



THE CURRENT

Cathedral Prep School & Seminary
Very Rev. Joseph Fonti, Rector-President, Mr. Richie Diaz, Principal

The Washington, D.C., March for Life

By: Peter Rao



On the 18th of January, 2019, the Brotherhood of Mary Immaculate travelled to Washington D.C. to take part in the annual March for Life. We were accompanied and guided on our trip by Fr. Lee, who did a wonderful job driving, and Mr. Camastro, father to Senior Anthony Camastro and Sophomore Francis Camastro. We arrived in Washington at 10:30 A.M. and proceeded to where the march was to begin.

At 11:30, after much anticipation, it started. Thousands of people were present: cheering, praying, or waving banners. The march took us from the Washington Monument to the Supreme Court, where anti-lifers protested our movement to save the lives of thousands. At the Washington Monument, Ben Shapiro, a pro-life political commentator, addressed the crowd on the problem of abortion. The main point of Shapiro's speech was that America promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all of its citizens and that by legalizing abortion, America was, rather obviously, not fulfilling that promise.

Half-way through the march, Fr. Lee stopped us and made us look behind us. What we saw I'm sure none of us will forget: thousands of people were crowded together, marching, and many more had only just begun walking. Seeing all those people walking to end abortion was quite moving and inspiring, and it amazed everyone in our group.

We eventually arrived at the Supreme Court where the crowds of protesters disbanded. Before leaving, we visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It's the largest and, in my opinion, the grandest, Catholic Church in North America, located just off the campus of the Catholic University of America. There,

we met Cathedral Prep alumnus Adam Zajkowski, who currently attends Catholic University and was also in the march. After staring open-mouthed at the basilica's brightly colored mosaics, massive domes, gorgeous statues, and generally overwhelming beauty, we found an unoccupied side-chapel (of which the church has many) and prayed the Angelus, the same prayer that we pray every day after Mass together.

Finally, it was time to leave. We returned to our van to go back to N.Y. and on the way home, prayed the rosary for all those horribly and cruelly murdered by means of abortion. All who went, including myself, greatly appreciated the opportunity given to us, and expressed not only an interest in going back next year, but also in gathering a larger group to go. Establishing Cathedral Prep as a pro-life Catholic school is an important and necessary action. The more voices we have to proclaim this, the closer the pro-life movement gets to saving the lives of thousands each year.

Bishop DiMarzio's Annual Project Andrew

By: Robert Mestrandrea

On February 8th, Bishop DiMarzio made a second trip to Cathedral for the 2018-2019 school year, celebrating Mass and hosting the annual Project Andrew. Bishop spoke about the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, who became a novice with the Canossian Daughters of Charity religious order on December 7th, 1893, and took her final vows on December 8, 1896. For 42 years of her life, she worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent. He emphasized how saints canonized by the Church often do not have what could be considered the largest role, like humble St. Josephine. She also traveled and visited other convents telling her story to other sisters and preparing them for work in Africa. St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of Sudan and her feast day is celebrated on February 8th.

After Mass, Project Andrew was hosted by the Bishop with help from Fr. Fonti in the Student Leadership Room, where he related his vocation story, and how important and unique the priesthood is. This is the fourth time that Project Andrew was hosted at Cathedral. Project Andrew is an opportunity for young men to learn more about the priesthood by joining the Bishop, other priests, and seminarians from the Brooklyn Diocese for an afternoon of prayer, lunch, and conversation. Fr. Bethge and Fr. Lee were present and also gave their vocation stories. Project Andrew was opened to The Pier Giorgio Frassati Discernment Group and Seniors who applied to the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation in Douglaston, Queens. Fun was had by all and we thank those from the Discernment group and the seniors who attended. Thank You Bishop DiMarzio, Fr. Fonti, Fr. Bethge, Fr. Lee and all priests of the Brooklyn Diocese for your love, support, and dedication to our diocese and we look forward to what next year's Project Andrew will bring.



Saint Josephine Bakhita

Cathedral's Community Service Club

By: Joe Candela

On February 11th, 2019, eight men from Cathedral Prep headed into Williamsburg at around six o'clock to a homeless shelter at Our Lady of Mount Carmel to feed those who were less fortunate, those who don't even have a home of their own, and are forced to stay at a homeless shelter. These eight men were Seniors Jonathan Caceres and Kevin Plut, Juniors Christopher Flood and Jason Samuels, Sophomore Joseph Candela, and Freshmen Nicholas Abernethy, Frank Angenero, and Tomasz Baginski. These eight men were accompanied by Mrs. Miranda, the head of the newly formed group, as well as Fr. Fonti, Fr. Bethge, Fr. Lee, and Deacon Franco, who knows the area well since he has lived in Williamsburg. At six o'clock, everyone piled into two cars, the school van driven by Deacon Franco and the "Priestmobile" driven by Fr. Fonti, and headed for Williamsburg, ready to feed about forty hungry men who live in this homeless shelter.

