



The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

ST. GREGORY'S ACADEMY

RR 8 Box 8214, Moscow PA 18444

Phone (570) 842-8112 / Fax (570) 842-4513

Graduation 2006

Here at St. Gregory's each May brings fine spring weather and takes another graduating class from us. The toil in classroom and on practice field that marks the long Pocono winter has found its fulfillment in a celebration that brings together family, alumni and friends. But as students depart to savor and build upon their reward, and the faculty enjoy some well-earned rest, the insistent reality of the school's finances remains to be dealt with.



All of the good that we do, the small, but unique and important presence that we are, is built on your sacrifices. Not your money, but your sacrifices. For money is just a marker for the things that we value. And when our life is done, it is to what we have given our life and money that will matter. My faculty and I believe that the work of St. Gregory's Academy is a good, worth sacrificing for, and we have given our lives to this work. I ask you to join with us in this sacrifice. St. Gregory's needs your financial gifts to survive, especially at this time of year when we no longer receive regular tuition payments.

There are many ways in which St. Gregory's stands out from other schools, but if I hand to point to one thing it would, of course, be our dedication to the traditional Latin liturgy. It is from this source that the life of the school flows. St. Bruno famously said that while the world turns the cross stands. This is how I like to think of the life at St. Gregory's Academy: the Mass stands, an image of eternity, and around it turns the life of the school. Just as the blood of the cross flows upon the globe it surmounts, nourishing its peoples and bringing them to life, so the Mass stands at the center of our life here, nourishing all of our activities from poetry to rugby, to talent shows and daily meals.

On the cross Christ paid in His own blood the price of our ransom from the devil. As St. Paul tells us, Jesus Christ although he was in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be tightly grasped, but letting go of this he assumed the form of a slave that he might save us.

With open hands and open heart our God has poured out himself in sacrificial love for mankind. He did this so that we too might follow this path of sacrificial love, so that we too might sacrifice ourselves, rise to new life and ascend with him. I ask you to join us in one such small, but heroic work of sacrifice: St. Gregory's Academy. Knowing that Our God will never be outdone in the generosity of his blessings to those who are themselves generous, I ask you to give as much as you can of your prayers and donations so that we may continue to educate young men in the traditions of our Church and civilization.



In Christ,

Howard Clark
Howard Clark, Headmaster

The Valedictorian Address
BY MR. MALCOLM BELLINO,
CLASS OF 2006



*R*everend Fathers, esteemed faculty and staff, parents, friends, family, fellow students and alumni:

I speak with more sincerity than did Mark Antony when I say, "I am no orator." But such skill in speaking as I do lack, may your good will supply the difference.

G. K. Chesterton once said that the problem with modern society is that nobody knows how to sacrifice. The selfishness and indulgence that this inability causes was clearly evident to Chesterton in his day, and in our culture, it is ever-present and inescapable. However, I need not recount here the obvious problems in our society; rather I wish to tell of a place that succeeds in imparting the ability to sacrifice in Catholic young men: our own St. Gregory's Academy.

But in order to discuss how St. Gregory's accomplishes this, we must first be sure we know what sacrifice is. Sacrifice has been defined as the surrendering of something lesser for the sake of a greater good. It is the identification of greater and lesser goods, and the ability to choose between them that enables one to make sacrifices. All too many people in our society tend to confuse the true good with what they perceive to be good. Let us, then, with the true good in mind, consider the various aspects of this school in the light of sacrifice.

For St. Gregory's is, as a boarding school, an institution founded upon sacrifice. Although the students' sacrifices are on a small scale, they are nonetheless significant. At the tender age of fourteen, to embark on the grand adventure that is St. Gregory's is no small feat. The most overwhelming feeling when one first arrives here is a sense of deprivation; mom and dad, brother and sister are all gone. There are no movies or television, video games or CD players, and to some, worst of all, no girls.

