At the outset of what we now think of as one of the best experiences of our lives, we were under the impression that we knew each other and that we knew ourselves. It only took ten days to see how wrong we were. During one of his lectures, Fr. Gerard Beck compared the world to a rose. He said the people of the world want the rose, the deep, rich, red beauty of its petals but they don’t want the thorns. They think they can have all the good things in life without the hardships. Our experiences at Camp Stella Maris taught all seventy of us girls how unrealistic this assumption is and yet how easy it is to fall into that trap.

Charity, duty, spirit and sportsmanship were the four qualities which each of the six teams were assigned to strive for in our quest for becoming strong Catholic women during our stay at the Lake of the Ozarks. These characteristics are found in the Catholic woman as she progresses through the three stages of womanhood: as one of the ninth grade girls remembers, Fr. Mark Stafki reiterated daily, “These three descriptions, Virgo, Sponsa and Mater, are what develop a truly beautiful woman.”

Fr. Bourbeau’s camp for the Honor Guard and the Knights was by no means easy. There were hardships to endure, for example: little sleep, burnt pancakes, canned chicken tortillas, poisonous creatures, and 100-plus degree heat. But, gritting our teeth, we boys faced them, and the hardships formed us and drew us closer together. When we came back home, we had virtues to show for roughing it three weeks in the Wild West. We drew closer to God and virtue with Mass every day, and every night 86 young men would sing their hearts out beside a campfire.

Camp continued on page 3.

Fr. Bourbeau’s cowboys join in the Bisbee Independence Day parade.

Cowboys continued on final page.

The canyons were glowing red as the early morning sun came over the horizon, and horses carrying the campers thundered on through Monument Valley. The horses kicked up dust into the faces of the campers behind them, but the end was in sight. The starving riders jumped off their horses and wolfed down their daily ration of the infamous camp tortillas and burnt pancakes. It was a long ride, but the scenery, the horses, and the fun were worth the saddle sores.

Andrew Thibeault, 7th Grade

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Blaise Schmidt, 7th Grade

Besides working with art, music, and theatre, the young ladies at Camp Stella Maris played games involving grace, charity, and camaraderie.

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Every morning the ladies at the Lake of the Ozarks raised the camp flag, proclaiming the summer camp to be a camp for Mary-like maids.
God does not do things halfway. Look at the universe He created! Look at the mountains, towering to the very heavens. The oceans, so vast in breadth and depth, are filled with creatures of extravagant beauty. The skies sparkle with stars staggering in number and in distance one from the other… Look at the flowers, so varied in their delicate beauty; at the trees, so tall and majestic; at the birds, each with their own charm and song… Everywhere we look we see what Chesterton called “the splendid sensationalism” of God’s Creation. It is almost as if God, in creating, took a special delight in outdoing Himself for us!

The wonders of the natural world, of course, cannot compare to the splendor of the spiritual world. We are made in God’s image and likeness, and the soul of each of us is a kingdom of indescribable beauty, animated with the very life of God. Baptized in the blood which Christ shed on the Cross, we have unlimited access to His Sacred Heart. He is ever ready to pour Himself out for us, especially when we approach Him in confession or Holy Communion.

Chersterton says that it is the everyday things that we most often fail to notice, and this explains why we so easily overlook God’s tremendous generosity. How unfortunate! Not seeing His goodness, we love Him but little. Rather than striving to excel for Him, we live for self, and look merely for the easiest path in whatever is asked of us. God becomes merely an afterthought and so our efforts always remain halfhearted.

It was otherwise with the saints. “Rather die than serve God halfway!” was their cry, and we want to echo them by the way we live. We realize that we cannot pass on the flame of faith and charity, unless our own hearts are on fire. This fire can only be fed by the sacrifice of everyday effort: a daily generosity in return for the generosity of God. Our studies, our responsibilities, our crosses – all strengthen the flame within when offered wholeheartedly to God.

When the flame in a single soul burns brighter… the whole world is better for it.

Rev. Fr. Gerard Beck
Rector, St. Mary’s Academy and College
Charity was one of the virtues most encouraged for us, and for some it was the hardest. But the priests were there to remind everyone that learning how to love takes practice, patience and perseverance, just as Miss Enya Quain helped us remember that we are most pleasing to God when we do our duty. To obtain this charity, we needed a certain joy, openness and receptivity about us which could only be found in the spirit of a soul that is filled with God, which we sought through daily mass and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and in a soul who knows that all He wants is our best. So when we rolled over in our bunks after a long day, if we had given our all and didn’t mind the outcome, even if on a human level our efforts didn’t seem enough, we could rest peacefully knowing that the gift of self is all that He wanted.

