

Regina Coeli

REPORT

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CULTIVATING CULTURE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The United States District sponsored a Culture and Education Teachers' Seminar for its academies from Monday, July 30 to Tuesday, July 2 at St. Ignatius Retreat House in **Ridgefield, CT**. Graciously hosted by the prior, Fr. Gerardo Zendejas, the seminar was held by Fr. Gerard Beck (the district's Director of Education) and moderated by musicologist Dr. Andrew Childs, and as one of the first conferences' title admirably summarized, focused on the importance of "Integrated Culture and the Catholic Educational Mission."

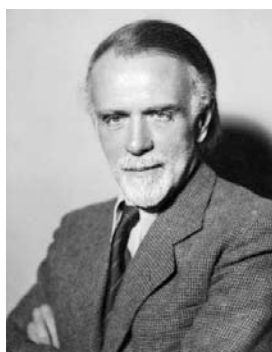
Attended by nearly 30 teachers from 18 of the district's schools, the seminar's purpose was to highlight the importance of cultural literacy and integration in Catholic life and within the Catholic educational mission, provide opportunities for humanities teachers (specifically those who teach art and music) to network and strategize, and learn theoretical (different methods) and practical information (such as lesson planning).



Fr. Beck gives the opening talk, which covered the state of the district. Br. Josef, an Hungarian himself, is on the right.



Mrs. Krista Childs explains the music program used at St. Mary's Academy in Kansas during her conference on the Kodaly Method.



A picture of Zoltán Kodály, who believed that children's music education should begin in kindergarten as this was crucial to their development.



A picture of the attendees in front of the parish church of Christ the King. The moderator of the seminar, Dr. Childs, is circled.

Organized around Mass and the choral hours of the Divine Office (Prime, Sext and Compline), the 11 interesting and informative conferences covered such topics as the importance of good music and an explanation of the Kodaly Method¹ of music education, iconography² and how to incorporate the visual arts within a curriculum, how to combat the culture of passivity³, as well as “field reports” of the success of ongoing projects in certain schools where various principles discussed have already been implemented. A lively roundtable talk amongst the group completed the beneficial seminar which allowed for a networking of communication and support for implementing the topics expounded.

Footnotes

¹ A Hungarian, Zoltan Kodaly (1881-1967) was a composer (including orchestral, instrumental and choral, a *Missa Brevis* and the famous Hungarian opera, *Háry János*), educator and ethnomusicologist (one who studies the social and cultural aspects of music and dance

in a local and international context), who did not actually invent the pedagogical method of music education he famously espoused, though he was a great promoter of its philosophy, which was: “*Music belongs to everyone and is necessary for healthy human development.*” He was hailed as a national treasure of Hungary upon his death.

² This refers to two things. First, the two-dimensional style of painting sacred pictures, or icons (from the Greek word *eikon* for “image”); though primarily used in the East, there are also Western examples of this artistic style (e.g., the famous Western examples are Our Lady of Perpetual Help and of Czestochowa, or the Black Madonna). Second, the method of viewing sacred art to derive its spiritual value, or as the speaker, Mrs. Rebecca Quain phrased it: “*the language of symbolism within the works themselves, and their manifestation of the ideal specified by St. Thomas, that beauty consist of integrity, proportion, and clarity... and... the Gothic [Medieval] ideal of maintaining an integrity between beauty and theology.*”

³ That is, the indifference of recognizing the necessity of culture to inform one’s character.

VESTMENT-MAKING SESSION

Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, Syracuse, NY

Related to restoring the Catholic arts and thereby culture, here we show some images of the vestment-making session, Sister Mary John recently gave at her convent from June 23 to 25 to a group of ladies from the SSPX’s Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Church in Syracuse, NY.

Here we see the backs of two chasubles, already cut out, trimmed and decorated with emblems being prepared to have their underlining sewn to the face fabric. Lightly ironing the fabrics first, as the lady in the background is doing, ensures that they lay completely flat against the lining material.



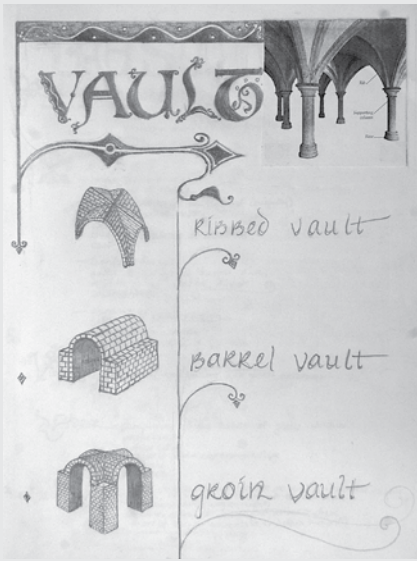
Sister shows a young lady one of the several steps necessary to make a burse for a vestment set.



