuals for marriage preparation. Needless to say, OLSWA is honoured to have him as chaplain and spiritual director.



Fr. Joseph Hattie, OMI

OLSWA, Fr. Hattie was invited by two archdioceses to be part of their pastoral teams. However, he has observed the growth of the Academy from its beginning and has prayed for us constantly. In the end, he was very happy that the discernment process with his Oblate superiors determined that he would be sent here to become part of our mission to serve youth in the New Evangelization. For this we are deeply grateful to God and to Fr. Hattie’s “boss.”

He says, “As an Oblate of Mary Immaculate, it has been a privilege to have Our Lady as my boss over the years, and I look forward to benefiting even more from her wisdom, here at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom.”

A Year of New Beginnings

Continued from page 1

in addition to her work in the Bursar’s office.

Mr. Gould shared the following words about his first weeks here: “Mrs. Gould and I are very impressed with the overall level of maturity and responsibility of our students in this our first year. Our Student Life Team is outstanding and their enthusiasm and dedication are inspiring. It’s so gratifying to see our students growing and seeking God’s will in their everyday lives here at OLSWA. There are certainly many challenges at the Academy for students, faculty and staff alike, but weathering the storms helps us to better understand God’s plan for us personally, and as a Catholic Academy.” Second-year student, and member of the Student Life Team, Lucy Landry says that the Goulds are “fun and easy to talk to, and clearly have the students’ best interests at heart in all they do for us. They fit right in here at OLSWA.”

On September 19 Bishop Mulhall celebrated the Holy Mass for Our Lady Seat of Wisdom at St. Hedwig Church, and witnessed the annual Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity by the entire faculty. It is a great blessing to the Academy to have the prayerful support of our local bishop, and to welcome him and hear his words of wisdom at the beginning of each academic year.

Bishop Mulhall began his homily by saying that the commencement of studies in the fall is “a moment of great joy...a moment to gather

Michael O’Brien, our Artist and Writer in Residence, remembers Fr. Hattie from his St. Patrick’s High School years. “When I first met Fr. Hattie, I was a sixteen-year-old wild man, secretly toying with the seductions of agnosticism and atheism. I think the majority of my fellow students were pretty much like me, barely converted, hardly evangelized. Then one day in September, this manly, dynamic, red-haired young priest walked into our classroom and introduced himself as our new religion teacher. Within minutes he had captured our respect (no small achievement), not by force or threat or by entertaining us, but by the conviction of his faith, by his good humour, and his endless patience in dealing with us savages. Before I knew it, I was living my faith again and even involved in youth retreats.” More than forty-five years have passed since then, and O’Brien notes that Fr. Hattie is the same man as ever, though older, (white-haired,) learned, and a great advocate of Our Lady’s role in conversion and growth in faith. “He was a kind man when I first met him,” says Michael O’Brien, “with a listening heart and depths of wise counsel. But beneath his gentleness there was a great strength. He was an unshakable rock. And he’s still the same man.”

Before accepting the invitation to join

FACULTY NOTES

On August 23, Mr. John Paul Meenan gave an address on “the human person from a Catholic perspective,” to Catholic teens at the Ontario Knights of Columbus Catholic Leadership Camp near Bancroft, ON.

A book by Dr. Ryan Freeburn, Associate Professor of History, will be published in November. *Hugh of Amiens and the Twelfth-Century Renaissance*, published by Ashgate Press, examines the works of Hugh of Amiens (c. 1085-1164), a Cluniac monk, cleric, and archbishop of Rouen, using them as a lens to look at the various theological, ecclesiological, and social concerns of his time.

On October 15, the Canadian branch of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars held their annual day conference at Loretto College Residence in Toronto. This year’s theme was “The Catholic Mind and the Prophetic Voice of the Arts.” OLSWA professor Dr. David Beresford presented an engaging paper on “Catholic Themes in Robert Southey’s ‘Thalaba the Destroyer’” to the audience of about 40 people. Dr. Christine Schintgen, OLSWA Literature professor, who is on the Board of Directors of FCS Canada, says the next conference will take place in Halifax, NS, in the fall of 2012. The theme has yet to be announced.



