

CARDINAL KUNG ACADEMY

A DIVISION OF TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

DECEMBER 9, 2019

948 Newfield Avenue, Stamford CT 06905

ADVENT AND THE SCHOOL MISSION

A season of hope

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, we are hopeful that our efforts at Cardinal Kung Academy will bear much fruit. The school has added a junior year, with a focus on Renaissance studies. Juniors are reading the likes of Milton, More, and Erasmus, and translating Latin texts of the Vulgate. Our classes are all honors-level, which ensures that the math and science classes are equally challenging. As we plan for the future, we are exploring ways to include a college preparatory track. Students are now able to use the labs in our new location for their Chemistry and Biology classes. Our chaplain, Fr. Michael Clark, was ordained in October, and now offers weekly mass to our students. The school offers a regular logic class, a necessary building block for any philosophical discussion. Our student schola, under the direction of Dr. Donelson, is sounding wonderful. Stay tuned for recording samples!



We have much to give us hope. Our mission is to form young men and women who are strong and articulate, who value what has been handed to them in the heritage of Western Civilization, and who can defend the principles of our nation and of our Faith with passion and joy.

Please continue to pray for the growth and strength of our school. And if you find yourself on Newfield Avenue, please drop in and say hello!

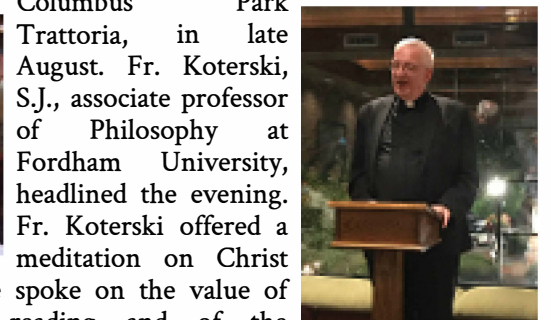
Puer natus in Bethlehem, Alleluia!

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

The school held its first annual Scholarship Dinner at the upper room of Columbus Park Trattoria, in late August. Fr. Koterski, S.J., associate professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, headlined the evening.



"growing in wisdom". He



Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J.

spoke on the value of reading and of the tremendous importance of the high school teacher's vocation: introducing the great works of Western Civilization with delicacy and with consideration to the student's age and proficiency, to ensure that the educated student would revisit the great works time and time again.

Cardinal Kung, Defender of Faith, Award established by Agnes Kung

Also at the Scholarship dinner, it was announced that Agnes Kung, niece of the Cardinal Kung and member of the Cardinal Kung Foundation in Stamford, will bestow a new scholarship in Ignatius Cardinal Kung's name. The Cardinal Kung, Defender of Faith, Award of \$1000 will be given each year for the next three years. The recipient of the award, chosen by the faculty and administration, will be announced on March 12, the anniversary of Cardinal Kung's death.

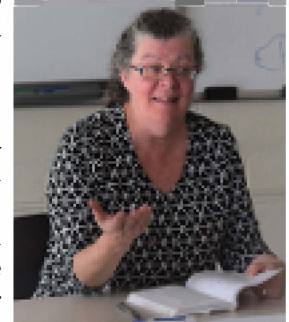


FROM THE CURRICULUM

A Change in the Literary Landscape - Dr. Alexandra Kimball

The 11th graders took quite a leap this summer as they left the medieval world of Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1485) to plunge into Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). No more knights and ladies fair, giants and enchantresses, just five ordinary sisters who live in a world of gossip and hat-shopping. And yet, as I argued on the first day of class, many people (including me) think Austen's novel is amongst the most profound and moral novels in English.

Like the knights of the Round Table, the twenty-year-old Elizabeth Bennett has a quest of sorts: to find an intelligent, honorable, and compatible person to marry. But in order to succeed in her quest, the quick-witted Elizabeth must test herself against her ideals. The crisis of the novel is internal, when Elizabeth is forced to reckon up her own insufficiencies of character and judgment. Only when she humbly examines her conscience enough to acknowledge her own vanity—"Till this moment, I never knew myself"—is her vision clear enough to spot the worth (as opposed to the faults) of others. Since this is a comedic novel, her virtue is rewarded with a man whom she has spurred to undergo the same spiritual journey; their reward on this earth is honest conversation in a true marriage.