After just a few days of labor, the ladies demonstrate the beautiful chasubles that they made.

TEACHERS' SEMINAR FIELD REPORT

From one of the field reports given, here are a few projects that have taken place at St. Joseph's Academy in Armada, MI.



An example of some of the illustration work that has been taught, from drawing, calligraphy, illumination, and even binding journals in carved wooden covers.

These four wooden statues, with certain details gilded, and one even bearing a painted icon (on the far right), demonstrate the carving skills that have been regenerated amongst the high school students.



Four Greek (or perhaps Spartans) march in unison as depicted in this mosaic composed of small pieces of gold, white and black tiles.



A carved, illuminated and gilded bas-relief shield depicting heraldic devices.



A woodcutting or engraving, the old-fashioned method of printing images. As shown below, a flat board is carved away around the image, then ink is applied and the board pressed against paper, the result of which is shown at the top.



Samples of pottery making, including reproductions of ancient Greek vessels with painted details, from a fighting warrior to geometric shapes.

A small stained glass window.



Here a replica of the famous Last Judgment tympanum of the ancient Romanesque Abbey Church of St. Foy in Conques, France (inset), is being made from sections of sculptured and fired clay.

GARDENING IN CHARLOTTE YIELDS A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

With the rising prices of food and gas, as well as the necessity to regain gardening skills, the pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in CHARLOTTE (MT. HOLLY), NC, established a 40 by 80 foot parish garden, dedicated to St. Benedict this year. Ground was broken in the third week of April, and a variety of items were planted, including green beans, turnips, onions, snap peas, okra, crook neck and butternut squash, potatoes, climbing tomatoes and cucumbers, Swiss chard, beets and even corn (which is not usual in this state, since it does not have extensive dairy operations and tobacco is the cash crop). Found to be a great parish activity as it involves everyone, from children to adults, the gardening also taught the lesson of reliance upon God's Providence, tested by the high acidic soil, the weather conditions (too much rain this year, which caused some ruination), and various pests, from insects to marauding deer.

Other lessons were learned through plant husbandry, a reminder of God making Adam (man) as the steward of the earth, while even simple (but continual) weeding became a reflective exercise as Fr. Novak stated, "*We come from the earth and we return to the earth. Pulling weeds is a catechism in the purification of souls.*" In addition to foodstuffs, wild flowers were also cultivated, which in turn with flower-arranging classes, were used in a money-saving way to decorate the altar. When the crops were ready for harvesting, those who labored on the garden received "first dibs," though the parish in general was able to freely partake, which saved parishioners about \$10 in groceries a week. The fall crops of buckwheat (to replenish the soil), beans and endive have already been planted in the parish garden, which even saw citation in the local *Belmont & Mount Holly Banner News* under the article heading "A Parish Grows."

Before the garden could be plotted, some clearing had to be done first. Here we see some able young men cutting a fallen tree trunk with a traditional double-hand saw.



In the pastoral setting of the church in the background, with the help of a tractor, the garden is begun as some men begin to sow seeds.



Here parishioners cultivate the garden, with a newly-erected cross watching over them.



As Fr. Novak supervises, one boy plants onions and another waters them.



In a ceremony that symbolized giving back the first fruits to God, here Fr. Novak destroys with a shovel a tomato and crook neck squash.



Turnips are pulled and collected, while another tends to the rows.



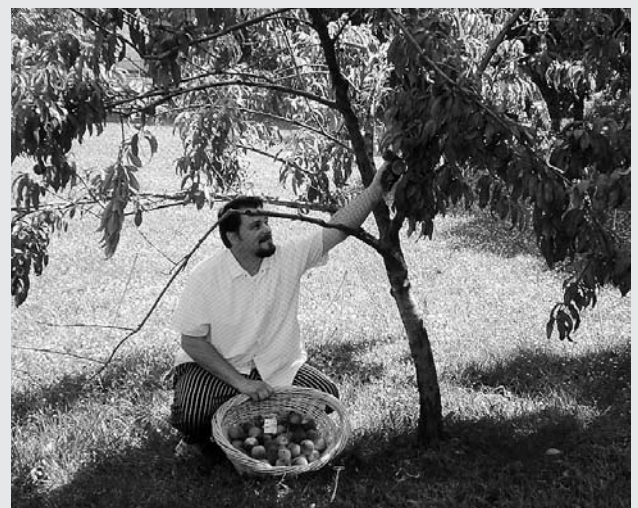
This table of produce in the parish hall was available to anyone who wished to freely partake.



A shot of the garden in progress, including the fence that had to be erected to keep out deer and other animals.



Meanwhile, some young men of the parish were raising chickens, which they slaughtered and sold to parishioners.



