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Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School

New School's Name Inspired by
 Pope's Love of Youths, Bioethics Interest

By GRETCHEN R. CROWE
 HERALD Staff Writer

The legacy of Pope John Paul II and his love of young people will live on in the form of the newest Catholic high school currently under construction in the Arlington Diocese.

Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School will open its doors next fall — and its namesake is an “incredible witness (who) had great respect for youth,” said Dominican Sister Mary Jordan Hoover, principal.

“He led the world, and especially the youth, to Christ,” she said. “He had a way of speaking in a personal way. There’s something very magnanimous about him. His witness was just incredible.”

Ground was broken last September for the new high school, which is located on the Cherry Hill peninsula in Prince William County, and construction has increased steadily since then. According to diocesan consultant Jim Robinson,

90 percent of all foundations have been completed, with only that of the library to go. Portions of the roof have also been installed, the football field and baseball field both have been sodded, and the soccer field should be completed in the next two weeks.

The finalization of the school’s name was a significant step toward its coming to fruition.

Pope John Paul the Great’s emphasis on the dignity of every human person makes his name a perfect fit for the school considering its innovative bioethics curriculum, Sister Mary Jordan said.

“I definitely believe that John Paul (the Great’s) writings on the dignity of the human person and the Gospel of Life will connect so clearly and nicely with the bioethics curriculum and everything that we’re trying to build in terms of the Catholic school culture,” she said. “He led the world, and especially youth, to Christ. He was gifted in terms of speak-

ing the truth, but speaking it in a way that was loving.”

In choosing Pope John Paul the Great as the namesake of the new high school, “we can now marry a name with the specific mission of the school and who’s providing that mission,” said Dr. Timothy McNiff, superintendent of schools.

The name complements the mission of those providers — the Dominican sisters who will staff the school.

“I think their charism, their history and their mission dovetails so much into what the pope stood for and what he said,” McNiff said.

The Dominicans will implement the teachings of Pope John Paul II into the curriculum, especially his teachings on life issues, such as the Gospel of Life and the Theology of the Body, Sister Mary Jordan said.

“There’s a very nice connect because
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HERALD Photo by Gretchen R. Crowe

Hands-On Encounter with Colonial History
 At Potomac Falls School

Adrian Nash, an employee from Camp Flintlock shows fourth-graders at Our Lady of Hope School in Potomac Falls, Colonial-era games. The students are studying the history of Virginia in class. Turn to page 4 for more photos.



THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY — Sarah Sadowski, a seventh-grader at Our Lady of Hope School in Potomac Falls, dips a candle into hot beeswax. Fourth-, seventh- and eighth-graders had the option to dress up for Colonial Day, and Sadowski took advantage of that, calling it a nice break from her uniform.



HERALD Photos by Gretchen R. Crowe

TEAM WORK — Fourth-graders Grace Solini, Katherine Sadowski, Bridgit O'Connor and Alie Brandt, and sixth-grade teacher Daniel Heenan, play tug-of-war during Colonial Day on the grounds of Our Lady of Hope School in Potomac Falls. The all-day event was hosted by Camp Flintlock, a North Carolina-based program that travels around the country teaching students about Colonial American history.



AMERICA'S HISTORY — Sixth-grader Kieran O'Donnell, 11, takes on fourth-grader Corey Burch, 10, in a sword fight. O'Donnell, who got his hat on a pirate cruise, said learning about colonial times is important because "it's our American history and it's what our country is built off of."

Encounters With The Past

ALL DRESSED UP — Katherine Sadowski, 9, a fourth-grader, plays a game called "Grace" during Colonial Day. Dressed up in old-fashioned garb, Sadowski summed up the Colonial times succinctly, saying: "They had to work really hard."



