



# The Blue Jay



October 2015

Volume 88, No. 2

## Blue Jays take papal pilgrimage

By Matthew Torres  
Staff Writer

*Editor's note: Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States last month included stops in Washington, D.C., where he met with the president and later addressed a joint meeting of Congress. From there, the pontiff headed to New York, which included a speech before the United Nations General Assembly, before wrapping up the Apostolic Journey with a visit to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. Six Jesuit students and two faculty members had the opportunity to travel to Philadelphia to participate in the landmark event. Senior Matthew Torres shares this personal report of the experience.*

**PHILADELPHIA** – What a journey! Along with students from more than 40 other Jesuit schools – not to mention hundreds of thousands of others – my fellow Blue Jays and I had the opportunity to see Pope Francis on his Apostolic Journey to the United States. Thanks to the generosity of our host school, St. Joseph's Prep, the Jesuit school in the City of Brotherly Love, we not only saw the pope, but exper-

rienced a true spiritual pilgrimage taking part in the Festival of Families.

St. Joseph's Prep invited six students and two faculty members from each school. In addition to myself, our Blue Jay contingent consisted of seniors John Kemmerly, Francesco Pineda, Brady Stiller, Justin Vlosich, and Brandon Wolff. Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J., the school chaplain, and Director of Campus Ministry Jeremy Reuther led the trip.

We arrived at St. Joseph's on Sept. 24. The instant we stepped onto the campus, we noticed just how immense and beautiful it was. We took a quick tour around, and it began to sink in just how lucky we all were to be there.

We spent the next day touring the magnificent city of Philadelphia. We stopped at the Liberty Bell and the tomb of St. John Neumann, beneath the altar at the national shrine bearing his name.

Just before returning to St. Joseph's, we saw a crowd of people huddled around a woman in a pink suit. We later found out that her name was Gianna Molla, the

## Pope on parade!



Members of the New Orleans contingent join hundreds of other pilgrims from Jesuit high schools from across the country to march to Independence Hall to hear an address by Pope Francis.

daughter of St. Gianna Molla. Her mother developed cancer when she was pregnant, and was told that she would almost certainly die if she did not abort her child. She refused, and died shortly after she gave birth to her daughter. When we heard this story we were all awestruck. This was the first of many times that we would experience such a feeling on this pilgrimage focused on life and the family.

The following morning, we left from St. Joseph's and headed toward a field outside of the building that houses the Liberty



Blue Jays join the crowd in greeting Pope Francis as he arrives.

Photos courtesy of Jeremy Reuther

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## Jesuit tops list of national scholars



This year's senior class produced 43 National Merit Semifinalists, the most of any school in the state.

By William Fine  
Editor in Chief

Every year, juniors around the country take the PSAT, published by the College Board, which serves as the National Merit Semifinalist qualifying test. The scores are on a scale of 240. The cutoff for being a National Merit Semifinalist this year in Louisiana was a score of 212.

Former Jesuit teacher Charlie McGannon previously had a rigorous PSAT Test Prep portion of his English IV Honors class. Since his retirement however, English teachers Christopher Bowes and Jack Culicchia, and Math teachers Paul Rogers and John Lavie have continued to prepare students for this test. In

addition, Jesuit also offers PSAT/SAT Prep classes taught by English teacher Malcolm Villarrubia and Math teacher Yvonne Leger.

Jesuit's preparation resources, as well as many hours of intense studying, certainly paid off this year. The Class of 2016 produced 43 National Merit Semifinalists, students who score in the top 1 percent of their state's scores. Jesuit owns the largest number of National Merit Semifinalists in the state.

Being a semifinalist offers many opportunities for students. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation gives scholarships to the semifinalists and many colleges will also offer special scholarships to these students.

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# Mass for 1 million wraps up papal visit

## Pope

Continued from Page 1

Bell. This was where Pope Francis would first address the city. We arrived at 10 a.m. – along with thousands of others – and the pope was not scheduled to arrive until 4 p.m. Eagerly awaiting his arrival with so many other Catholics was a moving experience, as we were all there for the same purpose: a love for our faith.

When Francis arrived, we saw him in the “popemobile” only about 15 feet away from our barricade! Even though we had been waiting for hours and knew what would happen, none of us were able to hide the excitement and bewilderment that overtook all in the crowd as we first saw the Vicar of Christ, the Successor of St. Peter, in person.

A few of us from Jesuit, along with hundreds of others, followed his car until we could not follow any more. We then returned to our spots on the grassy field to await his address. He came out of the building to thunderous applause, and stepped up to the podium. His speech concerned the need of America to love and respect all of our neighbors, including those whom we did not share our beliefs with, as that was the ideal that America was built on. A simple concept, but it meant much more to us hearing that we must love those who are not also Christian from the leader of all Catholics.

