



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Over 75 Years of Catholic Education

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Note from the Principal

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Note from the Principal	1
What has happened so far	2
Reflection on OLPH	3
An Alumni Chooses OLPHCA	4

Dear Alumni:

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy and myself, I look forward to the beginning of this Alumni Committee Newsletter.

It is with great pleasure that I continue to be proud of your alma mater, a school that provided a Gospel-filled education, with academic excellence to both you and our current students. It is a wonderful place where dedicated teachers, staff, and I bring a deep sense of faith to everything that we do here.

I know that your journey of

personal, spiritual, and intellectual development that occurred here years ago continues to be part of the excellent education our students receive today.

While developing their Christian values, which emanate from the teachings of Jesus Christ, I, the teachers, students, and parents experience this message through our relationship with God and each other. Catholic identity in our school remains very strong, as we nurture each child in a Christ-centered environment.

In the next few pages, you will continue to read about the exciting things that happen monthly here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Academy. Daily I challenge our students to live what they have learned - to have a real relationship with God, of being people of goodness, character, and integrity, and living our Lord's love. As we pray here together and Jesus stands by our side, it is through His Spirit that we are guided.

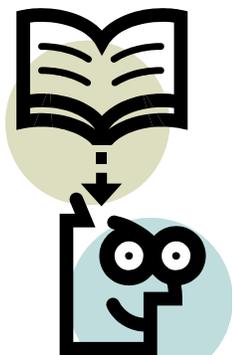
I thank God for you, our alumni, and the special things that you continue to do for our Academy. I welcome you to stop by anytime and see us, as this will always be your school.

Sincerely in Christ

Mrs. Frances DeLuca

Principal





“Since the educative mission of the Catholic school is so wide, the teacher is in an excellent position to guide the pupil to a deepening of his faith and to enrich and enlighten his human knowledge with the data of the faith.”– The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

What has happened so Far?

Since the beginning of September, the students and faculty at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy have been hard at work, engaged in another enriching, exciting and productive school year. Here are descriptions of a few learning projects and experiences happening at our school. These projects and experiences highlight just how special the faculty of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy truly is, as teachers strive to immerse their students in engaging and multisensory real life learning experience.

Recently, the entire student body celebrated All Saints Day. In honor of All Saints Day, each student in the school researched a specific saint. Students created reports explaining the history of these saints, why we honor them and how each saint was special to the student. On Thursday, October 30, the entire school came together in the church to honor the Saints at our All Saints Day Liturgy. It was a beautiful celebration where students and faculty honored the saints with hymns and prayers. Mrs. DeLuca expressed to students how we are all called to be saints and must strive to live out our holiness each day. During the Liturgy, one student from each grade dressed up as

his or her researched saint and gave a short presentation about the saint's life and good deeds.

In October, we congratulated the 8th grades that have taken the next step in their Catholic faith and received the sacrament of Confirmation. In preparation for this sacrament, the 8th graders created religious shields representing their faith and how it has been strengthened through the sacrament of Confirmation.

In Mrs. Bradley's Social Studies class, the 7th and 8th grade have been hard at work exploring our nation's history and development. In the 7th grade, students are exploring Colonial America and the Road to Revolution. After weeks of in-depth study of Colonial America, students have applied their knowledge through a cross curriculum guidebook. Students combined reading, writing, and art skills to create colonial travel guides and newspapers, illustrating the fascinating history they have learned in class. In the 8th grade, students are engaged in an in-depth exploration of immigration in America and their own families. Students will participate in an Ellis Island simulation, taking place in the school gym, to experience what it felt like to be an immigrant coming to

America in 1900s.

In Ms. Stanley's English Language Arts class, the 7th and 8th grade have been exploring different literary genres and elements of literature. In October, the students read literary classics, such as “The Raven” and “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” by Washington Irving. After reading and discussions, students viewed modern film adaptations of these literary classics and compared them to the original text. In November, students will be exploring the fascinating genre of science fiction by reading the popular short stories of Ray Bradbury, “There Will Come Soft Rains” and “The Naming of Names.”

Mrs. Mangieri's 3rd grade class has been hard at work exploring the fascinating worlds of Math, Science and Social Studies. In Science, students applied their knowledge of cells to create edible plant and animal cell models. In honor of the season of Fall, students transformed a pumpkin into a globe and placed themselves on top of the world! Finally, students celebrated Halloween by going on a pumpkin match hunt for unsolved math word problems. Successes were exchanged for treats, no tricks!

Reflection on OLPH

I graduated from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy (then Our Lady of Perpetual Help School) nine years ago and I am thankful for every moment I spent there. At OLPH I learned not only the value of academic success but also how to love God and neighbor. When I was a small child who needed a lot of molding, the teachers perfectly combined loving direction and stern discipline, both of which put me on the right track to later academic success. In my preschool years when I could hardly sit still in the classroom and couldn't wait to go home at the end of a half-day, it could hardly be imagined that I would become a teacher.

