



OCTOBER 2022

THE GUARDIAN

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION AT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY

FROM THE DESK OF

Ms. Emily Byers DEAN OF STUDENT FORMATION

PILGRIMAGE WEEK

Our Upper School Pilgrimage Program is an approach to student formation that is unique to JPG. It can be a stretch to plan for (and fund) a weeklong formation program for all 160 of our middle and high school students, so why do we do it? What makes spending a week outside the classroom worthwhile, and why do we call it pilgrimage? A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred destination, undertaken as penance or in pursuit of a more profound conversion. This practice is deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian history. The faithful have always gone on pilgrimages because the difficulties of the journey convert our hearts and call us to become more vibrant witnesses of our faith.



Pilgrimage has also always been an integral part of Upper School student life at JPG. Inspired by John Paul II, who as a priest and professor used to take young people kayaking and camping in order to teach them about the Faith in a relaxed setting, we bring students outside the classroom to have powerful, personal encounters with Jesus. Since JPG's founding, we have been committed to bringing students to Washington, D.C. each January to visit the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and participate in the March for Life. In 2014, we inaugurated the Junior Pilgrimage to Rome when Mr. Fletcher and I accompanied a dozen juniors to the canonization of our patron on Divine Mercy Sunday. After the success of that trip, pilgrimages for the other grades were added in the years that followed. This summer, we launched the Alumni Pilgrimage Program with a hiking trip, and we are planning a Rome trip and mission trip for alumni in future years.



This year, 7th and 8th graders participated in retreats, field trips, and outdoor excursions that focused on the themes of friendship with Christ and with one another. Freshmen were introduced to JPPI's Theology of the Body teachings at a four-day retreat and then tasked with sharing their faith as they led a 5th and 6th grade retreat at JPG. The sophomore class sought the face of Jesus in those in need as they volunteered in work projects in the Houma-Thibodaux area and visited the Seelos Shrine in New Orleans.

Our juniors traveled to Italy to visit ancient ruins like the Roman Forum, to admire priceless works of art like the Sistine Chapel, and to pray at the tombs of saints like JPPI, Francis of Assisi, Peter, and Cecilia. On this year's pilgrimage, I was particularly moved by our visit to the private rooms and chapel of St. Ignatius of Loyola. My devotion to

this saint has grown over the past year after making a weeklong silent retreat with his Spiritual Exercises and reading his extensive collection of letters last Christmas. To see the chapel where Ignatius prayed, the desk where he wrote many of his letters, and the place where he died was unbelievably special.

Finally, in their culminating pilgrimage experience, our seniors returned to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado where they experienced the breathtaking beauty of God's creation while testing their physical and emotional limits. They took turns in pairs leading the day's hike and supported their peers as they followed the voice of Christ "to the heights."

Please join me in continuing to pray that their experiences of pilgrimage will bear fruit in the hearts of our faculty and students. Pope St. John Paul the Great, pray for us!

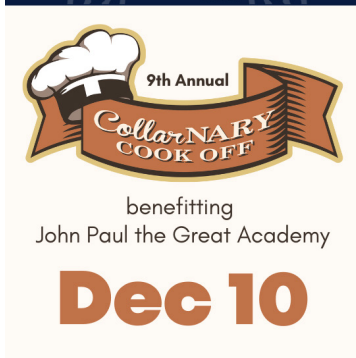
Emily C. Byers

OMNIA IN EXCELLENTIA AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM



CALENDAR

Oct 26	Upper School Picture Day
Oct 28	3rd-6th Picture Day
Oct 31	Trunk or Treat
Nov 1	All School Mass/All Saints Day
Nov 4	EARLY DISMISSAL -1:30 p.m.
Nov 4-5	JPG Debate Tournament
Nov 10	Headmaster's Challenge T-Shirts
Nov 11	House T-Shirts Women of JPG, 6:00 p.m.
Nov 18	December Lunch Orders Due
Nov 21-25	NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 29	#iGiveCatholic Online Giving Day
Dec 2	All School Mass, First Friday
Dec 8	All School Mass, Immaculate Conception
Dec 10	9th Annual Collarnary Cook Off



New sponsorship opportunities this year! Visit www.collarnarycookoff.com to learn more about becoming a Cook Off Sponsor!



Missed the October Community Conversations?

Visit <https://jpgacademy.org/meeting-minutes> to listen to the audio and give your feedback via Google Forms!

FRIDAY NOV 4

**EARLY
DISMISSAL
@ 1:30 PM**

JPG is hosting a debate tournament! All students will dismiss at 1:30 pm to allow for preparations.

AFTERCARE WILL BE
AVAILABLE IN THE GYM
UNTIL 5:30 P.M.




Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 31
5:00-6:00 pm
JPG parking lot

Families decorate your vehicle trunk/tailgate for trick or treating around the lot! Wear your Halloween costume and have a great time!

No scary costumes




SPELLING BEE

GRADES 3-5

ROUND 1: CLASSROOM SPELLING BEE
Friday, November 18
Top 3 in each class
advance to the next round


ROUND 2: SCHOOL SPELLING BEE
Wednesday, December 21
10:30 a.m. Blessed Frassati Gym
THE WINNER WILL REPRESENT JPG AT
THE REGIONAL SPELLING BEE IN THE SPRING

1ST PLACE--\$20
2ND PLACE--\$10
3RD PLACE--\$5



**Grades 6-8 Spelling Bee will
take place January 20.**

Save the Date!



WOMEN of JPG


FR. TED BROUSSARD

Please join us Friday,
November 11, in the JPG
Refectory from 6:00-9:00 p.m.
with speaker Fr. Ted Broussard
on the Eucharistic Revival. All
women are invited.

NOVEMBER 11 • 6:00 P.M.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

RSVP & SIGN UP HERE



JPG Vocations Cross

JPG Families are invited to sign up for a week to take home and pray with the JPG Vocations Cross. We are excited to revive this tradition and to pray together for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life from our school community. Email Ms. Byers, ebyers@jpgacademy.org, if you have any questions.

Visit jpgacademy.org/vocationscross to sign up to take the vocations cross home & to see the updated list of JPG Vocations.





SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Perpetual Adoration Chapel at John Paul the Great Academy

SUN 1:00 PM	TUES 5:00 AM
FRI 5:00 AM 12:00 PM	ONLY 4 VACANT HOURS! SIGN UP ONLINE: JPGACADEMY.ORG/ADORATION

COMMITTED ADORERS NEEDED!

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth."
~ St. Mother Teresa





Pilgrimage Week Highlights

