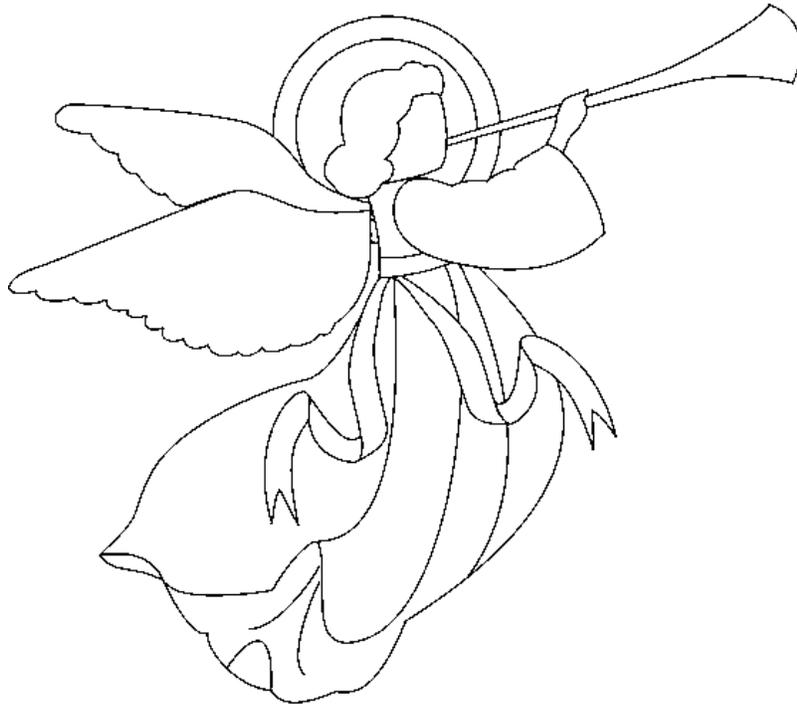


THE HALFTIMES



Well, here we are again. This is number five. I started this thing back in the fall of 2016, and had planned on writing one of these every semester, one for Christmas and one for the end of the school year. So this should be number six, right? Those of you who read the second edition of *The Halftimes* will remember that there was a flood in the school's basement



in the spring of 2017. Look how far we've come from that! Now we're going to have a new playground by next school year! And in the next few years after that, our school may possibly have an expansion, and we'll be able to have more students! This year was one of the best years we've had so far, celebrating *55 Years of Angels Among Us* with the school dance (the most successful since 1965)! Please enjoy this latest edition of *The Halftimes*!

The Annual Dance Celebrating 55 Years of Angels Among Us

By Lillia Koenig

The annual Villa Marie Fundraiser Dance, which happened on January 25, 2019 this year, at Pla Mor Ballroom, was the most successful we've ever had. It took months of planning, like every year, and it ended up being the best thing I (and several others will agree) had ever experienced!

Instead of Bobby Lane's Orchestra playing the music like usual, the Malpractice band, led by Phil Essay, took the stage.

The dance happens once a year, during the last Friday of January, and just before Catholic Schools Week. As aforementioned, it was extremely successful, making around three times as much funds as the previous year. More people came this year. The marketing video was unveiled, filmed in late October. Donations were requested, and made. "Can anyone, right here and now, donate exactly one million dollars in cash?" joked Nick Cusick. Valentino's had a buffet, kindly donated by the owners. JCPenny and Fancy Dress Creations donated clothing for the students to wear at the event. Other sponsors included Rabbit Hole Bakery and PinCats. There were also many items on the silent auction and raffle, as well as new merchandise.

Much of the proceeds will go towards the new playground, which will be ready in June, in time for Camp Villa Marie.

The dance was very exciting and everyone had a great time.

The New Playground

Also by Lillia

Villa Marie is getting a new playground from a company called Play&Park Structures. Jenny is working with Commercial Recreation Specialists and Kyle Siedlik to build it. Jeremy Kirkendall from Hausmann Construction is also volunteering to provide oversight for the construction. CCS has done the demolition and prepping the ground already. Silver Ridge Construction is providing the concrete, and Midwest Floor Covering will be installing rubber tiles.

The playground will include 4 swings, a platform structure with several slides and climbing apparatuses, and a track.

The entire playground will be completed by June 10th, in time for camp.



Special Olympics

In case you would like to know how the Special Olympics went, here are the available results.

Bowling

Ramp Bowlers: Rosalayah-2nd, Mike-2nd, Andy-3rd

Regular Bowlers: Coltin-3rd, Trenten-3rd, Charlie-3rd

Basketball Team: 2nd

Track (Regional)

50m: Sapphire-1st, Luke-2nd, Joshua-3rd, Jasper-3rd

100m: Noah-1st, Joshua-1st, Luke-2nd, Sapphire-2nd, Jasper-4th, Coltin-4th, Charlie-5th

200m: Noah-4th, Coltin-6th

Relay: Sapphire, Luke, Charlie, Noah-2nd

Shotput: Coltin-1st, Charlie-4th

The state track meet will happen after the school year ends.

Interview with Msgr. Dawson

When did you start Villa Marie and where did you get the idea for it?

I started it in 1964, and I got the idea for starting Villa Marie when I was the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, and I was at a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri and they wanted to turn an old orphanage into a special needs school. I came home and met with the owner of a new orphanage here in Nebraska. He couldn't keep the orphanage open because all the children were being adopted. So I got the building for my special needs school.

What was it like back in the early days of the school?

It was wonderful, because we received these wonderful students, and because we had the Marian Sisters there. We had dances at the Pla Mor every year to support Villa Marie School. The first year we had the dance, we had ten ladies who sold tickets, and they sold 710 tickets.

How would you compare the early students to the current students?

I think that they are very similar, because they are always happy and very pleased to be learning. Also very pleased to be able to go to Mass every day.

Would you change anything about Villa Marie?

No, I would leave it up to the Sisters to decide that.

I hear you wrote a book. What's it about?

It's about my life, and it's titled *A Banker, a Teacher, a Priest*, and I'm so grateful to God that I've been able to be all three. I've been a priest for 65 years.

Do you have any advice for the readers of my newspaper?

Yes, I have two things, to pray for the students and teachers at Villa Marie, and secondly, to pray for the financial success of Villa Marie. And also to attend the Villa Marie Dance.

Pictures from our year...

