



Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM  
President

*President's Notes*



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**Lenten Journey**

*The spiritual life is meant to be an adventure between the soul and God. It is not an act of religion played out in front of the world in order to impress the world. It is, instead, the deepest relationship in life, the one on which the very meaning of life depends.*

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. Please use the above quote to work through the days and weeks of the Lenten season also keep in mind three things that may help you develop interior peace and a deep relationship with God.

First, **live attentively**. The Buddhists call this *mindfulness*. All it means is to be aware of life. Hear the silence of the snow. Feel the cracks in the earth. Look into one another's eyes. Pay attention to every single moment and that moment alone. Feel it. Take it into your bones. Let it transform you.

Second, **learn to let go**. Start to simplify your life. Simplify your possessions, your thoughts, your desires, your expectations. When you can let go, your arms are open and ready to receive all the good things God longs to give you.

Third, **develop intimacy with God**. Gather in yourself a phrase or thought from the calendar. Let the thought or phrase filter through your heart and mind throughout the day. Say it when you stand in the grocery line, when you eat your lunch, when you scrape ice off your car. Let it settle deeply in your heart so that it can work from within to bring you into closer intimacy with God.

Lent need not be a time to live in guilt and shame. Instead it may be a time when we find ourselves in the place where we pay attention to our stirrings—in that place of deep stillness where the hunger of our souls and the heart of God meet.



Sr. Mary Walter Hickey, RSM

**Strategic Plan**

Mrs. Nix's letter in the December issue of the Crusader Connection focused on Notre Dame's "challenge of thriving as a vital and relevant 21st century school that excels in preparing students for college, a competitive market place and a changing world that we can but only improve." In our planning for the future, the Board of Trustees selected three strategic initiatives - academic excellence, enrollment, and financial sustainability.

As action of the enrollment initiative, Notre Dame has the opportunity to bring Asian students to the school which would increase our student body, increase diversity and bring a greater international exposure for our students. We would be working with a company that would build awareness and board recognition for Notre Dame High School in Asia. We hope to initiate the program in the 2011-2012 school year. In order to do so we need housing for these foreign students. If anyone might be interested in this international experience, please contact Sister Nancy Kelly.

Action steps of the Academic Excellence Committee include establishing performance benchmarks and focusing on curriculum mapping. The Revenue Enhancement Group will be developing a 3-year financial plan and beginning to look for funds from the business community.

We will keep you posted as we move together in the future.

## News Briefs

### Recruitment

Notre Dame High School has been actively recruiting new students as part of an initiative started by the Board of Trustees and the Strategic Planning Process. School representatives are available to make presentations about the advantages of a Notre Dame education.

We continue to seek assistance from our current parents and students in this process. If you know of any families who might be interested in finding out more about Notre Dame, please encourage them to call Sister Nancy Kelly. They will be able to ask questions and get the paper work they need for their child to register at Notre Dame High School. Thank you in advance for your help.

### FACTS tuition aid information

During the re-registration process, we want all of our parents to be aware of the availability of scholarship and financial assistance as they plan for the 2011-2012 school year. This assistance is available through FACTS which helps the school to implement our cost based/needs based tuition, making our school available to all who wish to choose a Notre Dame education.

This program based on the cost per pupil, allows the school to operate at full capacity and meet the human and financial needs of each family. Information is available when a family registers and applying on-line is the fastest and most direct method of submitting your application. It is important for every family to know this is a completely CONFIDENTIAL process and no one in the school is able to review your application without your approved consent. The deadline for submission is **Friday, March 25, 2011**.

Go to [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com)

### Junior Retreat

The Junior Retreat will be on **Wednesday, March 2nd**. This day is set apart for juniors to reflect on who they are called to be. The theme for the junior retreat is "Called to Serve". We all have a quest in our lives to manifest the glory of God within us. During this retreat students will reflect on their own gifts, talents and values. It is a day when students are invited to discern how they are being summoned. We are blessed to have both Father John DeSocio '66 and Sister Sheila Stevenson, RSM as facilitators and presenters for the day. There will be a variety of activities to stimulate our students to focus on present moments of their life and to help lead them to their future. Juniors may dress down for the day.

### You Can't Take It With You

Come relax and live life to the fullest with the Sycamores in the spring production of "You Can't Take It With You!" This very funny comedy takes place in New York City in the 1930's, where a charming, yet odd family (the Sycamores) lives each day for each other. Even though fireworks may be going off in the basement, plays being written and xylophones practiced in the living room, and ballets are being performed in the dining room, this show reflects on what is truly important in life; love and family.

