

The Miracle



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, as part of the parish faith family, builds a strong foundation by developing the unique, academic, physical, social and spiritual gifts of its students, empowering them to live the mission of Jesus.

Finding Our Greatness

Summer 2018



From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

“We are changing lives!” A powerful statement.

Imagine, a small school like ours, an elementary school that is tucked into a former orange grove, boasting about changing lives.

And yet if one were to ask anyone who has ever attended this school, each and every person will attest that this community has a unique gift for transforming people. We have a legacy of truly making a difference.

A few months ago a visiting speaker, Dr. Allen Hunt, spoke to how each of us is called to greatness, a greatness beyond our imaginations, a greatness that God Himself intends for us. “We don’t stumble into greatness,” he said, “you reach it through intention and hard work.” Work which includes developing the habits of loving God through prayer and study and loving people through generosity and evangelization. He assured us, both from his personal experience and years of research, that we can achieve greatness by simply following three steps: Be Intentional, Be Incremental and Be Incredible.

Yes, our school changes lives. Daily, our faith-family challenges each of us to develop the habits necessary for transformation, and that leads to God’s greatness. The process itself is beautiful - allowing gratitude, joy and hope to flourish.

It is my desire that this edition of the Miracle allows readers to see for themselves the greatness intended by God that is being nurtured and the incredible greatness our school is for world. This year alone, our staff and students made great strides academically, raising our standardized test scores so much that we are now among the top in the nation in math computation. Our STEM program has facilitated a vibrant new application of inquiry-based learning, and the arts, thanks to our choral, violin and bagpipe students, have risen to new levels. This year, the number of our graduates entering Catholic high school is the highest we have seen in many years.

Great things are happening at our school – with God’s grace and the ongoing support of our faith-family we are joyfully on the journey to finding our greatness!

With much joy and love,

Dr. Anne Penny





Eighth Grade Farewell

Parting Words from Our Lady of Lourdes School Class of 2018

As we, the class of 2018, prepare to set forth from Our Lady of Lourdes and start a new adventure, we take a second to reflect upon the memories we have made. During our time here, we have grown closer through performing the Living Stations, helping out with the Fall Festivals, and participating in different service projects over the years. Our participation in sports and the arts has taught us creativity and sportsmanship. We have not only grown in our faith, but in our friendships. Each experience has strengthened us, not only as individuals, but as a family. We also have a stronger understanding of God and what He wants for us as Catholics.

We thank our teachers for preparing us to go out on our journey. Their guidance and dedication to our education has given us the foundation to excel in high school and beyond. Lastly, we thank our parents for sacrificing their time, talent and treasure for us to experience all that we have here at Our Lady of Lourdes. Thanks to all of you, we can become the best versions of ourselves.

We will go forth with a solid foundation, not only in our academics, but in our relationship with Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers as we take this next step in our lives.

With Love,

The Class of 2018

The Miracle

In Thanksgiving

To the benefactors whose generosity makes learning possible at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

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Father Gary encourages us to have fun



We "travel" in Spanish class



We are empowered to live safely



The Theater enriches our lives



Sports teach us discipline, perseverance and teamwork, and empower us to have strong and healthy bodies



