



SALES TALK

FOR THE PARENTS OF SALESIANUM SCHOOL

APRIL 13, 2015

A THOUGHT FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

We must examine whether it is better to have thorns in our garden while we have roses there, than to have no roses, so as to have no thorns.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Fr. Chris Beretta, OSFS – principal@salesianum.org

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating break. As we all know from experience, our time remaining in school will go quickly after Easter, and summer will be upon us before we know it. Hard to believe it is already mid-April! In the days and weeks that follow, please pay close attention to announcements on SalesTalk and email communication for the latest updates and information that will help us all end the year smoothly and on a positive note.

Doubting Thomas

Sunday's Gospel, the story of the Risen Lord appearing to Thomas the Apostle, is a powerful story of redemption. After Jesus has appeared to the other disciples, Thomas expresses his desire to see and experience the Master as the others have – to have a chance to see his wounds, even to place his hand in the side of Jesus. While such a statement is certainly dramatic, it seems unfair to use “doubting Thomas” in reference to him for the rest of history. After all, there is no evidence that any of the others believed without seeing, and Thomas is only hoping for the same experience. When Jesus appears to him in the flesh, Thomas replies, “My Lord and my God.”

I have been told that there is a church in New York City with four statues of St. Thomas the Apostle, labeled Doubt, Despair, Confession, and Mission. Doubt and Despair reflect Thomas in the midst of his confusion and questioning, while Confession depicts his conversion when he utters the words, “My Lord and my God.” But Mission reminds us that the apostle known best for his doubts is also the one who took the Gospel message further than the others: the energized, determined Thomas preached the Gospel in India.

There is a valuable lesson here. Our ministry with young men makes it certain that we will be a witness to plenty of doubt, many for the first time in their lives (certainly not the last). Just as with Thomas, doubt has for many a negative connotation. But just as with Thomas, doubt can be an important (perhaps even necessary) step in a long process that leads to a deeper and longer lasting faith. After all, doubt is a part of faith, when we risk believing in spite of a lack of proof or certainty. And for those who take a little longer to get there, Thomas is indeed a marvelous patron. For once he believed, his love for the Lord carried him further than any of the other Apostles.

Technology Announcement from before Easter Break (In Case You Missed It)

Two years ago, we began the process of implementing iPads into the daily life of our school. At the time, our roll out was deliberately open-ended, so that teachers could explore a number of educational apps, iBooks, and interactive programs. As I have said many times, the iPads are seen neither as an educational savior or as an evil to be avoided; they represent the fact that, like it or not, technology has changed the way we connect with one another, access information,

and organize our lives. Our students are going into a world where they will need to learn to remain focused, productive, and personal while having two or three devices running at home, at school, and at work. Of course, this is a serious challenge to all of us, especially to a generation that has never known life any other way. But our goal all along has been to humanize and harness this technology with our Salesian spirit and educational philosophy.

Along the way, we have begun to introduce clearer guidelines for use, good training for college when they will need to establish and enforce their own self-discipline. This will always be a work in progress. But one area of weakness we have not addressed, pointed out by many parents, has been a lack of consistent, clear approach to posting assignments and grades, and the lack of a single Learning Management System (LMS) that can be used school wide rather than using Edmodo in one class, iTunes U in another, Schoology in another, and so on. Although the openness gave our teachers valuable time to explore a variety of digital platforms, for both the instructional and organizational needs of our students, this has created a time-consuming and often frustrating experience where they may spend as much time familiarizing themselves with apps and programs as they do actually studying.

For this reason, our goal was to standardize our approach to these issues by the beginning of next school year, and we are now prepared to do so. After exploring a number of Learning Management Systems, a faculty committee has unanimously recommended that we adopt OnCampus, a product that not only has all the features we were seeking for instruction, organization, and class communication, but in addition, was developed specifically to integrate seamlessly with our existing Blackbaud software for student records and information. Ultimately, this means we will be transitioning away from NetClassroom to a much more user-friendly, “one stop” Learning Management System (LMS) where teachers, students, and parents can access all necessary grades, content, and information in one location.

For teachers, this will mean not having to “double post” information both to NetClassroom and then separately to another app used in class. Teachers will be able to quiz, host discussions, post links, annotate and grade, post files, create online lessons for special projects or snow days, and so on. And, since OnCampus runs on HTML5, it molds itself to whatever device someone may be using—phone, tablet, computer (Apple or other).

For parents and students, OnCampus seems to address many of the concerns that have been raised, establishing one school wide LMS and a single location to check grades, view posted assignments, access course content, and even find information related to activities such as rehearsal schedules, team announcements, payment information, physicals and concussion testing, and more. All class assignments post to an OnCampus calendar, providing an effective replacement for calendar/planner apps for the students which would also sync up with our school calendar and a student’s personal calendar. In time, admissions, registration, and college counseling can all be integrated with this system.

