

SAINT SPOTLIGHTS

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

BY ALEXANDER M.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola was a saint who was born in Azpeitia in the Basque province of Spain and was the youngest of 13 children. At 16 Saint Ignatius of Loyola served as a page for Juan Velazquez. Saint Ignatius of Loyola eventually went on to become an officer for the Spanish army. During a battle, Saint Ignatius of Loyola suffered a leg injury by being shot by a cannonball, which broke this leg. This injury to his leg caused him to be bedridden and left in bed for a long time. During his stay he asked to read some chivalry books, but they didn't have any, but they did have books about the Saints and Jesus. Saint Ignatius of Loyola picked up a book about Jesus and started to read the book since there were no other books. After reading all these books he started to think about Christianity and wanted to learn more about Jesus and he later converted to Christianity. Once he was no longer required to stay in a bed, he then left all his fancy clothes at the altar and went on to live the rest of his life as a homeless poor pilgrim. As a poor pilgrim, he decided to stay and live in a cave outside Manresa. While in the cave he started to journal about his emotions and what he experienced. While converting and going into priesthood he realized he wasn't properly educated enough to become a priest. So, to fix this, he went to the University of Paris to study and get educated to become a priest. Saint Ignatius is most renowned for and known for starting a new order along with 7 other people called the Jesuits, formerly known as the Society of Jesus. Saint Ignatius of Loyola is the Patron Saint of retreats, Society of Jesus, soldiers, and education.

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

BY BECCA K.

Maximilian Kolbe shows his love for others in multiple ways, as far as dying for one of his fellow prisoners. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, prisoners, families, and the pro-life movement. Throughout his life, he was a great example of being a Catholic and is a great role model to follow.

In his early life, St. Maximilian Kolbe lived in the kingdom of Poland. As a kid, he was extremely dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mary even appeared to him, holding two crowns, one red and one white. She asked if he was willing to take up these crowns. He was so faithful that he promised to take them both. A year later, St. Maximilian Kolbe and his older brother decided to join Conventual Franciscans. When he was 21, St. Maximilian Kolbe decided to earn a doctorate in philosophy, and by 28 years old, he had gotten another in theology. In 1918 he was ordained a priest and continued his work throughout Poland. In 1936 his poor health forced him to return home, and once Germany invaded Poland in 1939, he refused to stop his catholic teachings and was arrested. After Maximilian Kolbe was arrested, he was sent to the concentration camp, Auschwitz. While men were choosing to be killed after an escaped prisoner, he volunteered for a father who wanted to see his children before he died. St. Maximilian Kolbe ended up dying on August 14 from lethal injections that the guards gave him. On October 17, 1917, Maximilian was considered a Confessor of the Faith by Pope Paul VI. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 10, 1982. He is a great model of the virtue of charity to all Catholics. Overall, we can learn a multitude of things from St. Maximilian Kolbe. He was not afraid of death and took up starvation for another person. St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

BY GRECIA T.

Known as the first American saint, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is an important figure in the Catholic Church since she stands as a symbol of hope, determination, and love, all of which she needed throughout her missions. Born on July 15, 1850, Saint Frances Cabrini was the youngest of thirteen children and lived in Sant'Angelo, Lombardy, Italy. After most of her siblings died because of illness, she was determined from an early age to found her own religious order. She eventually grew up to take her religious vow and founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1880 to work with orphans and the sick.

After founding her order and being based in Italy's countryside, St. Frances Cabrini wanted to go further and begin a convent in China. However, Pope Leo XIII told her that she needed to, "Go west, not east." And so, her journey begins as she travels to the United States with a small group of sisters during the 1890's, when many Italians were migrating to the US, but were only faced with hate instead of hope. Despite facing the challenges of not having a place to stay or money, the sisters helped as many people as they could. They finished building the orphanage and immediately after, united as many orphans as possible to feed and bathe. After years of hard work, Mother Cabrini was able to get a bigger orphanage and built a hospital. She fought against all odds including racism and discrimination to accomplish these things and was finally able to expand more all over the country and the continent. Since two miracles were related to her, St. Frances Cabrini was finally canonized in 1946. She now stands as a symbol of hope for all immigrants and shows the world to always be brave against the face of adversity with the help of God.