Bishop Mulhall imparts a blessing on the new mens’ residence, surrounded by staff and students.

and rededicate ourselves.” The day’s Gospel had taught about putting one’s light in a prominent place and not hiding it under a vessel or a bed. His Excellency exhorted his sheep to “be a light of joy... a joy that can be shared with others.” He also reminded them that it is God who lights the candle—who is the Source.



FIRST ANNUAL WOJTYLA SUMMER INSTITUTE A SUCCESS



Two Wojtyla Institute participants engage in theological discussion during a break in seminars.



Institute lecturer John Paul Meenan shares a laugh with participants during a lively seminar.

From August 4-7 Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy hosted its first annual Wojtyla Summer Institute. The mission of the Institute is to advance OLSWA's mandate of serving the Church by offering programs that focus on aspects of the Faith and Catholic teaching to groups or individuals interested in further developing their understanding of Catholicism.

This year's institute was directed towards Catholic high school teachers, and its theme was the "Theology of the Body" (TOB) and how to teach it in schools. Attendees from school boards and communities across Ontario were welcomed to OLSWA and the Madawaska Valley for this weekend conference. Considering the great response that teens are having to the TOB, these teachers want to find ways to make these teachings available to their students.

OLSWA faculty Mr. John Paul Meenan and Miss Maria Reilander, along with visiting speaker Mrs. Kathleen Leffas, presented various sessions and invited attendees to learn about the Theology of Body which presents an "integral vision of man," that is, a true understanding of the human person, made in the image and likeness of God.

Mr. Meenan, who teaches Theology at OLSWA, offered insights into the proper vision of man and spoke about the truth and meaning of human sexuality. In his talks he delved into the concept of the human person, particularly in light of Wojtyla's personalism and Joseph Ratzinger's teaching of the human person in terms of relation—namely, that to be a person means to exist in relation to another. Miss Reilander, a graduate of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, and teacher of the TOB at OLSWA, gave the talks on the TOB. She highlighted that the TOB presents an understanding of man that is different from the dualist anthropology we see in the modern mindset. Contrary to modern man's view that the body is an

object and meaningless matter that can be manipulated at will, the TOB views the human person in a holistic way, as body-soul unity that is personal. Human persons are created as a gift from God, made for self-giving and for a loving and fruitful communion with another. Miss Reilander also focused on some important truths found in the TOB, namely the priority of man's relationship with God as His son or daughter (Filiality), man and woman's call to union and fruitfulness through an exclusive relationship of gift, and the nuptial meaning of the body which expresses this call to union and fruitfulness through love and self-gift.

Mrs. Kathleen Leffas, a Catholic high school teacher in Virginia, USA, gave an engaging and informative talk on teaching the TOB to teens. Mrs. Leffas, who has an M.Ed. from Loyola Baltimore, and a M.A. in Theology from Notre Dame Graduate School (Christendom College), teaches the topic in the context of her Catholic high school's health class. She talked about how eager the students are to hear this truth, and which aspects particularly resonate with her students. In her talk she imparted practical tips to teachers, and shared some strategies that she has found successful in the classroom.

The Institute provided a lively forum for sharing of ideas and resources, networking, and support. The conference ended off with a facilitated discussion of practical steps participants wanted to take in the wake of this first conference.

OLSWA was very grateful for the opportunity to work with other Catholic educators with the common goal of forming our young people in the truths of man and God. OLSWA hopes to host a Summer Institute again next year and while the topic is yet to be selected, it will likely cover other disciplines taught at the high school level.

Please stay tuned for more information regarding the next Wojtyla Summer Institute.

Want to read **more news,**
as it happens?

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regularly updated stories:

www.seatofwisdom.org



You can also follow OLSWA on
Facebook



Sister Mary Regina Anderson ('06) with Professor John Paul Meenan, Frances Platt ('06), Deacon Kenneth Walker, FSSP ('05), Ben O'Brien ('09), and Theresa Ulmer ('05).