Later that night, we watched the pope address the World Meeting of Families on a TV in an Italian restaurant. While we were watching we all were surprised when Gianna Molla, who we had seen the day before, stood up and gave a speech in front of millions of people and then hugged the pope.

Early the next day and again,



Jesuit students wait, right photo, along the barricade for the arrival of the pope for Sunday's papal Mass. Joining the Blue Jays is a contingent from Jesuit High School of Tampa. The wait was worth it as Pope Francis, left, passes just five feet in front of the Blue Jay pilgrims on his way to celebrate Mass on Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The Mass drew more than a million people.

Photos courtesy of Jeremy Reuther



In historic Philadelphia, a stop at the Liberty Bell was a must for the Blue Jays. They were, from left, seniors Brandon Wolff, Francesco Pineda, Justin Vlosich, Matthew Torres, John Kemmerly, and Brady Stiller. Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J., and Campus Ministry Director Jeremy Reuther led the pilgrimage.

*The pilgrimage helped me to grow in my faith life. I was able to hear the words of the Holy Father directly from him, and I took it all in along with my classmates, teachers, and 1.5 million other Catholics.*

we headed to downtown Philadelphia to celebrate the papal Mass. We again waited for several hours before the pope even arrived, but this time he passed right in front of us, so close we could have almost touched him and he was also looking right at us.

More than 1 million people gathered for the Mass. Throughout, everyone was completely attentive to everything and we all came together under our one belief in Jesus Christ. Everyone who wanted it was able to receive communion.

The pilgrimage to Philadelphia helped me to grow in my faith life in a way that was not otherwise possible. I was able to hear the words of the Holy Father directly from him, and I took it all in along with my five classmates, two teachers, and 1.5 million other Catholics.

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, an irreplaceable experience of growing in both brotherhood with my own classmates, as well as with students from other Jesuit schools all around the county.

## Brandon Wolff is involved in campus life from A to Z

By William Fine  
Editor-in-Chief

It's no great leap to call Brandon Wolff a well-rounded Blue Jay. He is heavily involved in activities around the school: athlete, playing a varsity sport; scholar, member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta; faith leader, co-director of communications for Campus Ministry; and a spirited leader as a Steward of the Gizzard.

To those titles, he can add Blue Jay of the Month.

Wolff will be a leader of the wrestling team as a senior wrestler. Right now the team is towards the end of its conditioning season, which leads into the regular wrestling season just a

month away. Wolff said he and his teammates are so excited to get back out on the mats that there is a countdown to their first match. He added that he is “looking to lead the wrestling team to a state championship.”

Wolff also serves as a Steward of the Gizzard. This is the reincarnation of the club formerly known as the Spirit Club.

“This opportunity that I have been given for student leadership is something I have dreamed of since an eighth grader. I, along with an elite team of seniors, am dedicating myself to the posterity of the Gizzard,” the name adapted for the student sections at various sporting events. Wolff said the club's work has led to increased attendance at the pep rallies and games.

### Blue Jay of the Month

On the quieter side of campus life, Wolff also serves as co-director of communications for Campus Ministry, a position he shares with Francesco Pineda. The campus ministry hopes to build on the “Truth and Glory” series of faith-based social gatherings to increase participation in the sacraments this year.

“As campus ministers, we think the spirituality of every student is our direct responsibility.” He, along with five other senior student ministers, as well as Director of Campus Ministry Jeremy Reuther and Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J., recently returned from the pilgrimage to Philadelphia to



Senior Brandon Wolff is one spirited Blue Jay, active in nearly every aspect of Jesuit life.

Photo by Connor Passantino

see Pope Francis. Wolff said he especially appreciated being able to experience the Holy Father's Mass, as well as just being with such a large congregation of fellow Catholics.

Recently, Wolff ran for Jesuit's Homecoming Court. He and his date, Sydney White, a senior at Archbishop Chapelle High School, were named as one

of the senior couples on the court. Humorously, he said, “Ever since I was a little boy, I dreamed of dancing in front of my friends at my senior homecoming.”

After this year, Wolff is leaning towards heading to Louisiana State University for college but also has looked at the University of Notre Dame. He is still undecided on his major.

# September ablaze with back-to-school activities



More than 1,200 Blue Jays and their dates jammed out in the Student Commons and spilled out into the courtyard at this year's Back-to-School Dance. It was one of the best-attended opening year dances in recent memory, according to Student Council President Joseph Dupre.

