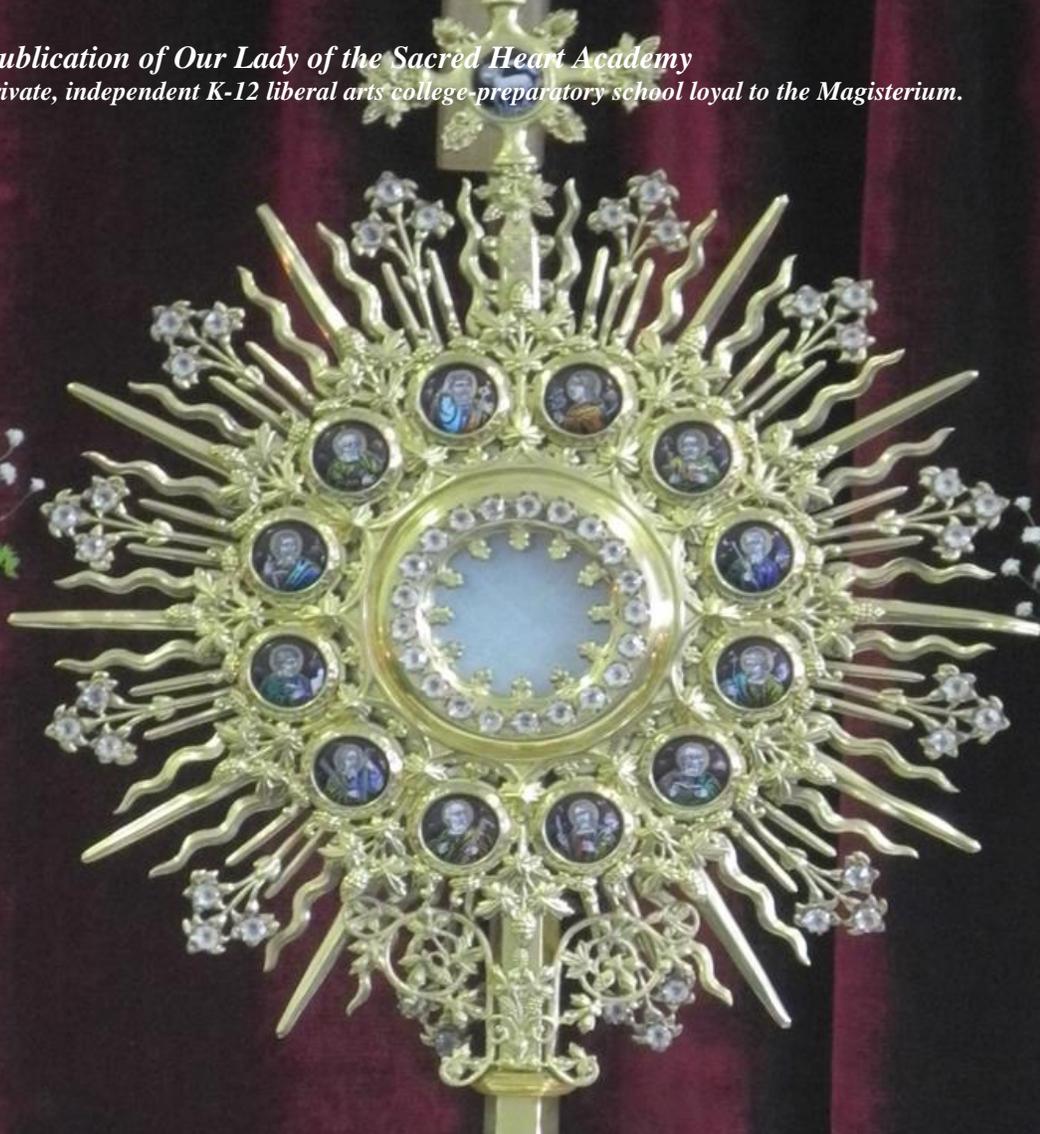


Annunciata

*A publication of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy
A private, independent K-12 liberal arts college-preparatory school loyal to the Magisterium.*



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Passing on our Catholic intellectual tradition and Western heritage...

Vol. IV, No. 1 Spring 2013

AD HONOREM ET GLORIAM DEI - FOR THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD

A Letter from the President...