We came to realize that the way to heaven, the way to Our Lady starts now, here in our every-day lives. So, when Fr. Stafki organized our candlelight rosary procession, we began where we had gathered every day to receive our duties, then traveled across the uneven road to the lake. Accompanied by the stars and surrounded by the trees, we arrived at the most beautiful place on the campsite, an outdoor shrine to Our Lady. A silence of calm and contentedness hung in the air as twilight approached and each girl presented a rose along with a personal resolution to Mary, Star of the Sea. We carried those resolutions and our roses home, understanding more deeply than ever that our paths will be thorny but that “through adversity we will reach the Star.”

Loretta Kosmicki, SMA 2018

Beacon in the Tempest
Isabella Childs, SMA 2018

In the face of a threatening storm,
The world darkened and distressed,
We sought and found a refuge,
A place of peace so blest.

A place untouched by the chaos about
Where together we could strive
To seek to find the truth
In the hidden meaning of our lives.

Bearing tiny flames in hand
And blossoms of our zeal,
We brought our resolutions
To the Queen, at her feet to kneel.

The lake rippled in the waning light,
We raised our voices high,
The sound traversed the water
As if echoing through Time,

Echoing the hymn of countless others,
A melody of everlasting praise
Of He Who governs all Time
And holds the span of days.

Linking arms, our faces toward the fire
We stood united that final night
An unbroken ring encircling Him
Who forever radiates truth and light.

Venturing back into the dusk
Our hearts too full to fear,
Although we’re immersed in shadow,
His brilliance is ever near.
Fr. Patrick Rutledge, Principal of the Boys’ School

CRUSADER: How is St. Mary’s Academy unique among the other schools within the Society?

Fr. Rutledge: Other than the obvious fact that SMA is the largest academy, I am well aware of the fact that many families have moved here precisely to benefit from the Academy for their children. Since these families know very well that it is the duty of the Catholic Church to form the youth, we are obviously dealing with serious Catholics who know how to make sacrifices for their families.

CRUSADER: How is St. Mary’s Academy unique among the other schools within the Society?

Fr. Rutledge: A spirit is not always tangible and can only be passed on by beings who are animated with virtue and a desire for excellence. What we are after is forming the boys to see the Catholic Faith and God’s created order in full clarity, so as to love them as they ought to be loved. If the Academy is full of young men who are growing to see this order, think for themselves and act virtuously on their own, we will have accomplished our goal. To this end, the teachers will have to bring life to their well-prepared classes and never settle into a comfort zone. Also the families will have to collaborate and inculcate at home the same spirit. Obviously it requires that the boys be docile and of good will, even if they make mistakes. Boys will be boys, but at a certain point a man must emerge. Above all, I want a family spirit to reign in the school.

CRUSADER: What spirit do you want to foster among the students of the Boys’ School? How do you plan to cultivate such a spirit?

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CRUSADER: What other objectives do you have for the Boys’ School? How do you hope to achieve these objectives within your school?

Fr. Rutledge: More than anything, the goal of the SSPX is the priesthood and, therefore, I hope to have many young men considering priestly life and religious vocations. The Academy has been producing healthy fruits in this regard in recent years, so I hope that that will continue. This is not to say that we will not be preparing the young men who will be fathers of families, whose task it is to help reconstruct the social order under Christ the King. While I certainly will need time to see how best to produce these effects, I already know that the boys’ weekly Mass and fervorinos, spiritual conferences, and yearly retreat will be very powerful means of grace. Fr. Bourbeau and I are also trying to be ubiquitous amongst the boys, knowing how crucial that priestly presence is. We have already had some good discussions about what we can do to take things to the next level this year.

CRUSADER: Since your time as a college student, how do you find that St. Mary’s has continued to develop?

Fr. Rutledge: During my one year in the College, I came to benefit from the enormous number of opportunities which St. Mary’s offered. At that time, there were five priests. Now with thirteen priests, there are so many more opportunities provided to the students and faithful here. I can see that the priests are very involved in all aspects of the Academy and parish. It goes to show how much each priest brings to the table and how important it is to continue to promote vocations. The perspectives of being here both as a student and a priest are quite different, but the former can surely help me as a priest to know what is expected by the faithful and students from this bastion of Catholic life.
Fr. John McFarland, Principal of the Girls’ School

CRUSADER: How is St. Mary’s Academy unique among the other schools within the Society?

Fr. McFarland: I can’t claim much experience with other Society schools since I never attended one and have spent my whole priesthood in St. Mary’s. Nevertheless, one thing that stands out is the history of St. Mary’s. The Catholic presence on our campus goes back to 1848; the Jesuits operated an Indian mission, a college, and a seminary in the more than 100 years they spent here. Furthermore, the Society has been here for 37 years. We have many students in the school who are children of graduates. We have teachers who have been here a long time and have seen a lot of change. Thus we enjoy a continuity and a tradition unparalleled in our U.S. District schools.

CRUSADER: What spirit do you want to foster among the students of the Girls’ School? How do you plan to cultivate such a spirit?

