# LIFE IS A JOURNEY

Global Encounters | Once in a Lifetime | It's in Giving That We Receive



TIDINGS 2016-2017 Annual Report





# LIFE IS A JOURNEY

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"Being connected to the Catholic Church daily, and having many opportunities to come together to pray, worship at Mass, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participate in Eucharistic Adoration has helped our daughter to grow and strengthen her faith and relationship with Christ."

# **GREETINGS FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL**



I write to you grateful for your support of St. John Paul II High School & St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School. As a relatively young school (SFXP was founded in 1996, JPII in 2007, and the schools were unified in 2013), we cannot rely upon a long tradition of alumni (yet!) who are able to give back. For this reason especially, know that I appreciate you, that your gifts count, and that we steward them carefully.

In these pages, we illustrate the impact of your investment in our school. Be it the myriad of ways students live the Gospel mandate to serve others, the life-changing Concert Choir tour of Vatican City and Italy, or alums whose Middle Eastern encounters reveal their strong foundation, the results are

evident. These, and many more, accomplishments rely on your support.

St. John Paul II High School & St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School offers academic, moral, and spiritual excellence for young people in grades five through twelve that is marked by a clear mission, dedicated staff members, and strong community. With tuition costs kept low, it is critical that the school grow in its ability to underwrite outstanding programs, provide scholarship assistance, and secure the best teachers available.

This year, 475 students enter St. John Paul II High School & St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School ready to become accomplished, well-rounded, spiritually mature young men and women who know their God and their place in the world. This is the formation that we provide, and with your help and God's grace, we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,

-age

Christopher W. Keavy Head of School



"At JPII and SFXP, our children receive the tools they need to reach their fullest potential academically, athletically, spiritually in the community. As parents, we make this investment because of what the school gives back to our children."

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Katziff

East Falmouth – Darren Katziff JPII '19 and Kayla Katziff SFXP '21

# **GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS**

#### I'm Nowhere Near Understanding What I've Seen or Learned

#### Two alumni students tackle Arabic language study - and more - in UAE, Oman, and Jordan

Victoria Sirois, JPII '13 and Peter Hartnett, SFXP '11 JPII '15, have learned first-hand the life-changing impact of encounter. Peter and Victoria spent their recent summers experiencing faith, culture, language, and people in the middle-eastern nations of Oman, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates; and in so doing, have encountered others – and themselves – in significant ways. *Tidings* sat down with Victoria and Peter to learn how their Catholic education prepared them for global plurality, and the way their Middle Eastern encounters have shaped their lives today.

Victoria graduated this past May from Loyola University (MD) with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in Business and Latin American Studies. As an undergraduate, Victoria worked with the Baltimore Diocesan outreach Esperanza Center, providing services to immigrants, and the Asylee Women Enterprise, a group founded by Catholic sisters who helps women seeking asylum to rebuild their lives by providing transitional housing, companionship, and community. Through these volunteer experiences, Victoria came to know women from Latin America, Africa, and Syria persevering through difficult circumstances.

While studying Spanish in Acalá, Spain in 2015, Victoria saw the confusion and panic caused by the Paris attacks. "I felt there was something missing," she said. "The women that I knew were not like this at all. I began to seek what I could do to bridge the gap between Western views of Islam and the women I knew."

During her sophomore year, Victoria "took a shot in the dark" and signed up for Arabic study, one of four students total. She took to it and later was selected for The William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship at the American University in Dubai, a program which gives Americans based in the U.S. the chance to broaden their educational and cultural experience by studying in the Arab world.

While in Dubai, Victoria studied Arabic and encountered other people in challenging ways. "I started to see the side of the 'other,' those who have had family impacted by the events that many Westerners learn about from afar. I saw that as an American, I represented America and could see the hurt in other people. There is misunderstanding on both sides, and I wanted to bring greater understanding to Westerners about Arabic culture, and to my Muslim friends, greater understanding, too."

With Victoria's Spanish and Arabic skills, corporate work might beckon. But her encounters with migrant women, and as a student who studied abroad, Victoria was motivated to help others. She was accepted into an exclusive program in Brussels and hopes to focus on legal issues in migration and the shadow world of human trafficking.

Looking back, Victoria's love of language study started with Señora Carpenter's Spanish classes. "Señora Carpenter sparked me 100%. She showed me what I could do and made me feel special for wanting to know and love world cultures," said Victoria. "Señora Carpenter has kept in touch and encouraged me as I began my study of Arabic. The JPII teachers have made a big difference in my life."

Beyond this, "I received a well-rounded education at JPII and Loyola but especially learned to focus on encountering other people. At JPII, I learned service. Now, I hope to make even the smallest difference in the world with the skills and experiences I have learned." Peter Hartnett's applied mathematics study at Harvard University would seem to many to be quite challenging enough. However, Peter, a ROTC participant, took the opportunity to study Arabic language through the Department of Defense's Project GO (Global Officer) program. In 2016, Peter studied in Muscat, Oman, and 2017, Amman, Jordan.

