

## From the Desk of the Campus Minister

The school year is in full swing and the campus ministers are working harder than ever!

A busy September ended with two all-school Masses and the Freshmen retreat. Fr. Jacob Bertrand came on the 21st and spoke to the students about dignity and purity. He led the students in song and received good student participation. He encouraged the students to spread God's word to all. The next day, all of the freshmen descended on the gym for their first Mater Dei retreat. (See page 2.) On the 28th, our own chaplain, Fr. Patrick Wainwright, celebrated Mass with us. He encouraged the students to follow God's will at all times and used the story of St. Damien to illustrate his point.

On September 30th, Fr. Harry Neely, OSA joined Fr. Wainwright to give the sacrament of Reconciliation during lunch. Many students continue to take advantage of this ministry.

My busy work schedule was blessedly interrupted on October 8th will the birth of my second child—Joseph Francis Schnitzius. My wife Debbie (Marian class of 1995) and baby are healthy and

happy and I was able to spend a week with my family enjoying the new life God has given us.

While I was gone, our chaplains met with all of the Theology classes and reviewed the new translation of the Mass. The school has purchased cards for use during Masses in advent to assist the students.

On October 17, a group from Invisible Children gave the students a presentation about the child soldiers in central Africa and the efforts to end the war there. The students responded well and raised over \$500 to help the cause.

That Wednesday, Fr. Pat Mulcahy celebrated our alumni Mass with us. He showed the students several items, including a hammer and money, and asked them if they could be used as a tool or a weapon. He encouraged

the students to use everything in their lives as a tool to build up everyone around them. The Holy Spirit used his words to fit perfectly with what the students had heard on Monday.

Deacon Greg Smyth and Wil Hollowell celebrated communion services with the students on Thursday afternoons twice this month. About 15-20 students are taking advantage of the opportunity for frequent daily communion which we now have this year.

Finally, Mater Dei underwent its WASC accreditation the last week of October. The Catholic identity of the school received high marks and the visiting team was impressed with the integration of faith in all levels of the school community.

**Mary, Mother of God,  
Lead us to your Son  
Jesus!**

### Upcoming Events:

#### November 1-All Saints Day Mass

Fr. Cesar Bertolacci

#### November 2-All Souls Day Mass

Fr. Patrick Wainwright

#### November 3—All-School Mass

Fr. John Amsberry - special guest celebrant

#### November 4—First Friday Adoration and Confession

Fr. Harry Neely and

Fr. Patrick Wainwright

#### November 7-8 & 14-15

Jr. Retreats @ Whispering Winds Catholic Camp

#### November 9 — All-School Mass -

#### Mass of Thanksgiving

Fr. Lawrence Agi

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OH NO, IT'S NOT A HALLOWEEN THING ...  
I'M JUST TRYING TO BE MORE CHRISTLIKE





## Freshmen Retreat

The freshmen retreat is an extension of the freshmen orientation. The students keep the same senior campus minister as a small group leader and the theme is, "Welcome to the Mater Dei Community."

The freshmen were excited to participate in their first retreat and eagerly joined in the games, chants and discussions. The first skit and talk focused on inviting the freshmen to join in school activities and have school spirit. The second skit and talk was more spiritual and introduced the freshmen to our strong Catholic identity at Mater Dei. The seniors did a wonderful job on all fronts and really interacted with their small groups well.

At the end of the day, we transitioned over to the chapel and sang praise songs together. Then, Fr. Patrick Wainwright celebrated Mass with the students. The day ended with the seniors challenging the freshmen to make the most out of their high school experience and take advantage of every opportunity that Mater Dei has to offer. To this day, many freshmen still talk about their retreat and can't wait for the next one!