What happens when the Kirbys, an uptight and wealthy family, come to dinner and find a Grand Duchess cooking canned salmon and frankfurters? Or when the ballet instructor tackles Mr. Kirby to the ground without reason? Come, see the show and find out.

The performance dates are **March 25th and 26th at 7:00pm, and March 27th at 2:00pm**. Tickets will go on sale March 14<sup>th</sup>. Call 607-734-2267 to reserve your tickets today!

### ATHLETIC FEES

**Reminder:** Athletic fees are due for Winter sports participants. \$100 per sport must be paid to Notre Dame High School by ND and Holy Family School students as soon as possible.

## Guidance News

The guidance counselors are preparing to meet with students to select their courses for next year. Each returning student will receive an Academic Handbook that contains important information about all courses available here at Notre Dame and the counselors will meet with each student individually.

### ASVAB

The Juniors will take the ASVAB on March 15th in the gym. A representative from ASVAB will meet with Juniors to do a follow-up career exploration workshop.

This is another valuable opportunity for students to think about their "life after high school" options.

### Guidance Volunteers

Our guidance volunteers are busy meeting with juniors, sophomores and freshmen to acquaint each student with the wide range of resources available to them on the internet and in the Guidance Office.

## Guidance News-continued

### Career Development Council

If they haven't already done so, Juniors and Seniors are strongly encouraged to meet with Mrs. Connelly from the Career Development Council to arrange a career exploration experience for this year. Notre Dame contracts the services of the CDC and ND students are entitled to attend a career panel or shadow during both their junior and senior years. This is a terrific opportunity that your student should not pass up.

### Seniors and Colleges

Many seniors are receiving or have received their college admissions decisions and are reviewing their options for next year. Many have also already been awarded generous scholarships and grants from their colleges. It is always gratifying, to their parents and all of us at ND, to see their hard work pay off so well with substantial financial aid for college. Colleges are obviously aware of how well-prepared our students are and this enduring reputation pays big dividends for our families when colleges award their scholarships. Students are reminded to bring copies of their acceptance and scholarship award letters to Mrs. Morrell. If families receive correspondences from colleges that parents find confusing or questionable, Mrs. Morrell is happy to help clarify these issues with them. Please do not hesitate to call.

### Junior Parent College Information Workshop

The Guidance Department held its annual Junior Parent College Information Night on February 9th. Parents heard about SATs and ACTs, what colleges look for and how to "attack" the college application process and financial aid 101. One of Mrs. Morrell's main messages was to encourage families to visit college campuses. Our Spring break in April would be an ideal time to see a campus in full "swing" when the college students are there. Making appointments with the college admissions offices for tours and information sessions is always the best way to get the most from your visits. The packet of handouts was given to the juniors whose parents did not attend the workshop.

### Reminder to Parents

Deficiency reports and all other updates from teachers are done EXCLUSIVELY online through Edline. If you need any help with your account, please contact the technology Department at Notre Dame. The Guidance Office no longer mails out the reports.

Regular attendance is essential to academic success. When a student is absent from school, a parent is requested to call the school by 9AM to report the absence. We appreciate your cooperation.

## Guidance News-continued

### Scholarships

Seniors and parents of seniors are reminded to check the latest scholarship list on the Guidance Department page of *Edline*. This list is updated weekly and seniors are encouraged to apply for these opportunities.

### Scholarship Challenge

Our Scholarship Challenge team this year is comprised of the following seniors: **Shaan Amin, Maddie Leonard, Genevieve Marcy and Dylan Steed**. The team won on February 26 against Tioga Central, Troy & Wyalusing High Schools. Our team will now advance to the Final Four on March 26. These competitions are in their 31<sup>st</sup> year and are broadcast on WAVR/WATS (FM 102 and AM 960) radio stations. Spectators are welcome!

## KUDOS

Congratulations to the Class of 2011 Valedictorian, **Melissa Mahajan** and the Salutatorian, **Shaan Amin**.

**Shaan Amin** was named a Presidential Scholar. He is among 3,000 candidates selected from 3.2 million students who will graduate in 2011. Shaan is also a National Merit finalist. He is among the 15,000 Finalists from which 8,400 merit scholarship winners will be selected.

Congratulations to **Dr. Xie** and all the **Mandarin Chinese students** for their outstanding performance at the Chinese New Year Celebration. The audience was very impressed with our students' accurate pronunciation, their choreography and the choice of their music. They were even more impressed when they learned that our students choreographed and picked the music for the dance themselves. Pictures and video from the performance have been uploaded to our website on *edline.net*. More pictures will be available once the photographer for CCA uploaded his pictures to CCA website.

The Literacy Volunteers appreciated the efforts of the team from Notre Dame for their Annual Spelling Bee which included Shaan Amin, Taylor LaVelle and Curtis Haflett. ND was the last school group to be eliminated with the word *urmilu*.