Staff photo by Ethan Gilberti

## Year-opening dance was huge success

By Ethan Gilberti  
Features Editor

Walking into the Jesuit Commons on the night of the Back to School Dance, one was immediately bombarded with the flash of lights and lasers and overwhelmed with the flood of music pouring through the speakers.

With the help of the Student Council and other volunteers, the day-to-day Commons was transformed magically into the most exciting spot on the block. Under the leadership and direction of the Student Council President Joseph Dupre, the luau-themed event became one of the most successful Back to School Dances yet.

**'Over 1,200 people jammed into the Commons.'**

*Student Council President Joseph Duore*

There were many perks to going to the dance. For all the Blue Jays who desperately needed dates to Homecoming but lacked an opportunity to find one, the dance was more than perfect. In fact, there was almost a 2:1 girl to boy ratio.

It was also a great way for students, especially eighth graders, to meet others in their own grade.

There was a playlist with all of the dance-worthy songs one could want to listen to. Finally, if all that dancing worked up a sweat and a thirst, there were Plum Street Snowballs to quench your need for something cold and sweet.

Noting that the dance is always a highlight of the year, Dupre said this year broke another record.

"For the second straight year, we set an attendance record at the Back to School Dance," Dupre said. "Over 1,200 people jammed into the Commons."

Another tradition at the beginning of the school year is Welcome Week, which always features a variety of fun and games during lunchtime. The week, which was held throughout the first week of September, concluded with a rousing pep rally held in the Traditions Courtyard.

Staff photo by Richi Fernando



One of the best ways to enhance your high school experience is to get involved. At left, Jayson says that if you cannot find some activity, club, organization or sport that doesn't grab your interest, you simply aren't looking hard enough. Jesuit's lineup of co-curricular activities is so expansive that this year's Rush Days had to be expanded to three days, running Sept. 8-10. At right, members of the Herpetology Club entice new members by showcasing their unusual pets. Staff photos by Jae Kweon

# Powers' wisdom, humor lights up class for 35 years

By Dominic Salomone  
Staff Writer

He calls it his "dream job." For English teacher Timothy Powers, it's a dream entering its 35<sup>th</sup> year.

Through those years, Powers has seen several generations of students; however, while each class has its distinctions, he said has not seen much change in the morals or general character of the average Jesuit student.

"Today's students are, for the most part, the same friendly, intellectually curious, generous students as the ones I first encountered in the early 1980s," Powers said. "Students have changed, of course, as the culture has changed."

He said he believes that Jesuit has done well to adapt to those cultural and social changes through the years and prepares its men, not only academically, but also to be men for others in college and the years beyond.

Powers wasn't always a teacher. His path to New Orleans began with a natural disaster in Pennsylvania, where he was living at the time.

In 1972, Tropical Storm Agnes struck, submerging Wilkes-Barre, Penn., under 12 feet of water. Powers soon found himself employed as a relief worker for the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Following his stint with



English teacher Timothy Powers reviews material with sophomores Blaise Bonura and Thomas Sagona. They are among the thousands of students that he has influenced as he enters his 35th year at Carrollton and Banks.

Staff photo by Matthew O'Neill

## Teacher Feature

HUD, Powers became an assistant editor and photojournalist for *The Bennington Banner*, a Pennsylvania newspaper.

His next job finally brought him to New Orleans. He worked in the operations division of Hibernia National Bank, where he created an operations manual for the trust division of the bank, among various other projects.

In May of 1981, he caught wind of an open position in the Jesuit English Department. He

applied and was interviewed in the cafeteria of the old D.H. Holmes ("Holmeses," as it was long locally known, he noted) on Canal Street. The department chairman told him there were five open positions and his only competition was a bus driver who wrote poetry on the side.

Powers was hired and never looked back. He had intended on returning to his family and friends in his native New England, but after only a few months at Carrollton and Banks, he realized he had, in fact, found his "dream job."

In addition to his teaching duties, where he shines as a paragon of excellence, Powers has helped moderate various co-curricular activities. One of the first programs that he moderated was intramural sports. He took over this activity in 1983. Intramurals were especially fierce back then, he said. Powers vividly recalled an eighth-grade semifinal football game that extended through eight overtime periods. Mr. Powers estimated that more than 400 students came

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## Semifinalists Continued from Page 1

This year's junior class took the test during exam week. It was the first class to encounter the redesigned PSAT, which includes a non-calculator math sections as well as new writing and reading sections. This year's test will be on a scale of 1520.