Alumna Professes Final Vows with Cistercians

On August 11, the Feast of St. Clare, Sr. Mary Regina Anderson (formerly Mary Beth Anderson, '06) professed her final vows in the chapel of the Valley of Our Lady Cistercian Monastery in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Along with a fellow sister, Sr. Mary Regina promised "stability under perpetual enclosure, the conversion of [her life], and obedience according to the rule of St. Benedict and the Constitutions approved by the Holy See." Sister's family, from Fraser Lake, BC, was there for this joyous occasion, as were a group of her OLSWA friends who travelled from Barry's Bay.

Frances Platt ('06), a friend and former OLSWA classmate of Sr. Mary Regina's, was grateful to witness this important moment in her friend's life.

"The love and joy which radiated from the faces of these contemplative sisters drew everyone to a realization of the incredible call to which these women have responded," she said. "They have given everything to God." Frances was also blessed with the opportunity to speak with Sr. Mary Regina. Though she admits it was hard to say goodbye, as she may never see

Sister again, she said "it was so beautiful to see her living out God's will with joy and to know that she is praying, not only for me, but for the whole Church. As it said on Sr. Mary Regina's prayer card, *'Fiat mihi... So too, we ask God in prayer that His will be done in us.'*"



The Sisters proclaim their vows.

The Valley of Our Lady Cistercian Monastery is situated on a quiet country road in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Their charism is prayer, and they spend their days praying in the chapel and also praying silently as they work at cleaning, gardening, cooking, baking altar breads, and other daily tasks. Outwardly, it seems a predictable and somewhat mundane life. However, the Benedictine priest who said

Mass reminded the Sisters that their "Fiat" to God's will was a "yes" to a life that is constantly changing. For the only constant of religious life is change, a continual growing closer to God. OLSWA alumna Maggie Dorris ('10), who joined the Cistercian monastery last year, is in her novitiate, and has now taken the name Sr. Mary Magdalen.

Sisters, OLSWA Alumnae, only Canadians to Make Final Vows this Year

On August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, Sr. Mary Augustine Hardy ('10) and Sr. Maria Faustina Collette ('12) took their final profession as Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate (SOLI)—perhaps the only religious sisters in all of Canada to be making final vows this year. The SOLI community is an active order of female religious, founded in 1977 in Cambridge, Ontario, whose mission is focused on evangelization and teaching the faith. Sisters Maria Faustina and Mary Augustine are two of a number of sisters sent to complete part of their post-secondary education here at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom. This year Sister Augustine is completing her studies at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, while Sister Faustina has returned for her third year at OLSWA. These women are shining and inspiring examples to their fellow students and their teachers, and we are honoured and delighted to have had some hand in their formation.

Congratulations, Sisters, on this momentous step on your spiritual journey. May you, and all your fellow Sisters, go on to do great things for God and His Church!



Sr. Mary Augustine and Sr. Maria Faustina chant the Litany of the Saints. Photo courtesy of the SOLI Sisters.

ALUMNI NOTES

This summer **Frances Roxburgh ('10)** did a six-week internship in London, England, with the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, a pro-life organization in Britain.

Congratulations to **Daniel ('07) and Rebecca (Mombourquette, '08) Millette**, on the birth of their baby boy, Joseph André, on Sept. 2.

Congratulations to **Ben Weber ('06)** who was ordained to the transitional diaconate on Sept. 3, at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, in the diocese of St. Catharines, ON.

Congratulations to **Drew Sponagle ('06)** on his new job at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Whitby, ON, in the Durham Catholic District School Board.

Congratulations to **Carol Reaume ('07)** who graduated from Algonquin College's Event Management program with Honours this October. Look her up if you need an event planned in the Ottawa area!

Congratulations to **Elana (Mazzarolo, '07) and Michal Bebjak** who were married on the Feast of St. Thérèse, Oct. 1.

