

News from the Headmaster

Xavier High School
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www.xavierhighschool.org

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Office of the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have had a great summer so far, one of the best in the last eight years. It is probable that my summer has been so good because our physical plant projects have been limited to painting the chapel and dividing room 205 into two classrooms. We also installed tables in one of the computer labs that allow us to use it as a regular classroom when the computers are not in use. Most of the summer has been spent in administrative team meetings planning for next school year and beyond.

As the summer began, I visited my family in Baltimore and had a wonderful time. An experience I had that really struck me occurred while attending Mass in my home parish. Our pastor, Msgr. Richard Parks, stopped me in my tracks when he said, "Welcome home." Those few words meant so much to me – the reality that I was home enjoying the environment I grew up in, once again sharing it with family and friends I love. This was a great way to start the summer.

This is the same welcome we always extend to our alums all year long whether they're in the class of '67 or '05 or all the classes in between. We are proud of our loyal sons and always wish them well and remember them in our prayers. I am currently writing a letter to the class of 2005 wishing them well as they head off to college or begin other endeavors.

After school closed in June, the administrative team spent a lot of time working with our department chairs in the hiring process. I would now like to introduce you to our new teachers. Returning from the Monroe public school system is Mr. Seth Spector '93. He has a BA from Wesleyan University in government and an MA in P.E. from Columbia in teaching and curriculum. Mr. Spector will also be our head cross country, indoor and outdoor track coach. Mr. Nicholas Cerreta '01 will join our English department after receiving a BA from Providence College. Also joining the English department is Mr. Kyle St. George who has a BA from Sacred Heart University. Mrs. Norma Dewey graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a BA in Spanish. Mr. James Antonucci will pick up the baton and direct our music program after obtaining a BA from the University of Miami and an MA in Music Education from New York University Steinhardt School. Mr. Patrick Rahe will be teaching Latin and English. Mr. Rahe is a Yale alum with a major in History and Psychology, a JD from Stetson University and an MS from Southern Connecticut State University. These six talented and very well qualified teachers will join the ranks of our very dedicated faculty. Please join me in welcoming to the Xavier community these newest members of our faculty.

While I continue the theme of welcome I would like to extend warm greetings to our freshmen class and their families and to our 10th and 11th grade transfer students.

Xavier as a welcoming community is a tradition started over 40 years ago by Brother Robert, our first principal, and a small band of Xaverian Brothers. During all the years since then, our goal has been to make Xavier a home away from home for our faculty, staff, students and administrators. As we approach the end of summer, all of us start thinking about Xavier and about our being welcomed home once more!

May the rest of the summer be enjoyable!

Sincerely in St. Francis Xavier,

Brother William, C.F.X.

Headmaster

From the Principal

THE HEADMASTER'S AND PRINCIPAL'S LIST for the 2004-2005 academic year is enclosed. To be eligible for the Principal's List a student must complete the year with a final grade point average of 3.0 or higher and have no final average grade less than a C in a major course. To be eligible for the Headmaster's List a student must complete the year with a final grade point average of 3.5 or higher and have no final average grade less than a B in his major subjects. The following courses are **NOT** included in the tabulation for the Headmaster's and Principal's List: physical education, keyboarding/word processing, honors portfolio grades, and all pass/fail electives.

STUDENT HANDBOOK/ CALENDARS for the 2005-2006 school year will be distributed to all students on Orientation Days. Please make sure that your son brings it home. You will be asked to sign the form in the front of the calendar indicating that you are familiar with school regulations and that you agree to abide by them. A Medical Treatment Form is attached to this and must also be completed. **This form will be collected on the first day of classes, September 7th. If your son does not have his form on September 7th, he will not be allowed to attend classes, and Mr. DeRing will contact you.**

ID PHOTO PACKAGE information for freshmen, sophomores and juniors is enclosed. All underclassmen should bring the order form to school on the appropriate day whether or not they plan to order a package. If you order a package, please make out the check to *Images by Milardo Photography*. If you do not order a package, please check the "ID ONLY" box on the envelope. Any student who is not in conformity with the regular dress and hair code on the day ID photos are taken will be charged a \$10 fee to have a make-up ID photo taken on Thursday, September 15th.

