



LAETIFICAT

To God Who *gives joy* to my youth.

Summer 2015



Dear Friends,

In June 2015, Holy Family Academy completed its fifteenth year of providing a Catholic classical education in New Hampshire. This is a major milestone for our school community. There have been many sacrifices, joys, and challenges with an abundance of grace and surprises from God along the way. Marking this fifteen year anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect on what makes our school so special.

In this Summer 2015 issue of *Laetificat*, two of our alumni share their reflections on the value of their education at Holy Family Academy. First, Grace Williams (Class of 2015) speaks about her time at HFA in her valedictory speech. Then, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew Judd (Class of 2011) writes how HFA helped him to form his moral compass, which guided him through the many challenges he faced while attending Norwich University.

On another note, we would like to share with you some exciting news. In an effort to make our unique education available to students who otherwise could not afford it, we have initiated the *Mother Cabrini Scholarship* for Catholic immigrants to the United States. Several of our applicant families, living right here in Manchester, have suffered persecution because of their faith and have fled to America seeking a better life. One family escaped South Sudan in the midst of a raging civil war, where Christians were being slaughtered. These students are academically qualified and eager, but the families cannot afford a Catholic education. In particular, one mother recently wrote to Bishop Libasci desperately seeking a Catholic education for her son. Holy Family Academy reached out to her with the *Mother Cabrini Scholarship*. If you would like to help us to provide these families with a truly Catholic classical education, please contribute to this scholarship fund. For more information, please contact me at mgillis@holyfamilyacademy.org.

We give thanks to God for all his blessings upon Holy Family Academy since her founding in the Jubilee Year 2000: *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis* ("Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to you name give the glory")!

Peace,
Mark Gillis

2000-2001



2014-2015



A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Valedictorian Speech (abridged):**
Grace Williams, Class of 2015

Six years ago, my brother [Joseph Williams, 2015] and I sat in the parking lot, terrified to shadow at Holy Family Academy. Thankfully, we survived our shadow day and 6 years later we are joyfully with you all today.

The word "graduation" comes from the Latin root "grad-" meaning "step." It is not a completion or a finish line or an end. It is a step. A step in whatever direction you choose and today I want to encourage you to take this step confidently with Christ by your side.

Something amazing has happened to the class of 2015. Our experience at HFA has been filled with so many crucial steps that have transformed us from awkward little freshman into men and women prepared to set foot on our own journeys.

One golden drop of wisdom that I have never forgotten was given to me back in 9th grade Greek History class with Mr. Lebish. Mr. Lebish said he was going to share with us the "key to success." In his cheerful voice he said, "If you choose happiness and gratefulness, anything that happens to you will be fruitful. But this is a choice each of us has to make on our own."

I challenge you to think of the steps that brought us here and consider what you want to take with you on this step past high school. It is difficult to pinpoint when we have grown because

that's the funny thing about change. You don't realize that it has occurred until you look back on your former self and see the difference. Every teacher, lesson, classmate, and friendship that has formed us has all been a part of this process.

It is hard to express our school to those who have never experienced it. The best image I can give is in our name, Holy Family Academy. In a way, as cheesy as it may sound, we really are a family. In the classroom, on the field, the court, and in our carpools we live and think and act with one another. I have formed friendships in and outside my class that I wouldn't trade for the world. And as I leave my family to go off to college, I leave this one as well. But just as I won't forget my family at home, neither will I forget the one that I have here.

I feel immensely blessed to have walked this journey of change with each of you. Even if I had a couple of hours to speak to you all, that would not be enough to properly thank all those who brought me here today. So instead, I will leave you with this thought:

When I was traveling in Rome this past Holy Week, I caught pneumonia during the second half of my visit. But being in Rome, I didn't want to miss seeing anything, especially the Holy Father. So with a high fever and chills, I dragged myself to the papal audience on Wednesday to see the Papa.



It was incredible to see and hear this loving father figure and when he addressed the crowd, he spoke some words that I will never forget.

While I sat there aching, very hot in the beating sun in St. Peter's square, he spoke of Christ's passion and death with the upcoming Easter Triduum. And though I cannot remember the exact words, I remember him humbly asking us to give our whole selves to Christ, to offer our bodies and souls to him so that at the end of our lives, we can confidently say that we have given everything to him. These words struck me as I sat there with my body aching but my heart yearning to give to Christ.

So Gina, Sarah, Sarah, Joey, Christian and Aaron, take this step forward and give yourselves to Christ so that he may guide you on your journey and lead you to your ultimate destination, when all your steps in life will be complete.

*For the unabridged version, please see holyfamilyacademy.org

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*2nd Lieutenant Andrew Judd
Holy Family Academy, Class of 2011
Norwich University, Class of 2015*



At Holy Family Academy, I developed a moral compass that guides me today. I consider the moral compass as a tool for me to gauge how a particular action relates to the true and good. My moral compass was formed through my course on moral theology and the countless discussions my class had inside and outside of the classroom throughout my time at HFA.

After my time at HFA my understanding of morality has not changed, however, since then my appreciation for what I learned during high school has only increased. For example, during my time in the Norwich University Corps of Cadets, I constantly had to live the understanding of human laws articulated by St. Thomas Aquinas which we studied at HFA. While training with the Vermont National Guard, I carried on the habit of responsibility that I formed leading a men's group at HFA called the Brotherhood of Mary. During my Army training in Fort Knox last summer I practiced apologetics while discussing the faith with several fellow cadets who were evangelical Christians.

My faith has grown immensely in the years since I graduated from Holy Family Academy due to all of the struggles that I have undergone and the moral compass I formed at HFA that kept guiding me to Christ.

The Next Step: Class of 2015

Gina Andronico: Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH

Christian Copeley: Assumption College, CT

Sarah Lemieux: Ave Maria University, FL

Sarah Rahilly: Wyoming Catholic College, WY

Aaron Swope: University of Notre Dame, IN

Grace Williams: Ave Maria University, FL

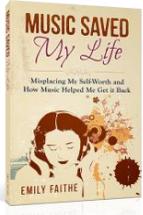
Joseph Williams: Ave Maria University, FL

Alumni News:

Alumni, send us your news! We'd love to hear from you!

email kbrophy@holyfamilyacademy.org

Emily Faithe (Dufour) Peterson (Class of 2007): "After graduating from Holy Family, I served a year with N.E.T. Ministries, received a degree in music education, and spent three years in teaching and faith formation. I found that I had a special love and connection for teenagers and found myself thinking a lot about what I wished adults had said to me at that age. That's where *Music Saved My Life* came from. It's about my personal journey growing up, the struggles I faced, and how music was a cathartic medium for me to express the things that were really hard to talk about. I really hope that other teenagers and their parents will benefit from my story and the guided discussion questions in the book. You can find a copy at emilyfaithe.com."



James (Class of 2011) and Laura (Simpson) Brophy (Class of 2011): James and Laura (Simpson) Brophy were married on May 23rd, 2015 at church, St. Joseph's Cathedral. The two met at Holy Family Academy. To begin their married life, they took a pilgrimage to Rome where they met the Holy Father in his weekly Wednesday audience with newly married couples.



2011):
their parish
met the Holy
couples.



Graduation Picture: Several HFA alumni graduated from college this year. Here is a picture of a few of our graduates.
Franciscan University of Steubenville:
Maria Girard (2011), BA -Economics
Ellienne Planchet (2011), BA -English, Theology and Catechetics
and Eric Tamburino (2010), BA -Communication Arts

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