THE MUSTANG MINUTE

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IN THIS EDITION

In this edition of the Mustang Minute, 7th grade tells of their adventures at the Texas State Capitol, a heartfelt message to Sister Sophia and what she means to our community, and the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we experienced together during the April 8 solar eclipse. Read all about it!

A TEARFUL GOODBYE

BY BECCA K.

MIS is an extremely fun place, filled with friends, companions, and wonderful teachers. As an eighth grader, I am sad to say goodbye to all the wonderful staff and faculty here. I started here at MIS when I was five as a little Kindergartener. In Kindergarten, I made the best friends that I have now. As I moved on from Kindergarten and into the primary hall, I learned many valuable lessons from teachers, staff, and friends. Then, my grade moved to the upstairs classrooms and covid hit. Even through COVID, the teachers included team activities and groupwork into the lessons, helping us to socialize, even when it was hard to reach out. Once sixth grade ended, we moved to the junior high hallway. This was a big responsibility for me, I had to set a good example for those younger than me, including my little brother. The teachers were very understanding as they knew what it was like to be a model for those younger than us. As all of us grew up and eventually made it to eighth grade, we realized the most important thing: all of us are children of God and have unique God-given talents that we must use to be a gift to others and the world. Overall, I am happy to say that I loved my time here at MIS and without all the staff, teachers and people here, I would not be the same person that I am now. It is a bittersweet moment to say goodbye, a tearful goodbye.

SISTER SOPHIA LOPEZ AND HER IMPACT ON MIS

BY LUCY D.

All teachers at Mary Immaculate Catholic School are wonderful in their own ways, but there is one teacher that carries some remarkably wonderful traits. That teacher is Sister Sophia Lopez. Sister Sophia is from New Jersey, and she is a Dominican Sister of Saint Cecilia. She teaches theology and how to live like Christ to sixth, seventh and eighth graders, which is about 155 students. Sister Sophia's feast day is on December 25th. Along with being a fabulous and fun teacher, she is an amazing artist as well! Sister Sophia does charcoal and watercolor drawings, occasionally sharing her illustrations with her students. She never fails to make her students smile and laugh. She is a very understanding and comforting teacher, and she builds intentional relationships with her students. Sister Sophia is an incredibly intelligent, fun, and kind teacher. Therefore, it only makes sense that so many of her students are so thankful for her being at this school. Thank you, Sister Sophia, for everything you do for this school, your coworkers, your family, and your students along with being a wonderful mentor for all of us.



AN MIS EXPERIENCE

BY SIENA A.

My name is Siena Abila, I am currently an eighth grader at MIS, and have been here since the first grade! My experience here at MIS has been wonderful! I am so sad to graduate but would love to share my experience with you. MIS has provided me with so many opportunities that will benefit me for years to come. I have grown in my faith more than anything here at MIS and have never felt so connected to our Lord. I have been a Student Ambassador for three years. I gave tours to incoming families and marketed the school. As an Ambassador, I was taught social skills, etiquette, and how to talk to adults. I have also been in the Student Council for two years and in my last year, I served as the President. In Student Council, I was taught how to be a leader, organize campaigns and activities, and how to take action. I was also a part of multiple athletics where I learned how to work with a team and be a good sport. Lastly, I was a part of our school's theater! I did three shows with MIS and created memories that will last a lifetime. MIS has well-prepared me for high school academics, sports, theater, and has just made me an all-around better person. Although I am ending my time here at Mary Immaculate School, I will always be thankful for the good times I have had here.

A PERSONAL STORY AT MIS

BY ELI E.

My name is Eli Estrada, and I am currently an eighth grader that has been attending MIS since kindergarten, so I have had my fair share of experiences and involvement in certain electives and extra-curricular activities. I am going to start off by saying that throughout my years at MIS I have been taught how to live my life as a practicing Christian and have only been showed love and respect by my teachers and classmates. I have been pushed in a positive way to be able to reach my full potential to achieve my goals in school and beyond. Also, my teachers have given me the necessary knowledge and experience to continue into high school and beyond, thus I am eternally grateful for them. I have been on numerous field trips that have taught me a lot, and not only that, they were also extremely fun. Some examples are traveling to Austin to learn about how the capitol of our state came to be and the surrounding areas, going to The Pines for a week to learn more about Christ in the outdoors, and going to the Dallas Zoo to learn about all the diverse types of animals and species. As I will be leaving MIS soon, I am grateful for everything that this school has provided for me and am also sad that I must go.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

BY CAROLINE M.