Dr. Alexandra Kimball

We have left the pleasant English countryside behind to journey to Renaissance Denmark where Prince Hamlet, alas, feels unable to confide in anyone. He has journeyed home for his father's funeral—and his mother's remarriage—taking a break from his studies at the university of Wittenburg, the home of Martin Luther. He finds himself entangled in uncertainty, even, as his soliloquies reveal, in himself. Will Hamlet justify himself through faith or works? Will he despair or acknowledge God's grace? Will he come to know himself or ever see an intrinsic worth in another human being? As the opening line of the play asks, "Who's there?" Stay tuned.

Sampling of other texts covered this semester:

Illiad (Homer) * *Aeneid* (Virgil) * *Nicomachean Ethics* (Aristotle) * *Song of Roland* * *Beowulf* * *Inferno* (Dante) * *The Canterbury Tales* (Chaucer) * *Le Morte d'Arthur* * *95 Theses (Luther)* * *Institutes of Christian Religion (Calvin)* * *Exurge Domine (P Leo X)* * *Rule of St. Basil* * *Life of Saint Benedict* * Excerpts from *Qur'an* * *History of English Speaking People's* (Churchill) * *History of the Franks* (St. Gregory of Tours) * *Introduction to the Devout Life* (St. Francis de Sales) * *Il Principe* (Machiavelli) * *In Praise of Folly* (Erasmus) * selections from *Utopia* (St. Thomas More) * **and more**

CHAPLAIN ORDINATION

Fr. Michael Clark, new priest of diocese



Fr. Clark with family at ordination

Father Michael Clark, the school's chaplain, was ordained a priest by Bishop Frank Caggiano on October 12, 2019. The ordination mass was celebrated at St. Thomas More parish in Darien, where Fr. Clark also serves as parochial vicar.

MATCHING GRANT UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of donors, we have met a third of our \$100,000 goal in a few short months. With everyone's help, we hope to complete the match in the New Year.

FACULTY NEWS

Fr. Koterski offers a logic class

The faculty is delighted with the new addition at the school: Fr. Joseph Koterski teaching Logic. The Logic class has been covering various topics from the first part of Peter Kreeft's *Socratic Logic*, including definitions, the elimination of ambiguities, and the difference between univocal, equivocal and analogical uses of terms. Fr. Koterski is an associate professor of philosophy at Fordham University and is also currently teaching a course at the John Fisher Seminary. We are delighted to have him teaching and, when his schedule permits, offering mass.

N.B.: UPCOMING DATES

December 20, 2019: Christmas Break Begins
Student Service Opportunity - CFR Christmas Spectacular
January 6, 2020: Classes Resume
January 27, 2020: Open House

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FIRST SEMESTER



Students participate in the Box of Joy ministry, <https://crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy>, putting together 35 boxes filled with gifts for children in developing countries.



Mr. Jennings leads students in Chemistry class, in the newly available lab facilities on the CKA campus.



Fr. Gill's Scripture class holds a Seder dinner



The student-initiated "Society of Mother Teresa" club organizes a turkey drive before Thanksgiving, supplying over 30 turkeys to needy families. The Society is dedicated to spiritual and corporal works of mercy.



Students enjoy an informal hike.



Students partake in a Martinmas feast - a traditional European feast hearkening back to medieval times, held on St. Martin's feast day. The feast traditionally offers an opportunity to give thanks for the harvest in anticipation of the upcoming Advent fast.



(Left, above) CKA students participating on Trinity Catholic sports teams.



CKA students have initiated a chess club, which meets weekly for practice and strategy-building sessions. Competitive matches with other schools are on the calendar!

{This} is the great ordinary means to a great but ordinary end; it aims at raising the intellectual tone of society... It is the education which gives a man a clear conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them and a force in urging them." -St. John Henry Newman

FROM THE FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
CARDINAL KUNG ACADEMY:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!