

VOLUME I, No.2

ADVENT 2021



MAGISTER

To reverence truth, desire goodness, and rejoice in beauty.



BULLETIN OF THE GILBERTINE INSTITUTE
GILBERTINE ACADEMY, HOLY HOUSE & WISDOM

MAGISTER

Why *Magister*?

Magister is a Latin word which can mean a rabbi, teacher, master, or the pilot of a ship. It brings to mind first of all One who was called “Rabbi”, “Teacher”, and “Master”: Jesus Christ. *Magister* was also the title most commonly given to St. Gilbert of Sempringham as the first Master, or *Magister*, of the Gilbertine Order. Finally, the word *magister* pays homage to St. John Henry Newman, that great teacher in the Anglican Catholic patrimony, and to all the great teachers of the Faith through the centuries. Truly, as Newman himself wrote in the introduction to *The Idea of a University*, “[w]e have a goodly inheritance.”

Magister is intended to be both a bulletin and a devotional, published several times a year in preparation for the Ember Days, for the benefactors of the Gilbertine Institute, Gilbertine Academy and Holy House; to communicate by prayer and supplication, to provide news with thanksgiving, so that we may make our requests known unto God (cf. *Philippians 4:6*).

**PLEASE JOIN THE INSTITUTE IN PRAYER
FOR THE ADVENT 2021 EMBER DAYS:**

- Wednesday, December 1
- Friday, December 3
- Saturday, December 4





Ab Clero

Fr. Robert-Chas. Bengry GSmp
Parish Priest, St. John the Evangelist & Chair of the Gilbertine Institute

(403)-265-5072



This has been a marvellous year thus far for Holy House and the Gilbertine Academy. I've had the joyful opportunity to teach art for the High School students twice a week and I love it. The halls are lively, Mass is beautiful; I'm so

very proud of our children and what they are accomplishing together. As I think about these things, especially when I consider the worldly influences that seek to destroy, I wonder what it is that we are seeking for our young people as we prepare them for their adult lives.

A word that is coming up again and again for me is 'tough'. I want our children to be tough. What I mean by that is our children are growing up in a world gone mad. In a few short years, each of our students will be making their way in a world that actively opposes the Catholic world-view and Catholic morality. The most fearful part of that reality isn't that the world is a dangerous place, but rather so much of that danger is attractive. Initially anyway. We need to protect our children — yes — but more than that, we need to equip them.

One of my favourite Saints is Agnes of Rome. Perhaps twelve years old: she wanted to live her life as a Consecrated Virgin. A marriage was arranged, but "Jesus Christ is my only spouse" she would insist. She was outed as a Christian to the Roman authorities and she would be martyred for this insistence. She was beheaded on 21 January AD 304. The faithful soaked up her blood with rags, and a great Church stands even unto this day in the place of her martyrdom. I've prayed in



the presence of her little skull peeking out from a reliquary in that holy place.

St. Agnes was tough.

There are so many other examples and it seems so many were young people. What came together for them to make them as resilient and brave, as determined and as joyful and faithful as they were?

Your children will go out into the world as adults and they will be plied with riches and pleasures and promises just as Agnes was when Prefect Sempronius tried to have her marry his son. They will be cajoled and threatened just as she was when she refused to bend to the demands of the world. Will our children have what it takes to resist the powers and principalities that rule even here in Calgary?

I pray they will, because so many young people are lost. Our culture is lost. In addition to prayer, however, we need to prepare and equip our young people for the challenges they will surely face in practical and strategic ways. They must know the

tricks of the devil as he sows the seeds of discord and chaos and atheism through socialism and cultural Marxism. They must know the dangers that will be alluring in only a few short years. They must be fortified in the faith, and formed and educated in such a way that they will stay true to God and His Church and to God's plans for them.

I certainly don't have the answers as to how we accomplish these things, but I am confident that we can discover them together as we grow in holiness under the patronage of our Lady and St. John.

Our children need to be strong and resilient spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially and intellectually if they are to flourish in the world laid out before them. They need to be tough. What we do at St. John's through Holy House and the Gilbertine Academy seeks to do that in concert with the families who have come to us. God guide us in this mission!

INTENTIONS:

- For those children who do not have the opportunity for a Catholic education.
- For families that suffer financial hardship, for the orphans.
- For the littlest ones in the womb, that they be safe and secure and grow to love and serve God and neighbour.