Pictured on Page 1, this year's National Merit Semifinalists are: *bottom row (from left):* Cade M. Arbour, Maurice A. Carr, Aubrey A. Champlin, Benjamin C. Creel, Anton J. Derbes, Reid A. Detillier, Andrew D. Dyer; *second row:* Nicholas P. Fresneda, Phillip A. Gerarve, Benjamin M. Gillen, Charles E. Glass, Alex M. Gomez, Reginald T. Jackson II; *third row:* John R. James, Cameron F. Kaupp, Tristan C. Killgore, Kenneth E. Krizan III, Joshua S. Lacoste, Adam C. Ledet; *fourth row:* Spencer G. Lemoine, Connor J. Maheu, Mayank Mardia, Mason T. Mayfield, Cameron P. McCall, Chance M. Melancon; *fifth row:* Matthew J. Miceli, John A. Mieras, Harrison H. Millar, Brian M. Piglia, Jr., Kyler T. Pisciotta, Seth M. Pohlman; *sixth row:* Felix M. Rabito, Zachary W. Robbins, Jeremy W. Scheffler, Steven L. Sellers, Evan J. Slattery, Brady R. Stiller; *back row:* James A.J. Stoner, Arjun Verma, Edward T. Welsch, Joshua J.L. West, Brandon M. Wolff, and Logan K. Yokum.

This year's National Hispanic Scholars included eight seniors, six of whom are also National Merit Semifinalists: Carlo A. Carino, Maurice A. Carr, José M. Cusco IV, Nicholas P. Fresneda, Alex M. Gomez, Joshua S. Lacoste, Cameron P. McCall, and Steven L. Sellers.

## Ring Dance marks a Blue Jay milestone for seniors



Members of the Class of 2016 danced the night away at the Board of Trade on Sept. 12, celebrating the annual Ring Dance. Earlier that evening, the seniors received the mark of their status at the solemn Mass in the Chapel of the North American Martyrs.

Staff photo by Jae Kweon

## Favorite team hitting a slump? Coach your own in fantasy league

By Jack Pontin  
Staff Writer

There are many things to look forward to during fall, including great weather, an extra hour of sleep, and the new seasons of many popular television shows.

However, there is one thing about fall that is better than everything else (unless you're a New Orleans Saints fan this year), and that is football season.

From Friday through Sunday night, you can watch any number of games – from high school to college to the pros – whether you're camped out on the couch or live and in person at a stadium.

But what if your favorite team isn't looking so hot this season? You can create your own excitement by building a team and competing in a fantasy football league.

Several Jesuit students, who are serious fans of the game that is gaining more and more in popularity, have started the Fantasy

## Club of the Month

Fantasy Sports Club meets Wednesdays, second half of lunch in Room 120

Sports Club.

The newly formed club gives Blue Jays the opportunity to compete in fantasy football leagues with their fellow classmates and friends.

Founded by juniors Philip Hourguettes, Tristan Marchand, and Hunter Tracey, the club has three fantasy football leagues, and more than 50 students have joined the club.

It is also not too late to join a league, even though the season has already started.

If football isn't your game, the club intends to start fantasy leagues for hockey, basketball, and baseball seasons.

The fantasy teams allow players (the "team owners") to

build a roster of players from any NFL teams.

Following games week to week using individual player's statistics, points are assigned to such things as the number of yards a running back totals in a game, number of passes a quarterback completes, etc. Whoever tallies the most points leads the league that week.

When asked what his favorite part about fantasy sports is, Hourguettes said that "it gives me a reason to follow teams and players that I would not have cared about if it weren't on my fantasy team."

If you are a sports fan who is not interested in taking to the field yourself, this is the perfect club to get involved in both to discuss sports and to put your strategic knowledge of the game to the test against other fans.

There is no fee to join the club.

If you are interested in joining the club, meetings are held every Wednesday, during the second half of lunch, in Room 120.

# Service trips build projects, character

*Costa Rica  
to  
Appalachia,  
Blue Jays  
experience  
more than  
just work*

By Nick Slay  
Staff Writer

As Blue Jays were dismissed to the freedom of summer vacation, the Class of 2016 had a big couple months ahead of them. Not only did seniors have to complete their college applications, they also had to finish 100 hours of service in order to graduate.

Soon discovering that it's more than just one more obligation, students are often blown away by the amount of fun and sense of satisfaction they get from their service project. The work the students do varies greatly and takes place throughout New Orleans. However, about 70 Blue Jays did their service a little farther from home.

Blue Jays caught flights to all around Central America including Panama, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. All three of these trips were organized through a non-profit charity organization called Courts for Kids. Courts for Kids takes volunteer workers to rural communities throughout the world and build multi-purpose concrete courts for people in the area to use.

