

Newsletter - Winter 2022
The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas



[Submit a Prayer Request](#)

[Make a Donation](#)

Dear Readers and Benefactors,

On March 1, Ash Wednesday, the Sisters hosted a children's retreat for the students of QAS Academy. Mother Mary Theresa canceled all classes so that students could devote this first day of Lent to spiritual exercises and conferences. The online students participated fully in the retreat schedule. Additional cameras were set up for recitation of the rosary and visits to the Blessed Sacrament in the school chapel.

The theme of the retreat was the fleeting aspect of this world, the last end of man, and the importance of making a good Lent. Every year, the Church in her wisdom gives us this holy season as an opportunity to make up for the temporal punishment due to sin, to advance in the love of God, to make preparation for a holy death. In the bustle of this modern age, it is very easy to become distracted from these all important truths, forgetting why we live and what lies beyond the grave. It is unfortunate that that we sometimes pass halfway through Lent before reflecting seriously on the importance of the penitential season. It is even more unfortunate that we tend to approach the Lenten fasts with dread and perform them half-heartedly. "What comparison can be made between the Christians of former times, who, deeply impressed with the fear of God's judgments and with the spirit of penance, cheerfully went through these forty days of mortification – and those of our own days.." -Liturgical Year

Penance consists in contrition of the soul and mortification of the body. The Liturgical Year tells us that the former, contrition of the soul, is the key to true penance. "...it is the soul which gives reality to penance. The Gospel teaches this by the examples it holds out to us of the Prodigal Son, of Magdalene, of Zacheus, and of St. Peter. The soul, then, must be resolved to give up every sin; she must heartily grieve over those she has committed; she must hate sin; she must shun the occasions of sin." Let us take these aforementioned saints as our models during this holy season. We pray our students and readers receive the grace to courageously observe the Lenten practices.



The Arizona students assemble their Sacrifice Beads, a favorite Lenten custom. The beads act as a reminder to keep one's resolution and make sacrifices throughout the day. They inspire a holy competition among the students to seize every opportunity for acts of charity and mortification.

Queen of All Saints Academy



The Academy continues to grow at a rapid pace. The students and Sisters are looking forward to relocating to the new campus this summer since we have outgrown the Barnett location. Besides campus growth, online enrollment is also increasing. Because the online student participates in the class along with the on-campus student for the entire school day, each online student affects the teacher-student ratio in the same way as the campus student. So as the online enrollment increases, we must add class sections to maintain a quality teacher-student ratio. This requires more space, equipment, and teachers.

Boarding School

In order to attend Queen of All Saints on-campus, several children have been boarding temporarily with the school families in Florida. These generous families welcomed students into their homes during the academic year. But this is a temporary and minimal solution. We hope to soon offer a boarding school to families who value a true Catholic education but cannot relocate to Florida. To learn more about this project, [read here](#), or add your name to the [interest form](#) to be notified when enrollment opens.

Vocations

As our apostolate grows, so does the need for Sisters dedicated to the service of the Church. The end of the Congregation is to give every Catholic child the opportunity of achieving academic excellence in a rich Catholic environment. By providing this opportunity, we equip the future of the Church with the necessary tools to carry on her mission of the Faith. We ask our readers to please pray for more vocations. "The harvest is great but the laborers are few."