At St. Vincent de Paul Priory in **Kansas City, MO**, the peach trees planted a few years ago by the former pastor, Fr. Kenneth Dean, bore edible fruit this summer which the priory chef, Mr. Mark Shaw, is seen here picking.

ACADEMIC EVENTS IN THE UNITED

We present here a series of academic events that recently took place in our district.

Padre Pio School, Ridgefield, CT



Near the feast of San Gennaro (September 19), the academy held a festival fundraiser, and here we see the inflatable castle that was hired for the event.



A view of the dunk tank used at the festival.



The principal, Fr. Zendejas, decides to check out the inflatable castle for himself.



In March, the students gave a surprise birthday party to their principal, Fr. Zendejas.



Here the students enjoy a Mexican themed party, and then the afternoon off from classes!

INTERNATIONAL ROSARY MARCH

Saturday, October 4.
15 decades of the Rosary

Mrs. Patricia Balmes for information
N. 5012 Hollow Road
Newman Lake, WA 99025
509-226-0816 tel
www.rosarymarch.com

STATES DISTRICT

St John Fisher Academy, Fort Wayne, IN



Having been presented their diplomas from their outgoing principal, Fr. Kenneth Dean, the two eighth grade graduates thank their teacher.



During the graduation celebration, the school presented a musical program that included a Mexican dance.

Queen of Angels Academy, Dickinson (Houston), TX

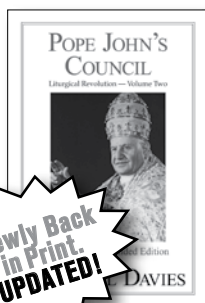


With their academy seal, the students of the 2007-2008 academic year pose with the academy staff and religious stationed at the priory; in center role from left to right in cassock: Br. Gregory, Fr. Gregory Post, Fr. Stanich (pastor), and Fr. Stephen Zigrang.

Annunciation Academy, Ft. Collins, TX



On April 27, the students put on a Spring program for the parishioners, which included songs, the recitation of poems, and a small birthday celebration for Fr. Joseph Lester. Here the students pose with Father, their principal.



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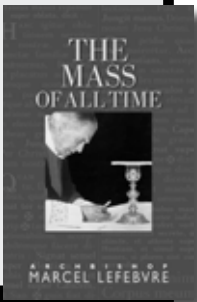
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RETREAT SCHEDULE

ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT HOUSE
209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, CT 06877
(203) 431-0201

MEN: Oct. 13-18, Dec. 15-20

WOMEN: Nov. 17-22

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

19101 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033
(408) 354-7703

MEN: Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Dec. 11-14 (Weekend)

WOMEN: Oct. 20-25, Dec. 4-7 (Weekend)

MIXED: Nov. 10-15 (Third Order Retreat)

OUR LADY OF SORROWS RETREAT CENTER
750 E. Baseline Road, Phoenix, AZ 85042
(602) 268-7673

MEN: Oct. 8-11 (3-day Virtue), Oct. 22-25 (Matrimony)

WOMEN: Nov. 10-15, Dec. 15-20, May 28-31 (3-day Virtue)

MIXED: Dec. 27-Jan. 2, 2009 (Marian—tentative dates)

Please contact the retreat house in question to ensure availability before making any travel plans

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MARCH 1-13, 2009

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For more information:

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EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE

MONTHLY INTENTIONS

September: For the work of the schools.

October: For peace throughout the world, through the rosary.

November: That God will save many of the dying, and for the dying.

U.S. DISTRICT TREASURE—May 2008

Daily Offering	9,289
Masses	953
Sacramental Communion	853
Spiritual Communion	2,123
Sacrifices	2,123
Decades of the Rosary	100,372
Visits to the Blessed Sacrament	4,781
15 minutes of silent meditation	3,147
Good Example	10,475
Number returned	287

Regina Pilgrimages

(accompanied by an SSPX priest)

ST. PADRE PIO & THE FRANCISCAN SHRINES OF ITALY

A 12- DAY PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY
FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 10, 2009

Venerate St. Padre Pio, whose body is exposed for veneration until 2009, render homage to St. Paul the Apostle during his anniversary year, and visit the main Franciscan Shrines of Italy!

Visit San Giovanni Rotondo, Pietrelcina, Rome, Genazzano, Venice, Padua, Osimo, Loreto, Assisi, Siena, Orvieto, Lanciano, and more. Render homage to St. Padre Pio, St. Paul the Apostle, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Bernardine and St. Catherine of Siena, St. Francis, St. Claire, St. Nicholas of Tolentino, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Leonard of Port Maurice, St. Peregrine, St. Felix of Cantalice, St. Anthony of Padua, and more. Visit the House of Our Lady in Loreto and venerate many Eucharistic Miracles!

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