Reverend Father Todd Angele’s dream of having his play, *Come See What it Is to Love*, performed at his Alma Mater became a reality on the weekend of Passion Sunday. The Passion Play returned to St. Mary’s after being silent in the campus’s hallowed halls for almost two decades, being revived by the dedicated work of Fr. Angele and his cast and crew of over 80 performers. The majority of what we need to save our souls. It’s been done. It’s completed by Our Lord. And if we rely entirely on ourselves, we’re going to fall short of the mark.”

On that same note, Father also talked about how Our Lady relied on Our Lord in a different aspect than St. Peter and all the other apostles. “St. Peter and St. John lost the faith,” Father said. “St. John, the only one of the apostles that witnessed man’s redemption, lost the faith. The only person that kept the faith was Our Lady because she believed in Our Lord when He said I will rise on the third day. St. John admits that he lost the faith ‘I saw and then I believed’: but Our Lady did not have to see, but because she loved Our Lord and His Passion.”

While most theatrical productions intend to delight their audiences as well as to teach them, the purpose of the Passion Play is the other way around. As Passion Play program stated: “The goal of this Passion Play is not primarily to entertain us as spectators but rather to help us understand the sufferings of Christ. Would that, through this play, we might understand the gravity of sin, feel remorse for those sins we have committed, take up our cross and more bravely follow Our Lord.”

Amoc (Matthew Whyburn, SMA ’13) false accuser, accusing Christ of breaking the Sabbath by harvesting wheat, that the play would make its world debut in Melbourne, Australia. For this recent production of the play, Father enlisted the help of Mrs. Helen Armstrong, son of the play’s author, and in a group of experienced actors, among them Mr. Fred Fletcher, Mrs. Patricia Harris, Mrs. Eric Kafkam, and Mr. Ben Moats.

Fr. Angele in the role of Christ and in addition it was the first time that Father directed the play. Father would go on to be asked to direct the play and perform in it in ‘86, ‘87, and ‘88; while attending the seminary. Also, as a seminarian, Rev. Fr. Kenneth Novak would be the first to portray St. Peter after St. Peter’s soliloquy was added. In the years of 1983, 1985, and 1989 no plays were produced. In 1986, a new twist to the play was added—the spectators became part of the crowd following Our Lord to Calvary along the road leading up to Loyola Hall. In 1980, the play encompassed the College porches which were used as Pontius Pilate’s Praetorium and as Herod’s Palace, as the “Way of the Cross” wound through campus. The Passion Play would be performed in 1992, in what looked to be its final production at St. Mary’s. It was in 1988, while on a retreat, that Fr. Angele wrote his play *Come See What it Is to Love*. It wasn’t until 1999 the play would make its debut. The passion of Our Lord was carried on by Mr. Ben Moats, SMA ’98, and the help of Mrs. Helen Armstrong, son of the play’s author, and in a group of experienced actors, among them Mr. Fred Fletcher, Mrs. Patricia Harris, Mrs. Eric Kafkam, and Mr. Ben Moats.

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The Children of Mary, along with a huge cast of many younger students and children of the parish, presented “The Lilies of Pardon” on March 18 and 19 to receive first place in the high school division of the 2010-2011 RI¿FHUVIRU. The play was under the direction and guidance of Sr. Mary St. Anne. In fact, this play was unique in that it was made possible by so many young people of our parish. The C.O.M. stage a play every other year; however, this year’s performance was unusual because so many of the younger actors are not part of the C.O.M.

The play is a hilarious take on Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest.” This year’s senior girls chose to present Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest” on May 6, 7, and 8, Mother’s Day weekend. A book of Oscar Wilde plays surfaced during a class back in the fall, and this title was their first choice.

The play, a romantic comedy, was set in Victorian England and the characters are portrayed with just the right amount of artificiality associated with the shallowness of this time period. The plot was set in Victorian England and the characters are portrayed with just the right amount of artificiality associated with the shallowness of this time period.

