The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas
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November: Month of the Poor Souls

The Raccolta prescribes: The faithful, as often as they visit a church..., in order to pray for the dead on the second day of November, may gain: A plenary indulgence applicable only to the souls detained in purgatory, on condition of confession and Communion, and the recitation six times during each visit of Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be for the intention of the Supreme Pontiff (S.C. of the Holy Office, June 25, 1914). This indulgence may be gained either on the second day of November or on the Sunday next." (S.P. Ap, Jan. 2, 1939.) We also note from the Raccolta that "the faithful who during the Octave of the Commemoration of All Souls, visit a cemetery in a spirit of piety and devotion, and pray even mentally, for the dead, may gain: A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, on each day of the Octave, applicable only to the dead."



Fall 2016

Fall 2016

Dear Reader,

Our seemingly short summer came to a close on September sixth, when we commenced the fourteenth year of Queen of All Saints Academy in Florida, while our Sisters at the Arizona academy commenced their seventh year of operation.

During this past month of October the Florida school had an unexpected day's vacation. The Brooksville weather forecast had predicted that the passage of Hurricane Matthew would severely affect the area; and, as a result of this alarming prediction, every school in the county shut down temporarily for the storm. It is easy to imagine everyone's sentiments when the news spread that school was cancelled for the next day. Not even the approach of a hurricane is frightening enough to drown that feeling! Fortunately, notwithstanding power outages, strong winds, and felled trees, there was no severe damage from Hurricane Matthew.



Organizing classrooms during a power outage caused by the storm.

Not long after this, we had another, and this time scheduled, break from classes at school. Having assisted at the morning Mass, both students and teachers proceeded to the hall for a pancake brunch and afterwards went to spend the day at the ice skating rink. Ice skating in sunny Florida was quite a treat, and now the school children can't wait for the next chance to enjoy the northern sport.

November commenced with the great feast of All Saints. On account of the academy name, Queen of All Saints, the eve of November first is always a festive occasion. This year, having received generous donations from parishioners, we had a more elaborate party than usual. After the costume judging, there was an outdoor Mexican potluck dinner to enjoy, obstacle courses to run, carnival games to be played as well as a flashlight candy hunt. The next day, the whole school attended the solemn high Mass at Most Holy Trinity Seminary, where the Feast was celebrated with great solemnity. Following this joyous festival, we were immediately reminded, through the liturgy, that not all the Church's members enjoy the happiness and triumph of heaven, that many still suffer in the fires of purgatory, anxiously awaiting our prayers for their deliverance. It was edifying to see parishioners come to the church during the day, making the prescribed visits to gain indulgences for the Poor Souls. Now, at the close of the octaves of these great feasts, the school students eagerly await the Fall break which takes place next week. During this time the Phoenix Sisters will come to Florida in order to attend the annual retreat. We ask for your prayers that these retreat days are good and profitable. We thank you for your generous and continued support.

In Jesus through Mary,
The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

All Souls' Day





Our school's sodality celebrated their patronal feast of St. Therese of Liseux with cake and ice cream.



The students in our Arizona school learn about hawking.

Ice Skating Field Trip





Hot lunches were introduced into the school this year, much to the delight of the students.