"Arabic is an incredibly challenging language to learn. There are sounds we just don't make in English. There has been so much that is new and different these past two summers." Peter said. "What's most important to me, though, is the human encounters that global study provides. During my last week in Oman, I had dinner at my Omani conversation partner's home. These encounters are now part of me."

Peter sees his experiences through the lens of his Catholic faith and the Church's relationship with Islam. "In Muscat, the Grand Mosque is incredibly beautiful, peaceful place, and was constructed only fifteen years ago. It shows a living faith. At the same time, I was able to attend Mass at Ghala Church near the Grand Mosque. While Catholics are a small part of Oman, I worshiped with immigrants such as Southeast Asians and Filipinos.

Peter studied each of the past two summers during Ramadan and found the rhythm of life transformed by the holy season.

"This year, I decided to keep the Muslim fast (during Ramadan). The goals of Ramadan, as a holy month, are similar to Lent in the way of fasting, building personal discipline, and spiritual growth. But the fast is not limited to food and water. Smoking, gambling, gossip -- we abstain from anything not pure, good, and holy. These are universal goals, and I felt that I could grow from sharing the Muslim fast.

The first few days were the hardest. I also made time for reading and personal prayer, and that helped. The 'Call to Prayer' is pretty moving. The first words are 'God is greater...' and this means God is greater than what we are sacrificing and greater than anything.

I respect Muslims in the U.S. who observe Ramadan without the social supports that I saw in Oman and Jordan."

Peter credits his SFXP and JPII education with providing him a firm foundation from which to grow and explore.

"I remember reading Persepolis in Ms. Hanley's sophomore English class. The novel is set in Iran, and I could see that there are countries that are villainized in the Western narrative. Reading Persepolis showed me that there are always people to love and respect everywhere."

Peter now returns to Harvard and will continue with Arabic study. Ultimately, he may pursue diplomatic work after his military commitment is completed.

Victoria's and Peter's encounters give testimony that a strong Catholic, liberal arts education prepares students for the world's plurality and to love and serve those they meet.

# **ONCE IN A LIFETIME**



On a cold, beautiful February day, 88 students, parents, grandparents, and chaperones embarked on what would become the experience of a lifetime. After two years of planning, JPII and SFXP pilgrims engaged in travel, prayer, and song in Rome, including two Masses at St. Peter's Basilica and a performance at the U.S. Naval Base in Naples.

School Chaplain Rev. Ron Floyd spearheaded the effort, in conjunction with Performing Arts Director Richard Fish.

"We teach the great musical tradition of the Church. I was so happy for students to be able to sing in the beautiful Churches that music was written for. The way of beauty is, I believe, one of the

most profound ways for modern man to encounter the Living God."

"It took a lot of hard work to pull off, but I don't think it could have gone better. It was both fun and prayerful," Rev. Floyd said.

Assistant Principal Mona Lisa Valentino agrees. "For me, God was never more present and real than during this time in Rome. Whether singing at St. Peter's Basilica, visiting the hospice home, or participating in sunrise Mass with hundreds of seminarians, God was so real and we could feel His love," she said.

Julia DiPreta, '20, knows that the girl who left for the airport is not the same girl who returned to Boston. "Traveling with my mom, whom I am so close to, and sharing these experiences is something I will always treasure," Julia said. Her mother, Elizabeth, agrees. "I was not sure I should go on the trip, but being with my child as she sang at St. Peter's in the Vatican and watching her emotion, my heart opened up. I felt God more than ever."

All five members of the Bresnahan family, including SFXP eighth-grade Choir member Kaitlin, experienced Rome together. Chris, '19, recalls a spontaneous mini-concert at the Pantheon. "My group just broke into song, and all of the tourists were taking videos and watching in wonder." Kerry, '18, loved seeing the universal home of the Catholic Church and being so close Pope Francis.

Sean Farrington, '17, and his dad, Bill, traveled together. Bill had experienced a tough year and he wasn't sure he could relax and turn off life's problems. "I could not have been more wrong; once I got to the airport, I could feel the weight lifting. I got to know all of the wonderful people and sharing these experiences with Sean can never be matched."

"I look back now and it seems like a dream," added Hannah Laird, '18. "It was the experience of a lifetime, and I will always be thankful for it."

