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October 9, 2009

**St. John Leonardi**  
*"Either Christ or nothing"*

Dear Students and Parents,

Praise be Jesus Christ! Today's saint is John Leonardi who was born at Diecimo, Italy. He became a pharmacist's assistant at Lucca, studied for the priesthood, and was ordained in 1572. He gathered a group of laymen about him to work in hospitals and prisons, became interested in the reforms proposed by the Council of Trent, and proposed a new congregation of secular priests. During his Wednesday's audience, Pope Benedict XVI commented on St. John Leonardi, saying,

*John Leonardi intuited what the real medicine was for these spiritual evils and he synthesized it in the expression: "Christ first of all," Christ in the center of the heart, in the center of history and of the cosmos. And humanity -- he affirmed forcefully -- needs Christ intensely, because he is our "measure." There is no realm that cannot be touched by his strength; there is no evil that cannot find remedy in him, there is no problem that cannot be solved in him. "Either Christ or nothing!" Here is his prescription for every type of spiritual and social reform.*

Let us remember that Christ is at the very center of all we do regardless of the label that is attached to it. Be strong in faith and fervent in prayer. We can do all things in Him who strengthens us. (Phil. 4:13)

Oktoberfest is HERE! This is one of our large fundraisers. This money is budgeted to help our school meet expenses. Help make our event successful. Spread the word, invite friends and neighbors and come enjoy good food and a Polka. We still have tickets to sell.

This week our faculty met on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Holly Rottier, from the Diocese of Green Bay, presented on Teaching Standard #8, "The teacher understands and uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the pupil." Faculty and I also spent time issuing in the next principle of faith integration for the month of October, "**Communio**". Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, Bishop of Belleville, Washington, D.C. described Communio with this statement,

*"We are, brothers and sisters, a communio, a communion in Christ, brought about by the redemptive gift of Christ himself. By our Baptisms, we have each received an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that unites us to Christ. St. Paul, reflecting on his own Baptism and life in Christ, provides the definitive description of this new life in his letter to the Galatians: "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:19-20)."*

The faculty divided in to groups to then develop a movement in Christian virtue to strengthen each campus in Communio as Bishop Gregory further states, "Living in communio means seeing my brothers and sisters in the same way that God sees us in our true relation with one another in his Son. In Christ, you are a part of me; I am a part of you." Stay tuned with updates from your Campus Lead Teachers as we continue to move forward integrating faith into everyday campus life. May the Peace of Christ be with you and your family. St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us!

I remain yours,  
Joyful in the service of Christ,

Mrs. Jennifer A. Elfering  
President of Systems