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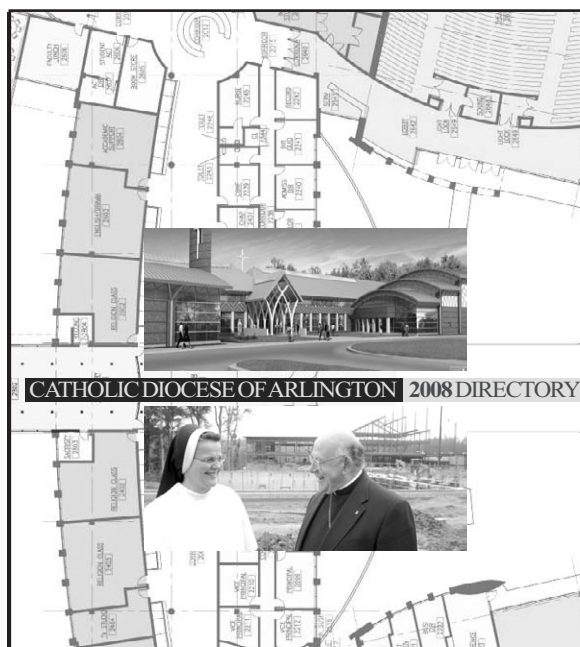
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Pilgrimage Poster, Essay Contest Winners

Fatima: An Example to the World's Children

By **RACHEL BINZER**
St. Bernadette School, Springfield

"Our Lady of Fatima Open Our Hearts to Christ" means a lot to me. I feel that it means even though we are children we can still impact the world and our faith. Our Lady of Fatima appeared to three children, just like me, and I think it set an example on how the children of this world can really impact the way we practice our Christian faith. In addition, Mary our Mother guides us to Jesus, she is the perfect Catholic and I feel that by



Katherine Sadowski — Our Lady of Hope School, Potomac Falls

in many different ways, and that God loves every single person no matter how high or low you are ranked in society, such as children. Overall, I feel that Our Lady of Fatima is a great role model to children who want to find Christ and love Him with all His heart.

How does Our Lady of Fatima affect us? She affects us in many ways. By leading our hearts to Christ she teaches us and guides us to Christ's love. She is a great role model for people of all ages and reminds us that even though we are not perfect and make mistakes, such as sinning, that God loves us for who we are and not the mistakes that we made. Also, she reminds us that we are all children of Christ and that no matter how or why we come to Christ that He will always be there for us.

We can become closer to her by doing many things and in return we are then talking or praying to Christ. As

her example she is giving us the way to be one with Jesus in our everyday lives just like she did.

Also, Our Lady of Fatima guides our hearts to Christ in many ways. She makes children feel that God cares and that children can be involved in the faith

we pray, we should pray like we are children and love God unconditionally even when we are in rough times, that she will always be there for us and can lead us to the great image of Christ and make us happy and loving members of the Christian faith.

Fatima: Pray the Rosary for Peace

By **KRISTEN GRANATA**
Our Lady of Hope School, Potomac Falls

Our Lady of Fatima appeared in Fatima, Portugal, to three children named Lucia, Jacinta and Francesco. From May 13, 1917, the first appearance, to Oct. 13, 1917, the last appearance, Our Lady would appear every month on the 13th. She would open mysteries to the children that were truly messages from God. Today, all the children are in eternal salvation, but the mysteries Mary gave them are just beginning to be told to the world.

Mary's purposes to appear to the children were these: to increase prayer, to exhort people to repent for sins, and to encourage consecration. Mary wanted more prayer, especially the prayer of the rosary. Our Lady said that if all people prayed the rosary, those prayers would bring peace throughout the world. By saying the rosary, people may reflect on the mysteries of Jesus' life, death and resurrection; we pray 10 Hail Mary's so that Mary might lead us to her Son's sacred heart.

The reparation for sins is penances or sacrifices. Jesus made the biggest sacrifice of all and paid for an eternal debt for all the sins in all times. Mary was there when her Son was crucified. Some of Jesus' last words were, "John, this is your mother; Mary, this is your son." When Jesus said this, Mary was not only made the mother of John, but also the mother for everyone in the present and

future, leading us to follow her example, to meditate on Jesus' suffering and to make sacrifices as she did in watching her Son die.



Quinn Jarvis — Nativity School, Burke

Mary's last purpose was consecration. Our Mother wants everyone to consecrate his or her lives to her most sacred Son, Jesus. When we consecrate ourselves to Mary's Immaculate Heart, we are heading straight for Jesus. When the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she said, "Let it be done to me according to Thy will." Mary showed much faith when she did this task for God. Mary's purpose in life was conceiving Jesus and raising Him and leading us to Him. Mary's other purpose in life is to look after all her children in the world; this purpose is eternal.

The children of Fatima were persecuted, but finally, on Oct. 13, 1917, during the miracle of the dancing sun, adults believed the children. The children give us hope that one day the righteous will see the face of Jesus and our most holy mother, Mary.

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