SENIOR PORTRAIT/YEARBOOK PHOTO information was sent to each senior in May, along with a letter from *Images by Milardo Photography*. Seniors are to make an appointment for their yearbook photograph and senior portraits no later than September 1. *Images* will automatically supply Xavier with a yearbook image.

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES: If you have had a recent address and/or home, work, or cell phone change, **PLEASE** notify the office immediately. It is imperative that our computer lists, emergency cards, and calendar cards are correct and up-to-date. Any changes throughout the school year should be reported to the secretaries in the main office as soon as possible.

FUNDRAISER: The annual ad drive for Xavier's Program Book will begin on September 14th and will close on October 24th. This fundraiser is targeted for students helping students and the proceeds go directly toward financial aid. Each year the need for financial aid increases. This fundraiser, which was extremely successful last year, will be the only student fundraiser we will sponsor and each student is expected to meet his personal goal or perform community service for the school. We thank all of the students in advance for all the work that will be done for this extremely worthwhile endeavor.

THE CLASS OF 2005 received over 3 million dollars in financial aid and scholarship money as they embarked on their college career.

CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS of all school activities can be found on the Xavier website.

SCHEDULE FOR THE OPENING DAYS OF SCHOOL 2005-2006

Monday, August 29:

Used Book Sale FOR FRESHMEN and SOPHOMORES will take place in the gym beginning at 6:30 p.m. Students should bring both the enclosed course schedules and book lists with them to the used book sale. The academic deans will be available to answer questions about schedules and books. This sale is a flea market atmosphere and the availability of used books depends on the number of students who come to sell. The school simply provides the space for the sale to take place. **Since the books will be purchased from individual students, it is recommended that you bring cash or more than one check with you.**

Tuesday, August 30:

Faculty/Staff Retreat Day.

Used Book Sale for Juniors and Seniors will take place in the gym beginning at 6:30 p.m.*

* **Please note: Juniors must attend both used book sales in order to sell and purchase used books.**

Wednesday, August 31:

Sophomore Orientation: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. DRESS CODE IS IN EFFECT. ID photos will be taken. New books should be purchased. Buses will be running to and from Xavier. All sophomores must bring the photo packet envelope to school.

Transfer Student Orientation and luncheon beginning at 12:00 noon in St. Joseph Dining Hall. DRESS CODE IS IN EFFECT. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL transfer students must attend this special program as well as the appropriate orientation program held Wednesday through Friday.**

Freshmen New Book Sales: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the **dining hall**. Freshmen should purchase whatever books they could not find used, as well as all books indicated on the book list that must be purchased new (book titles that are underlined).

Thursday, September 1:

Junior Orientation: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. DRESS CODE IS IN EFFECT. ID photos will be taken. New books should be purchased. Buses will be running to and from Xavier. All juniors must bring the photo packet envelope to school.

Friday, September 2:

Senior Orientation: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. DRESS CODE IS IN EFFECT. Books that must be bought new should be purchased at orientation. There will be **NO** buses for seniors.

The Falcon Blast for Seniors and Freshmen will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the school. Lunch will be provided. Busing will be available at 2:30 p.m. to transport the freshmen home. SEE ENCLOSED FLYER.

Monday, September 5:

Labor Day Holiday - No Classes. **No athletic tryouts and/or practices will be held on Labor Day.**

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Tuesday, September 6:

Freshmen Full Day Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Buses will be running, and a complimentary lunch will be provided for all freshmen. Any freshmen who might be staying after school to attend a fall sport meeting or try-out should arrange for transportation home. There are no late buses. **DRESS CODE IS IN EFFECT. FRESHMEN SHOULD NOT BRING ANY BOOKS THIS DAY.**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, September 7-9:

As in the past, these three days will be short session days for ALL students. Classes will meet for abbreviated periods and dismissal will be at 1:00 pm. Buses will run in the morning and at 1:00 pm. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8:10 a.m. **NO LUNCHES** will be provided these three days. Students remaining at school for athletic practices should bring a lunch to school. Faculty meetings are scheduled during the afternoon.

