

Vox Spei

A Voice of Hope

Nuestra Señora La Conquistadora Academy Newsletter



NEW SCHOOL OPENS DOORS

Classroom In Sight

Nuestra Señora La Conquistadora Academy opened her doors in August, 2013, to fortunate children from the SSPX mission in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which has been under the faithful care of Fr. Ronald Bibeau for many years. In 2011, Fr. Pierre Duverger, SSPX USA District Superior Secretary, visited the mission and encouraged the start-up of a school in the old chapel building. This building was constructed in the 1960's and in 2006, was replaced by the new and beautiful Sts. Peter and Paul Church.



3 year-old future student raking the grounds

One of the first major projects of the Academy was to obtain a government-required Asbestos Management plan for the building. The Academy entrusted the work to her Patroness, la Conquistadora. Despite serious fears of outrageous asbestos abatement clean-up costs, an Asbestos Management Plan was finally

obtained.

Work steadily continued in many different areas including business matters, licensing, procuring school furniture, developing the educational program, finding qualified teaching staff, and, of course, fundraising. As the school year approached, parents and future students worked to beautify the school grounds.

August 19, 2013, dawned as the long-awaited opening day. The happy parents entrusted their children to the loving teachers at Holy Mass which all attended, begging God for blessings. The first day went smoothly and finished with the Rosary led by Fr. Bibeau. All expressed gratitude to our Queen in Heaven for her newest school.

In October, 2013, the district superior of the SSPX, Fr. Arnaud Rostand, visited the school and expressed gratitude upon seeing the school dream

Every day, our students study Catechism. NSLCA makes use of the Catechism by Correspondence of the Sisters of the Society of St. Pius X, in Browerville, Minnesota. The class work is sent from the convent to the teachers who present the material. The completed work is mailed back to the Sisters for correcting. Each grade level is assigned to a Sister, who grades the students' work. The children's faces light up with excitement when they receive a personal letter from 'their' Sister. The school dreams that there will be Sisters on campus one day to teach the children, but until this day, this correspondence keeps our students in regular contact with religious.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENTS MAKE & BREAK PIÑATA

November 1, the feast of All Saints, was a day of celebration. The morning Mass on this feast day was followed by a party in which NSLCA students and other children dressed as little saints. The party incorporated a few games and a visit to the elderly in a nearby nursing home. The party finished with the smashing of the piñata, whose seven cones represented the seven capital sins.



"St. Benedict" crushes vices

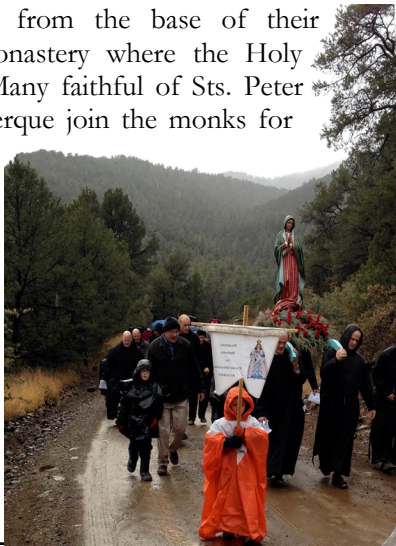
The students and teachers had handcrafted this traditional piñata in the weeks preceding the party. It was exciting for the children to finally break open their candy-filled art project. After the breaking of the piñata, everyone finished with a rare Friday barbecue, celebrating the Holy Day.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

Monastery Procession, Dec. 12, 2013.

Each year, the Benedictine monks of Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Silver City, New Mexico, celebrate the feast of their patroness on December 12 with a prayerful procession from the base of their mountain to the monastery where the Holy Mass is celebrated. Many faithful of Sts. Peter and Paul, in Albuquerque join the monks for this feast.

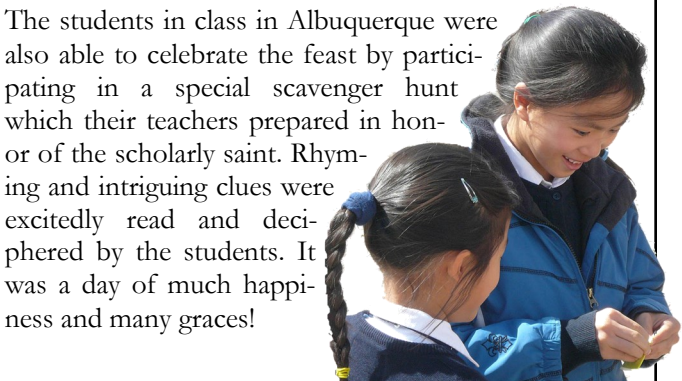
This year, all of the school children traveled to Silver City to sludge through the mud and brave the rain, processing in Our Lady's honor, thanking her for the blessing of their new school.



St. Thomas Aquinas, March 7.

The feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron of Catholic schools, coincided with First Friday this March 7. Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy celebrated the day in a very special way. After months of preparation for their First Confessions, the first grade boys traveled to the Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where a short day of recollection was given. The boys served the conventual Mass, and made their first confessions. To the boys' delight, they were invited to join the monks for lunch and dish-washing.

The students in class in Albuquerque were also able to celebrate the feast by participating in a special scavenger hunt which their teachers prepared in honor of the scholarly saint. Rhyming and intriguing clues were excitedly read and deciphered by the students. It was a day of much happiness and many graces!



NSLCA is a non profit 501 (c) 3 organization and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration and hiring of personnel, admissions or any other school administered programs.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

The Catholic's life is centered around Holy Mother the Church, who provides for her children the means for gaining the Eternal Reward. The holy Sacrifice of the Mass shows us the perfect example of love and obedience, lessons which cannot be merely studied in a text book. For this reason, daily Mass and frequent visits are essential in the formation of the student's will.

Currently, NSLCA is not on the same property as Sts. Peter and Paul Church. With the school located near the church, the students may have daily Mass integrated into the school schedule and easy access to the Real Presence.

Our prayer is that Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora Academy will soon begin construction on a new school building on the main campus of Sts. Peter and Paul. This five-acre property easily accommodates the needs of the Academy's growth for many years.

With this vision, the students of NSLCA will be running in their first Jog-a-thon on April 16. They will be jogging on the site of their future school building. Their footsteps, sweat, and hard work will prepare the ground and become the foundation of the new construction.

Who is Nuestra Señora la Conquistadora?

In 1680, the infamous Pueblo Revolt expelled many Christian souls from Santa Fe, the City of the Holy Faith, an outpost of Christian civilization of the New World. For twelve years the Spanish Friars and colonists were displaced, until Don Diego de Vargas was charged with its reconquest. This Spanish Governor, both devout and skilled in military arts, entered the besieged city bearing on his battle standard an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Peace was restored without bloodshed on either side. He attributed his victory to the Blessed Virgin, Nuestra Señora del Rosario, la Conquistadora; her image had been brought from Spain to the New World with the earliest Santa Fe colonists. In gratitude, de Vargas declared her the patroness of the region, the current New Mexico. Her statue, venerated even now in Santa Fe, is the oldest statue of Our Lady in the United States. NSLCA is honored to have as our special patroness, the conqueror of all hearts.

- 333 58th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87105
- On the web: www.nslca.org
- laconquistadoraacademy@gmail.com
- Donate online! Your donations are tax-deductible and, in gratitude, a monthly Mass is offered for NSLCA donors.