Congratulations to **Sean and Stephanie (Hartwick) Koechl (both '09)**, on the birth of their first child, Isaac John Paul, on Oct. 3.

Congratulations to **Jeannie (Goeckner, '09) and Ken Bock** who were married on Nov. 19.

Congratulations to **Emily (Schmiedicke, '09) and Joseph Brindle** who were married on Nov 19.

We are happy to report that **Grant Fitzpatrick ('09)** has successfully beaten skin cancer. In addition to his work at a credit union in Kingston, ON, he volunteers training altar servers at two parishes. His wife **Caitlin (Gulliver '08)** is working on certification through the Theology of the Body Institute in PA.

Congratulations to **Joseph Westin ('07)** who has recently been hired as an Industrial Firefighter in Grande Prairie, AB. Wife **Bernadette (Ryan, '07)** is finishing up her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Dalhousie University.

Adam Preston ('06) and wife Camille are now living in Brandon, MB, where they have bought their first home. Adam has recently been hired by Miller Equipment, a dealer of agriculture equipment.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Enriching Lives

Good things are happening at OLSWA! All thanks be to God, we are still here and stronger than ever. This fall brought the largest student body to date, a new duplex residence, a second great chaplain and a wonderful new Dean of Students team. While all of these are part of a great Catholic college, the real “good” that is happening here is the good flourishing in the individual lives of each of our 90 students. When I see the joy in our students—joy in their relationships with their friends and classmates, and delight in their studies—I am so grateful to God for what they have been given.

OLSWA is for them a place where they can freely pursue knowledge, wisdom and truth, and can develop their personal relationship with the Lord and each other in a supportive Catholic environment.

How rare this is!

Too often our Catholic teens leave the Faith during their years at university. In these crucial years, as they grow into adulthood, the pressures of peers, society, media, relativist teachers, etc., can easily lead them astray. If the Faith is not learned, and most importantly if it is not integrated into one’s life, it may be lost. The lives of our youth, and our society, will be poorer because of it.

At OLSWA we take seriously this call to teach the Faith, and also to encourage and facilitate its integration. We seek to help our students to pursue both a moral and a virtuous life which brings joy and true freedom. Our Student Life program has this in mind, as too, do our chaplains. Recently Fr. Paul Burchat spoke to the men about their vocation as Catholic men, and the challenges and rewards of living this well in our world today. Here at OLSWA, with the assistance and direction of our chaplains, students are supported in their vocational discernment. How beautiful to see “courting” couples—young adults in their 20s who have a proper view of relationships and are striving to grow in the virtue of chastity as they discern marriage; so different from the casual and empty sexual relationships common at other universities. Far from being ridiculed for their chaste relationships, our students are encouraged in their choices by their friends, and have recourse to sacramental graces made available to them at our parish.

I hope it brings you as much joy as it does to me to see what even one semester can bring to their lives.



Pope Benedict on the University

SPEECH EXCERPT

This address was given on August 19, 2011, at the Basilica of the Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial in Spain, during his Madrid World Youth Day 2011 Tour. We’ve published some excerpts below. The inspiring words were an affirmation of our work.

In truth, the University has always been, and is always called to be, the “house” where one seeks the truth proper to the human person. [...]

Young people need authentic teachers: persons open to the fullness of truth in the various branches of knowledge, persons who listen to and experience in their own hearts that interdisciplinary dialogue; persons who, above all, are convinced of our human capacity to advance along the path of truth. Youth is a privileged time for seeking and encountering truth. As Plato said: “Seek truth while you are young, for if you do not, it will later escape your grasp” (*Parmenides*, 135d). This lofty aspiration is the most precious gift which you can give to your students, personally and by example. It is more important than mere technical know-how, or cold and purely functional data.

I urge you, then, never to lose that sense of enthusiasm and concern for truth. Always remember that teaching is not just about communicating content, but about forming young people. You need to understand and love them, to awaken their innate thirst for truth and their yearning for transcendence. Be for them a source of encouragement and strength.