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The president of the C.O.M., Isabella Morgali (SMA ’11), played the part of the saint’s mother, Assunta. The saint’s killer was brought to life by Alexandria Campbell (SMA ’12) as the character Alessandro. Sr. Mary Louis said that the story of St. Maria Goretti was chosen because she is the patroness of the C.O.M., and was also named a “patron saint of youth” when Pope Pius XII canonized her in 1950. Also, since she died in 1902, next year will be the 110th anniversary of her martyrdom.

This huge production, according to Sr. Mary Louis, was made possible by the hard work and dedication of 124 individual performers (44 main characters), 69 different families, and help from Mr. Steven Horak, Miss Marie Ard, and Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Sevigny.

The C.O.M. is run by our Society Sisters. Upon joining the C.O.M., girls have one year of probation under the direction of Sr. Mary Louis. After this first year, they are then full-fledged members under the guidance of Sr. Mary St. Anne. They meet on Monday after school, and also have 15-minute meditations on Thursdays.

The C.O.M. Officers for 2011-2012 are: president Isabella Morgali, secretary Angela Horak, and treasurer Bridgetahria, all of whom are seniors. Six new members.

By Martha Palmeri ’12

How Important is it to be Earnest?

By Maria Palmeri ’11

It is a common misconception among the ignorant that the life of an actor is all glamour. But after seeing the hard work and long hours the senior girls have put into their play, I can no longer remain one of the deceived. A play takes more than just memorizing and reciting lines; it requires confidence, energy, God-given talent, and self-sacrifice.

I had to cancel my Tae Kwon Do practices, and as the play got closer I was getting more nervous. Jessica McAtarian, one of the play’s main characters, explained, “Bernadette Armesto, another actress, stated, “We worked for six months memorizing lines, figuring out our characters, and trying not to drive each other crazy.”

The girls received their lines over the Christmas break and since then have practiced every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Memorizing lines was only half of the work; they also studied their characters and how to use the words they spoke to captivate their audience. “Having to be transformed into a fifty-year-old woman who looked eighty” was Bridget Zahrata’s favorite part of getting into character as Miss Prism.

Although the cast was mostly made up of amateurs, director Mrs. Joyce Palmer wouldn’t have it any other way. “It’s just easier to get them without knowing anything about acting.”

Singing and Screaming at Worlds of Fun

By Regina Syrokosz ’13

From screaming at the top of their lungs on a 200-foot roller coaster to worlds of fun, the girls received their lines over the Christmas break and since then have practiced every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Memorizing lines was only half of the work; they also studied their characters and how to use the words they spoke to captivate their audience. “Having to be transformed into a fifty-year-old woman who looked eighty” was Bridget Zahrata’s favorite part of getting into character as Miss Prism.

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As a reward for our outstanding performance at the Academy we had been sent on a paid cruise through the North Atlantic. Unfortunately the cheapest cruise ticket was for the Titanic, and we were now aboard the sinking ship. Our exit blocked by a generator having been slammed into the metal door and walls, our only escape to the decks was through a porthole. If we touched the side, we would be electrocuted.

That was the story line behind one of the obstacles presented to the academy students attending the Project C.O.P.E. (Challenging, Outdoor, Personal, Experiences) resident camp. Scouting for Saint Mary’s parish boys only, had invited the boys dorm on Saturday, May 7th for the Monday thru Thursday. Twenty boarders, a house father, five troop members, and a guest had come to Falley Scout Reservation for the event. Tall telephone poles, supporting platforms, ladders, and cable bridges 40 feet in the air, towered above us as we arrived at our destination on foot after a mile hike. (Unfortunately those high courses were not on our agenda as we were signed up for the low obstacles requiring less specialized equipment available on the one day course.) Project C.O.P.E. is normally a two day course, which through the means of different games and obstacles, is designed to build teamwork and problem solving.

Day 1 is filled with basic team building challenges on ground level. Day 2 moves up to 40 feet high individual challenges. At each obstacle the participants are given instructions on how to complete the obstacle and then are left to analyze and plan. The low course obstacles involved cramming a large number of people inside small areas, balancing various platforms and beams using teamwork, climbing over or crawling through obstacles, swinging between various tires, or over things. The four different high courses were obstacles raised forty feet in the air. Cable bridges and beams were the main obstacles of the high courses, but others were swinging between ropes, crawling across a concrete mando rope, and riding down a 450-foot long zip line.