○ Lord Jesus Christ, who dost embrace children with the arms of thy mercy, and dost make them living members of thy Church: give them grace, we pray thee, to stand fast in thy faith, to obey thy word, and to abide in thy love; that, being made strong by the Holy Ghost, they may resist temptation and overcome evil, and may rejoice in the life that now is, and dwell with thee in the life that is to come; through thy merits, O merciful Saviour, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest one God, world without end. *Amen.*



THE GILBERTINE INSTITUTE

Patrick Allen

Vice Chair of the Board of Directors

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Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Saviour (Isaiah 45:8; Psalm 19:1 - Introit for the Fourth Sunday of Advent).

Our mission in life - not just at the Gilbertine Institute - is, ultimately, cooperation with grace that is freely given to us. Our progress in faith and our salvation lie in the fact that we rely completely on God giving us the grace to succeed. We cannot do this on our own, but it is our choice

that allows for the reception of the grace.

We tend our field, we keep it ready, we sow the seed, but the life-giving is all from Christ, and just as we do this in our own souls, so we do in our school and in our families. We teach our children, form relationships, and imbue them with a culture which both nurtures them and which they in turn will nurture. But in all this we cannot bring salvation to these children; that must come from God. This is the reason we have our school in the church: we prepare the field in order to ready it for the rain. It is through the sacraments, the faith lived out each day and the connections with our clergy that our school becomes a means of salvation, not of our own accord but through us preparing to receive that grace from on high.

Our work must always have this as our ultimate guide: we teach the children good and useful things, we help them enjoy life and make friends, but ultimately we are here so that they and we will attain eternal life. This must be our final goal and omnipresent in everything we do.

INTENTIONS:

- That the Gilbertine Institute may prepare the soil for the outpouring of divine grace on all the children entrusted to our care.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who declarest thy glory and showest forth thy handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: deliver us, we beseech thee, in our several callings, from the service of mammon, that we may do the work which thou givest us to do, in truth, in beauty, and in righteousness, with singleness of heart as thy servants, and to the benefit of our fellow men; for the sake of him who came among us as one that serveth, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



HEAD OF SCHOOL



Deacon Kenneth Noster
Head of School & Principal

Kenneth.Noster@gilbertineinstitute.com 587-579-7810

Preeminent among the beauties of the Church is its liturgical cycle, enriching each person's progress forward in faith and practice, and now we find ourselves at Advent: the season of preparation for the great gift of God as man. Nothing on earth is greater, and all smaller advents take their significance from this one. What are some of those smaller advents?

The advent of the Gilbertine Institute as an accredited school authority is nothing short of miraculous, and it truly takes its direction from the Advent of the God-man. Really, why in the

world would a small parish in downtown Calgary burden itself with the bureaucracy, accountability, educational creativity, and daily grind of running a school and supporting home schoolers if it weren't attempting to live out the mission of the One whose Advent we celebrate, and who commissioned us to go out and disciple the whole world? Quite simply, the Parish Priest of St. John the Evangelist and his faithful flock are called to do more than provide for their own formation in faith and reason, far more. They are called to make a difference in as many lives as possible.



HEAD OF SCHOOL

Deacon Kenneth Noster, Head of School & Principal

Parish staff, volunteers, and staff of The Gilbertine Academy and Holy House are all dedicating the best part of their lives to making a difference in the lives of students and their families. Meanwhile, all over the province, WISDOM staff are devoting themselves to supporting home schooling families.

Whether in school, partly in school, or completely at home, Gilbertine students are experiencing their own advents, greatly enriched by the Advent that leads us to the child in a manger. The advents of young people, studying their faith, developing their reason, and growing in understanding, are part of their joyful anticipation of adulthood. Anticipating Jesus Christ in this Advent season and also in the months and years ahead, makes all the difference to how students apply their efforts of study and personal growth. Over time, as they mature, they learn to extend their anticipation to more than adult life and strive toward their eternal life.

During this Advent season, we pray that each family, while joyfully anticipating the celebration

of the birth of Jesus, will embark more fully upon a life-long advent, making wise decisions that orient their life to Christ and, as a result, drawing ever-closer to Him.



INTENTIONS:

- That all families of The Gilbertine Institute grow closer to Christ and bring others to Him.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of thine Only Begotten Son: that through his advent we may be worthy to serve thee with purified minds; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.



