



*The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter*

## ST. GREGORY'S ACADEMY

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"The whole point of education is that it should give a man abstract and eternal standards by which he can judge material and fugitive conditions." - G. K. Chesterton

### Dear Friend,

You can see from this newsletter that the education we offer our students has many facets. The article in the center, written by one of our chaplains Fr. James Fryar, gives you an idea of what the boys have been hearing in the school's chapel during this season of Lent. On the back of the newsletter you will see that the Academy was blessed recently with lectures by two distinguished visitors to the school: Mr. Dale Ahlquist and Mr. Thomas Gordon Smith. I hope that by learning more about the numerous good things St. Gregory's has to offer our students, you in your charity will continue to assist us by your prayers and alms giving.



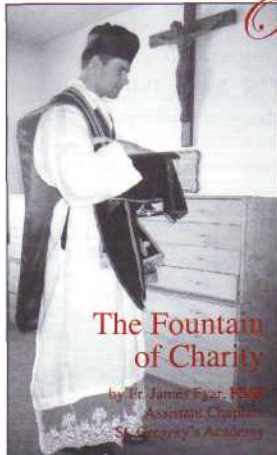
**But perhaps you have wondered if you could help the Academy in some other way?** This is the time of year that we begin looking at prospective students for the coming academic year. Is there someone you know in your extended family, in your parish, or in your community who might be interested in the education St. Gregory's has to offer young men? We are welcoming applications right now from boys who have bright minds and good hearts, who are alive to the excitement of learning for its own sake, who have not lost that youthful innocence that naturally delights in all things true, and good, and beautiful. We are looking for young men who still wish to serve at the altar, want to prove themselves on the athletic field, and are willing to work and grow in acquiring the intellectual and moral virtues. St. Gregory's Academy introduces a wealth of experience and instruction which include studies in classical literature, mythology, poetry, Gregorian Chant, art, mathematics, science, logic, Latin, world and church history, drama, and an understanding of man's need to have "eternal standards by which he can judge material and fugitive conditions".

I would be pleased to send an informational package to anyone you think would be interested in receiving one. Just mark this request on the back of the reply card (including the name and address if it is for someone other than yourself) and return it to me in the provided envelope. Or if you like, just call the school and request that an application be sent.

In Christ,

*Howard Clark*  
Howard Clark, Headmaster

**P.S. And of course, we are always looking for benefactors who would like to sponsor a needy student.**



## The Fountain of Charity

by Fr. James Eyar, FSSP  
Assistant Chaplain  
St. Gregory's Academy

On the Friday before Quinquagesima Sunday all over Mexico at lunch time it is quite a sight. Everyone is preparing the best meal they can with the best meat they can get. Then, on the Fridays of Lent the Mexicans will observe the abstinence from meat so meticulously that it is difficult to even find a butcher's store or meat market open anywhere. Not a soul will buy meat anyway, so the butchers take the day off. While for the Mexicans the abstinence from meat on Fridays was reduced merely to the Fridays of Lent even before the Council, their observance of that abstinence is such that it commands our respect. On the other hand, in the United States there are few Catholics who observe the abstinence that is required of us, and there are few who know that we are still required to make an equivalent sacrifice if we do not observe that abstinence of meat on every Friday of the year. Generally this is a misunderstanding of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops document dated November 18<sup>th</sup> 1966. This document does not excuse us from penitential acts on Fridays, but rather allows the substitution of an act of charity or penance of choice for abstinence from meat.

While there are those who neglect Fridays, there are also those who neglect the spirit of penance during Lent. Although it is no longer required to fast every day of Lent except Sundays, as did all Catholics before the Council, still it is required that we offer some form of penance and sacrifice for the duration of this Holy Season.

This ignorance of penance is great, but greater still is our ignorance of the further requirements of Lent. Because the Fathers of the Church would teach us that while we neglect the penance that is required of us, there is much more than penance that we should do. All the Fathers of the Church: St. Leo the Great, St. Anselm, St. John Chrysostom to mention a few, all state with St. Paul that penance without charity profits nothing.

St. Gregory the Great, the patron of the Academy, explains this teaching well. He tells us that fasting and penance have no value without charity. Those who fast can still follow their inclinations towards greed, as in the case of Judas "who fasted with the Eleven but did not refrain from greed; he lost salvation in spite of his fasting."

Thus, teaches the Saint, for our penance to be perfect, it doesn't suffice that our pantries overflow while our stomachs fast. He would preach that the money or food that we spare by fasting should be offered to those less fortunate, lest perhaps the good work of fasting that we have done be destroyed by our avarice or greed.