Our C.O.P.E day began by choosing names. We were to apply to ourselves a descriptive name and the results varied ranging from “Awesome” Evan and “Chubby” Kevin to U-Neck. The remainder of the day was filled with different challenges, most undemanding, but requiring planning and a few almost impossible with 25 boys: the tire swing, the spider web, the National Treasure balance platform, the Alaska pipeline crawl, the Titanic porthole, the floating platform, the poison low beam, the logger’s balance beam built with V-cable, and the tire swing traverse. The most interesting obstacle was the tire crawl. The basic instructions were to divide the group in half and line up one half at each end of the two and a half foot diameter, twenty foot long pipe. Both lines were to then crawl through the pipe at the same time. As it turned out it may sound, the forward movement through the pipe becomes very difficult with the bulks of “Chief” Whyburd or “Redhead” (Anthony) Rugman fill most of the pipe. Another interesting and difficult obstacle became the toxic waste swing.

Two of the more frustrating obstacles were the logger’s balance beam bridge and the poison low beam. The balance beam was not difficult to traverse. The hard part was getting two lines of “loggers returning from and going to work” to cross the “bridge” at the same time. It could only begin crossing once all 27 boys were on the twenty foot long, two and a half foot diameter beam. The challenge was only completed once the group was divided in half. The poison low beam was made difficult due to safety objections. The goal was to get the whole team over eight foot high beam without touching the wood. Despite our frustration we managed to complete the goal by covering the beam with shirts and sacrificing “Curly” Mike (Simonton) and “Awe-some” Evan (Kondra) to help people over. The large group made some of the simple obstacles take up an hour and it was not so enjoyable passing one body after another through either a tire or a rope spider-web, without touching the sides, while being swung seven times in a row. Had the group been broken in two, the day would have gone much smoother and more ground covered. Nevertheless our encounter with the sinking Titanic did not cause tragedy. We lost only one boy, “Jamaal” Jimmy (Dippolito) to electrocution, and all he lost was the use of his muscles. (He seemed to rather enjoy being carried around.) And the last man, “LuLu” (Rodriguez) to cross through the tire porthole did so with a spectacular leap, sailing though the four foot high tire and landing safely on the other side.

This challenge was to swing one by one across the “toxic waste” and land inside of one of five hula hoop safe zones. The difficulty came with the realization that all 27 of us had to fit in those five hula hoops. Several people lost legs from landing in the toxic waste and one became blind from the splatter.

The start of the spring saw the baseball team and its eighteen players practicing for the start of the baseball season. There were several new faces this season in both players and coaches. The newest addition to the coaching staff was Mr. Devon McCarthy, a former player under head coach Mr. David Goulart. Coach McCarthy was the team driver, the stat keeper, and occasional first or third base coach.

One of the major keys to winning first was that the 2011 track team almost doubled in size from last year. This increase in members gave the team room to try different strategy coming in to the meet. Unlike last year, this year’s team was able to have enough athletes at each event to have at least one athlete participating in each event. The only event that the team did not take part in was the pole vault. The maximum number of events that one athlete was allowed to perform in was four events. Coach Harpe said that he told the other coaches tried to “enter [each of] the boys into four events and to pass one athlete into every event.” This helped increase the overall point total of the track team.

St. Mary’s received 111 points while the next closest team was KC East with 88 points.

“We had all around strong athletes this year,” stated Coach Harpe, “and I see this program and the strength of the students only getting better.”

The second championship game against the Midland Monarchs saw Freshman Thomas Stamos starting on the mound. He pitched a fair game but the Crusader defense faltered with many errors by the infield including a few by yours truly. “We gave them at least thirteen extra outs,” said Coach Goulart. The uncanny runs were also up in the numbers as the Crusaders were run ruled.

The second game against Sunrise was played well defensively, but unfortunately the bats did not get a ground ball to the right side with a group of singles in Coach Harpe’s opinion. The pitching and fielding helped the Crusaders stay in the game all the way to the end. Senior Joseph Archer threw well over a hundred pitches and allowed only four runs in 8 1/3 innings but the Buffaloes scored in the top of the eighth to put the game out of reach.

