

Vox Spei: A voice of hope

Nuestra Señora La Conquistadora Academy Newsletter
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PARISH HELPS ACADEMY RELOCATE TO NEW CLASSROOMS

Friends, families, and students of the Academy turned out in force over the summer to paint the new classrooms in St. Augustine's Hall. An independent contractor had undertaken the classrooms' construction, but the subsequent painting was completed by volunteers. Helped by the loan of the contractor's scaffolding, enthusiastic turnout, Fr. Bibeau's frequent visits, and even the occasional pizza delivery, the Academy's workforce left the classrooms cleanly whitewashed, with time left to prepare them for the school year's commencement.

The completion of the classrooms reflects the school's priorities. By moving to the Sts. Peter and Paul property, the students are able to make regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament, reminding them that Faith is given through Holy Mother Church, to whom we owe our dedicated love and service. The next step will be to procure more apt and spacious facilities on the parish grounds. This will strengthen the efforts of the Academy in her formation of youth.

As with the completion of the classrooms, this coming effort will be a joint one, and the Academy thanks its friends in advance for their charitable assistance.



Student and volunteers paint classrooms.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS: First Annual Jog-A-Thon Huge Success!



How do you measure success? By any metric, last year's first annual NSLCA Jog-a-thon was a huge success. Whether in-person, direct requests or by solicitation letters sent to friends and relatives across the country, the students asked to be sponsored in their run.

And run they did. Joining the student body were several pre-kindergarten and prospective students, parents and even Father Duverger. The Jog-a-thon was held on the site of the proposed new school building and so the sweat from the runners' brows fertilized the very ground on which the new school will be built.

When they had completed their run, the students followed up with "thank you" letters to each sponsor. With only 6 students and a total of 17 sponsored runners, the Academy raised over \$7,000 in its first ever Jog-a-thon!

How do you measure success? If it is measured by raising funds, raising awareness of the Academy throughout the country, and raising student and parent involvement in the building of the new school, then we'd have to say that last year's Jog-a-thon was a resounding success. It was an inspiration to us all. Watch for news of the upcoming 2015 Jog-a-thon.

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WHY LATIN IN THE CLASSROOM?

To answer that question, *Vox Spei* asked the Academy Principal to enlighten us.

Principal: Latin is the language of Holy Mother Church, the language of the Romans, the foundational language of many modern languages. Latin is an important part of a child's education!

VS: We're told you start as early as first grade. Isn't that difficult for first graders, since they can barely yet read?

Prin.: Not really. Last year, we had some smart first graders who really needed an extra challenge. Plus, they were both eager to serve the Mass. After seeing their performance, we saw that, in fact, Latin is very feasible in our first grade curriculum.

VS: So where do you start? Do you start with the Mass or with vocabulary?

Prin.: With the first graders, we start with both: a little introduction to simple vocabulary words, Latin prayers and Mass responses. So they don't get overwhelmed with too much of *one* thing, they learn to sing "*Twinkle, twinkle Little Star*" and "*Baa, baa Black Sheep*" in Latin. They have age-appropriate activities such as making little notebooks with pictures of the new vocabulary words.

VS: And the older students?

Prin.: For the older students we use a textbook, *Lingua Latina*, which is an immersion method. The book is entirely in Latin but anyone could pick up this book and be able to read it. *Roma in Italia est. Italia in Europa est.* It slowly builds from there with a gradual introduction to Latin grammar. The reader meets a Roman family and enjoys funny stories. That's where the 3rd graders start.

VS: And the oldest students?

Prin.: They continue with *Lingua Latina* but with a more intensified focus on grammar. The teacher draws on the students' knowledge of English grammar and links it with their understanding of Latin. They diagram sentences in Latin. Our 5th, 6th and 7th graders will be taking the National Latin exam this year. This will be a good experience for them and a very good way to gain recognition--for themselves and for the school.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS ON FEAST OF ST. PIUS X



The Academy chose Sept. 3rd as Opening Day in honor of the 100th anniversary of St. Pius X's death. The Academy prayed the Prayer of St. Pius X to the Immaculate Virgin as a novena in preparation for the new school year.