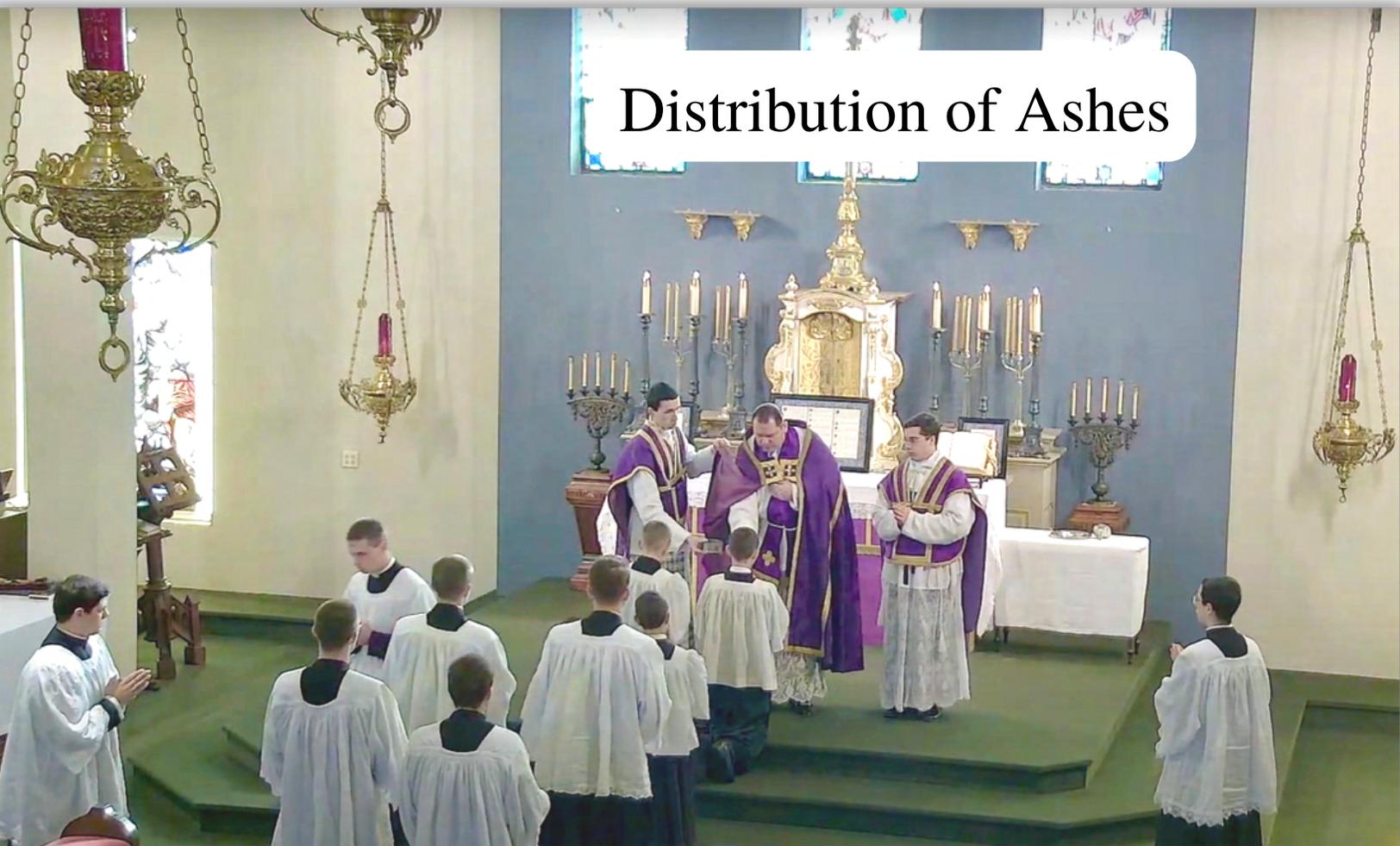


The Training of a Teaching Sister

Upon joining the Congregation, the postulant spends her first year discerning her vocation. She then receives the habit of the novice and spends the following two years in work and prayer, studying the religious life. After this period of probation, the novice makes her temporary vows of three years and begins her Juniorate training to become a teaching Sister. Final vows follow the Juniorate.