Whenever I go home, on break or for the summer, friends invariably ask me to e-mail them or chat with them on-line. When I tell them we don't have any of those things here, the reaction is always the same: a look of shock and horror, followed by a comment along the lines of "I could never go to a school like that." The sacrifices one must make to attend St. Gregory's are many and hard, and it is a life not meant for everyone. The entire fabric of boarding school life demands new and unfamiliar sacrifices: washing your own



clothes, cleaning more than just your own room, doing dishes for sixty. The academics, too, possess their own special sacrifices: four long years of Latin, Mr. Davidson's bug collection, Algebra II, and the senior thesis.

These challenges, however, pale before the single most effective and gratifying method of learning to sacrifice here at St. Gregory's Academy: rugby. Virtually every aspect of the game offers difficulty and hardship that must be overcome. Rugby season is long and it is cold. Each and every time that we put on our cleats and climb the hill to the practice field is a little sacrifice, a chance to grow in virtue and actively pursue our purpose here at the Academy, to become, as Fr. Longua has often reminded us, Catholic men.



Catholic men such as you see here before you today, in the form of the faculty and staff of St. Gregory's. The sacrifices that they make to teach here are innumerable, and are made without complaint. If you ask any alumnus or student present here today how many times they have known Mr. Hanisch to miss a class due to illness or any other reason, I think the total could be counted on just one hand. When students say to him, "Mr. Hanisch, why don't you just go home?" he tells them that, one day, when they have a family, they will understand that certain sacrifices must be made. Mr. Hanisch certainly understands sacrifice, and further, he is as fine an example of it as one could wish for.

The sacrifices of the resident dorm staff are no less, giving up years of their own lives for the betterment of ours. I have known a graduate of St. Gregory's to forgo any future plans and return to the school as a dorm father, working for free to ensure the payment of his brother's tuition. These are the sacrifices made by the men of St. Gregory's Academy.

But what of those unseen who themselves make great sacrifices in order to give us the opportunities we have here? What of the parents? It is perhaps they who sacrifice most of all. Financially, a boarding school is not easily afforded, and not only must tuition be paid, but there are the added worries of clothing, books, transportation, and large quantities of black socks. But more difficult than the monetary aspect is the emotional burden that the parents bear, caused by the separation from their son. This alone, I would think, is the most difficult sacrifice of the parent of an Academy student. But this suffering is not an isolated event, for it



manifests itself in many ways and at many times, such as missing birthdays and major holidays and vacations. The common trivialities of life, the conversations, the meals, present since the child was born, suddenly disappear. The parents realize that after high school, college follows, and their son will never again be at home. These are the sacrifices that parents make to enable us to receive the physical, spiritual, and academic formation offered by St. Gregory's Academy.

Having received so much, we have an obligation to ensure that these sacrifices were not in vain, that they will not be wasted. We fulfill that obligation by continuing our lives as Catholic gentlemen, upholding the values and ideals that have been instilled in us at great cost. This is our duty, the duty of all students and alumni, in order to repay the faculty and staff, the parents and benefactors, who have sacrificed so much for us.

On behalf of the Class of 2006 and of all students and alumni, I would like to extend warmest and most grateful thanks for the sacrifices of all parents and faculty, past and present.

GRADUATION WEEKEND 2006



The Senior Class of 2006 after the Graduation Mass



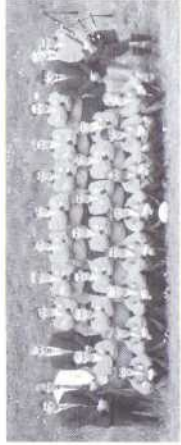
Seniors Carson Lind, Nicholas Boeck, and John Akhurst in the graduation play, *The Screenscape: Apprenticeship*.



The Senior Class of 2006 after the Graduation Mass



The student vs. alumni rugby match



The 2005-2006 Highlander Rugby team, St. Gregory's Academy placed second overall in their division of the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union under coaches Maje-Piatrz, Jansen, Brendan Landell, Garret Van Beek, and senior captain Thomas McGrane.

Seniors strigling at the banquet.



Senior jugglers at the banquet.



The students and alumni of St. Gregory's Academy following the annual student and alumni rugby match held on the Highland Field.