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October 23, 2009

St. John of Capistrano

“Those who are called to the table of the Lord must glow with the brightness.”

Dear Students and Parents,

Praise be Jesus Christ! Today's saint is St. John of Capistrano who was Born at Capistrano, in the Diocese of Sulmona, Italy in 1385 and died October 23, 1456. His apostolic life began in 1425, after he had received the priesthood. From this time until his death he labored ceaselessly for the salvation of souls. He greatly propagated devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. St. John of Capistrano is the Patron Saint of Military Chaplains. He was a lawyer and a politician who also served in the military, fighting in the Siege of Belgrade and delivering Europe from the Turks. During this time of controversy for our soldiers far from home, let us pray for St. John to intercede and ask God to keep our men and women in the armed forces out of harms way and to provide for a quick end to war. *(excerpts taken from the Catholic Encyclopedia)*



As you are all aware, the flu is here. It is a bit early for the flu season, however, many students have been absent. I have met with administration from each campus to discuss our school's status. Input has been collected from teachers to aid in our decision process. We are also working closely with the guidelines from the Diocese of Green Bay. If any decision to close our school is made, you will be notified immediately. Unfortunately, it sometimes happens that students will go home mid-day so an accurate count may not be available until after lunch. In the meantime, I urge you to re-read the information distributed in last week's brown envelop and e-lope. This is only the start of the flu season. We may experience waves of high absenteeism throughout the entire flu season. This will be no doubt an unusual year. If you child is home sick, let them rest and get well. Do not worry about make-up work until they are well enough to study. Some of my children are ill and schoolwork is not an option when they are in bed all day. The teachers and I understand and are ready to work with the students upon their return. Remember DO NOT send your child back to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours. College credit students will need to collaborate with fellow students to get notes. This is a college course and your peers are supportive of your return to good health.

CONGRATULATIONS TITANS! Our football team won last night's game against Wausaukee. Here's to our play-off opportunity. Congratulations to our volleyball team as well. Although we did not move on from Regionals, I was proud to see the team's progress on court during the season. I believe we were up against some tough odds at Tuesday night's game with the flu looming over some of the players. I applaud their stamina and their dedication to the game.

On a note of disappointment, I attended the homecoming dance this past weekend. The dress attire for some was severely lacking in modesty. Again, beauty is not noted by how much skin is showing. It was apparent that Dance Dress Code was not followed. There were however, some who I must applaud for their virtue and choice selection. And because of their efforts, I am creating an Advisory Committee for dances to examine the dance dress code as a first agenda item and the consequences to be administered for those who did not follow the code during the homecoming dance. This committee will have student representation. As for the student dress code on campus during the day, I enclose a philosophy statement. My review over the last two weeks has shown that a minor contingency of rebellious individuals do not heed dress code. Immodest low neck lines are at the peak of concern for a Catholic institution.

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On a lighter note, our Christmas Play to be performed by our students in December has been selected. Mrs. Carolyn Rice will be the advisor for this event and could use help with props and costumes. We are working on a date and time. Sundays are posing a problem because of the "Packers Game". For now we are looking at Friday, December 18th as a *possibility* for an afternoon performance. Send me via e-mail your thoughts as faculty and I hope to set the date by next week. Remember, we need to account for sports activities that are held in the evening. In addition, evenings are a bit tough on students who have school the next day, hence we did not pursue a Wednesday evening date. However, your input will play a role in our decision if enough parents respond.

REMEMBER, **October 29th NO SCHOOL**. October 30th is our celebration of Halloween for the K-8 students. Keep in mind the real history of "All Hallow's Eve". Days observed and celebrated by secular society can be events to be used to make connection to important faith-related concepts for children and families. Halloween's roots lie in an ancient pagan festival for the dead. While this autumn feast can be used for evil purposes, our culture celebrates it as an innocent night of begging and fun. We who believe in the light of the world can use it to celebrate the Light. "Hallow" means holy and the word Halloween refers to the night before the feast of all holies, or All Saints Day. Emphasize all things good, joyful and pure. Let your children know that they are "children of the light" called to walk in the light. For more information on the history check out this web-site: <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/civilization/cc0070.html>. Don't forget our Saturday (Oct. 31st) community celebration being sponsored by Home and School. Pass the word...it is open to the public and will be held at our High School Gym from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Finally, our October 28th meeting will be held at the Pesthigo Campus. Please **NOTE TIME CHANGE: 5:00 p.m. in the school gym.**

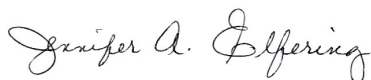
Our high school retreat is scheduled for Monday, October 26th. Please pray for the *Spiritus* team that will present and coordinate the day for our students. May God preserve us in good health and return those students to health so that everyone can participate in this event. For those who miss the day, I will look into alternate make-up plans for students to spend retreat time under my direction. Adoration is coming up and November 6th is a good time to get refreshed and renewed. Plans for the junior high are also underway. Dates will be announced later.

We continue to collaborate with MCC. We welcomed junior high students (grades 6-8) to join us in during our pep rally on October 16th. Currently we are planning on combining a class trip for our 8th grade students. We are also participating as judges for their science fair and hope to hold a District type event for both schools in late spring after our science fair. Great things are happening!

I hope that some of you have considered becoming a "host" family. As you know, our school was notified of 20 high school Korean students wishing to study in the Green Bay/Marinette area. If this is too much for your household, perhaps you know a relative or neighbor who would consider becoming a host family. It is my desire to pursue the process to have an International Baccalaureate Program at STAA upon the conclusion of our accreditation process. And opportunities may become available for our students to study abroad.

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