Fr. McFarland: More than anything, I would like to continue fostering a culture of academic excellence in the school. The District Education Department is doing a great deal of work towards building a fixed curriculum. Already, we are implementing Language Arts, Religion, and History curricula. We have seen some good results, but there is still a lot of work ahead to firmly establish and develop these various programs.

CRUSADER: What other objectives do you have for the Girls’ School? How do you hope to achieve these objectives within your school?

Fr. McFarland: Along with the spiritual life, we need to continue fostering a culture of academic excellence in the school. The District Education Department is doing a great deal of work towards building a fixed curriculum. Already, we are implementing Language Arts, Religion, and History curricula. We have seen some good results, but there is still a lot of work ahead to firmly establish and develop these various programs.

CRUSADER: What work or author has significantly influenced you? How has it been an influence?

Fr. McFarland: St. Thomas Aquinas has been a profound influence. In all his works, everything—philosophy and theology, study and spirituality, nature and grace—comes together in a magnificently harmonious synthesis. God is the author of all and the parts fit together. This is how I try to view the universe and my place in it and St. Thomas has shown me how to do that. St. Francis de Sales is another great influence. His life and his written works really impressed upon me the truth that kindness is far more effective than severity in winning souls for Our Lord.

CRUSADER: Even within your three years at St. Mary’s, how do find that St. Mary’s has continued to develop?

Fr. McFarland: When I arrived three years ago, I was the eleventh priest. We are now thirteen and are privileged to have remarkable depth and diversity of talent. Father Beck has really invested in the Academy, dedicating more of the priestly activity to the education of our children. This investment has created opportunities for influencing the formation of the students that were not available in the past. Most obviously, we are now able to have priests as principals of both schools, which would not have been possible even last year.
During the college opening ceremonies, the college faculty take the Oath Against Modernism mandated by Pope St. Pius X.

On September 1, the Academy teachers swear upon the Scriptures to profess the Catholic faith.

The senior girls took one last trip together as a class through California, visiting historic Missions and enjoying God’s grandeur in the redwood forests, at Lake Tahoe, and at other sights along the west coast.

Summer ending and studies resuming, the quiet campus of June and July returns to life with the echoes of children’s chatter and youthful laughter as the students return to learn and play.

Fr. Hevre de la Tour shares his love and knowledge of nature, identifying the various species of plants and trees at Lake Tahoe.
Tuus sum ego—I am yours—is the motto of the Knights of the Immaculata. This motto expresses the knight’s spirit of generosity directed towards Our Lady and each other, fostering camaraderie and true, lasting friendships. What better way, aside from pilgrimages, camps, and processions, to live the knights’ motto than to build a beautiful building dedicated to Our Lady. The project required hard work with friends, shared common high ideals in this spirit of generosity. The building is meant to manifest the spirit and ideals of the boys of the St. Mary’s Academy’s Marian sodalities, to show who they are and how they are working to continue what the Jesuits started here over a hundred and sixty years ago.

The first attempt at constructing a building did not work out so well. The weak foundation caused the skeleton of the building to collapse, yet it provided a good lesson. And Fr. John Fullerton was kind enough to give Fr. John Bourbeau and his knights a second shed to work on.

Work began in earnest in the summer of 2013. On almost every Saturday, Wednesday after school, or during school vacations, there was work being done, usually by the same small but skilled and hardworking group of boys who understood what it was all about—and some of the boys knew they would not be around long enough to see its completion. Many long days and nights were spent, sometimes past midnight, but the builders remained cheerful yet determined to finish what could be done. For they knew the truth of Ad Astra per Aspera, “To the stars through suffering.” Many of these boys have now learned skills as carpenters, electricians and the like. They have built something of lasting beauty for a great cause. These boys exemplified what Fr. Bourbeau wanted: boys of character and devotion and manliness, who were true friends, who brought each other up, not down.

There is no one who has sacrificed more and has been more dedicated to achieve what has been done than Fr. Bourbeau has. It is his victory, and the shed will be one of his legacies.

For two years this work continued thanks to fundraising and the great generosity of donors, to whom the Knights and Honor Guard are very grateful.

The whole purpose of this project, as well as the Marian sodalities, is to produce men of character and devotion, men with skill and spirit who form good, lasting friendships for tomorrow, and to pass on the torch through the years. For it is men like them that this troubled world needs so desperately, who will become our priests, fathers and leaders.
In June we knew it was time for Fr. Bourbeau’s camp. This year we headed out West. Since Fr. Bourbeau had said, “The point of this camp is not just to have fun,” we came with guns on our hips and grit in our teeth. Like Doc Holiday, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, we headed out on horseback. We were the Knights of the Immaculata, the Honor Guard of Our Lady, on a hot dusty trail, living in the West, surviving the heat, gaining virtues for Our Lady.

Vincent Clarendon, 6th Grade

Over 80 boys from the Honor Guard of Mary and the Knights of the Immaculata followed Fr. John Bourbeau into the land of sand and scorpions and spunk, of violence and victories, into the wild west of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.