We arrived at around seven o'clock and promptly went inside where we were greeted by the head of the shelter and the ecstatic forty men who were ready, and eager, to eat. Fr. Bethge led the shelter in a prayer in Spanish before we started serving. Then, as soon as we finished the prayer, all eight of us, Mrs. Miranda, and everyone else who was present, began to serve. The forty men were all polite, well-mannered, and expressed their deepest gratitude to us. After all the food was served and the men were satisfied, the head of the shelter invited us downstairs to see the living quarters of the homeless men as well as give us a brief talk about the shelter's history, its founder, and about the

shelter's current state. He also humbled us all by detailing what little these people have and how we are often so absent minded about the poor in this world. His words illustrated how greedy we usually are when we ask for more and more past what we already have. After this, Fr. Fonti graciously took us to a nearby Italian restaurant for us to eat before we went our separate ways. Following this meal, we made our way back to Cathedral Prep where we all promptly departed for home.

This experience was very humbling for all of us. It's always amazing to see just how happy, how grateful these people, who have so little, are. We are so often tired, somewhat angry and unhappy most of the time, when really we should be joyful, we are all so lucky to have what we do. We often take so many privileges that we are gifted to have for granted; we moan about simple tasks and feel sorry for ourselves if things do not always go our way. But if we take the time to recognize that everything we have is a gift, how lucky we are to have things that many others around the world do not, we can see that we are actually very gifted. Things are going our way; they have been all our life. These people in this shelter, who often sleep outside because there is not enough room in the shelter, and rely on others for food or go to sleep hungry, were so gracious to us when we came to serve them, it made all of us humbled and astonished at how happy and joyful these people were. This experience was a lesson to many of us, we learned so much, it also brought an awareness for how fortunate we were.

The Era of 5G—a Curse or a Gift?

By: Eryk Baginski

Technology is exponentially advancing; what seemed like state of the art tech yesterday will become obsolete tomorrow. If you look at the corner of your smartphone you will see a little indicator like 3G or 4G (LTE Long-Term Evolution) which shows the generation of speed and connectivity of your phone to your mobile network. Cellular network technology has advanced tremendously over the past decades. From 1G, which allowed people to talk to each other, to 4G LTE, which augmented the speed and connectivity to the Internet and other data. The establishment of 5G will reshape the entire world. Although 5G is officially launching March of 2020, the hype for this new technology has already begun. So what's so special about 5G? Is it just another generation with mild improvements intended to be a quick cash grab for companies? Not at all. When people say that 5G is revolutionary, it's no hyperbole. 5G provides an array of new advances.

First off, 5G augments connection speed and reliability almost 100 times faster than 4G LTE. To put that into perspective, an average 5G wireless connection will supply an immense speed of 1-4 gbps while an average 4G LTE wireless connection supplies a speed of 15 - 20 mbps. This means that, with 5G you can download a three-hour-long video in just seconds! The theoretical maximum speed aimed for is about 20gbps. The high connection speed opens up a multitude of new possibilities for world-wide communication. Millions of people will be able to connect to a network concurrently without slowing it down.

The second major feature of 5G is the reduction of latency rates. 4G LTE has a latency of about 120 ms to 190 ms while 5G has a ultra-low latency of 1 ms. Which means that the delay of data transmission (latency) will be practically non-existent. The application of 5G technology extends beyond cellular networks. It will have a colossal impact in the fields of logistics, education, telemedicine, telepresence, virtual reality and many more. But the true potential of 5G will be its integration with the Internet of Things (IoT).

The Internet of Things is the term used to describe all the interconnected devices that share data between themselves and the Internet without human input. An example of an IoT device would be an autonomous car or a refrigerator that resupplies itself. 5G can be invaluable in the autonomous car industry because it will supply self-driving vehicles a continuous flow of data in realtime. This would allow self-driving cars to know exactly where other objects are, relative to them. 5G would also create a system of swift communication and data transfer between self-driving cars, traffic lights, and other devices. Assuming that everything goes flawlessly, an infrastructure of self-driving cars would decrease the likelihood of car accidents because each car would know the precise location of objects around it and their

next action. With the advancement of 5G we may also see the rise of new autonomous vehicles like planes and ships.