Monday, September 12:

The regular 8:15 am to 2:24 pm class schedule begins.

Thursday, September 15:

All freshmen will have ID photos taken and should bring the photo packet envelope to school whether ordering photos or not.

Admissions Office

OPEN HOUSE AND ENTRANCE EXAM: Xavier's Open House for eighth graders and their parents will be held on **Sunday, October 23rd** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The entrance exam will be administered on **Saturday, November 12th at 8:00 a.m.** As Xavier parents you are in a particularly good position to let others know about the benefits of a Xavier education. If you know of an eighth grade boy who you think should consider attending Xavier, please call Mrs. Keereweer 860-346-7735 x 702 and leave his name and address. We will put him on our mailing list and invite him to the Open House. **Pre-registration is available online beginning September 1, 2005 by accessing www.xavierhighschool.org and following instructions.**

COLUMBUS DAY is Monday, October 10th. School will not be in session and all offices will be closed. A **Faculty Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th. Underclassmen will be dismissed at 11:30 am. after their testing. **Seniors will not be required to attend school and are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this time for college visitations.** Buses will run at dismissal.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Max Babiarz '05, Timothy Buczak '05, Evan Buss '06, Stephen Faulkner '06, Robert Fox '07, Daniel Martin '05, James Mularski '05, David Ogorzalek '05, Gregg Pellici '06, Eric Sauer '07, Eric Soderstrom '05, Colin Steele '06, and Joseph Witkowski '06 on their selection to **The Middletown Press All Area Team.**

Academic Deans

SCHEDULES FOR THE 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR are enclosed along with a book list for your son's courses. If you have a question concerning the schedule, please call Mr. Calkins (juniors and seniors) or Mr. Donohue (freshmen and sophomores) at 860-346-7735. All students will receive the full-page grid schedule on orientation day. Students whose tuition is not up-to-date will not receive a schedule.

SUMMER READING LISTS were sent out with the June mailing. If for some reason your son did not receive a copy, contact the school **now**. Every student is responsible for completing the summer reading assignment.

ACADEMIC PROBATION: If your son failed a course last school year, he is automatically placed on academic probation. If he made up the failed course at a summer program other than the one held at Xavier, we must have verification of this in writing.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORTS are issued twelve times during the school year: eight mid-marking period progress reports and four report cards. The Student Handbook and Calendar indicates the weeks during which progress reports and report cards are distributed. Report cards are distributed one week after the close of the marking period. On those days you should ask your son for his progress report or report card. **The first set of progress reports for the first marking period will be distributed during the week of September 25th and the second set will be distributed during the week of October 16th.** Each student receives a progress report which will indicate a grade of "high pass", "pass", "borderline" or "failure". Teacher's comments on the progress report will further explain your son's academic standing. If your son is absent the day progress reports are distributed, he will receive his when he returns to school.

ASSIGNMENTS: If your son is absent from school, you can obtain his assignments on our website www.xavierhighschool.org. Click on teacher pages, followed by your son's individual teachers and you will find his assignments. This system should be used in case your son is absent. Students should be regularly writing down their assignments in the planners which were a gift of the alumni association.

FOR YOUR FUTURE PLANNING:

THE CLOSE OF THE 1ST MARKING PERIOD is Friday, October 28th. **REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION** will be held on Tuesday, November 8th for parents of FRESHMEN and SENIORS and on Thursday, November 10th for parents of SOPHOMORES and JUNIORS, between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Dean of Students

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP/BUSES: Please do not park in the fire lanes directly in front of the school when picking up your son as this area is reserved for buses only. You may wait to pick up your son in the lanes in the faculty parking area. Just a reminder – it takes approximately 15 minutes after dismissal for the front parking lot to be cleared. If you wait until 2:45 p.m. to pick up your son, you will be able to enter and exit the property without a problem. Also, Xavier politely requests that you pick up your son in a timely fashion after any extra-curricular event, i.e., retreats, sporting events, dances, etc. For the safety of your son, Xavier requires that moderators, coaches or retreat facilitators remain at Xavier until all the student participants are picked up. If there is a situation beyond your control, please call the school to inform us so that we are made aware. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

BOOK BAGS/BOOKS: Parents are asked to remind their sons that books and book bags should not be taken to the dining room area during lunch periods. Students should place their belongings in their lockers prior to lunch.