Each of these three Courts for Kids trips were very similar in goal, but the main differences



Members of the Class of 2016 joined villagers from El Encanto, Costa Rica, to build concrete courts that would provide members of the community a gathering place and multi-purpose facility. After a hard day's work, everyone deserved a break. The trip was part of several service trips that Jesuit students participated in through the summer, from Appalachian towns to Central America to areas around New Orleans. Below, Charles Rice pushes a wheelbarrow of concrete to the court. Photos courtesy of Julio Minsal-Ruiz, S.J.



were the cultures that each group of Jays experienced by living with the people.

Faculty members Julio Minsal-Ruiz, S.J., and Director of Community Service Kevin

Murphy joined the students in Costa Rica. On that trip, students were dropped off by bus at a host family's home. Two students per house would be living for 10 days with families they had never met

before. Students had no translators or adult chaperones with the families and had to use whatever Spanish they had learned in their four years at Jesuit.

The work on the concrete court was extremely difficult and physically taxing, but the Jays willingly got their hands dirty. Students' jobs involved carrying bags of cement, rocks, and sand to the concrete mixers and taking the mixed concrete in wheelbarrows where it needed to be laid out.

The court took 25 volunteers about seven days to complete. Although the work was arduous, the locals and students had some good times as well. The community would come together with the volunteers at night for several very competitive games of pickup soccer and a town dance.

Some students chose to travel within the United States to do their service projects.

A group of Blue Jays went to the Appalachian Mountains to help out a community in rural southern Virginia. The rising seniors went assisted the elderly and other members of the community with basic tasks they would have had trouble completing without a large group. These included painting and repairing houses and moving heavy objects. However, sometimes the most important task was just to converse with the elderly who do not often get visitors.

Although a hundred hours of service sounds like quite a job, many students had some of their most memorable experiences of high school completing their service project. Time well spent.

## Summer trip gives Phils bite of Big Apple

By Dominic Salomone  
Staff Writer

Have you ever experienced the wonder of a Broadway play? For the first time as an organization, Jesuit's Philelectic Society took in the lights of Broadway this summer, while also getting a healthy bite of the Big Apple on its tour of New York.

Kate Arthurs-Goldberg, director of the Phils, led the June trip, along with several chaperones, guiding 20 members of the Phils through numerous renowned attractions, including a pair of Broadway blockbusters, the 9/11 Memorial, Radio City Music Hall, the Empire State Building, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Chelsea Market.

The Market was a personal favorite of junior Matthew O'Neill. He noted the size

of the market and the swarms of shoppers. Chelsea Market, located in the Meatpacking District of Manhattan, has been a favorite of New York locals and tourists for 15 years. With its array of vendors and wide variety of foods, more than six million people visit the market each year.

This trip was not only for sightseeing however. Arthurs-Goldberg kept her mind set on three goals: to experience a Broadway show, to develop the Phils' skills as actors, and to deepen the friendships among the club's members. By the end of a whirlwind four days, the Phils had succeeded in all three.

To accomplish the first goal, the tour included performances of two hit musicals, "Wicked" and "Finding Neverland." Both award-winning musicals are prequels to other classic tales, "The Wizard of Oz" and "Peter Pan," respectively. O'Neill said



Members of Jesuit's Philelectic Society gather outside the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in New York's Theater District, following a performance of *Finding Neverland*. The Phils also had an onstage talkback with one of the show's stars, New Orleansian Sawyer Nunes (kneeling second from left).

that he preferred "Finding Neverland" because it had a contemporary feel, with a bit of classic Broadway mixed in.

The Phils also focused on developing their acting skills. They participated in a

pair of professional theater workshops. In the first, On-Stage-Combat, the students

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# Jesuit retreat programs key to enhancing spiritual life

By Brady Stiller  
Religion Editor

In addition to seeking academic excellence, a key aspect of the formation of young men at Jesuit addresses their spiritual growth. Jesuit offers several unique opportunities for students to grow in their faith.

Blue Jays have the chance to attend Mass every morning and to clean their consciences through the sacrament of Reconciliation whenever the need arises. However, many fail to realize the efficacy of the school's retreat program.

From eighth grade through graduation, there are retreats that accommodate each student and correspond to the respective level of maturity of his faith. Whereas retreats early on in a student's Jesuit career usually consist of daylong introductions into Ignatian spirituality, those attended in later years, particularly the junior and senior retreats, offer longer periods of reflection and more profound insights into one's relationship with God.

