



WHY THE ACADEMY?

A MOTHER OF 7 SHARES HER FAMILY'S STORY.

"It seems that once I got the idea in my head, God was there to make it all possible."

Stephanie Maez has successfully home schooled her 7 children for the past 16 years. But this year, she decided to send her three elementary-aged children to NSLCA. Here, in her own words, is why:

I had watched the academy first hand its first year. They started with 6 students and 2 teachers. I was very impressed with the structure, discipline, methods of teaching, and the countenance of the children. It was something that definitely sparked my interest. My three youngest children attended an Academy open house last year. They were quite interested in all the hands-on science projects and their little class pets. One daughter said that she thought it looked strict and that seemed fun to her (she is a very organized and disciplined young lady) And they all liked the idea of wearing uniforms. What motivated me most was the desire to give these last three children of mine the best Catholic education that I could. Now, here it was, a Catholic school, right under my nose - the answer. But we were met at every turn with obstacles: My first obstacle was my husband. He felt that I had done a fine job home schooling our older children. He was sure that driving 40 minutes twice a day back and forth would drive me crazy, and we definitely had not financially planned for the expense. Once my husband considered it, he was on board but we had to get financial help. It all

came so quickly. One of the children's godparents offered to pay their part and I don't know where else the rest came from but it came. When there was a brief moment where we thought they couldn't go due to the cost of the tuition, the children eagerly gave me all the money that they had saved up and said that we would start to save for next year. Next, the drive. Could we afford the gas? Probably not. Next thing I know, we had a benefactor helping us with gas money. It seems that once I got the idea in my head, God was there to make it all possible. There was no going back. It has been so very worth every effort that we and our benefactors have made. The children's Catholic faith is more integrated into their education and it comes home with them. They are singing the music of the church everywhere they go. It's beautiful to hear. Although I have sung in the choir for 16 years, my children have never sung the hymns of the church. It's hard to explain the changes in the children. It's sometimes just simple things like my son holding the door open, one of the girls trying to help the other with her chores so that they can go outside and play, or how they help one another with studying for a quiz or test. The Maez children are clearly thriving at the Academy and are looking forward to a new school building, new classrooms and new students next year!

*On July 3rd 2015, Our Lord called Mrs. Maez home.
Requiescant in pace.
Please keep her and her family in your prayers.*