For this to happen, we need to realize in the first place that the path to the fullness of truth calls for complete commitment: it is a path of understanding and love, of reason and faith. We cannot come to know something unless we are moved

by love; or, for that matter, love something which does not strike us as reasonable. “Understanding and love are not in separate compartments: love is rich in understanding and understanding is full of love” (*Caritas in Veritate*, 30). If truth and goodness go together, so too do knowledge and love. This unity leads to consistency in life and thought, that ability to inspire demanded of every good educator.

In the second place, we need to recognize that truth itself will always lie beyond our grasp. We can seek it and draw near to it, but we cannot completely possess it; or put better, truth possesses us and inspires us. In intellectual and educational activity the virtue of humility is also indispensable, since it protects us from the pride which bars the way to truth. We must not draw students to ourselves, but set them on the path toward the truth which we seek together. The Lord will help you in this. [...]

All these things, finally, remind us to keep our gaze fixed on Christ, whose face radiates the Truth which enlightens us. Christ is also the Way which leads to lasting fulfilment; he walks constantly at our side and sustains us with his love. Rooted in him, you will prove good guides to our young people. With this confidence I invoke upon you the protection of the Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom. May she help you to cooperate with her Son by living a life which is personally satisfying and which brings forth rich fruits of knowledge and faith for your students. Thank you very much.

As one of our second-year students recently shared: “Attending OLSWA has been an experience that has changed my life and provided me with the foundation that every Catholic should have. Everything related to this school contributes to forming a better person: the teachers live the Faith in accordance with what they teach, and the experience of living in a residence where Catholicism is encouraged is uplifting and something I will never forget.”

Thank you to all who have responded to our annual Fall appeal. Since July 1, \$136,000 has been raised for our operating expenses and our capital and degree-granting status funds. That means that we have another \$259,000 to go to meet



our fundraising goals for the year.

Please help us expand our donor base and mail list. To respect privacy laws, it is best if you pass on information about OLSWA directly to

your family and acquaintances who you think may like to see more youth benefit from a college experience at OLSWA. We’d be happy to send you materials to share with your contacts.

Thank you for furthering the survival of an orthodox, academically rigorous and affordable post-secondary institution, and especially, for bringing something good and beautiful into the lives of our youth.

In the love of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom,
Maria Reilander, Senior Development Officer

AMERICAN BIBLICAL SCHOLAR VISITS OLSWA

Dr. Timothy Gray, president of the Augustine Institute (a Catholic graduate school for Biblical studies in Denver, Colorado) visited OLSWA this September. The Academy was blessed to have him give two addresses to the community. The first talk was given during the Academy's annual Day of Recollection. He offered an inspiring teaching on the Word of God, and his passion for Scripture was plainly visible. Next evening's talk was open to the greater Barry's Bay community. OLSWA's Artist and Writer in Residence,

ACADEMY NOTES

OLSWA's meal plan has been revamped, and students have been treated to a variety of new and delicious nutritional meals. Many thanks to Rhea Baklinski, a certified food and nutrition manager, for her expertise in developing the new food plan, as well as to our dear cooks, Rachel McGuey and Sandra Etmanskie, for their delectable creations.

As part of the Academy's **Christian Formation Seminar Series**, Mr. Gabriel Rivett-Carnac gave an address to Academy students on alcohol abuse. He gave his testimony and witnessed to his daily reliance on God to live a fully human life free of addiction, and to live in faithfulness to the Gospel as a Catholic young adult. His witness challenged his listeners to become ever more integrated in their own lives as Catholics.

Students Marie-Claire Bissonnette and Sarah Wilson joined other campus pro-life leaders in Toronto at the annual **National Campus Life Network's symposium** in early October. NCLN is an organization that coordinates and guides campus pro-life clubs from universities across Canada.

On October 17, **Dr. Clemens Cavallin** from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, gave a stimulating lecture to OLSWA, presenting the case for a "place for religious studies in the context of a Catholic liberal arts education."