BUS ROUTES for the City of Middletown will be published in the Middletown Press prior to the opening of school. Any change of address for Middletown riders that will affect your son's bus stop must be reported to Mr. DeRing prior to August 22nd. Bus routes for out of town riders will be available at book sales. Bus transportation will be provided for Sophomore Orientation on August 31, Junior Orientation on September 1 and again for the Freshman Orientation on September 6. Bus service will NOT be provided for seniors for their orientation on September 2. In order to ensure that busing runs safely and efficiently, some of the out-of-town routes have been altered. This, we hope, will avoid a mid-year surcharge. Please check the bus routes and times carefully on the enclosed bus route list. Questions should be directed to Mr. DeRing at 860-346-7735 Ext. 785.

CELL PHONES: Students are not permitted to be in possession of cell phones during the course of the academic day. All cell phones are to be kept either in the student's car or locker. Students are only permitted to use cell phones after 2:25 p.m. in the courtyard area of the school. Any student who violates this policy will be appropriately disciplined which may include suspension.

DRESS CODE is in effect for all students when they come for orientation. Students must wear button down shirts with a tie. Shirts cannot be flannel, Hawaiian-style or multi-colored plaids. A traditional "oxford style" shirt is expected. The coloration of hair is not permitted. At orientation, students are expected to be clean-shaven with sideburns and hair at proper length. If you have any further questions about the dress code, please refer to the "Summer Shopping Guide" which was published with the June newsletter. With regard to all school policies, please do not make exceptions for your son and please do not put Mr. DeRing in a difficult position by asking that an exception be made for your son from regular school policy. Any extenuating circumstances with regard to school policies should be put in writing and given to Mr. DeRing. The final decision regarding school discipline policies rests with Mr. DeRing.

FAMILY VACATIONS: When scheduling family vacations during the school year, please remember the school policy: *The school feels very strongly that neither parents nor students should be allowed to adjust the official school calendar for their own convenience. In light of this, absences for vacation are to be avoided whenever possible. Parents who anticipate vacation when Xavier is in session, should note that such absences are "unexcused." As such, the student will not be excused from any material that was covered or from any tests and/or exams that took place during such absences.*

PARKING: Seniors and juniors who have registered for parking will receive their assigned space during orientation. Reminder: The parking fee is \$100.00 per space.

Athletics

FALL SPORTS: Any student planning on trying out for a fall sport (cross country, football, soccer, sailing) **MUST** have had a physical **after June 1, 2005**. If your son did not have a private physical he should plan to be here on August 22nd or August 29th for a sports physical or have a physical by his private physician. **NO STUDENT MAY TRY OUT FOR A SPORT UNTIL HE HAS A SPORT PHYSICAL FORM ON FILE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.**

PARENTS' FALL SPORTS INFORMATION NIGHT will be held on Monday, September 12th. The purpose of these programs is to acquaint you with the school's expectations and your son's coach's expectations of you and of your son during a given athletic season.

If your son is on an interscholastic sports team, at least one parent/ guardian is required to attend the sports information night for the seasons in which the student/athlete is involved. If a student/athlete participates in more than one sport, parents/guardians must attend the earliest sports information night and are strongly encouraged to attend the coaches' portion of any other sports information night in which his/her son is involved. **Parents/guardians may request exemption from attendance for good reason by writing to the principal at least two days prior to the program.** Exemption from this requirement is at the discretion of the principal. If a parent/guardian is exempted from the first sports information night, he/she must attend the next sports night if the student/athlete plays a second sport. A student/athlete whose parent does not attend the sports information night is automatically suspended from the first contest in his sport.