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Holiness

"This academy is a point of light, preserving learning, like a monastery in the Middle Ages; I wish I had attended OLSHA."
--Dr. Kenneth Calvert, Headmaster, Hillsdale Academy

Dear Friends,

We wish you a joyful Pentecost, as we renew our commitment to our Faith and rejoice in a new Papa, Pope Francis, to shepherd the Church Militant. We have many milestones to share with you this year, and a plea to help us continue to graduate leaders prepared to answer their call to holiness and to rebuild their culture. Our unwavering commitment to pass on our Western heritage and Catholic intellectual tradition continues; below you may read how one of our students answers the question "Is the Western heritage dead?" Our graduates are needed even more today to counter the liberal agenda of the current White House administration, and to educate those who put them in power.

Milestones! Entering our thirteenth year is the major milestone that allows the others to follow; and it is only by the grace of God and your help that we have accomplished it. However, the best milestone and biggest blessing of the year was permission from Bishop Malloy to hold Adoration and Benediction at the Academy – thank you, Your Excellency! As a fledgling school, our thirteenth year is a proving ground: the first year that a student will have attended the Academy, from its inception, from kindergarten through twelfth grade; you may read about his accomplishments on the next page. Other milestones: two more high school AP (advanced placement) courses were approved by the College Board; IHSA (Illinois High School Association) participation: students participated in cross country and music; grades 3-5 soccer: students competed in our first private school league; and finally, two of our alumnae returned to teach at their alma mater - they are passing on the "pearl of great price" and the heritage imparted to them. We also gained a new supporter in Jack Roeser, founder of Champion News and the Family Taxpayer's Foundation – thank you, Jack, for your generosity!

As you're aware, the Academy does not have the financial backing of an institution, and we survive through tuition (over ninety percent of our families are on financial aid) and your gifts, and loans that we must pay back. We have worked diligently over the past thirteen years, and through the grace of God we have accomplished much; however, we need to move to the next phase, and we can only do so through a donation in six figures, and many more modest ones.

Do you see the fruit in our students and the possibility of more to come? If so, we hope you will consider a gift to the academy using the enclosed envelope, or pass this newsletter on to someone you know who may want to support it. Thank you!

In Christ,

Louis G. Bageanis
President

Is the Western Heritage Dead? By David Ramirez, Class of 2014

The Western heritage is not dead. In just two and a half years, I have received counsel from Marcus Aurelius; I have learned to understand the language of ancient Rome; I have learned that a man should be led by reason and faith, and not by passion. I have seen the stone-hard courage of the Spartans, and the patient wit of the Athenians.

I have learned that art is not a pile of twisted metals aimed at "expanding imagination"; I know that art is the expression of truth and that beauty is found where form and function meet. I have seen that "free men fight better."¹ I have learned that a man's dignity is something to respect and it should never, ever be walked on. I have learned to love equality before the law, freedom of speech and the liberty of the individual. I have learned that when "we mean that we should, and they mean that we shouldn't" govern ourselves, we stand united, and we will never disperse, until what is right is done.²

Marcus Aurelius taught me to love self-mastery; John Adams taught me that the foundation of my country is love for God; William Wallace taught me that without freedom, we don't have anything, and that freedom is enough to give your life for.

I have inherited a template from the men of the West. Many have been more fortunate than I have been, and have had more than two and a half years to learn and understand more fully these lessons. I can only imagine and envy their love for them. Nevertheless, there is no way of taking what I know away. The Western heritage is in me, and in Gus, Brendan, Olive, and Gibbs. It lives through us. Places like OLSHA keep it alive, and until all places like OLSHA are destroyed, and until all people like us are dead, the Western heritage will live.

¹ Personal communication from Donald Kagan to Elizabeth Altham, as to the theme of Herodotus.

² S.E. Morison, *Oxford History of the American People*, Cambridge, 1964, p.213.

OLSHA Milestones



2013 Graduate—First to attend K-12: Awarded Illinois State Scholar and AP Scholar
Our thirteenth anniversary marks the first year that a student graduated having attended grades K-12 at OLSHA. Augustine Bageanis has achieved the following awards: 2013-14 Illinois State Scholar and 2012 and 2011 AP Scholar. Gus also scored in the top 2% of the nation on his ACT composite score, with a perfect score in reading. He benefited from our seven AP (advanced placement) courses (designed to incorporate our Catholic and Western heritage), and our outstanding faculty. More importantly, Gus is equipped to pass on the faith and heritage bequeathed to him, and to defend them. Gus will attend the College of Engineering (ranked fifth in the nation) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and will reside in Newman Hall. Congratulations to Jonathan Christensen, Tom Bertrand and Patrick Bageanis (8th grade graduates), and to our Kindergarten graduates: Sean Adas, Brianna Soto and Rollins Simmons!