On October 22, fifty OLSWA students and several staff attended Ontario's first "**Defund Abortion Rally**" at Queen's Park in Toronto, ON. The rally was organized by youth under the direction of OLSWA alumna Alissa Golob ('08) of Campaign Life Coalition Youth. OLSWA student band, "Survived '88" performed for rally participants. Over 2,000 pro-lifers attended the rally and stood in solidarity while listening to speeches given by pro-life doctors, young people, and post-abortive women.

Michael O'Brien, gave the opening address in which he described Dr. Gray as "a man in love with Christ." Dr. Gray proceeded to demonstrate this love by his zeal and deep-seated interest in the promulgation of the Word of God, especially through "The New Evangelization."

The New Evangelization, said Dr. Gray, consists of a three-part renewal: of mankind's outlook on God, on the Church, and on ourselves. He argued that modern man has lost sight of who God is as a loving Creator, revealed over and over again in Scripture; man views the Church as merely an organization with too many rules restricting people's freedom; and man no longer lives in Christ for others, but rather, he lives apart from Christ, and only for himself. Dr. Gray called his audience to a "fresh vision," a vision which begins with man's trust in God.

An essential element of the New Evangelization is overcoming fear, stated Dr. Gray. "Fear casts out faith," he said, as he mentally leafed through his Bible and summarized passages where the Israelites, the Apostles, and the disciples are told to trust God, to be not afraid. Today, man lives in a "culture of *acedia*," that is, a culture of sloth. People are afraid to pursue the best and highest good because they fear that they might fail. Dr. Gray exhorted his listeners to take the risk and trust in God. Only then can man begin to see God as He really is; he can then go on to show others about God, about the Church, and about living one's life in Christ for the sake of others.

Dr. Gray concluded his lecture with a quotation from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians in which Paul tells the disciples to be of one mind with each other in Christ, humble and charitable, just as Christ who is God humbled himself by becoming man and dying for us on the cross.



Dr. Timothy Gray.

Photo courtesy of the Augustine Institute.

OLSWA PRESENTS: Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*



OLSWA's Don Bosco Drama Club has once again begun preparations for the annual theatrical production. Lines are being rehearsed, sets constructed, and costumes made from silk wedding dresses, as the students prepare for another humble masterpiece. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde, is a period play set in the late 1800s. A farcical comedy, the three-act play portrays the hilarious dangers of maintaining a false identity, the witty triviality of all things serious, and the salutary aspects of love and marriage. With its fast-paced dialogue and comic irony, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is sure to delight our audience this Valentine's Day weekend, February 10th, 11th and 12th, at the Madawaska Valley District High School in Barry's Bay. Please contact OLSWA for more information and check the website for further updates in January.



OLSWA @ WYD2011: both current students and alumni were present at World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain this summer. Shown here (LtoR): Sarah Wilson ('13), Liam Gainey ('14), Theresa Wilson ('10), David Wilson ('11), Rebecca Wilson ('12), and holding flag, Marissa Hamon ('14).



Students compete in the annual Pro-Life volleyball tournament.



Faculty recite the Oath of Fidelity to the Magisterium at the Opening Mass.



The new St. Peter and St. Paul double residence, completed this summer.

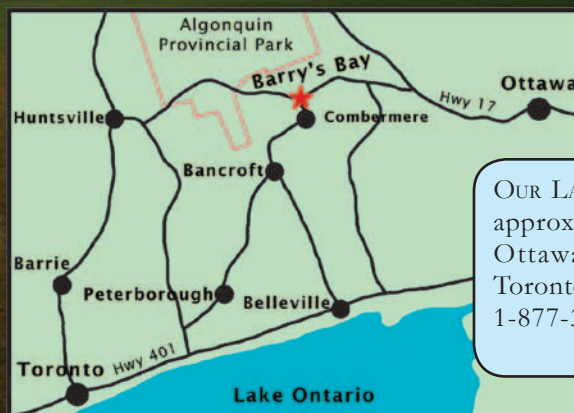


Students and faculty take part in the annual Wilno Pilgrimage.



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!*



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.