Although it will require some additional training and a learning curve for all, this is all a very positive development! Though our patience created some understandable frustration, our reward is the discovery of a relatively new product, developed with and for Blackbaud, meaning it won’t be going away anytime soon and will be fully supported. Incoming freshmen will be trained in OnCampus over the summer, and we are considering optional summer training for returning students. The program is so intuitive, many returning students will be able to figure it out on their own with time and a little help, but we will be making sure all future students receive comprehensive training not only on the responsible use of the iPad but also on the LMS that can enhance classroom instruction and help them remain organized.

When we return to school in late August, new guidelines for posting assignments and grades will also be clarified and made more uniform. Our hope is that all these improvements will help everyone involved, particularly the students. Thank you for your patience and support along the way, and know that your feedback made an enormous difference in helping us understand the needs of your sons.

Fr. Chris Buetta, OSFS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Jude Szczerba, Dean of Academic Affairs – juszcz@salesianum.org

Academic Summer Programs

The Academic Summer Program schedule is now posted online at www.salesianum.org/parents. To enroll, complete a registration form and return it to the attention of Academic Summer Programs. Class size is limited and will be filled in the order that the form is received.

Exams and Book Buyback for Seniors and Underclassmen

Once again this year, teachers are encouraged to incorporate non-exam components into their final assessment of students. As you may know, the final assessment grade for full year courses comprises 20% of the final grade. Incorporating alternate assessments such as projects, papers, portfolios, and shorter exams takes the emphasis off of the final exam and encourages the demonstration of skills.

For seniors and underclassmen, there are exam days listed on the calendar. Specific times and dates for particular subjects will be announced shortly on NetClassroom, SalesTalk, and on the website. Dismissal during exam days is typically before noon.

An announcement concerning “book buyback and textbook rental return” will be made shortly. As was the case last year, representatives from Follett Virtual Bookstores will be available on certain exam days to accept used and rented books from students. Students should pay close attention to see which textbooks they will use again next year. As Salesianum continues to transition to the use of more non-print textbooks in the iPad, fewer textbooks will be bought back by Follett.

STUDENT LIFE

Mr. Mike Gallagher, Dean of Student Life – mgallagh@salesianum.org

Mr. Bill Dinardo, Assistant Principal for Student Discipline – wdinardo@salesianum.org

Mr. Dan Jackman, Director of Student Activities – djackman@salesianum.org

Host Family Request

We are in need of a Salesianum family to host a student from France for 4 to 6 weeks beginning July 1. The student is 15 years old. Please email Jenn Vintigni at jvintigni@salesianum.org for additional details.

Special Presentation: Making Sense of Adolescence

Experts from the University of Delaware School of Nursing and Christiana Care’s Department of Family & Community Medicine will host a special presentation to help you understand how and why teens think and make decisions, better understand teen behavior, appreciate the unique stress of being a teenager today, and prevent health risks to help teens stay healthy. The presentation will be held on April 14 at 6:00 PM at Brandywine High School. Learn more – <http://goo.gl/xMvrB7>.

ADVANCEMENT

Mr. John Helmick, Director of Institutional Advancement – jhelmick@salesianum.org

Lt. Joseph L. Szczerba ‘85 Memorial 5k Run/Walk

The Lt. Joseph Szczerba ‘85 Memorial 5k will be Thursday April 23rd. Free pizza and soft pretzels will be available after the race. Registration starts at 5:30, race begins at 6:30. Regular registrants are \$25, students are \$15. To register visit: <http://goo.gl/YatqWO>. Any questions contact Mr. Maiorano in the Alumni Office at dmaiorano@salesianum.org.

For the Boys

For the Boys is a fun and festive evening showcasing the finest Salesian hospitality. Last year’s event at the Delaware Art Museum, the first ever off-campus, was wildly popular and sold out well in advance. In an effort to accommodate more guests in a comfortable and elegant atmosphere, we’re moving to Vicmead Hunt Club on April 18, 2015. Visit the Advancement Department event page to learn more and purchase your tickets - <http://salesianum.org/events/>.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Lee Anne Cassidy, SPA President – salespa@salesianum.org

Four-Week Club Raffle

Students will receive tickets for the Four-Week Club on Monday, April 13 during homeroom. We will collect ticket returns during every lunch period beginning on Wednesday, April 15. The Four-Week Club will run through May 8 with four weekly raffles. Money raised from the annual raffle will assist the school throughout its educational programming. Each student is required to sell five of their four-week club tickets at \$20 apiece. Students who sell eight tickets will be entered into a raffle for \$2,000. With every ticket sold above eight, students will receive another chance at the \$2,000 prize. Students who do not sell all five tickets by May 7 will have \$100 assessed to their student accounts.

Each raffle ticket is eligible for all remaining raffles from the time it is turned in, for example, a raffle ticket turned in on April 14 is eligible for all four weeks while a raffle ticket turned in on May 5 is only eligible for the final drawing on May 8.