But, like with all technologies, there's a catch to it. 5G's extremely low area of effect is the

major downside. It can't transmit signals farther than 985 feet and the signals can't pass through walls and other large objects. The signal can also be attenuated if it's raining or snowing. On the other hand, the limit of a 4G network is about seven miles. The curse of 5G lies in how we make the network easily accessible to everyone. In order to make the network accessible and fully functional, companies need to build transmitters in almost every large area of a city. It's possible that we may see a transmitter every couple of yards.

Although 5G won't be available until next year, many corporations like AT&T and Verizon have already started to build their 5G infrastructures to harness the full power of the upcoming network. Other companies like Samsung are preparing to release 5G enabled phones. Despite 5G creating a lot of euphoria among technology enthusiasts, the network is also creating quite a lot of turbulence in the political realm, specifically between two world hegemony: China and the USA. China seems to be at the vanguard of the 5G vision. They have almost completed numerous structures compatible with 5G like a train station that will be the world's first terminal offering full 5G coverage. China's behemoth tech companies like Huawei are leading the world in 5G development and are the largest suppliers of technological equipment. China is also planning to build a transcontinental fiber-optic cable system along their rail lines that will allow for better connection with Europe and parts of Asia.

Stagnant innovation and the lack of efficiency by American companies is causing the US to be evanescent as the technology leader of the world. In President Trump's recent tweet, he urges that American companies must step up their game and develop 5G and even 6G technologies as soon as possible. So as President Trump yearns for 6G technology, the rest of the world has to settle on 5G instead. Indubitably, 5G will be a milestone of technological innovation and creativity and only time will tell how much further technology can advance.



Pope Francis' Historic Visit to United Arab Emirates

By: Mhelvin Prangan

Pope Francis' trip to the UAE (United Arab Emirates) was not only historic for many reasons, but also groundbreaking. This is the first time a ruler from that country invited a pope to come, and marks the first time that a pope has gone to the Arabian Peninsula. The Arabian Peninsula was the place of origin for the religion of Islam. The reason why Pope Francis went to the UAE has nothing to do with any recent events. Pope Francis visited because he wanted to build a bridge between the Catholic and Islamic religions. Pope Francis wanted to begin building a more peaceful, amicable relationship between the two groups. When Pope Francis visited Yemen he wanted "Human Fraternity" for all people. He wants all people to be united as one for and under the Lord. When Pope Francis celebrated Mass there were many people in attendance. Some of them included those from the countries of India and the Philippines. It is also the first time a pope has celebrated Mass in the Arabian Peninsula. The pope shared a particularly impactful thought during his trip, that being: "For me there is only one great danger in this moment: destruction, war, hatred between us." Every one of us should be advocates for World Peace. We should be like Christ, who acted as an advocate for each of us.

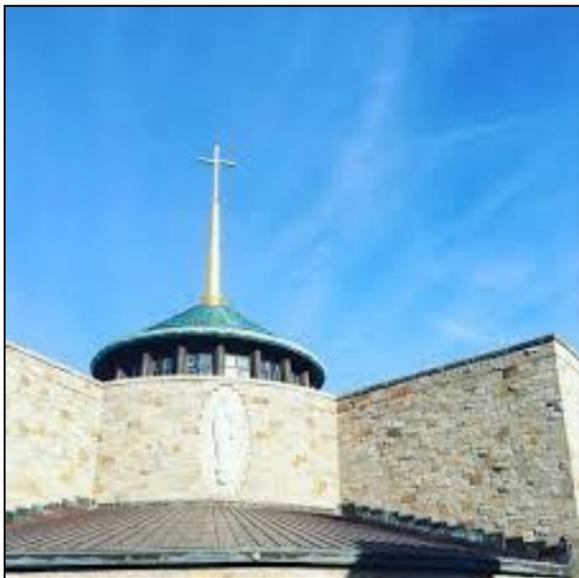
Life in the Seminary

By Special Correspondent Cairo Lopez

Being in the seminary, I see that there is much to do. First we wake up early at 5:30 A.M. and have our morning prayer at 6:00 A.M. We do this in the Sanctuary of the Word, which has the Blessed Sacrament and is the place where we scrutinize the Word every day. We pray by chanting the psalms and this is the first thing we do before we start our day, which is necessary before we do anything else. Sometimes we may also have the Eucharist in the morning. Then we go to school, unfortunately, and come back in the afternoon or sometimes the evening. We then have time to work on our school work and play sports. We play in the gym and we love sports because it's a time to rest from the stresses of the day. During the day, we, obviously, eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Then in the evening we have our "Scrutatio". This is where we open the Bible and the Lord speaks to each one of us. We read the Gospel of the day and use the footnotes, which are parallel readings from that Word, and this leads us to what the Lord wants to tell us. We finish our day with Night Prayer. This is how a day in the Seminary on the weekdays typically goes.