Thank-you everyone who sold and purchased magazines. You can encourage relatives and friends to order or renew online by clicking the link from our website:

[www.notredamehighschool.com](http://www.notredamehighschool.com)

or by directly visiting:

[www.QSP.com](http://www.QSP.com)

and recognizing Notre Dame as the recipient of your order donation.

## Thank You's

Special thanks to the parents who worked the **FUN WITH INFLATABLES** on Saturday, February 26, 2011. The inflatables filled the gym and the cafeteria; little boys and girls were assisted by our parents and students as they climbed up and over gigantic slides and through obstacle courses. It was a perfect way to spend a cold winter day.

Congratulations to Mr. Gergely & Mrs. Fagan for their efforts in organizing the Salute to America Concert. The audience enjoyed the music provided by the band and the chorus which showcased our ND talent.

Thank you to all our parent volunteers who have contributed to successful fundraisers throughout the year.

## Fundraising

### Crusader Cards (Scrip)

Are you doing any **renovations** soon? Consider purchasing **Lowe's scrip** from ND. Are you **going on a trip** over Spring break? Don't forget to purchase scrip for **hotels, gas and restaurants** from ND. All proceeds help the operating costs at ND and at no extra cost to you.

**In addition, half of the profit is applied to next year's tuition.**

### Top Ten Scrip Card Purchasers:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Martin
2. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph LaVelle
3. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Keefer
4. Mr. & Mrs. Roberts-O'Brian
5. Mr. & Mrs. David Sidle II
6. Mr. & Mrs. John DeMuth
7. Mr. & Mrs. Craig Haflett
8. Mr. Mark Quesada & Ms. Michelle Hilton
9. Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Volino
10. Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sincock

*You can download an updated scrip form from the ND website under the Crusader Cards tab.*

## Fundraising

### Mayfest On its Way

Save the date, Saturday, **May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm** for the Annual Mayfest Art and Craft Fair. The schedule will include Notre Dame High School Art Students' Show and Sale, vendors, entertainment, character appearances, raffles, a chicken barbeque, pigs-in-a-blanket, strawberry short cake and other baked sale items. It will be fun for the whole family.

This year we hope to have families donate items to be used for the silent auction and theme basket raffles. As in the past, we hope the classes will support this worthy cause and we would be pleased to have you support it with your creative and generous hearts.

If you are a **YANKEE FAN** the Big Raffle for the event is tickets to a Yankee home this summer along with gas cards to help you travel on your way. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.

We are pleased to have Ted Arnold, a local author and illustrator, present from 11am to 1pm at the Mayfest to do a book signing. We will have copies of his books available for sale.

In order to make the gently used **BOOK SALE** a success, we are asking our families to bring hardcover or paperback books to the school office to be sold the day of the Mayfest. Many people will be looking for books to read over the summer vacation and your contributions will be very helpful.

### CRUSADER CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the date!! The Annual Crusader Golf Tournament will be held on **Sunday, May 22, 2011** at the Elmira Country Club beginning at 1:30 PM. Check the website for more information.

### JOEL STEPHENS MEMORIAL PARK

There are only 5 black granite benches available to purchase and engrave in our beautiful new park along the south end of the school. You may also wish to purchase a cobblestone block and have that engraved. The cost of a bench is \$3,000 and the cost of a cobblestone block is \$500.

Hopefully you have had the opportunity to walk through the park and read the many inscriptions on the benches and blocks. Contact the Advancement Office for more information

## Fundraising - *continued*

### Parents' Advancement Fund

Each school year we make a special appeal to our parents to support the Annual Fund. As you know the income from tuition does not cover the complete cost of educating a child. Each parent is asked to make a contribution of cash or services to help make up that difference. This fund raising does not "bridge the gap" completely. Therefore, we once again appeal to your generosity. If each family could give what is possible according to their means, the school will be able to reach its goal for the Parents' Advancement Fund which is \$38,000 – a reasonable and an attainable goal. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy cause.