Adoration: May 8, 2013 – Thank you Bishop Malloy and Fr. Bartolomeo!

Thank you to Bishop Malloy, who gave permission for the Academy to hold Adoration as we celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. We are grateful to Fr. Bartolomeo, who presided over this sacred hour; as our moral theology teacher, Father also prepared students well to live and defend immutable Church teachings.



IHSA Cross Country and Music; Soccer League – Grades 3-5; Volleyball

Led by Coach Haneman, boys competed in IHSA cross country, and participated in four meets. It was a great start to IHSA sports! Under choir director, Mrs. Altham, students placed 32nd out of 72 schools in music, with perfect scores in several areas. Soccer was a hit as students learned the skills of the game under Coach Garzia's watchful eye, competing against local schools. Volleyball players enjoyed sparring against other schools – thank you, Coach Veitch!



Alumnae return to teach!

Brittany Brady (2007) attended four years of the Academy's high school, and studied at Ave Maria University. Angelica Veitch (2008) entered the Academy in third grade and graduated from Hillsdale College in 2012. Both elementary-school teachers are imparting their gifts and the heritage they received at OLSHA to future saints and scholars!



OLSHA in Action!

OLSHA in Action!

The 2012-13 academic year was a busy one: All Saints' Day contest; visit to the Poor Clare's Colletine Monastery; visits from Fr. Bartolomeo, Fr. Beekman, and Canons Bovee and Talarico; students defended the unborn in the March for Life in Washington D.C. with St. John Cantius (for eleven years students prayed monthly at the abortion mill which closed in 2012); corporal and spiritual works of mercy: praying for and visiting the elderly, collecting alms for the poor, tutoring and more!; 4th of July parade – thank you, Bryden Ford; Curran's Apple Orchard; Midway Village Museum; Anderson Gardens; Atwood Birds of Prey; Burpee Museum Rock River trip; fire department visit; Civil Air Patrol's flag retirement ceremony; *Nutcracker*; *Hercules*; Fermilab; art show, science fair, spring program, poetry recitations; ballet; visit to Jack Roeser (new supporter!); Ice Hogs' hockey game.



Foreign-exchange Student from China – Yuchen Zhao or “Mike”

It was a blessing to have “Mike” (adopted American name) as a fellow student this year from the People's Republic of China. Mike participated in all daily activities and the March for Life in D.C. As expected, he was a whiz at calculus and physics! We'll miss you!

Graduate enrolled in the University of New Haven

Frances Altham graduated with honors in 2012, and is aspiring to be a federal agent for the FBI through the University of New Haven. Fighting the good fight, she was prepared to inform fellow students of their country's history! Jake Martindale, all smiles, graduated from the lower school.





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In Memoriam – Donna Veitch: A Valiant Woman

Donna Veitch, mother of former student and current teacher, Angel, and long-time supporter of the Academy, passed away following her battle with cancer on February 10, 2013.

Donna was close to many students over the years, and she holds a special place in our heart; she was also instrumental in the conversion of one of our Chinese foreign-exchange students. Please keep Donna, her husband Gary, and their family in your prayers; she is greatly missed by all. Donna was truly the Biblical “Valiant Woman.” We count on her even more now!

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy is a non-diocesan, non-profit, private school teaching the foundation of a classical academic curriculum from grades K-12, administered and staffed by Catholic laymen and incorporated under the laws of Illinois. Independent of the Diocese of Rockford, the school is not an agency of and is in no way connected or affiliated with the Diocese of Rockford; however, as faithful, practicing Catholics, the school trustees, administrators and full-time teachers joyfully sign an oath of fidelity to the Magisterium and a profession of faith to the Catholic Church. The Academy is fully accredited by AdvancED (NCA CASI) and NAPCIS, and is recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. Memberships: College Board, NCAA, IHSA, ISAC, JNHS and NHS. National awards: 2009 Hillsdale College Salvatori Award; 2006 Acton Institute Award.