While seen as a rite of passage by many, the annual retreats truly offer an unmatched spiritual experience. The simple pre-freshman retreat, which all students attend in their first weeks at Jesuit, exposes new Blue Jays to the inspirational life of the founder of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In learning about his conversion through upperclassman talks and group discussions, eighth graders have the chance to reflect upon their own lives and to begin conforming themselves to the profile of a Jesuit graduate.

A few weeks ago, the Class of 2020 experienced Jesuit spirituality for the first time. In addition to participating in the presentations and small groups, they experienced St. Ignatius's life through a new opening skit put on by upperclassmen and narrated by Jeremy Reuther, director of Campus Ministry.

The pre-freshmen also made a walking pilgrimage to St. Anthony of Padua Parish on Canal Street, emulating the sacred journey that Ignatius made to Montserrat, Spain.

Freshmen also attend a day-



For their evening of reflection, members of the eighth grade class made a walking pilgrimage from Jesuit to St. Anthony of Padua Church on Canal Street. Photos courtesy of Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J.

long retreat. Similar in structure to the previous year's program, this one allows students to focus in a new way on their relationships with friends, family, and God. Retreatants focus on how to better live out the Jesuit pillar of "Loving" in all their relationships, following the Lord's perfect example of sacrificial love. Prayers on this day are considerably deeper, involving periods for Adoration and Reconciliation.

Having been properly introduced to Jesuit spirituality, sophomores attend a silent day of reflection at Manresa, a Jesuit retreat center in Convent, Louisiana. These students get a greater glimpse into Ignatian spirituality as they find God in the quiet of their hearts and look back on their lives with gratitude and contrition. The beautiful grounds of Manresa also provide the opportunity to find God in His creation and therefore to lift up fervent prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

Perhaps the most anticipated and powerful retreats are those attended in the junior year: the Metanoia and Kairos retreats. The Metanoia retreat is a two-day experience led by teachers, whereas Kairos is three days long and is run by experienced seniors. Juniors can choose either of the two retreats.



Lighting candles at the foot of the sanctuary, the pre-freshmen offered their prayers and intentions.

The Metanoia retreat derives its name from the Greek term meaning a "radical conversion and change of heart, by which a person turns from selfish concerns to complete and unreserved generosity toward God and His Kingdom." Juniors on the Kairos retreat leave behind the "chronos" time of demands and responsibilities in order to enter "kairos" time, the time of God.

Both of these retreats call Jesuit students to lives of greater love for others, brotherhood with classmates, and faith in God as they prepare for senior year and life beyond.

Seniors who long for an insightful retreat experience have the option of returning to Manresa for the three-day silent retreat. Students follow the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius with a spirit of discernment; they look back on their past five years at Jesuit and look forward to how can they use their gifts to continue to encounter Jesus in the future. Silence throughout the day, spiritual conversations at night, and guidance of faculty directors aid retreatants in drawing closer to Christ as they discern His will for them.

Undoubtedly, Jesuit's retreat system adapts to the spiritual needs of each student and offers them an opportunity to experience God in a new way.

## Summer trip: ROTC stormed beaches of San Diego

By Will Hurley  
Staff Writer

The MCIJROTC ventured to cooler weather and beautiful beaches on its annual trip to San Diego this summer. The city has a large U.S. Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton as well as many naval bases. It also has outstanding tourist attractions and a famed theme park.

The trip provided both work and pleasure, including rigorous workouts and informative sessions with the Marines.

The Blue Jay cadets began each day bright and early with exercises led by members of the Corps. The cadets faced the onslaught of numerous running drills and abdominal workouts. During breaks, students were given valuable insight from their Marine instructors. The rough environment allowed students to experience the rigors of being in the military.

Senior Austin Blanchard described the trip as a "way to allow cadets to gain valuable leadership experience through a boot camp setting."

Fortunately, there was time for pleasure as well. The squadron of Jesuit students made their way around the city participating in both enjoyable and informative activities, including visiting museums and other sites, while also learning of possible career paths in the military.

One route that stuck out to the students was the ability to work in an Indoor Rifle Facility that has military grade simulations. Many of the students on the trip were unaware that this particular occupation even existed.

The ROTC also made the exciting trip to SeaWorld. The members were able to wind down after an exhausting day by watching these large aquatic mammals perform impressive tricks.

Of course, no trip to California would be complete without a trip to the beach. All the morning workouts were worth it when the cadets got to relax along the Pacific coast.

The annual trip was once again fruitful as students were offered the opportunity to learn from Marines and to experience their workouts firsthand.



