

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

20120 Barnett Road

Brooksville, Florida, 34601

Angelica - Summer 2013

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas



The Sisters at our convent in Arizona

August,

Month of the Immaculate Heart



Sweet Heart of Mary,

be my salvation.

(An indulgence of 300 days)

Dear Reader,

The scholastic year came to a close with many memorable events. June 2nd, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, was the First Holy Communion Day for a class of seven in Brooksville and a class of five in Phoenix. The spring concert was held on June 15th. Following this event, the students prepared for final exams. Those who achieved an *A* average on their report card were awarded *Corona Maria*, the highest scholastic achievement. On June 30th the sacrament of Confirmation was administered to the students of grades seven and eight.



School having been completed, the Sisters are now kept busy by various duties. Some of the Sisters are preparing for the two summer camps: the girl's camp in Cincinnati, Ohio and the Bosco Family Camp in Pikeville, Tennessee. The teaching Sisters are making ready their lessons and academic courses for the coming school year. Preparations are also being made for the vestition ceremony on August 15th which will admit one postulant to the novitiate. The postulancy will likewise be receiving two young ladies in September. During the second week of August the Sisters will be on retreat. This annual retreat is a very important time of prayer and silence for the Sisters. For the postulant it is a time of preparation before she takes the next step in her religious life. For the professed Sisters it is an opportunity for spiritual progress and growth, enabling them to resume with greater fervor their active apostolate with the youth. Please keep the Sisters in your prayers during this time.

In Jesus through Mary,

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas



Music Appreciation

The children today are surrounded by a culture which is opposed to their Catholic faith in its every aspect, one of these being music. In the past, the Church, recognizing the great influence of music upon man's nature, ever sought to make it a means of elevating the soul to God by appealing to his intellect rather than to his senses. The classical forms of music, developed after the Middle Ages, retained much of this appeal to the intellect. These possess the art of beautiful, harmonious sound based on the major-minor tonal system of Western music. Modern music, on the other hand, accentuates the sensual over the intellectual. Rather than making use of the very soul or form of music, which is melody, it concentrates on rhythm, thus appealing to man's lower nature. Modern forms of music include those genres referred to as rock and roll, jazz, pop, etc...

It is necessary to cultivate in the youth a relish for good music and repugnance for modern music. However, for this to be accomplished, the children must be exposed to a great deal of good music. The students at the Academy receive musical training with this end in view.



The elementary students are given a music class twice during the week. They are taught the basics of harmony and singing techniques. They learn how to read and sing Gregorian chant. They are also taught classical pieces which they perform at the bi-annual concerts. At the recent spring concert, the choir performed Vivaldi's *Gloria in D*. A music appreciation course is also offered to the high school students. They learn about the various periods of music and compare and contrast modern and classical music. They are also required to listen to the many different forms of music.

The students are also encouraged to learn a musical instrument. Piano and flute lessons are available at the school. Other lessons are arranged for the students to have in their homes. There are, at present, eight piano students, eleven violin students, two flute students, one clarinet student, two oboe students, and one cello student. The instrumentalists are permitted to join the Academy ensemble once they have achieved the required proficiency.



Music is but one aspect of the culture we are laboring to instill in the children of the Academy. It is our hope that, by your continued support, we may carry on this work which is so necessary for the preservation of the Faith. We thank you for your generous contributions.



Our First Communicants in Florida



Girls' Camp in Ohio





Our First Communicants in Arizona



The postulant works on the habit she will be given at the vestition ceremony