The Opening Day began with Holy Mass. In the classroom, the student body, grown this year from 6 to 14 students, read special stories about St. Pius X. The younger children colored pictures of the Defender against Modernism while the older students studied his coat of arms. The day ended in the chapel with the recitation of the rosary and the final novena prayer.

PUMP UP OUR PROFILE!

We're proud of our Academy. And we want the everyone to know about us. With a simple internet search, people across the country who are seeking a traditional Catholic education for their children in a thriving community for their families can learn about us. We encourage everyone to go to their computers or cell phones and type in: Nuestra Señora La Conquistadora Academy Traditional Catholic Schools, Albuquerque, NM.

We want our Academy to pop up first in that search so that others may benefit from a solid Catholic Education. The more frequently you conduct the search, the higher our Academy's name moves up on the list. It's that simple.

Lately we've added some new items to our web site. You'll see more of what's happening at the Academy. Give us a visit at www.nslca.org.

CLOSING DAY CEREMONIES — CHEERS AND TEARS

May 23rd, 2014 marked the last day of the first year of our Academy. The day began with Holy Mass followed by a breakfast with Father Bibeau, teachers, parents, friends, and benefactors.

Awards were given for honor roll and perfect attendance. Special awards -- the *Conquistador* and *Conquistadora* Awards, were given to the boy and girl who best embodied the spirit of the school. The recipients were John and Monica. Emiliana received special notice as the first NSCLA kindergarten graduate. The children gave heartfelt thank you notes to their teachers, but tears began to flow when they had to say goodbye.



The Principal with the first kindergarten graduate.

PROCESSION IN SANTA FE HONORS OUR LADY



A 366-year-old tradition commemorates the bloodless reconquest of Santa Fe following a 12 year exile of Christians from the "City of Holy Faith." History tells us that the statue of Our Lady had been brought from Spain in the earliest days of Spanish explorers. Enjoying a place of honor in Santa Fe until the Pueblo Revolt, she was narrowly saved; revolting natives had set her church ablaze. But Don Diego de Vargas' faith in the Virgin Most Powerful was strong and his battle standard bore her image as he entered the City of Santa Fe. It is to her that he credited the bloodless victory and thus declared that each year there would be a procession in her honor.

This year was no different. The afternoon began with a prayer vigil at the Rosario Cemetery Chapel where the Statue had been in repose, symbolizing her 12 year exile. Her image was carried through the streets of Santa Fe as hundreds sang, prayed and followed in procession to the Statue's home in the St. Francis Cathedral Basilica.

As patroness of our Academy, Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora holds a place of deep significance and gratitude in our hearts. Because of this, for three consecutive years, Academy families have joined the procession, professing their love for their queen.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS (cont.) Miracles abound on the first day of Holy Week

Monday morning of Holy Week 2014, Academy pilgrims to Santa Fe met with an unexpected snowstorm and locked doors at the historic Loretto Chapel, home to the miraculous St. Joseph Staircase. As the pilgrims huddled together for warmth, Father calmly prayed in the courtyard under the falling snow. Soon, a curator of the chapel who had not been scheduled to meet the pilgrims arrived. He held the key that unlocked the Chapel.



Following Holy Mass, Father led the pilgrimage to St. Francis Basilica where the children were able to pray at the altar of our patroness, Nuestra Señora La Conquistadora. Then it was on through the streets of Santa Fe to the base of the Hill of the Martyrs. The group processed up the steps of the hill, reciting the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. At the summit Father Duverger led prayers remembering the Christian souls who had died in the tragic Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The minds and souls of all the pilgrims were enlivened and fed by the grace of God. The Academy eagerly anticipates our Second Annual pilgrimage this coming Holy Week, 2015.