

TO: Parents/Guardians of SVS
FROM: Sister Cherree
RE: Week of Oct. 24 -28

Roman Visit

As you read this Mother Teresa Maria is on her way back to the Eternal City, Rome! For the past two months Mother has been visiting our hospitals, nursing homes and schools in our Chicago and New York provinces. As she was leaving on Thursday morning she said she really did save the best for last!

Mother Teresa said she could feel the sense of community among everyone here at St. Veronica – the students, as well as the faculty and staff, and commented on the warmth she experienced while visiting with us. What impressed Mother Teresa was that everyone seemed happy, and she enjoyed the smiles! Mother felt very much at home among us!

I thank our students who assisted with the Prayer Service on Wednesday morning. Each of them was so professional in their reading, angelic in their singing, graceful in their dancing, and dignified in the delivery of gifts! We were so proud of them and of all of our students who participated with such reverence and spirit!

I thank our entire faculty and staff for taking the time to prepare for this visit; I realize it was extra work on everyone's part. I so appreciate all they did!! I love working with this amazing team! We need to remember this visit too, and the affirmation we received – tuck it away in our hearts for the times when we need to set that flame ablaze!

Feast Day of Blessed Celine

The Church is celebrating the Feast Day of **Blessed Celine** on Wednesday, October 26th. Blessed Celine was beatified three years ago on October 27th – what a joyous day that was for all Sisters of the Resurrection!

After her Beatification, Pope Benedict told pilgrims, “As a mother, widow, and woman religious, Blessed Celine Borzecka reminds us that even an ordinary life can be holy if it is lived fully for God. She represents the silent and heroic witness of many Christians who live the Gospel without compromise, fulfilling their duties and generously dedicating themselves to serving the poor.” May she intercede for us!

Math Anxious People

I was reading an interesting article this week, entitled **Brain Study Points to Potential Treatments for Math Anxiety** written by Sarah D. Sparks, which I found to be very interesting. The author's opening sentence caught my attention immediately, “For some students, an announcement of a math pop quiz can send them into a cold sweat. A new brain-imaging study suggests that the way they deal with that first rush of anxiety can be critical to their actual math performance.” It resonated deep within me, and once again I wished that somewhere around the time I was in 6th or 7th grade I was taught Math the way our students are taught today, or had read an article similar to the one I was reading this particular day- or that my Math teacher had read it!

I share this section with you- again because I found it fascinating! “The study, published this morning in the journal *Cerebral Cortex*, is a continuation of work on highly math-anxious people being conducted by Sian L. Beilock, associate psychology professor at the University of Chicago, and doctoral candidate Ian M. Lyons. In **prior research**, Beilock has found that just the thought of doing math problems can trigger stress responses in people with math anxiety, and adult teachers can pass their trepidation about math on to their students. But nobody likes to perform badly. And **dyscalculia**—a serious math disability— affects about as many people as dyslexia. So which comes first: the struggle to do math, or the fear of it?

The latest study suggests fear may be a bigger hindrance than previously thought.”

Fear and anxiety can lead us to perform poorly in whatever we may undertake, so why not in our academics. Sian Beilock is quoted to have said “that sort of focus can be taught, and math interventions that address anxiety may be more helpful than those that remediate math skills alone.”

If you are interested in reading more on this topic you may google the research paper ***Mathematics Anxiety: Separating the Math from Anxiety*** by Ian M. Lyons and Sian L. Beilock. If you are not successful in finding this research paper, drop me an e-mail and I’ll be happy to send it to you as an attachment. It’s very interesting and insightful.

Winter Uniforms

I would like to remind everyone that our Handbook notes all students must be in their winter uniform as of November 1st.

On that note I would like to remind everyone that students are to wear their school sweater during the day if they are cool. Jackets, even the school jackets, are not to be worn throughout the day; these are outerwear. Thanks so much!

Reminder

Please remember there will be **no school for students on Monday, October 31st**. Our teachers will be having a Staff Development Day as we continue to work on our Middle States project for next year! May you enjoy this autumn day at home with your children.

We invite you to join us for our All Saints Day Liturgy on Tuesday, November 1st, as our 3rd graders lead us in prayer.