



LOG On

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From the Principal

A message to Garcia

Spring 2011

A fifty year old Christian book surprised me with the idiom “carry a message to Garcia,” a phrase I have since learned came from an incident during the Spanish-American War. Before war broke out between Spain and the United States it was imperative that President McKinley get a message quickly to General Garcia, the leader of the Cuban insurgents. No one knew exactly where Garcia was located in the mountainous region of Cuba. An advisor said, “There’s a fellow by the name of Rowan who will find Garcia for you, if anyone can.” So Army Lieutenant Andrew Rowan was given the message to take to Garcia. He took it and set off immediately to fulfill his duty to the President. He didn’t ask where Garcia could be found. He didn’t ask how he was to do it. He left and concentrated on fulfilling the task. Rowan got the message to Garcia.

What made this phrase an idiom was an inspirational essay written by Elbert Hubbard in 1889. Over a dinner discussion, Bert, his son, argued that Rowan, an obscure lieutenant, whom the President entrusted to deliver a message to Garcia, was the real hero of the Spanish-American War. That evening Hubbard needed to write a filler piece for his newspaper. Part of his day had been filled with frustrating interactions with employees who would not or could not do their jobs. That night he wrote about Rowan and taking the message to Garcia. He said,

“The point I wish to make is this: McKinley gave Rowan a letter to be delivered to Garcia; Rowan took the letter and did not ask, ‘Where is he at?’... There is a man whose form should be cast in deathless bronze and the statue placed in every college in the land. It is not book-learning young men need, nor instruction about this or that, but a stiffening of the vertebrae which will cause them to be loyal to a trust, to act promptly, concentrate their energies; do the thing - carry a message to Garcia!”

Now for weeks... this theme of “carrying a message to Garcia” has been with me. Our goal at the Lamb of God School is to equip children to respond generously and effectively to God’s call to service and leadership in the Church, family, and society. Leadership, vision, teamwork, initiative, confidence, determination, perseverance - these were the qualities that enabled Rowan to deliver his message. These are qualities that are needed desperately in our world today. How do we as educators and parents support young people in faithfully doing the tasks that are their responsibilities? What kind of tasks do we give them? What expectations do we have for them? What feedback do we give them? All are important for us to ask ourselves. Do we see children “loyal to a trust”, able to “act promptly”, who can “concentrate their energies” and do the things that are set before them? Are we envisioning our children to take their places in the world and further God’s Kingdom?

Who are the young people who will make a difference in this generation? They are going to be the ones who can “carry a message to Garcia”. Let us do our part to develop the character our children need to carry their messages.

Eileen Clark



4th graders Breige Rufolo and Karis Weisgerber

The Beauty of Serving Others

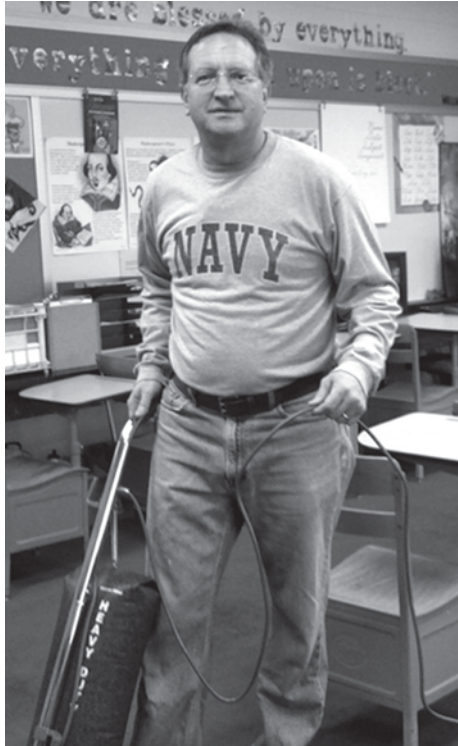
Rick Martel reflects on how service leads us in the way of holiness

This is my commandment:

Love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

JN 15:12-13



Over thirty-three years ago when I completed the Service Course formerly offered to new members of the Lamb of God Community*, I, along with other brothers and sisters in the Lord, felt called to live with, for and along with each other as to the Lord Himself.