DIRECTIONS FOR FALL SPORTING EVENTS can be found on the CIAC website at www.casciac.org. Cancellations of sporting events will be posted on the school website www.xavierhighschool.org as soon as possible on the day of the event.

Campus Ministry

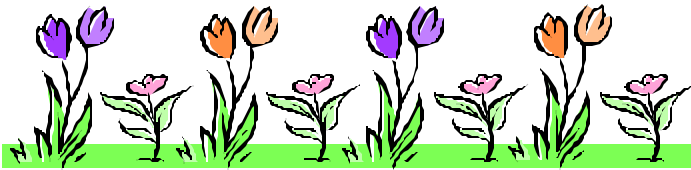
FRESHMAN RETREAT DAYS begin on Tuesday, September 20th and run through Thursday, December 15th. It is mandatory that all freshmen make one retreat day. The religion teachers will notify students regarding their assigned retreat day.

THE FIRST SOPHOMORE WEEKEND will be held on the weekend of September 30th. Information regarding the retreat program will be mailed to sophomore parents. If you do not receive this mailing or need to change your son's assigned date, please contact Mrs. Hoisl, the Director of Campus Ministry, at 860-346-7735 Ext. 714. The second sophomore weekend is scheduled for October 14-15.

SENIOR SERVICE begins on Wednesday, October 5th.

JUNIOR VOLUNTEER begins on Monday, October 3^d. If your son has any questions regarding these service programs, please direct him to Mrs. Hoisl.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS: *Every student has a mandatory service requirement that needs to be completed by a certain date. Freshman year – 5 hours (2 hours are completed on Freshman Retreat Date); Sophomore year – 10 hours; Junior year - 15 hours (7 hours may be completed in our Junior Volunteer Program); Seniors need to participate in our Senior Service Program for the entire year. Refer to the Student Handbook and Calendar (page 14) for more information regarding service requirements.*



Guidance

THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT has planned a Breakfast for Parents of freshmen and sophomores. The **Freshmen Breakfast** will be held on Wednesday, September 21st. The topic is "Transition to Xavier High School." The **Sophomore Breakfast** will be held on Wednesday, October 5th and the topic is "Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Tests (PSAT) and Transcripts." Both programs will run from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. and parking will be available in the back lot.

PSAT's will be administered to sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 12th. Members of the freshman class will take the National Educational Development Test (NEDT) on that date also.

GUIDANCE AND ADVISING: Senior parents are encouraged to make an appointment with their son's advisor regarding the college process. A scholarship booklet will be distributed to your sons during September. It lists all scholarships available the past few years. It will have last year's dates, but as we received the current scholarship applications, the new dates will be posted outside the guidance office, on the T.V. monitors in the classrooms, and on our website. Please review this booklet. If you have any questions about your son's academic progress, please call his guidance advisor. You may call the guidance office directly at 860-346-1368. Your son's pastoral advisor, who most likely is his religion teacher, is also available should you want to talk with him or her about some personal issue related to your son. Any question about pastoral advising should be directed to Mr. Ryan, the religion department chair.

SENIOR FINANCIAL AID NIGHT will be held at Mercy High School on Thursday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding financial aid, feel free to contact the guidance office.

Development Office

LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL FUND DRIVE (AFD) results were disappointing versus our goals of meeting the increasing financial aid requirements of our students. As a result, we are entering our new year energized to do significantly better. We are asking all members of the Xavier community, alumni, parents of students, parents and grandparents of alumni, Xavier suppliers, Xavier friends and corporations to give more and work harder to better meet the needs of the students. Please see the schedule of major fundraising events on the enclosed sheet.

FALL PHONATHON: The major fundraising event for the AFD is the Fall Phonathon, which begins Monday, October 17th and runs through Thursday, October 27th. Xavier students and volunteers will be phoning you to ask for a contribution to the AFD. Please be as generous as possible so that we can better meet our students' financial aid requirements. For additional information or to make a donation, please contact the Xavier Development Office at 860-347-6079 or email development@xavierhighschool.org.

