

NOTRE DAME DE LA SALETTE BOYS ACADEMY

FR. MICHAEL MCMAHON
HEADMASTER

September 1, 2011

Dear Friend of La Salette,

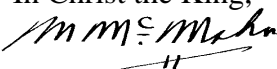
With the last lazy days of summer passing, the new academic year appears full on the horizon with all the hope and expectations of the promise ahead. Seventy-seven young men will soon arrive on campus under the powerful protection and maternal affection of the great Lady of La Salette. How fortunate this small band is to receive such an opportunity of solidly Catholic formation. Numerous brothers of both current and past students will matriculate – a clear sign of contented parents – entrusting the Academy with yet another of their most precious commodities (*for some the fourth, fifth and even seventh son!*). With this in mind, I will allow a recent graduate to speak of La Salette, her mission and formation in a letter written to his younger brother who will be among the freshmen in the incoming class of 2015:

Dear Brother,

Thank you so much for the letter. It was great to hear from you. Congratulations as well on becoming a La Salette Lion. The four best years of your life are ahead of you. The biggest thing about going to La Salette is not the friendships you make or the basketball or rugby games you win or lose; it is not about the good times you have or the intense classes. It, the La Salette formation that is, is measured by your devotion to Almighty God in the Blessed Sacrament, by your devotion to His sorrowful Mother and the daily crushing of your own will by performing your duty of state. To do your duty of state could possibly be the most important factor in the formation at La Salette. It is easy to say that you want to be devoted to duty and it is another when you find yourself in the midst of a job you hate (dishes for example) and on top of that the meal was leftovers and cold and on top of that you are really sore from a hard P.E., etc. . . . This is when a man's generosity is shown. As human beings we have a tendency to live in our own little world, thinking to ourselves that we are doing God's will when in reality we are just attributing our will to God's will. To do God's will is sometimes difficult and seeing love in His will is sometimes even harder. God's will is not floating around somewhere waiting to be found. We often waste so much time looking for God's will and wondering when it will come when we disregard the fact that the situations we find ourselves in daily ARE God's will. We spend so much time looking for His will when it is right in front of us, in every situation of every day. We are blinded by self love and our own will. We are so intent on our will and "doing our own thing" we forget to see God in every situation. This is holiness - daily picking up your cross and following Jesus Christ. When all seems the worst and you feel the most helpless, this is the time that your soul is most ready to be filled with God's love. Submit yourself to the bell, to Fr. McMahon, to the seniors, and most importantly God Himself. I wish I would have known this as a freshman. Please take advantage of my experience. It is my greatest gift that I can give. In everything you do, whether it be a history test or a rugby practice, unite yourself to God and I promise you will do well. I am so proud of you. Give yourself to God and He will give Himself to you, I promise. May God always bless you and may you subdue your will so that you can benefit from God's grace. "Age viriliter!"

*In the Sacred Heart,
Your Brother*

Inspiring and indicative of truly Catholic formation. Please, dear friend, pray that God continues to abundantly bless this small Academy in the American heartland as a chosen instrument of His Grace and power and love.

In Christ the King,


Father Michael McMahon