For us, Saturday is the day of work. We clean and do the works that are necessary, not just for the sake of being busy, but for our human formation. We split up, some clean the cars, the corridors, the Sanctuary and Chapel; others do laundry and anything else that may pop up during that time. Half of the brothers are divided into two separate groups; the services for the food and those for the Liturgy. Lastly, Sunday is the day of rest. This is when we go out and rest in the Lord, having a change of scenery from everyday life and go out with families from our parish communities to simply hangout. We also have the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Being in the Seminary truly is a great gift. I find myself living a life that I never would have imagined; a life of service, prayer, and dignity.



Senior Night 2019

By: Kevin Plut



One thing that Fr. Fonti and the rest of the administration likes to tell us, the student body, is that we, at Cathedral, are brothers in several ways, with faith being one of the primary ways. That shared sense of brotherhood is something that truly came to light when the Cathedral Prep Varsity Basketball Team played their last home game of the season. Although for the seniors, it would be the last home game for their Cathedral basketball careers with the game being called Senior Night, a preexisting tradition that took on a new meaning of sorts after the fact. Anticipation for the game was building for a week or two in advance for several reasons. The most prominent of which was obviously to go out and watch the seniors play their last home game. This was helped along greatly by Seniors Anthony Camastro, Anthony Leone, and Rafael Silva's series of announcements of the coming game in Chapel during morning announcements.

When the day of the game arrived, the school was on edge. Everyone was excited for the game to come, if a bit anxious that the team could lose due to a bit of overconfidence. Luckily, that was not the case. Cathedral won a well-played game 61 to 51 against The Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation. All the seniors were on point with Leone being the top scorer, dropping 23 points and letting his passion for the sport show. Anthony Camastro played a deliberate point guard, choosing to pass rather than to shoot, scoring a respectable five points. Jonathan "Desil" DeSilvestri and Matthew Smith played tough in the paint, "bodying" others to score six points each. Sebastian Garzon was incredibly consistent with his three pointers, racking up a total of 11 points. Melvin Reyes showed his versatility, scoring both in the paint and outside the three point line for a total of seven points.

Arguably the most important basket scored was shot in the last minute of the game by Rafael Silva when it seemed uncertain that he would score. Having been passed the ball by Junior Aaron DeLeon, Rafael took the shot from the corner, which he testifies is not his specialty, and made it, much to the audience's satisfaction. A three described by Camastro as being "the shot heard around the world"—despite being nothing but net—set the crowd into a frenzy with everyone jumping to their feet with roaring applause to boot. Adding to the significance of the basket was the fact that Senior Night 2019 was the only game in which Rafael played as he made a special exception to come out of his adamant and steadfast retirement.

