

SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



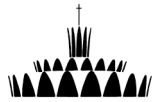
SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL

MISSION, GOALS, AND RATIONALE

The Mission of Saint Louis Priory School is to provide, in a Benedictine setting, a Catholic, college preparatory education of the highest excellence, which helps talented and motivated young men develop their full human potential as children of God.

Goals of the School's Program:

- 1.) To form a community of faith, centered in the worship of God, which invites each student to seek God and to encounter Christ.
- 2.) To provide each student with a thorough formation in the knowledge, understanding, and practice of the Roman Catholic faith, which gives him the foundation for a mature commitment to his faith, and to a life of service to God and neighbor.
- 3.) To provide a comprehensive program of studies in the humanities, sciences, and theology, which challenges each student at a level that allows him to discover and develop his intellectual and creative potential.
- 4.) To provide for the disciplined development of each student's artistic and athletic potential.
- 5.) To prepare all students for success in appropriate, selective colleges and universities, and for continued intellectual development, by fostering analytical thinking, effective oral and written communication skills, intellectual curiosity, and the internal motivation for learning.
- 6.) To cultivate each student's emotional and moral growth by helping him develop the virtues of honesty, integrity, self-discipline, humility, faithfulness, and compassion, in order to make him aware of his fundamental human dignity and his obligation to respect himself and others as children of God.
- 7.) To offer to each student the opportunity to grow in his understanding of Benedictine spirituality, and to show him ways he might live it out in his life.



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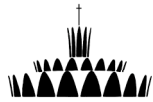


Rationale and Explication of the Mission Statement:

A. By "in a Benedictine setting," we mean an education marked by the values and tone of Benedictine spirituality. The search for God – the interior openness to all that is transcendent in human experience and in our world – is at the heart of Benedictine monasticism. In our spiritual tradition, this search culminates in the encounter which the seeker has with the person of Jesus Christ – in the Word of Scripture, the Sacraments of the Church, the lived reality of Christian community, the wonder of creation, and the insights of the human mind. The Abbey of Saint Mary and Saint Louis is a spiritual family centered in God and open to the world through hospitality and service. The students and families, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends of Saint Louis Priory School are part of the extended community of the Abbey, and share deeply in its values. Among the most important of these are: care, concern, and support for every member of the Abbey family; links with the monastery and its community, which endure and deepen beyond a student's time in the School; a sense of the contemplative dimension of life and learning and rootedness in that wise and balanced Christian humanism (a synthesis of culture and faith in which "all truth is seen as a participation in him who is the truth" — Congregation for Catholic Education, 1982), which marks our English Benedictine heritage. We recognize that the concrete daily experience of living and working together in an intentionally faith-centered context is the primary vehicle for personal and spiritual growth in a Benedictine school.

B. By "Catholic," we mean a thorough formation in the knowledge, understanding, and practice of the Roman Catholic faith, which seeks to give a Catholic student the basis for a free and mature dedication of himself to that faith. Central to the School's mission is the cultivation of the desire to seek God and to encounter Christ. In the environment of a school centered in the celebration of the Eucharist, and listening to the Word of God, this education sees the harmony of all human knowledge with revealed truth. By its Catholic nature, the School welcomes students and families of other Christian churches, and other religious traditions, and joins with them in a common search for God.

C. By "college preparatory education of the highest excellence," we mean a thorough and effective secondary educational program in the liberal arts tradition, which prepares young men for admission to distinguished colleges and universities, and enables them to undertake their continuing studies with success. Through a broadly based curriculum in the arts and sciences, such a program imparts the intellectual skills and the habits of inquiry, study, and reflection, which characterize the educated man. It challenges each student to discover and to develop his unique set of talents, and stimulates in him an intellectual curiosity and independence of thought. This program proceeds at an accelerated pace in relation to secondary education generally, and prepares its students to perform with distinction in relation to nationally recognized criteria. Essential to such a program are a faculty of the highest caliber, and the wise and careful attention to each student.



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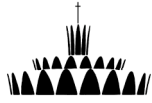


D. By "talented and motivated young men," we mean students who have the aptitudes and the motivation needed to succeed in the School's program. Admission to the School is necessarily quite competitive. Yet motivation and industry are as important as native ability for success in the program, which requires diligent work by all students, and challenges those of unusual ability to more rapid progress. In response to the call of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church, the School seeks and values a student body composed of qualified students from diverse socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

E. By "full human potential as children of God," we mean the full development of the human person — intellectual, moral, religious, and physical. We hope to prepare our students to assume their role in building a world fashioned more humanly, and to do their part to make "the civilization of love" (John Paul II) a reality.

Goal 1: To form a community of faith, centered in the worship of God, which invites each student to seek God and to encounter Christ.

- 1.) All students will participate in retreats or days of recollection.
- 2.) All students will participate in prayer assemblies, weekly Mass, and periodic Reconciliation services.
- 3.) The School will establish a structured program that provides all students with regular opportunities for community service.
- 4.) The School will provide opportunities for the Faculty to witness their faith and values to the students and one another.
- 5.) The School will provide support for the successful progression of students and their families through the School.
- 6.) The School will foster a sense of community between faculty and students, among students, and within the larger school community.
- 7.) Teachers will manifest a spirit of support in their teaching and daily contacts with students.
- 8.) The School will foster honest and constructive communication among students, teachers and parents that focuses on the student's strengths, weaknesses, and suggestions for improvement.