The freshman class retreat day included presentations by student members of Campus Ministry, followed by small group discussions among members of the class. Staff photo by Brad Ingram

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2015 HOMECOMING COURT SPARKLES



The Homecoming Game may not have turned out as hoped, but Jesuit's 2015 Homecoming Court added a touch of glamour to the evening. The Court was presented, and the Queen was crowned during halftime at the Sept. 25 game against St. Augustine.

The members of this year's Court, above from left, are: junior couple Colton Bell and Amanda Bonck; senior couples William Breaux and Madison Sublette, Chris Beebe (standing in for his brother Mark) and Lauren LaForge, Will Hurley and Amelia Haydel (Queen), Sydney White and Joseph Dupré (standing in for Brandon Wolff), and Riley Reynolds and Tyrus Norcise; freshman/sophomore couple Morgan Teresi and Sean Seghers; and Kirsten Cavaliere and John Nimmo. This year's Homecoming Queen, Amelia Haydel, is a senior at St. Mary's Dominican High School.



Powers still enjoys his 'dream job'

Powers

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out to watch.

Many students often comment on Powers' unique sense of style. In fact, he once sported an Afro. Throughout the years, his hair has receded because of, as he says quoting Shakespeare, "nature's changing course."

His trademark fashion statement comes with his spiffy bowties. He said that he was influenced at a young age by relatives who wore bowties, as well as by a longtime NBC reporter, Irving R. Levine, whom Mr. Powers admired for both his bowties and his impeccable use of the English language.

Powers enjoys several hob-

bies outside of Jesuit.

"As you might expect, I am an avid reader." He is currently rereading *The Raj Quartet* by Paul Scott, a series of novels about the last years of British rule in India.

An ardent Anglophile, his sense of humor also is drawn to the novels of P.G. Wodehouse.

While reading is a favorite of his, Powers said he also attempts the crossword puzzles published in *The New York Times* in order to keep his mind sharp.

Beloved across the Blue Jay community, thousands of students have experienced Powers' kindness, wisdom and humor.

His unique character is what inspires so many of his students to attempt to be like him. We hope that will continue for many years to come.

Shows, classes highlighted Phils' tour of New York

Broadway

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learned how to make fistfights look more realistic. The Phils learned more about the process of auditioning in the second workshop. A professional director and Broadway actress even came in to offer tips to the students on how to properly prepare for an audition.

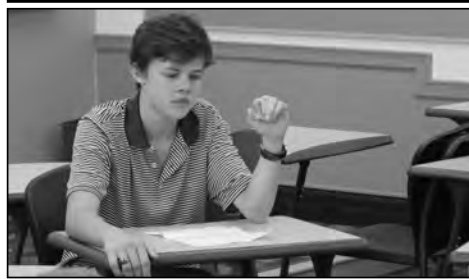
Finally, the Phils formed friendships over the course of the trip.

Ben Gillen said, "I feel like on some level, it (bonding) is

inevitable if you spend that much time with a group of people," Ben Gillen said.

He mentioned a humorous instance when everyone on the trip had to memorize a monologue for a workshop the following day. However, almost no one knew his or her entire monologue yet. During a long bus ride back to the group's hotel in Secaucus, N.J., Arthurs-Goldberg decided to call up various students to the front of the bus to have them recite their monologues.

This eventually evolved into the entire bus fumbling their lines, at times, and laughing together as friends.



Senior John Kemmerly leads one of the breakout discussion at last month's freshman retreat.

Staff photo by Brad Ingram

Retreats

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"The retreat program at Jesuit has one and only one goal: to put students in touch with the person of Jesus Christ," Reuther said. "The underclassmen daytime retreats focus on personal formation and prayer. These

experiences culminate in the junior overnight retreat, an experience of deep communion with the Lord in prayer, companionship with others, and self-reflection. As a student moves on to a larger world after Jesuit, their experiences of communion with the Lord while here [at Jesuit] give them a direction for making choices in life for the greater glory of God."

The 'Write' Stuff!

The Blue Jay welcomes new writers and photographers.

If you'd like to be part of the award-winning team covering the life and times of Jesuit High School, come to our next meeting during the second half of lunch on Nov. 3, in Room 304.

For information, contact any member of the Editorial Board, listed below, or the newspaper's moderator, Ted Mahne.

The Blue Jay

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# Football: A season of ups and downs

By Isaac Fogarty  
Sports Editor

The Blue Jay football started the season as a mystery. At the halfway point of the season, not much has changed for the team, but there have been many surprises both good and bad. As Coach Mark Songy said, "A lot of inconsistencies. We're just young and we're growing up."