We try to instill this need of charity to complement our penances in the hearts of our students here at St. Gregory's Academy. One of the first impressions I had when I came to the Academy a year ago was a notice on the board outside the commons. The boys were trying to raise money for one of the students who wanted to be on the Hockey team yet was unable to pay for the necessary equipment. Together they raised the necessary money, in spite of the fact that a student really does not have the luxury of spare money at his disposal. Every penny counts for someone who might not see more than \$20 in his pocket for a month.

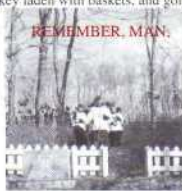
Last Lent there was a "poor box" in a corner of the refectory. As a united act of charity during the forty days the boys filled it with the few dollars that their charity spared from what they used for their basic needs. It was for the people in Africa who have more basic needs and less than a few dollars to spare. The boys managed to raise \$700 to send over to the apostolate that the Fraternity of St. Peter has in Nigeria. Now that poor box has found a permanent place outside the Chapel.

Earlier this year Fr. Evaristus Eshiwu, FSSP paid an unexpected visit to the school during his stay in the United States. Fr. Evaristus is stationed in Nigeria and comes to the United States to raise money

for the needs of his apostolate. Although he was only at the school one weekend, before he left the boys presented him with a check for \$400 that they had raised from among themselves.

So it doesn't suffice to eat less during Lent and then fill our pockets with the money we save. Like the sacrifice of Abel, we should not take back from what we have offered to God. At least that is the lesson that Cain hopefully learned. Like St. Gregory and all the Fathers of the Church teach us, penance without charity profits little.

In a certain Franciscan Monastery there lived an old and holy friar of the name of Friar Angelico. He was appointed to be the brother who would go and ask for alms for the monastery. Every day he would go out, with the monastery donkey laden with baskets, and going down the mountain into the town ringing a bell and collecting alms. Little children would come to him and he would invite him inside their homes. Then after the long day in the sun, bread and alms, he would make his way to the monastery on the top of the mountain. About half way up this path was a well and the donkey water in his hand and let it trickle it, so that he could offer up his thirst. Then he would get up, and continue the



and he would bless them, people yet he would continue on his way, when the donkey was well laden with way back up the long windy path mountain.

fountain of crystal water, where he would drink. He would pick up the water through his fingers without drinking. Then after the donkey was well rested path to the monastery. And each day



as he let the water trickle through would see a silver rose rise up to heaven. And so it continued, Every day he would pick up the water and let it trickle through his fingers, and another silver rose day, month after month.

Finally one day a young novice accompanied Friar Angelico on his heat of the day and the many hours the long path back up to the monastery in sight the young novice, rejoicing for joy ran ahead to the fountain. The young novice picked up water in his hands, and then paused to see if Friar Angelico would drink first before he would drink himself. Friar Angelico picked up the water in his hand, and smiling to the novice brought the water to his lips taking a sip, and the novice, seeing Friar Angelico drink, also drank to his fill.



his fingers and offer up his thirst, he heaven to symbolize that offering, bore the heat, the long walk back up the water and let it trickle through would ascend to heaven. Day after

young novice was appointed to errands, and the two of them bore the in the streets. In silence they walked tery. When the fountain of water came to see water for the first time all day, Friar Angelico also arrived at the

That day Friar Angelico did not see a silver rose ascend to heaven, but rather the golden rose of his charity.

St. Gregory's Academy  
Lecture Series  
March 2006



(Right) Dale Ahlquist, president of the American Chesterton Society, visited St. Gregory's Academy as guest speaker on March 11th. He gave a presentation to the students on G. K. Chesterton's life, work, and philosophy as one of the greatest Roman Catholic writers and thinkers of the twentieth century.

(Above) Architect and Notre Dame professor, Thomas Gordon Smith, delivered a talk to the students of St. Gregory's Academy on March 12th on Vitruvius and classical architecture. Mr. Smith has had two sons graduate from the Academy. His youngest son, Duncan, is in the freshman class.



Senior Michael Witt was accepted into the US Marine Corps in a ceremony before the students and faculty of St. Gregory's.

**Right:** St. Gregory's Academy Highlander ice hockey team of the 2005-2006 season with coach Stephen Fitzpatrick.



Make a Lenten Donation This Year  
to St. Gregory's Academy

St. Gregory's Academy invites you to participate in carrying out our mission of educating young men in the Roman Catholic Traditions. Please consider making an offering this Lent to support the spiritual and educational formation of our students. We also encourage you to write your prayer requests on the back of our reply card. The boys and faculty will pray for them in our chapel. Please remember St. Gregory's in your prayers as well.

*Thank You*

Credit Card Gifts by Phone  
Credit Card Gifts or Checks by Mail