Our "buddies" help & encourage us

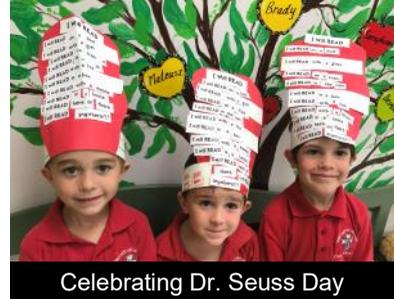


We express ourselves through Art



We learn cooperation and sharing through play

The Miracle



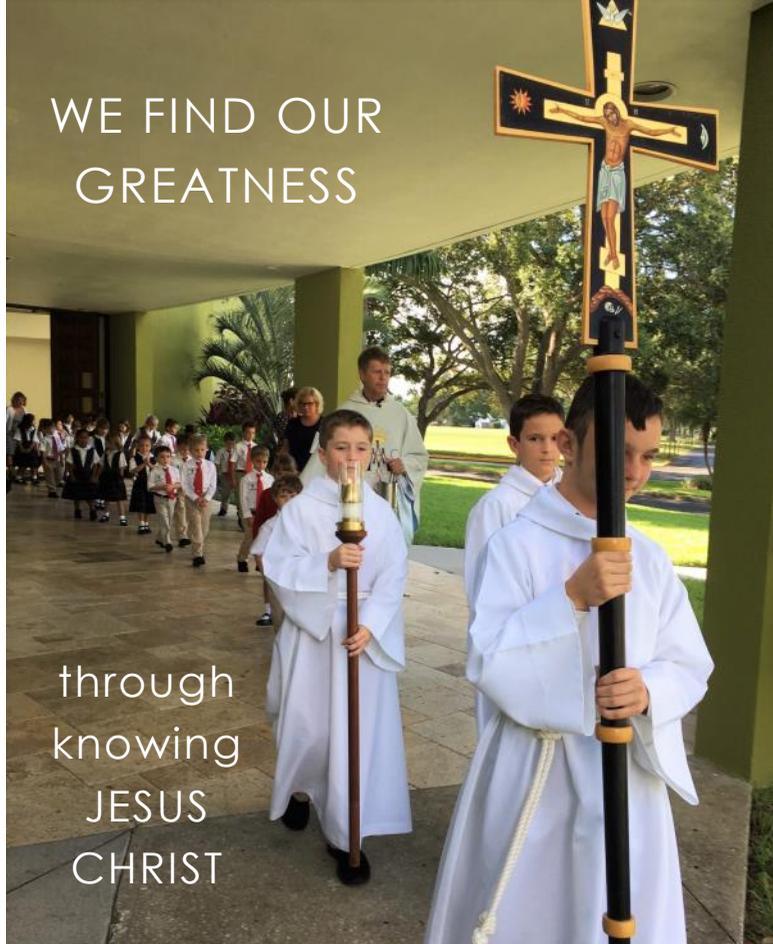
Celebrating Dr. Seuss Day



Helping others through outreach



through
knowing
JESUS
CHRIST



Escape (the Math) Room fun!



Dr. Penny encourages us to do our best



IXL technology keeps us engaged



Congrats! Best Children's Musical Performance Float

Saints & Sinners 2018 Auction Donors

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- Cesar A. Lara, MD Weight Mgmt.
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- SeaWorld Parks & Resorts Orlando
- Smootzie Creations by Tricia
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Why We Give to The School Annual Fund by the Donoghue Family

Heather and Patrick Donoghue first met at her family's Easter dinner 18 years ago when, unknown to them, her father (Patrick's boss at a consulting firm) was playing matchmaker. Though it took a little convincing, Heather eventually agreed to a first date, and they have been together ever since. Patrick attended Our Lady of Lourdes as a child, and they now have three daughters, Salay (Grade 6), Hadley (Grade 4) and Brynna (Kindergarten), who attend Our Lady of Lourdes.

Why is giving back important to your family?

Patrick is a 4th generation member of Our Lady of Lourdes parish and the third involved with the school. We are honored to follow in the footsteps of so many families who have built and sustained this school over the last 55-years. We see first-hand the impact Our Lady of Lourdes has on our children, our parish and our community. While there are many who have done so much more, we recognize we need to do our part to the best of our abilities so that we can help maintain and grow our school for the next generation.

What have you liked best about being a part of the OLL Community?

Our Lady of Lourdes changes lives. The community of teachers and staff provide not only the highest of academics, but also help form our children spiritually, shaping and reinforcing them to be great people, as well as great students.

Other than the School Annual Fund, in what ways are you involved at Our Lady of Lourdes?

We try to be active in ways throughout the year, whether EC4 sign in, creating costumes and decorations for the open house, or pouring drinks at the fall festival. Just as much, we enjoy attending school functions like Saints and Sinners, the school play, and other events. For Patrick, That Man is You is a wonderful program to reflect on our Catholic Faith and the importance of being a present father to his family.

What do you want parents to know about supporting the School Annual Fund?

For nearly all of us, tuition is a major sacrifice we make to offer our children a great education. What we think is often overlooked is that tuition only covers a portion of the total cost of educating our kids. The School Annual Fund, along with the more visible Fall Festival and Saints and Sinners Ball, helps cover that gap between costs and tuition. Even more important, the School Annual Fund provides our school leadership resources to address ever-changing needs and opportunities from year to year to keep OLL performing its best.