GILBERTINE ACADEMY & HOLY HOUSE CALGARY



Troy Lamoureux, Associate Principal

1423 - 8 AVENUE S.E. CALGARY, AB T2G 0N1, 403-764-8089

TROY.LAMOUREUX@GILBERTINEINSTITUTE.COM GILBERTINEACADEMY.COM HOLYHOUSE.NET

At least once a year I hear a derogatory comment about Holy House being in a mere church basement.

It is true. The classrooms that constitute Holy House Calgary and Edmonton are almost entirely in the basement of churches. In Calgary, the brick-and-mortar church of St. John the Evangelist was built 1911, and The Holy House of Our Lady and St. John finds sanctuary beneath the church's Sanctuary. In fact, the main hall connecting the classrooms goes directly below the tabernacle on the high altar. I often think that I ought to at least cross myself whilst walking under it. My internal debate reflects the entire point of having a school in a church basement.

It doesn't matter that Holy House in Calgary is full of windows and natural light, that each classroom is beautifully furnished with antiques and art, or that every nook and cranny is stuffed with good books. It only matters that the Lord is truly present, and that the children and staff know it, and that they grow in Him through the chanting of the daily office and Mass in the church.



In a church basement in Calgary, The Holy House of Our Lady and St. John and The Gilbertine Academy have once again doubled in enrollment this fall. If the younger siblings of current students join Holy House Calgary in the next couple of years, the enrolment will



GILBERTINE ACADEMY & HOLY HOUSE CALGARY

Troy Lamoureux, Associate Principal

more than double, and that does not include the near-weekly inquiries of new families. Planning is underway to start a second cohort of grade 1-8 students on Mondays and Wednesdays to complement our very full and thriving cohort of Tuesday and Thursday families.

In a church basement in Sherwood Park, The Holy House of Our Lady and St. Joseph has started with tremendous success. There are only two spots left! If interest continues to increase, a possible third class will be started in Holy House Edmonton.

Why are Holy House Calgary and Edmonton growing so quickly? It is true that

the academics and staff of Holy Houses are of the highest standard, but more importantly it is because Holy House has no boundaries; that is, boundaries between the home, parish, and school. Holy House feels more like a traditional Catholic parish and home than like the local neighbourhood school. Catholic families in Alberta who attend Holy House are from every part of the globe, but because they are united in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism (Ephesians 4:5-6), they are therefore at home in one culture of peace. For the traditionally-hearted Catholic family, Holy House feels like home, where peace thrives: the peace that the world cannot give (John 14:27).

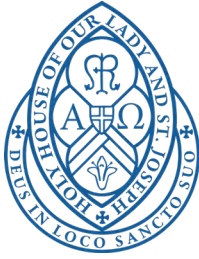


INTENTIONS:

- For the Gilbertine Institute to build capacity as it responds to the families of Alberta who seek peace.
- For benefactors who make this ministry of the Institute possible.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*





HOLY HOUSE EDMONTON

Damein & Patty Zakordonski

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH, 13 BROWER DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK AB T8H 1Y7
HOLYHOUSEEDMONTON@GILBERTINEINSTITUTE.COM HOLYHOUSE.NET



The basement of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park is brimming with activity on Wednesdays this year. The parish basement has become the home of a new parent-led event for home education families. The Holy House of Our Lady and St. Joseph (Holy House Edmonton) is a recognized Homeschool Event under the Gilbertine Institute, and is working towards becoming a Shared Responsibility school. Classes offered include Literature, Catechism and Church History, Music, Latin, Art, and Physical Education. Students are divided into two classes: primary (grades 1 to 3) and junior (grades 4 to 6).

The program serves Edmonton and area families, with some travelling from as far as Vegreville, Stony Plain, and Thorhild to attend. The program offers families the opportunity to take classes that aren't as easily taught at home, and have their children meet and learn with other home educated children.

Holy House Calgary has been helping guide and mentor Holy Holy Edmonton in the establishment and formation of the program. Holy House Edmonton has benefitted from the learning and experiences of Holy House Calgary, and uses many of the same resources and curriculum used by Holy House Calgary. Tutors from Holy House Calgary also teach Latin online



HOLY HOUSE EDMONTON

Damein & Patty Zakordonski

to Edmonton students in the junior class twice a week.