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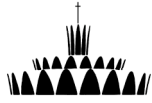
- 9.) The students, faculty, parents, and friends will gather periodically for regular and special Masses.
- 10.) All members of the school community will model respect for each other as well as for all members of society.
- 11.) Teachers will encourage the appropriate expression of differing opinions.
- 12.) The School will promote diversity within the student body.

Goal 2: To provide each student with a thorough formation in the knowledge, understanding, and practice of the Roman Catholic faith, which gives him the foundation for a mature commitment to his faith, and to a life of service to God and neighbor.

- 1.) Each student will receive a full program in Catholic theology, including scriptural and doctrinal foundations, ecumenical and moral issues, and Faith in practice.
- 2.) The program will provide opportunities for students and faculty to learn about and grow in their appreciation of diverse cultures.
- 3.) The School will provide opportunities for students and faculty to explore the various social issues of our time (gender, class, race, etc.), and encourage them to work for meaningful change.

Goal 3: To provide a comprehensive program of studies in the humanities, sciences and theology, which challenges each student at a level that allows him to discover and develop his intellectual and creative potential.

- 1.) The Curriculum Committee will regularly review and, where appropriate, propose revisions of the curriculum to the Headmaster.
- 2.) All students will be admitted to at least selective and very selective universities.
- 3.) Teachers will create a classroom environment that stimulates learning in all students.



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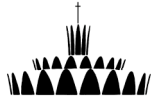
- 4.) The School will establish appropriate class sizes to promote effective learning and good student/teacher contact.
- 5.) The curriculum will provide sufficient offerings at various levels of difficulty to challenge each student appropriately.
- 6.) Teachers will take time to help students in academic difficulty.
- 7.) The students will perform well on national standardized tests, and in local, state, and national competitions.

Goal 4: To provide for the disciplined development of each student's artistic and athletic potential.

- 1.) The School will provide time and guidance for student participation in organized competitive and leisure sports.
- 2.) The students and faculty will practice good sportsmanship.
- 3.) The School program will provide for participation in artistic activities.
- 4.) The School will encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities which stress artistic development.
- 5.) Teachers will make students aware of the esthetic component of their disciplines.
- 6.) The School will provide the opportunity for "non-traditional" senior exhibitions.

Goal 5: To prepare all students for success in appropriate, selective colleges and universities, and for continued intellectual development, by fostering analytical thinking, effective oral and written communication skills, intellectual curiosity, and the internal motivation for learning.

- 1.) The School will encourage students:
 - a. to ask questions in class.
 - b. to go beyond the material presented in class by looking for applications, further examples, extra reading, or related studies.



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- c. to participate in extracurricular activities which stress intellectual development.
- d. to make personal use of media resources.
- e. to focus on learning for its own sake.
- f. to pursue areas of special interest through exhibitions.
- g. to make connections between disciplines.

2.) The School will teach students:

- a. to read and examine data critically.
- b. to learn to build effective arguments in all disciplines.
- c. to demonstrate problem-solving skills throughout the curriculum.
- d. to use the resources of information technology appropriately.

3.) The School will ensure that students:

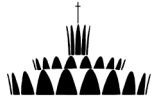
- a. use language effectively, in writing and speech, to communicate their ideas.
- b. participate in extracurricular activities which develop reading, writing, and speaking skills.
- c. to respect the opinions of others.
- d. develop skills in the appropriate use of media.

4.) The School will:

- a. teach the development of good study skills and consistent study habits.
- b. encourage student initiative in seeking help.
- c. require punctuality, neatness, and thoroughness in homework.
- d. foster motivation in students to go beyond minimum academic expectations.

Goal 6: To cultivate each student's emotional and moral growth by helping him develop the virtues of honesty, integrity, self-discipline, humility, faithfulness and compassion, in order to make him aware of his fundamental human dignity and his obligation to respect himself and others as children of God.

- 1.) The atmosphere of the School will permit students to express their emotions in healthy ways.
- 2.) The School will identify emotional problems of students and take appropriate action.



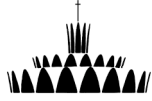
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- 3.) The School will encourage support to each other emotionally and spiritually.
- 4.) The School will establish an Honor Code.
- 5.) The School will instruct and guide the students in moral and academic integrity.
- 6.) The School will promote an open, trusting environment.
- 7.) The School will help students to see their achievements in competitions as contributions to the School and ways of giving glory to God.
- 8.) The School will provide a structured environment which encourages students to give their best effort to their endeavors.
- 9.) The School program will provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills.
- 10.) The School will foster leadership skills among students, faculty, and staff.
- 11.) The School will promote student involvement in meaningful activities within the larger community.

Goal 7: To offer to each student the opportunity to grow in his understanding of Benedictine spirituality, and to show him ways he might live it out in his life.

- 1.) Through readings, prayer assemblies, and faculty workshops the lay faculty will learn and promote the Benedictine charism of humility.
- 2.) The School will provide guidelines for the appropriate treatment of others and for appropriate behavior in school settings.
- 3.) The School will provide opportunities for the examination of the individual's responsibility in the larger community.
- 4.) The School will provide opportunities for the development of the practice of the Benedictine way of praying the Scriptures (Lectio Divina).
- 5.) The School will provide opportunities for the students and faculty to become familiar with and celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours.



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- 6.) The School will promote an ethos which reflects the values of Benedictine spirituality.
- 7.) The School will provide opportunities for students, faculty, and parents to grow in their understanding of the Benedictine Way, through retreats, study sessions, and other forms of formation.