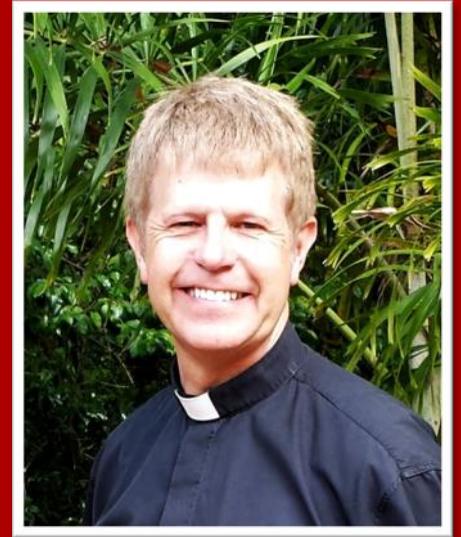
What is your personal goal for the School Annual Fund?

Our goal is to deepen current relationships with supporters while growing the pool of stakeholders for our school. To truly be successful, we need to look beyond the same families each year to grow the community of supporters. For those who regularly give, we pray they will consider multi-year gifts to allow us to focus on growing that community. For those who still have yet to see the value, we hope for the opportunity to show the value and importance for all.

What would you like to see for the remainder of the year for School Annual Fund?

100% Participation. Our mission is to convince parents of the reality that we are all stakeholders in, not only our school as it exists today, but as it grows, for the future. We know that parents work hard and can be stretched in a lot of directions, but this fund has such an incredible and immediate return on investment, we hope all will consider supporting in some way, large or small.

From the Desk of the Pastor



Dear Miracle Workers and Readers,

The theme of this edition (as you have obviously discovered by now) is 'Find Your Greatness', which was the title of the presentation given by Dr. Alan Hunt, of Dynamic Catholic, in January. I don't believe we can ever find our true greatness without Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who reveals to us in the clearest possible terms (as we know from the Gospels) our true identity, our dignity and worth as sons and daughters of God. Our greatness is God's gift to us, being created in God's image and likeness. Greatness does not depend on us, but on the grace of God working through us. So where do we find our greatness? Through living a life of holiness. Pope Francis has recently issued a new Apostolic Exhortation (Letter) titled 'Rejoice and Be Glad;' in Latin 'Gaudete et Exsultate.' It is a beautiful document, easy to read, and only forty pages long. You can go to the Vatican Website and download a free copy, or read it online. An 'Apostolic Exhortation' is a letter of encouragement. It is a rallying call from the Pope for us to go deeper into our relationship with Christ, and the mission of the Church. What I love about Pope Francis is that he makes the Christian faith accessible to all, and in this 'letter of encouragement' humanizes the gift of holiness. It is a gift for everyone, and not achieved by our own efforts but by the grace of God working through us. Grace is the living expression of God's love; the love of God in action.

Many of us would shy away from imagining that holiness applies to us, or is a serious aim in life. But what the Pope makes clear is that the call to holiness is universal, and the practice of it should be as natural and familiar as any good habit. "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work so hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly Religious Sisters who never lose their smile. Very often holiness is found in our next-door-neighbors, those who, living in our midst reflect God's presence. Holiness is not about swooning in mystic rapture," says Pope Francis. So, the call to greatness is the call to holiness, and holiness is reflecting the presence of God in our daily actions, routines, vocations and way of life.

We want our children and young people to find their greatness, and they do through knowing Christ and walking in his footsteps. Finding Christ within ourselves allows us to welcome him in everyone. Pope Francis makes it very clear in this letter, that if we are to grow in holiness, if we are to live our greatness as sons and daughters of God, we have to have a profound love for the gift of life, everyone's life. He writes: "Our defense of the innocent unborn needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection." If we are to be holy and great in the eyes of God, we must honor life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable, the 'little ones' among us, to whom the Kingdom of God belongs!

Praise be Jesus Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Dowsey".

Father Gary (Dowsey)
Pastor





Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

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March
2nd
2019

Saints & Sinners Gala 2018

Diamonds are Forever



The Conny Center