Holy House Edmonton has two staff tutors and two parent-volunteer tutors leading their classes. James Rauch (B.A., B.Ed.) is the academic anchor of the Holy House Edmonton Team. He is a passionate Catholic educator and scholar who has taught in Catholic schools in the greater Edmonton area. At Holy House Edmonton he teaches Catholic Catechism, Culture and Church History, Literature, and Latin. Elizabeth Grigaitis (B.Mus.) directs the Schola Cantorum (choir classes) of Holy House Edmonton. She is an extraordinary musician and teacher who brings her deep faith and immense talent to the program. In addition to teaching private voice and piano, she has extensive experience teaching children of all ages in various settings, and has directed several Catholic choirs in Edmonton. Jessica Kassam (B.A., B.Ed.) is a parent-volunteer tutor, teaching art classes. Jessica is very skilled at drawing

inspiration from historical sources that are aligned with the time period students are studying, and integrating them into exciting art classes for her students. Jessica has a passion for art, from cross-stitch to lino printmaking to paper-crafts, and loves to share this enthusiasm with her students. Damein Zakordonski is a parent-volunteer tutor teaching physical education classes. Damein is a contractor by day, and spends much of his free time cantoring for church services, working on icon carvings, and on projects with the Axios Men's Ensemble.

Families have been drawn to the program because it allows them to continue with home education, while receiving first-rate instruction at Holy House Edmonton, with a group of like-minded students. Each week, these students grow in their faith, are nurtured with classical culture, and are provided opportunities to form life-long friendships. Together, they are growing in holiness at Holy House of Our Lady and St. Joseph.

INTENTIONS:

- For continued growth and flourishing of the community of Holy House Edmonton.
- For discernment in the process of becoming a Shared Responsibility school.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast committed to thy holy Church the care and nurture of thy children: enlighten with thy wisdom those who teach and those who learn; that, rejoicing in the knowledge of thy truth, they may worship thee and serve thee all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*





Simon Noster
Associate Principal of Home Education

Box 78, Derwent AB, ToB 1Co, 780-741-2113

SIMON@WISDOMHOMESCHOOLING.COM WISDOMHOMESCHOOLING.COM



As we enter into Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, I would like to reflect on preparation within the WISDOM community.

As home education parents, we wish to prepare our children for a good life in this world, teaching them to be lifelong learners. A principal goal is to provide them with tools, knowledge, and the wisdom to use the tools and knowledge well. However, the most important thing is for our

children to learn that this life is preparation for the next so that they might always keep their eye fixed on the ultimate goal: heaven.

This summer, we prepared to support our home education parents and students by developing new supports for home educating through the high school years. In addition to streamlining the high school credit process, we introduced high school specialists. These specialists both support students throughout their learning with resources

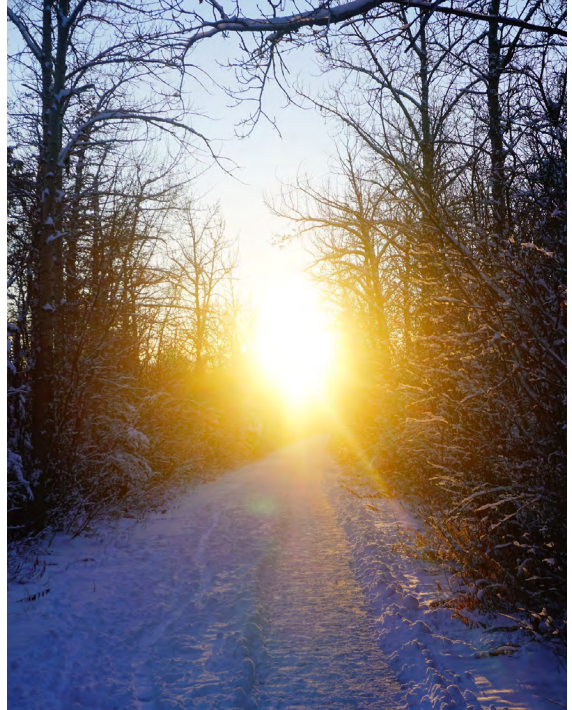
WISDOM HOME SCHOOLING

Simon Noster, Associate Principal of Home Education

and expertise for core courses, and complete final evaluations and assign credits for those courses. This service provides much desired support for those home education students who have chosen to pursue credits through high school at home.

We have continued to develop increased support and recognition for our students who have chosen to pursue a traditional home education program throughout the high school years. These include our Socratic Dialogue Online Program and assistance with parent generated transcripts.