Children's Ash Wednesday Retreat

Distribution of Ashes



Kindergarten conference



California student's view of a conference



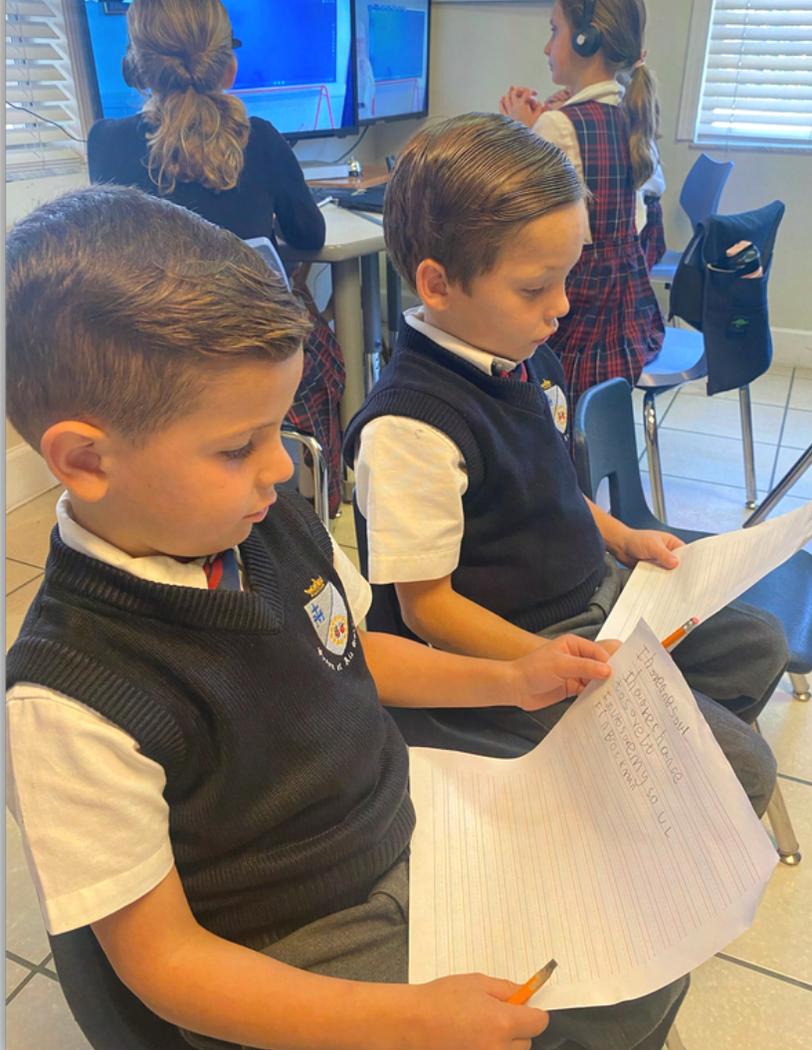
A reading from the lives of the Saints



Rosary & Visits to the Blessed Sacrament



Resolutions



Note-taking during conference



Building Update



The Sisters are looking forward to the dedication ceremony of the new chapel. All that remains is the installation of the floor and light fixtures, after which the altar will be installed. The second phase includes an additional wing for the convent building. This phase will have to begin soon since the first wing is nearly full.

On a frosty winter morning, the Sisters depart from the motherhouse for the school campus, a fifteen-minute car ride away. Next year, the new campus will be adjacent to the motherhouse, only a few minutes walk.



Private School Voucher Programs in the USA

Support of private education varies greatly from state to state. Many states, such as California, Oregon, and New York, only support the public school system. In these states, no tax credit or support of any kind is given to families who choose private schools.

Other states take a middle position, allowing partial tax credits or attaching conditions which can be difficult for schools to comply to. A few states fully support private education, offering tax credits and allowing companies to donate their taxes to the private school voucher program. This means that the parent's taxes, which would normally go to the public school, go instead to the private school of their choice to pay for their child's tuition.

Several states, such as Pennsylvania, are in the throws of a lawsuit to change state law. Pennsylvania allows tax credits for private schools provided the school has no religious affiliation. It is providential that our main campus is in Florida. Its tax credit program is the best in the country making it easy for schools and parents to benefit from its funding. Thank you to StepUp for providing our school's scholarship flyer!



Queen of All Saints Academy
Catholic School | Classical Education K-12

ATTENTION! 87% of our students attend the academy FOR FREE. If you live in Florida or will be moving to the state of Florida, your family could also receive full coverage for private school tuition at Queen of All Saints Academy!



Get up to \$7,000+ per child to attend K-12 private school with a Step Up For Students scholarship.

An example of who may qualify: A family of 4 making \$100,000 may qualify.

Military families, your children may qualify regardless of your income.

[Learn more about private school scholarships](#)

[Queen of All Saints Academy](#)

Academy