The third game was played against the Derby Invasion with Junior Peter Brown on the mound. The Crusaders defeated the Invasion with a score of 16-6. They ended their season with a record of 13-9 and third place at the state tournament.
Boys Don’t Have Nice Handwriting?

By Timothy Lillis ’12

What is the goal in taking an Art class? Some may believe that the purpose is to receive a necessary credit to graduate. Others will grumble at difficulties throughout the course, but as for the seniors, they now appreciate the various courses in calligraphy, paint, gold-leaing, clay-molding, and pencil drawings.

Andrew Frayn, a senior, describes his work in gold-leaing as a way to emphasize the beauty within calligraphy. In his view “the gold-leaing brings forth the life and characteristics.”

Miss Hughes, the art instructor, also describes how art “strongly shows temperaments.” Miss Hughes goes on to say how some students make numerous mistakes in their calligraphy and have to revise their work, while others worked slow and steady, making every stroke count. In the calligraphy course the students copy out the “Definition of a Gentleman” by Cardinal Newman. This passage states the necessities of being cultured in life.

As for the sculpting aspect of art, a decent number of the class had worked and enjoyed the sculpting project. The sculptures varied from the extraordinary examples of cars to mushrooms. Marcel Whybrud, another graduating senior, states “the most important stage of art is drawing.” He claims, “If we did not have a clear drawing, we would not be able to proceed in our work of painting or sculpting.”

“Drawing,” Marcel Whybrud continues, “is the basic building block to art.” Drawing courses are the standard art course in the freshman through junior year of the high-school.

Mr. Clarendon comments on the art program by stating, “Cultural literacy is one way to restore all things in Christ.” In addition, Mr. Clarendon said the purpose of Art is to find and appreciate beauty.

“The objective goal in Art is to direct our thoughts towards God and the ultimate art is God in nature.”

Leather Working for the Ladies

By Kimberly Thibeault ’14

Art is more than just sketching and painting, as Mrs. Helen Armesto is striving to impress upon her students to work with a variety of materials or media, which this year includes real leather.

Leather work not only allows students to take home beautiful Bible and missal covers, bracelets, and rosary pouches; but also teaches them valuable lessons about art. According to Mrs. Armesto, they learn to work with inconsistencies, to accept the medium, and to keep focused.

This is Mrs. Armesto’s 10th year of teaching art, and every few years she pulls out her leather working tools to once again amaze, inspire, and above all teach her students this unique and useful art. Besides leather work, Mrs. Armesto has also taught sculpture, oil and canvas painting, calligraphy, stained glass window art, and portrait drawing, to name just a few.

Alternating projects each year makes it possible for students to take art as an elective all four years of high school without repeating the same project.

Earnest, continued... a name out of love for Cecily Cardew (Caitlin Plumley). When the ladies discovered the deception, all seemed lost; however, an unexpected turn of events gave the story a happy, “love conquers all” ending.

While the acting may be the main part of a play, a lot of work also goes into the directing, the building of sets, and other various backstage activities. Mrs. Palmer and Miss Emile Jordan generously volunteered their time and effort by directing the girls through their rehearsals. As they focused on the acting, stage manager Anastasia Novelly saw that the sets were built by Mr. Pat Palmeri and also located needed props. Other seniors not acting worked backstage preparing food and helping actresses change costumes.

Being part of a play builds character, according to Mrs. Palmer, and this particular group of girls showed great fortitude in overcoming obstacles along the way. Most significantly, they were unable to rehearse on the auditorium stage until just days before opening night. This was due to rehearsals for the Children of Mary play, the Passion Play, and Holy Week. “They had no sets, no costumes, no stage until the Monday of the week of the play,” Mrs. Palmer said.

Prior to that week, they rehearsed in the small gym. “We had to work as a team to make everything happen and we grew closer through all the rough times and the good times,” Stephanie Summers said.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SENIOR CLASSES OF 2011 FROM PRIESTS, REVEREND, SISTERS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS OF SAINT MARY’S ACADEMY!