When I had gotten my bearings as a student and learned the necessity of doing things I would rather not do, like homework, I found myself happier and more agreeable to teachers and to my classmates. In third grade I was blessed with an amazing group of friends that stayed together until graduation. We played together, worked together in class, and enjoyed one another's company daily. We even had a small reunion in our third year of college, and it was as if we had never been apart. This group laid the foundation for friendship in my life and taught me what a blessing it is to love and be

loved.

Love is the word that best summarizes my experience at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In addition to being the best friend I could to those around me, I learned how to love learning through the excellent educators who taught me and helped me to grow into a devoted student. In healthy competition, such as spelling bees, math bees, and oratorical contests, I learned to love the talents I had and to develop them to be the best that I could be. After eight years of hard work, I graduated as class salutatorian.

None of this, however, compares to the greatest thing I learned during my time at OLPH – that there is a God who loves me and who is infinitely lovable. Though I was raised Hindu, as a child I had very little respect for or love of God or religion. I sat through religious services with family and Masses at OLPH without appreciation for the wonder of God in my midst. However, in seventh grade I got something different out of religion class. Through my teacher, Miss Klauss, and her love for Jesus, I learned that Jesus loves me, cares for me, and forgives my sins. He was a new discovery for my twelve-year-old mind, and I just had to have more. I began to pray and learn

more about Jesus and came to know and love Mary as my mother through the Rosary and other prayers led by our principal, Mrs. DeLuca. The more I allowed Jesus Christ into my life, the deeper I fell in love with Him.

I remained involved in Catholic life after my days as an OLPH student: I attended Archbishop Molloy High School and was a leader in Catholic life at New York University as an undergraduate student. In 2011, during my second year of college, I decided to give my life to Jesus by becoming Catholic. To this day I am involved in various activities at the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, including serving as a lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, lay ministry coordinator, and catechist. I am an active participant in Catholic education as a teacher of Spanish at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn. I am incredibly indebted to the family of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy for all it has done to start me on my way and I am honored to continue serving the school as the newest member of its Board of Directors.

God bless,

Jonathan Mangar

Class of 2005



"I decided to give my life to Jesus by becoming Catholic."

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An Alumni Chooses OLPHCA

This past September marked 6 years since my girls started Catholic school. When choosing which school was best for our little girls we looked into all of the options available. Charlize was going to be 4 and Ciera was going to be 3. Both girls were about to start their educational careers. Being the daughter of Italian Immigrants, I understand the opportunity a good education provides and so took my job of finding the best school to start them off on the right foot very seriously. I fell in love with what I saw at a Catholic school. The girls would say prayers daily, pray before eating, and learn about Jesus. These were all things that I was raised with myself. I remember the 1st time Ciera said the Our Father—it was truly a proud moment for me.

A Catholic education is important because it develops every part of my child academically, socially, morally, artistically, physically, and spiritually. It teaches them how to live as Jesus did. Learning begins in the home first, but the challenge is how do you carry that on once they are out of the home? How does one carry the lessons learned at home to the outside world? When it was time to think

about schools, I always knew deep down I wanted my children to be in a Catholic school. I wanted them to learn about the Bible, learn about how God created everything out of love, how and why Jesus died for them. I wanted them to learn about their sacraments and receive them.

Their principal, Mrs. Frances DeLuca, is such an amazing speaker. She is so passionate when she speaks about her faith. Her motto is “we are all called to be saints.” Every year the girls learn about a new saint, and I see how they relate to each saint they learn about.

It has not been an easy road sending the girls to catholic school and meeting the financial obligations. We all have had to sacrifice for their education. We have been blessed over the years with assistance such as the Futures in Education and the Bishops Program to help provide funding for their education.

I try my best to live by example. Service does not stop once school or church is done. We are very much a part of our parish. I assist with the monthly social hours; I am part of the Home School Association at Our Lady of

Perpetual Help, and help whenever I can. My understanding of being grateful and giving what I can in exchange for the opportunities being provided for my children are things which I learned from attending OLPH myself. Both Charlize and Ciera also help during the social hour. Charlize is an altar server—something I am beyond proud of because while I was growing up girls could not be altar servers. You know how many times I have cried watching her serve. Ciera too plans to become an altar server this year. My mom, their Nonna, is an Eucharist minister and a Third Order Franciscan.

I teach all 4 of my children to pray. Pray when they are scared, pray when they need help, pray just to say “hi” because God is always with us. He is always there for us. There have been many times in the morning either Charlize or Ciera will come and tell me they had a bad dream. I’ll ask them why didn’t you come wake me up? Their reply - I prayed to God and then I was fine. Confirmation they are listening and trusting in God. Raising children is very tough these days. I am blessed to say my children attend OLPH- just as I did.

God bless,

Lorraine Doucette

Class of 1997