We also prepared to serve the many new families that began their home education journey with us this fall by welcoming three new facilitators to our team. With these preparations has come a renewed sense of gratitude for the many blessings that enrich our home education community.



INTENTIONS:

- For all families in the Province of Alberta, and all who minister to them.
- That all WISDOM staff and home schooling families may support each other as they work to prepare children for this life and the next.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families: we commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vain-glory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh; turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we be evermore kindly affectioned with brotherly love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Soli Deo Gloria



IN THANKSGIVING:

- Vocation to serve diverse families
- Generosity of benefactors
- The founding students and families of The Gilbertine Academy
- The hiring of faithful and excellent teachers to staff the Academy
- The beginning of the Holy House of Our Lady & St. Joseph in Edmonton
- Doubling of student enrolment in Holy House Calgary
- Gifts and strengths of our clergy, board, and staff members
- Support of cheerful parents and enthusiastic students

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*



Deo Volente

UPCOMING EVENTS



...do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in...

FROM *DIVINE WORSHIP: THE MISSAL*

HHC Holy House Calgary - HHE Holy House Edmonton

Friday December 10 & Saturday December 11
- Ballroom Dance Workshop & Gaudete Ball,
HHC

Wednesday January 12 - St. Benedict Biscop
Art Fair, HHC

Thursday January 27 - End of Term
Presentations, HHC

Tuesday February 1 - St. Brigid Poetry
Competition, HHC

Wednesday March 9, Friday March 11, Saturday
March 12 - Lenten Ember Days

Thursday April 7 - End of Term Presentations,
HHC

Saturday April 30 - St. Joseph's Ball, HHE

Saturday May 7 - Botanical Tea, HHC

Wednesday May 25 - St. Bede History Fair,
HHC

Wednesday May 25 - Last Day of School, HHE

Wednesday June 8, Friday June 10, Saturday
June 11 - Ember Days in Whitsun Octave

Friday June 24 - Sacred Heart of Jesus - Last
Day of School, HHC

Sung Mass, Banquet & End of Year
Presentations



INTENTIONS:

- Evangelical, intellectual and material success of each event.
- Donation of profitable items for the silent auction.
- Ability to open events to the wider community.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

BENEFACTORS

...that we may honour thee with our substance...

PRAYER FOR FAITHFULNESS IN THE USE OF THIS WORLD'S GOODS, *ST. GREGORY PRAYER BOOK* PROVERBS 3:9



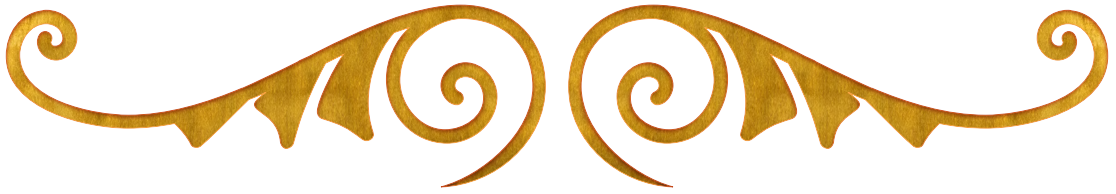
The Gilbertine Institute is seeking prayerful benefactors who are first and foremost willing to pray for the apostolate and intentions of the Institute and, if able, contribute monetarily to the Renovation Fund, High School Scholarship Fund, or Tuition Assistance Fund. Donations will receive a charitable tax receipt. Benefactors may remain anonymous if they wish. Please contact the Treasurer

of St. John the Evangelist, Bob Harrod, at this email address: treasurer@calgaryordinariate.com.

In addition, A Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit will be said most months for the intentions of all the Institute's benefactors. Students of Gilbertine Academy and Holy House will sing at these Masses to God's glory and in thanksgiving for the generosity of these benefactors.

PRAYER FOR OUR BENEFACTORS:

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*Please invoke our patrons
and join in prayer
for the intentions of the Institute.*

Our Lady of Walsingham

St. Joseph

St. John the Baptist

St. John the Evangelist

St. Thomas Becket

St. John Henry Newman

St. Nicholas

St. Peter the Apostle

St. Gilbert of Sempringham

St. Thomas More

St. Margaret Clitherow

St. Edward the Confessor

St. Lucy



*"...being like-minded, having the same love,
being one in spirit and purpose."*

Philippians 2:2

