

# ST. THÉRÈSE NEWSLETTER

To Know | To Love | To Serve

## Classical & Cultured *Achieving Higher Standards*



Nat Latin Exam Gold Medalists

Few things offer teachers more satisfaction and pride than knowing their student, after matriculating into college, is thriving academically and spiritually. Naturally, the same can be said for parents about their children. It's been a big confidence boost to our academy to see how well St. Therese graduates have been performing in the colleges of their choice. Not to mention the



great colleges they are choosing. It comes as little surprise that our two most recent graduates Barbara Najera and Daniela Van Wyk, both of whom earned gold medals on the National Latin Exam, are excelling in their studies in environments conducive to growth in their Catholic faith. The classical education St. Therese provides is the alternative many parents have been seeking of late. Who wouldn't want the peace of mind of knowing that the soil in which your child's mind and soul are planted is fertile in all the ways that make a human being flourish intellectually, morally, and spiritually? From the moment a student dons the St. Therese uniform, our faculty at St. Therese teach with the conviction that regardless of background, all our students are worthy of excellence and high culture, which in many respects is the new counter-culture. Consider the following: Our students are presented with challenging course work, which includes the oft-neglected subjects of formal Logic, Latin and Theology. Virtue is the standard by which we measure goodness and success, and chivalry the standard of a gentleman. Our students are taught the benefits of modest dress as well as "dressing up." And finally, while considered "classy," music appreciation, ballroom dance, manners and etiquette are not arenas restricted to an elite class. All of these



Toastmasters



features of the St. Therese experience are simply ways of spotlighting the elevated dignity of every human being. In the end, we are fortifying young souls - preparing them to enter a world whose pop culture is frequently characterized by degrading coarseness. Therefore, we send out our young men and women as lights and leaven to the world, to elevate an emaciated culture by providing a feast on truth, goodness, and beauty while keeping it classy!

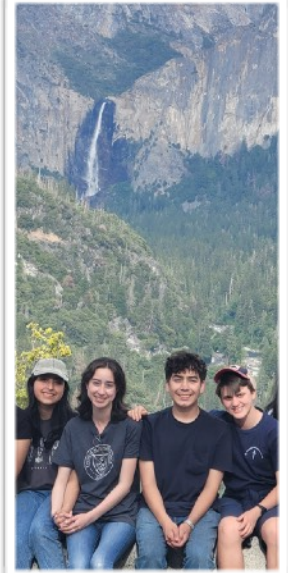
## Inspired by Beauty

### *The Power of Learning Through Experience*

When the academy started just under nine years ago, the teachers discovered that over half the students had never ventured outside the city of Santa Barbara. As bountiful and beautiful as our town is, there is clearly so much more to experience



even just an hour's drive outside the city. Since gasoline was slightly more affordable back then and we had no budget for field trips, we made a list of all the free cultural venues within driving distance, filled up one parent's Econoline bus and headed out of town. Since then, we've continued that tradition, but now with a modest budget for bigger adventures. This past summer, we returned to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, which was where we took the students on our first big camping trip many years ago. Since that first trip, our students have had the opportunity to explore nine other national parks - from our local Channel Islands to as far away as Yellowstone! Needless to say, these adventures are great ways to build camaraderie among the students, but an even better way



to inspire them with the awe and wonder of each park's unique natural beauty. Ideally, the experience outside the classroom accentuates lessons already learned inside the classroom. While in the National Parks, the students learned much about the ecology of old-growth forests and its native flora and fauna, the geology of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, along with the history of Yosemite Valley. Recently, students toured Hearst Castle in San Simeon, where they saw priceless works of art on display. This trip was a veritable feast for our Fine Arts, History, Theology, and even Latin scholars. Our Biology and Life Sciences students had the privilege of hearing Laureen Pittman's presentation on life in the womb last month. Holding the life-sized and weighted fetal



models was breath-taking and eye-opening to the beauty and miracle of life. Likewise, imagine how impactful it was for our students to celebrate Veteran's Day by hearing first-hand accounts of courage, valor, and self-sacrifice on the battle field. While most schools take the day off, St. Therese students were present at the Santa Barbara cemetery to honor our servicemen and women and witness a powerful testimony to patriotism.

## Field of Dreams

### *If You Build It They Will Come*

## Teacher's Corner

### *Service & Leadership*



The school motto is “Scire, Amare, Servire.” This is a reference to the catechism, which summarizes the ultimate purpose of each human being: to know, love, and serve God. This year, as part of his Theology class, John Vasellina has arranged for his students to serve at three great charities in town once a week. These include: PATH, Transition House, and the Unity Shoppe. In tandem with service, Mr. Vasellina instructs the students on leadership using the book [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#). St. Therese Academy aims to empower our students with the wherewithal to be effective future leaders in whatever circumstance in life they may find themselves. Effective leadership starts with knowing who you are and what you believe. The most fundamental belief for the Christian is that God is love and we are made in His image. The perennial challenge however is in consistently directing our lives toward the good of others in service. We wish to instill in our students a spirit of service and very much in the spirit of St. Therese herself. Whether it be in the classroom studying history, on the field playing kickball, or sweeping the hallways at the end of the day, all our activities should serve this noble end. Working with PATH, Transition House, and the Unity Shoppe allow our students to see up close and personal amazing local leaders who answered the call to serve and founded organizations that serve the most needy in our community.

At times it's not always clear what God's plans are for the academy, especially when His plans run contrary to the roadmap we've already laid out. One thing is for certain however, when a door is closed, He always provides an open window. When COVID shut down our previous building, we managed to take the school to the country-side for a year. And when our lease was not up for renewal, we had to find an alternative location for the school ... and quick! The dear Lord answered our prayers by presenting to us an amazing group of fellow Christians at Christ the King Church near the Magnolia Shopping Center and next door to Lane Farms. One parent noticing the cornfield next door jokingly quoted the movie *Field of Dreams* saying “If you build it, they will come.” We have agreed to a five-year lease, which allows our academy to set down roots and God-willing continue to grow. We currently have use of five classrooms, with a plan to add more. The property also includes a large field, a grove of Walnut trees, and a large parking lot. It's also not far from More Mesa, the Obern trail, and the beach. The pastor of the church is Rev. Israel Anchan an Episcopal priest who fully supports our Catholic curriculum. He too ran a school in his native India starting with seven students and growing the school to over one thousand! Interestingly, Christ the King Church originally got its start by using rooms at Bishop Garcia Diego High School in the 1970's. Now, fifty years later, a Catholic institution is benefitting from their good will. This unique relationship also allows us to consider how we can more effectively impact our culture and community through ecumenical cooperation. We embrace this new move as a blessing and an opportunity to boldly expand classical education for the Santa Barbara and Goleta communities.

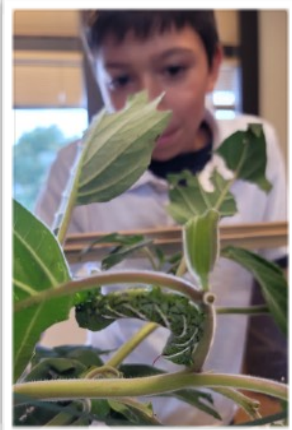


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# Saint Therese Classical Academy

## Open House!!!



**When: Thursday January 12**

**Place: 5073 Hollister Ave**

**Time: 6:00-8:00pm**

- Meet faculty & families
- Learn about classical education
- Demonstrations