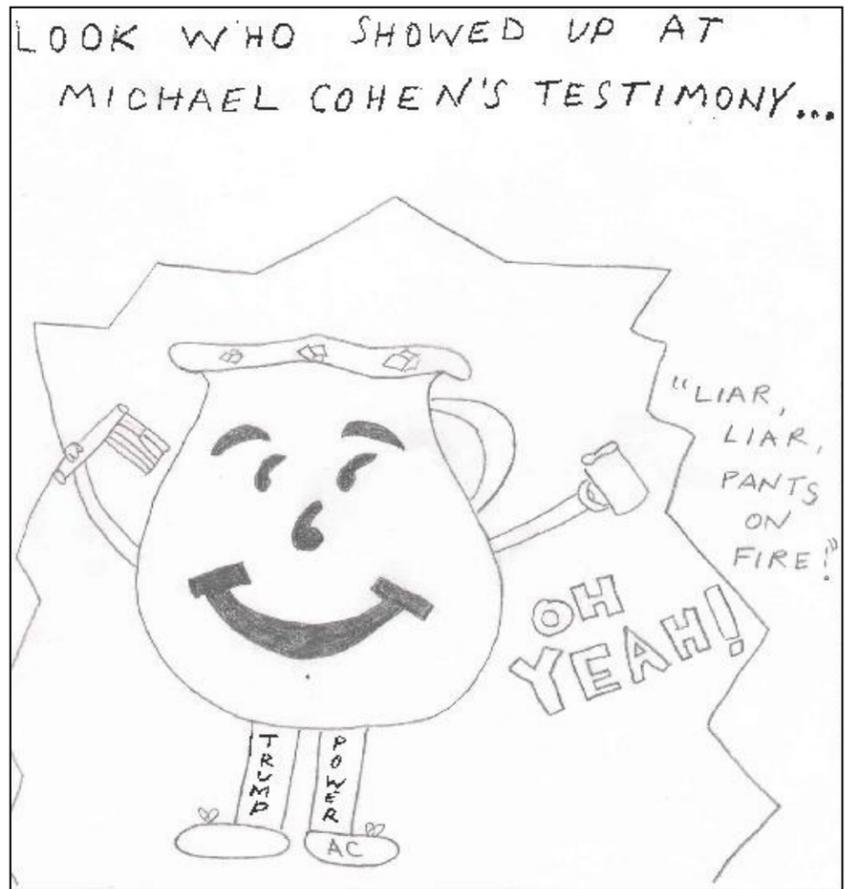
Following the end of the game, the audience took to the court, putting Rafael on their shoulders and parading him about while the rest of the audience went to congratulate the other seniors for a great game and a great season. One especially remarkable fact of the night was that all the seniors on the team scored, something that unfortunately does not always happen. The joint appreciation for each other and pride felt for the school that was present not only in the team itself that night, but in the whole crowd who watched, made even Fr. Fonti proud, an admittedly rare feat. Truly a great game an accomplishment to be remembered.

Love Guru #2

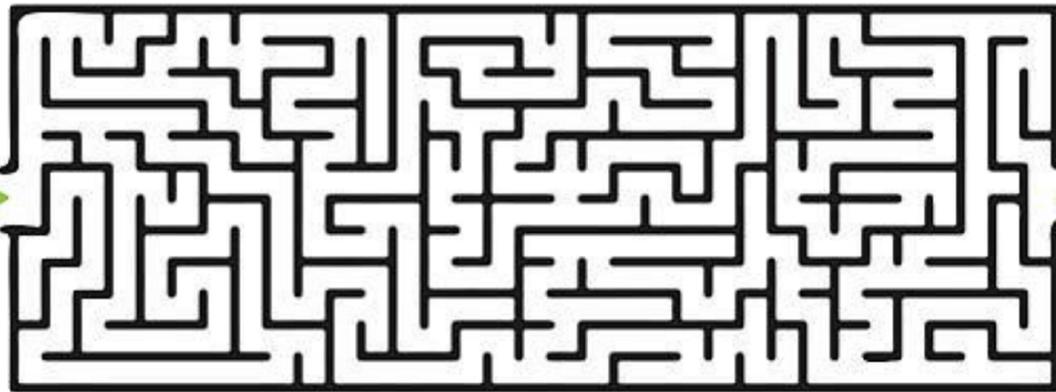
Andrew's Amazing Art (AAA) by Andrew Chalmers

1. How did the telephone propose to its girlfriend?
He gave her a ring.
2. Hey are you dandruff?
Because I can't get you out of my head no matter how hard I try.
3. Are you dentures?
Because without you, I can't smile.

Based on recent contributions, the editors of The Current are looking for a new Love Guru.



Help Mrs. Rosa!



Students who study Latin 20 minutes every night.



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HELP WANTED

Writers, editors, layout artists

Award-winning school newspaper is looking for reliable members to join our team. Must be willing to follow deadlines, and enjoy writing. Or just take pictures. Or maybe work on layout. Contact senior Kevin Plut or Mrs. Gluszak

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

Help!

Students, Faculty, and Administration of Cathedral Preparatory School and Seminary: Over the last two years or so, there has been a menace roaming the halls of Cathedral Prep, as well as the nearby subway system. I am sure that most if not all of you have seen this *Spider-man*. I have gone to various places outside of Cathedral and have met people, with little to no connection to Cathedral, who have either seen or heard of this Spider-man. This action to which I am calling ALL OF YOU, is simply this:

If YOU have seen, have access to, or know someone who has access to any picture(s) or video(s) of this Spider-man, Please send them to me at peter.brancale@gmail.com