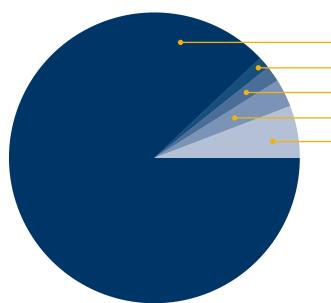
Performing Arts Director Richard Fish sums it up this way: "Rome was an experience so rich that it will take a lifetime upon which to reflect and pray. Singing in these amazing physical and spiritual spaces cannot be overstated in terms of breathtaking acoustics. We prepared music truly worthy of this endeavor, including the "Sicut Cervus" by Palestrina. Our Catholic Church music is so rich, and so are these dear houses of faith! While singing, we were literally above the bones of St. Peter, or above the tombs of St. Philip and St. James the Less. These are the Apostles called by Jesus. They knew Him, touched Him, and loved Him! My heart will ever desire to be close to those who were touched by Christ. We sang to Him with love, and will forever be grateful to Him for this opportunity."



"The school's philosophy is line with our own. Teachers and coaches deliver a consistent message to students, which is especially important in the formative years of middle and high school. The moral compass is established providing students sound principles to guide them through the various messages they will hear in college and beyond."

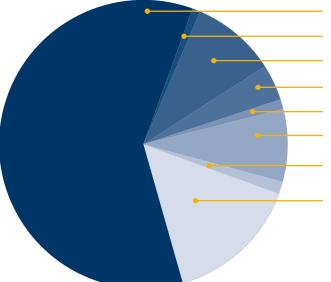
Yarmouth Port – Addie-Eileen JPII '13, Genny JPII '15, Daniel SFXP '15 and JPII '19, Alexa JPII '20

# 2016-2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



# **TOTAL INCOME** | \$5,475,078

-	Tuition & Fees	\$ 4	4,681,057
-	Annual Fund	\$	63,085
-	Events	\$	87,440
-	Financial Aid Gifts	\$	152,400
-	Other Income	\$	491,096



# **TOTAL EXPENSES | \$5,465,460**

	Salaries & Benefits	\$3	3,540,300
	Instruction	\$	50,093
•	Buildings & Grounds	\$	441,341
•	Athletics	\$	222,815
•	Arts & Activities	\$	58,471
	School Financial Aid	\$	478,507
	Advancement & Admissions	\$	67,129
	Other Expenses	\$	606,804

# DISTINGUISHED DONOR LIST

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"We are grateful that our daughter is in a strong faith-filled environment and challenged with a rigorous academic curriculum."

Rockland – Anna JPII '20

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"We are fortunate to be a part of the JPII and SFXP family. These school are a blessing to us and many on Cape Cod."

Mr. John Beaty and Ms. Christine O'Brien

East Sandwich – Erica SFXP '11 and JPII '15, Jenna SFXP '13 and JPII '17, Jack SFXP '19

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#### MATCHING GIFTS

Bank of America Matching Gifts Sanofi Foundation for North America

# It's in Giving That We Receive



The path of our Lord is clear; take up your towel and basin and do as I do. JPII and SFXP students follow this example and deepen their love of God and neighbor through Christian service and charity.

The following are just some of the examples...

# FEED THE HUNGRY

"It was an amazing opportunity for the students to not only give back to the community, but to be immersed in a project where they were able to see the results and put a face to those they were able to help."

Amanda Gibson - College of the Holy Cross Intern

# **CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** "We are saving animals from further possible injuries, plus there was no trash left on the beach."

Grace Magnacca - SFXP'17



## **PILGRIMAGE TO ECUADOR**

"In Ecuador, I learned what compassion is; it means to be with those who suffer. We do not work for the poor, but must work with the poor. My experience in Ecuador changed me and through their companionship helped me become a better person. Now, I hope to have a bigger impact on my family and friends."

Meghan Powell - JPII'17

# **Comfort the Sick**

"I was able to make a day brighter for sick children by sewing pillowcases for the Boston Children's Hospital."

Lydia Fitton-Alves - SFXP'17

## **Shelter the Homeless**

"I feel many of us take for granted the privilege of having a nice home in a safe community. The joy I witnessed by the six new homeowners was an eye-opening experience. I plan to continue volunteering with Habitat for Humanity during college."

Jack Leras - JPII'17



### **SERVE OTHERS**

"I benefited from working with the elderly in my church community. The service helped me become closer to God and to grow in faith."

Thomas Bernier - SFXP '17



# SAVE THE DATES

**Open House** | Thursday, November 16, 2017 SFXP 6:00 P.M. – JPII 7:00 P.M.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day | Friday, December 8, 2017

**2018 Auction & Social** | Saturday, April 7, 2018 Oyster Harbors Club, Osterville

### Want More?

- Visit www.sjp2hs.org and www.sfxp.org
- Sign-up for our newsletter
- Receive the latest news on Facebook
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Use the above to find out more. Help us spread the word about the terrific happenings at JPII & SFXP.

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# TIDINGS 2016-2017 Annual Report