*Families donating to this fund include:*

#### **Knight (\$5,000 & above)**

N/A

#### **Crusader (\$2,000-\$4,999)**

Drs. Muse & Coughlin  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis DiFabio  
Mr. Frank'81 & Mrs. Karen  
(Kozemko'86) Steed  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Tony Tripeny  
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Weeks

#### **Shield (\$1,000-\$1,999)**

Dr. & Mrs. Nishith Amin  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Joseph Antos  
Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Charlotte  
(O'Brien'82) Wirth  
Dr. & Mrs. Kevin O'Connor\*  
Mr. Charles Xu & Mrs. Joanna Zhang

#### **Sword (\$500-\$999)**

Mr. Christopher & Mrs. Karen (Gizzi'82)  
Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Schmeckenbecher

#### **Lance (Up to \$499)**

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Braunstein  
Mr. & Mrs. John Broderick  
Mr. & Mrs. William Dawson  
Mr. Tom Gaige  
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Karen (Gough'78) Hale  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kieli  
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Samter  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Schutrum  
Drs. Spaulding & Spaulding

*\*indicates pledge made at this level*

## School Calendar

The calendar is posted on the school's website. As you study it and make plans for vacations, please keep in mind the dates that have already been set aside for time away from school. Students who miss school because of family plans at times other than those already set aside, miss valuable classroom time.

### Spring Recess

**Monday, April 1, 2011 -  
Sunday, April 10, 2011**

Student athletes need to be aware of games and practices during Spring Recess. These students should consult with their coaches prior to making plans.

At Easter the school will be closed on Good Friday, April 22nd and Easter Monday, April 25th.



## **RECYCLE FUNDRAISER**

(Items accepted listed below)

**Jewelry, Cell Phones, Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, Laptop Computers, Apple iPods & MP3 Players, Digital Cameras, GPS Devices, Radar Detectors, Kindle & Sony Book Readers, Handheld Game Systems.**

*Please bring items to the Advancement Office.*



## **Events throughout the year**

Your participation and support of the fund raising events throughout the year will be very much appreciated.

*Save the dates for:*

### **Big Band Dance**

**Saturday, March 12, 2011  
7:30PM**

### **Mayfest**

**Saturday, May 7, 2011  
10:00AM-3:00PM  
Notre Dame High School**

The School Calendar and Sports Schedules can be accessed on the Notre Dame Website at:

[www.notredamehighschool.com](http://www.notredamehighschool.com).

To access the sports calendar, click the orange "Sports Schedule" tab under Quick Links on the home page.



***Don't forget to spring ahead  
when daylight savings time begins  
on Sunday, March 13th.***



March 1, 2011

## Notre Dame Ballroom Dance

Dear Friends:

I'm sure you have all heard about the Notre Dame Jazz Band Ballroom Dance and many of you have been present at previous dances. This year, the Ballroom Dance will be held on **Saturday, March 12, 2011** from **7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.** The kids are practicing diligently to prepare for this. We hope it will be as successful as last year's dance. This year's band seems to be the strongest in the past five years. You will be amazed at their sound.

It promises to be an exciting event. The schedule will be something like this:

**7:30 p.m.**      **The Notre Dame Jazz Band will play the first set.**

**8:30 p.m.**      **Swing Dance instruction by Patti Mickelinc**                      Refreshments will be served.

**9:30 p.m.**      **The Notre Dame Jazz Band will play the third set**

Refreshments will consist of Swedish Meatballs (which will be prepared here), and everybody's favorite, **Chocolate-Covered Strawberries**, veggie platters, cookies and brownies. There will be a table with bottled punch and coffee.

New tunes will include It had to be you, Land of Make believe a beautiful ballad entitled Goodbye my Heart New Cha Cha and Rumba selections

We hope that you will encourage your friends to come share this wonderful evening with us. You can reserve a table by calling the Notre Dame High School office at 734-2267. Donation is \$15.00 per person.

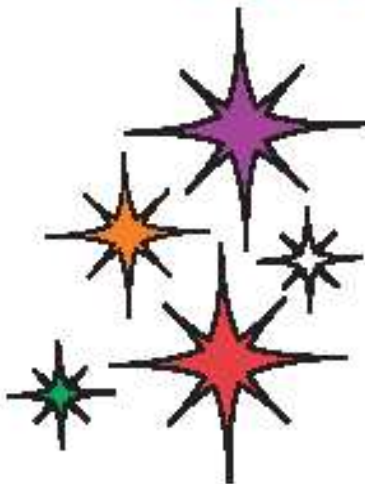
Sincerely,

Stephen Gergely  
Band Director

# FIESTA NIGHT

Saturday March 19, 2011  
at the Elmira Country Club  
7:00-11:00 pm

## HOLY FAMILY SCHOOLS CELEBRATION



\$30/person or \$50/couple by March 11<sup>th</sup>  
\$35/person or \$60/couple after March 11<sup>th</sup>  
All profits benefit Holy Family School



Entertainment by:

The "Mariachi Tequila" band  
also DJ & Dancing

Ticket Locations: Holy Family Schools,  
Holy Family Business Office, Classic Cafe,  
All Gerould's Pharmacy Locations.



- Cash Bar •
- Hearty Hors Devours •
- Silent and Live Auction •
- Casual and Festive Attire Optional •