The team dropped its season opener with a disappointing 26-21 loss to Warren Easton. Warren Easton started off strong garnering a 14-point lead in just a few minutes of action. It proved too much for the Jays to overcome.

The Jays bounced back with a 17-14 nail-biter against St. Paul's. The Jays jumped out to the early lead with the score at 10-0 at halftime. However, after squandering the lead, it took a late drive from the offense to win the game.

In Week 3, the Jays took a road trip to Escambia High School in Pensacola, Fla. The defense led the Jays to a 28-17 forcing two turnovers and scoring a touchdown.

Our Homecoming game, simultaneously opening up our first game of district play, against St. Augustine. The Jays jumped out to an early lead with a quick touchdown, but the lead did not hold. The defense was unable to stop the Purple Knights attack, and the offense could not seem to find a groove. St. Augustine had not forced a single turnover the entire season, but managed to rack up five in this contest. Unfortunately the Blue Jays failed to generate the same results as the previous two weeks. The team suffered a tough 32-20 loss against the 0-3 opponent.

In what may be remembered as the most hard-fought game of the season, Jesuit squared off



Patrick Spiers (19) returns the ball to the Gators' 40-yard line in the game against Escambia High School in Pensacola, Fla., on Sept. 18. The Blue Jays won the game 28-17.

against Holy Cross on Oct. 2 for the 96<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Great American Rivalry at Tad Gormley Stadium.

Trading the lead back and forth all night long, the Blue Jays left it all out on the field until the very end. In double overtime play, the Tigers jumped into the lead and prevented a last-ditch effort by Jesuit at the goal line, holding on to the lead. In the end, the Tigers were up 28-21, winning the game.

The defending state champions then faced a rematch of last year's championship game against John Curtis.

The Blue Jays commanded the field at Joe Yenni Stadium for the game's first half, taking a 16-7 lead in to the locker room. But the second half proved to be a different story. The Patriots locked the Jays out, resulting in a final score of 24-16, giving John Curtis the win.



In the Homecoming game against St. Augustine, Connor Prouet (20) finds some daylight and picks up a first down, thanks to offensive linemen Cullen Unsworth (77) and Benji Creel (70).

"We made mistakes and we didn't play well offensively in the second half," Songy said. "We couldn't get things together because our offense was off the field quite a bit. My hat's off to Curtis because they're a very good football team and very well

## FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

vs. Warren Easton  
(Sept. 3)  
LOSS 26-21

vs. St. Paul's (Sept. 11)  
WIN 17-14

vs. Escambia (Sept. 18)  
WIN 28-17

HOMECOMING  
vs. St. Aug (Sept. 25)  
LOSS 32-20

GREAT AMERICAN RIVALRY  
vs. Holy Cross (Oct. 2)  
LOSS 28-21

vs. John Curtis (Oct. 9)  
LOSS 24-16

vs. Rummel (Oct. 17)  
LOSS 28-14

coached. I'm proud of the fact that our kids fought as hard as they did."

Despite the deflating defeats, the games may not be a true representation of Jesuit's ability as a football team, and the team will learn from their mistakes. Regardless of final scores, there are many Jays who have produced notable performances already this year.

Junior Connor Prouet, who was recently selected as the New Orleans Metro Area Male Athlete of the Week for his 258 rushing yards and two touchdowns against St. Paul's, continues to dominate the run game for the Jays as he has rushed for a touchdown in four consecutive games.

Senior Kalija Lipscomb leads all other receivers with more than 200 yards and two touchdowns. Other key players include the explosive duo of Malachi Hull and Jakirai Wiley, and the near impregnable offensive line.

The defense is led by many playmakers including senior defensive end Zack Robert, senior safety Mark Beebe, senior defensive lineman Henry Moreau, junior linebackers Cameron Crozier and Jacob Baxter, and junior defensive back Patrick Spiers. This defense is able to produce turnovers and cause disruption, though it is, at times, inconsistent.

On special teams, senior kicker Crew Jacobs quietly leads the Jays to success as he has accounted for 20 points this season already, roughly a quarter of the team's total points scored. He has also already had a successful onside kick.

It's also time for the student section to up its game. "The Gizzard" needs to be alive, louder than ever. Attend these matches to root on our Jays. Prepare for an interesting year, fellow bleeders of Blue and White.

Joey Bongiovanni, senior captain of Jesuit's cheerleaders, and his counterpart from Holy Cross, lead the Great American Rivalry Parade, before the 96<sup>th</sup> meeting against Holy Cross. Thunder the Tiger and Jayson, who is carrying the Golden Football, are right behind them.