There was a Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8th. A Solar Eclipse is when the moon crosses in front of the sun and obscures the light coming from the sun. The whole school viewed the Eclipse, and everyone got Eclipse viewing glasses, that were supplied by Southwest Airlines. The Solar Eclipse we viewed went directly over DFW, the totality lasted about 4.5 minutes and the totality happened at about 1:30p.m. The last time there was totality over the DFW area was in 1878 and we will not have another one for another 200 years! This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that the school got to experience together. Lucy DeLeon, a student who got to view the Eclipse said, "Getting to spend this magical moment with all of our friends was very beautiful and such a great experience." We were lucky because earlier that day it was very cloudy, but the clouds cleared, and it was a clear view for the school. The view was spectacular, and we are extremely glad that we got to experience this event.



7TH GRADE AUSTIN TRIP

BY JOSHUA S.

On April 18, the seventh graders went to Austin. On the way there they stopped by Slovacek's, Cameron Park Zoo, the State Capital, and the Texas State Cemetery. They then ended their trip with a visit to Cici's Pizza. The seventh graders had a wonderful time getting to know their friends and teachers better. They visited Slovacek's and bought a lot of stuff to have for the trip most people got kolaches, candy, and soda. The Cameron Park Zoo was fun for the students as they went into groups, explored the park with their friends, and worked together on a scavenger hunt. While at the Capitol, our students got a tour inside and had fun learning the history of our state and how our legislature works. The Texas State Cemetery was definitely the longest tour but the most interesting as they learned the history of the cemetery and those who are buried there. After leaving the state cemetery, they went to Cici's Pizza, had fun talking and hanging out with their friends, and discussed their experiences on this trip. Mrs. Huffman, the 7th grade ELA and History teacher, said, "I look forward to the Austin trip every year, and this year did not disappoint!"



INCOMING AMBASSADORS

BY EDIE G.

Student Ambassadors are an incredibly special part of our school since they represent Mary Immaculate School. Touring prospective families is only one of the many tasks that they perform. Ambassadors are also preparing for the upcoming golf tournament that will raise money to benefit the MIS Athletics Program. Recently, current and incoming sixth through eighth graders filled out a form to be an Ambassador for the next school year. This form asks questions about their extracurricular activities, grades, and interests. They will be interviewed in-person and will be asked what they can bring to MIS as an Ambassador. Being an Ambassador is demanding work because you need to be very responsible; however, it is extremely fun as well. MIS is proud of our school representatives, and we are excited to see new faces this upcoming school year.



BIG WINS: ADOPT-A-PILOT AND PSIA

BY MILLIE G., 4TH GRADER

On April 5th, Reagan D. won a national contest through the Adopt-a-Pilot program at Southwest Airlines. Last year in 5th grade Reagan designed a tie for pilots across the country. Every pilot across the country, and her dad, will get to wear the tie since she won. On April 13th, in San Marcos, TX at Texas State University eight MIS students competed in a statewide competition in various academic contests. Everyone did an amazing job, and we even had two first place winners: Thomas N. in 4th grade Spelling and Grecia T. in 8th grade Modern Oratory. We had a great time that day playing games and encouraging each other. If this sounds exciting to you, sign up next year! Another congratulations to everyone who competed in PSIA and keep studying for next year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2: MAY CROWNING
MAY 3: CASINO NIGHT
MAY 4: MID MOTHER SON BRUNCH
MAY 6: GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 7: FINE ARTS NIGHT
MAY 13: MUSTANG MARKET
MAY 13: ATHLETIC BANQUET
MAY 18: END OF YEAR PICNIC

MAY 20: 8TH GRADE TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO
MAY 22: 8TH GRADE BRUNCH
MAY 23: 8TH GRADE GRADUATION
MAY 24: LAST DAY OF PREK4
MAY 24: MOVE UP MASS
MAY 28: FIELD DAY
MAY 29: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!