MEMORIALS: Gifts to the Annual Fund Drive may be made in memory of a deceased loved one, to honor a living person, or to commemorate a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. An acknowledgement card is sent in your name and your gift is honored in our *Annual Report*. To make a memorial gift you may call the Development Office at 860-347-6079.

Nurse's Office

JUNIOR CLASS PHYSICALS: Connecticut State Law requires that all students in Grade 11 receive physical examinations and a blood assessment. A letter is enclosed with the newsletter regarding this policy. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Debbie Peterson, our school nurse, at 860-346-7735 Ext. 712.

MEDICATION POLICY: Any student taking medication must do so through the Nurse's Office. Connecticut State Law and Regulations require a physician's or dentist's written order and parent or guardian's authorization for Mrs. Peterson to administer medications. Forms may be obtained from the school nurse or in the main office.

Home and School News

THE HOME & SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING AND TUITION RAFFLE will be held on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:30 p.m. during which we will hold the "Tuition Raffle." At the conclusion of the meeting you will have the opportunity to follow your son's class schedule and to meet his teachers. This is an important evening for the Home & School as well as for you to hear the expectations which your son's teacher have for the year. I hope that many of you can attend. **TUITION RAFFLE** information has been sent to each home. If you have not received the information, contact Ms. Guisti in the administrative office at 860-346-7735 Ext. 700. Tickets for the Tuition Raffle will also be on sale and may be turned in at the October 4th meeting. Thank you to Mrs. Susan Tarrant, this year's president of the Home & School Association, for the time and hard work she has already put into Home & School. Thanks to the members of the executive committee as well.

GIFT DRIVE: The Gift Drive will soon be in full swing. It would help greatly if you were able to obtain a gift from a business in your town or from your company. If you have something new around the house you are not using, and you think it would be a good prize, we will take it off your hands. Gifts may be brought to school the night of the Home & School Meeting and Mini-Schedule on October 4th. We are also in need of Xavier parents who would be willing to coordinate other Xavier parents in their towns to help procure gifts from town businesses. If you would be willing to help in this area, please contact Ms. Irene Guisti at 860-346-7735 Ext. 700. We would appreciate all gifts being turned in by October 4th, but we will not refuse gifts after that date. **Please do not send wine or liquor with your son. I would ask that an adult deliver such gifts to the school.**

FRESHMAN PARENT RELIGION PROGRAM AND HOME & SCHOOL RECEPTION is scheduled for Sunday, September 11th from 2:00-4:00 pm. You will receive more information regarding this in the mail. Parents of the Class of 2009 will find the program worthwhile and enjoyable.

VOLUNTEERS: You will receive a letter inviting you to volunteer time or talent for some of the Home & School events held during the year. Please give this volunteer sheet your kind consideration, and then mail it back to the school. Do not send it with your son. If you are not contacted for an event, chances are we did not receive your form. In that case, please contact the administrative office.

Student Activities

THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS, the first SAC event for the school year, will be held on **Saturday, September 10th** from 5-9 p.m. at Xavier. All regulations in the Student Handbook regarding dances will be in effect. Students may leave the school property no earlier than 8:30 p.m. **SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

THE 2005 DON, Xavier's yearbook, which captured all the significant events of the 2004-2005 school year, will be published early fall. All sophomores, juniors and seniors will receive a copy.

THE BOOKSTORE will be open on the evenings of October 4th and November 8th and 10th. Stop by and look at our clothing selections of sweatshirts, sweatpants, shorts, and golf shirts. Jacket orders for Christmas can also be placed. Orders will take 6-8 weeks to arrive.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS PROGRAM will begin in October. The RCIA will begin its fourth year under the direction of Fr. Galvin. This program is an inquiry class for those who have an interest in learning more about the Catholic Faith and for those who desire to be Baptized in the Catholic Church. The program is available to any student at Xavier and any member of the faculty, staff and administration. If interested in participating, please contact Fr. Galvin by October 3rd. Meetings will be arranged dependant upon interest shown.