	Drawing Date	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize
WEEK 1	April 18	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$250
WEEK 2	April 24	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$100
WEEK 3	May 1	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$100
WEEK 4	May 8	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$250

Town Hall

Please join us on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 PM in the Lawless Library for the Spring Parent's Association meeting. Our guest speaker will be John Helmick, Chief Advancement officer for Salesianum. John will give us a report on For the Boys Auction event in addition to an overview of the Salesianum Development Office – how funds are collected and distributed and how parents can get involved with the events sponsored by his team.

In addition, we will spend some time to get organized for the May SPA events and discuss plans for the 2015-16 school year. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this final meeting of the school year, we need your help and new ideas.

SERVICE LEARNING

Mr. Zachary Ryan, Director of Service-Learning, zryan@salesianum.org

Deadline for Service Hours

The next due date for Christian Service hours is on April 15. This is the final submission for hours to reach a total of 25 points for the school year. The Christian Service form with information about the service program can be found under the Student tab of the website - <http://goo.gl/BB9mzi>. There are several service opportunities on the VolunteerSpot that take place after the deadline, students who sign up and complete those opportunities will be able to count them towards the April 15 deadline.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Fr. Mike Vogt, OSFS, Pastoral Care Coordinator – mvogt@salesianum.org

FOR HEALTH, HEALING AND WELL-BEING:

- Chris White '17, who continues his treatment.
- The Esmond family from Tatnall.

FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

- **And for all the names listed in the Book of Remembrance kept in the school chapel.**

SALESIANUM SCHOOL WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week of April 13 - 19

Monday April 13	<u>C-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Classes Resume▪ Four-Week Club begins
Tuesday April 14	<u>D-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Golf at Archmere, 3:00 PM, Wilmington Country Club▪ Tennis vs. Friends, 4:00 PM▪ Baseball at Red Lion, 4:00 PM▪ Volleyball at Charter, 5:00 PM
Wednesday April 15	<u>E-DAY: WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Faculty Professional Time (Faculty Meeting moved to 4/22)▪ Four-Week Club Collections begin, Lunch periods▪ Lacrosse at St. Mark's, 7:15 PM
Thursday April 16	<u>F-DAY: AM ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ School Easter Mass, 9:00 AM, Birkenheuer Gym▪ Golf at Caravel Academy, 3:30 PM▪ Lacrosse vs. Friends, 4:00 PM▪ Baseball at St. Elizabeth, 4:00 PM, Canby Park▪ Volleyball vs. AI DuPont, 5:00 PM
Friday April 17	<u>G-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Final House Competition, G6 Period▪ Tennis at Caesar Rodney, 4:00 PM▪ Rugby at Mt. St. Mary's, 6:00 PM
Saturday April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ For the Boys, 7:00 PM, Vicmead Country Club▪ ACT Testing▪ Track at Madric Invitational, Caravel Academy, 10:00 AM▪ Baseball at Cape Henlopen, 1:00 PM
Sunday April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Rugby at Delaware 7's Tournament, 12:00 PM, Smyrna

SALESIANUM SCHOOL WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week of April 20 - 26

<p>Monday April 20</p>	<p><u>A-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Golf at Caesar Rodney, 3:30 PM, Wild Quail Country Club ▪ Varsity Volleyball vs. DMA, 6:00 PM, Birkenheuer Gym 	
<p>Tuesday April 21</p>	<p><u>B-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encounter Retreat Begins ▪ Varsity Tennis vs. Archmere, 3:45 PM ▪ Parent Association Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 PM, Lawless Library 	
<p>Wednesday April 22</p>	<p><u>C-DAY: WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty Meeting, 2:00 PM, Centenary Hall ▪ Golf vs. Charter, 3:00 PM, Fieldstone CC 	
<p>Thursday April 23</p>	<p><u>D-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Szczerba 5K, 5:30 PM ▪ Varsity Tennis at Concord, 3:30 PM ▪ Varsity Rugby (Gold) vs. Gonzaga College HS, 4:30 PM ▪ Varsity Lacrosse vs. Hill Academy, 5:00 PM ▪ Varsity Baseball vs. St. Mark's, 7:00 PM 	
<p>Friday April 24</p>	<p><u>E-DAY: REGULAR SCHEDULE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track & Field at Penn Relays, 9:00 AM ▪ Encounter Retreat Prayer Service, 3:00 PM, Centenary Hall ▪ Varsity Tennis at William Penn, 3:45 PM ▪ Varsity Volleyball at Unionville, 4:00 PM 	
<p>Saturday April 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track & Field at Penn Relays, 9:00 AM ▪ Track & Field at Unionville Invitational, 9:30 AM ▪ Varsity Lacrosse vs. Shawnee, 4:00 PM 	
<p>Sunday April 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Varsity Rugby (White) at Archmere, 1:00 PM 	
<p>Looking Ahead...</p>	<p>Thurs, April 30 Fri, May 1 Sun, May 3</p>	<p>Salesianum Spring Concert Junior Prom Class of 2015 Mother-Son-Communion Breakfast</p>