After reflecting on Scripture, we felt called to show our love through selfless acts of service as a way of living out the Lord's call to be servants as He himself was and to imitate Him in washing each other's feet. The ultimate sacrifice of course is to lay one's life down for one's friends as the Lord said on the night before He laid down His own life for our redemption.

So it was not a surprise when the leader of the Service Course shared at the end that one brother had been so "on fire" with the teachings of the class that he stood up and exclaimed: "I want to die for the Lord!" "That's great, brother! You can be on the Chair Team," the leader said.

Anyone who was on the Chair Team can tell you it provided any willing servant an opportunity to die to self, over and over and over again, as it required arriving two hours before any prayer gathering to set up chairs or staying an hour afterward to take chairs down.

I recall this as Kim and I come to our last year of our Lamb of God School career. When our youngest child, Meg, graduates from 8th grade in May, we will have completed the 24th continuous and final year of having a Martel child be educated, nurtured and blessed by the Lamb of God School -- a school filled with dedicated and sacrificial administrators, teachers and staff who have served lovingly, and with much less pay than available elsewhere.

April 16th will mark Kim and my last Saturday morning of cleaning service at the school. When it began, the cleaning service was a way to have a Christ and Spirit centered school and a way to save on costly cleaning bills. We came together in groups of six or eight, giving up two precious Saturday hours, to clean the school. We started with prayer, offering up our time and labor to help and love all those who labored at the school all week. They would come back on Monday morning, blessed by a clean, orderly and sanitized school.

But the cleaning service was also a way of meeting and fellowshiping with other parents committed to providing our most precious gifts, our children, with the best possible Christian education. It never ceases to amaze me how much more the 'Normal Christian Worker' gets out of

such seemingly small paths to holiness, as giving two hours, three or four times per school year.

Even when we could afford to pay the additional fee, to "avoid" our service, Kim and I have persevered to continue on the school cleaning team. We saw it as a way of partnering with the school staff and doing what we thought was best for our children. Each of our children from the first in the Fall of 1987 to the last in the Spring of 2011, have known that their mother and father have been there every step of the way with them whether it was convenient or not. We have made it a tradition to write our child a note, or leave a lollipop in their school desk, to encourage them and tell them we love them.

So at the recent school coffee house, it was without hesitation that I recommended school cleaning to a young father when he mentioned he was looking for a way to volunteer at the school.

Now I pray he and others will increase the numbers of those serving the school as Kim and I, and other long-time parents decrease. Whether choosing to serve on the cleaning team, volunteering in the classroom, serving on the Parent's Club, signing up for school clean up days, cooking at the family picnic or serving pizza lunch -- do not be mistaken, this small path to holiness is a powerful way to live as you say you are, and in the process become part of the Lamb of God School community forever.

Praise and thank God. Rick Martel

*The Lamb of God Community is an interdenominational prayer group that founded the school in 1980.

Normal Christian Worker by Watchman Nee.



Alumni Spotlights

Maeve Jopson, LOG 2005

Maeve recently helped develop a moon buggy prototype for a NASA obstacle Course Race. She is a sophomore at Rhode Island School of Design majoring in Industrial Design. Over 70 schools compete in the concept development project, including colleges from Russia, Germany and India. Maeve is one of three sophomores invited to be part of the team on April 1-2 in Huntsville, Alabama.

According to the website, the 18th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race will be held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Students are required to design a vehicle that addresses a series of engineering problems that are similar to problems faced by the original Moonbuggy team. Each Moonbuggy will be human powered and carry two students, one female and one male, over a half-mile simulated lunar terrain course including 'craters,' rocks, 'lava' ridges, inclines and 'lunar' soil.

"I slept about 10 hours the entire week we worked on the buggy," said Maeve. Who also found time on a recent trip home to work with art students at Mount de Sales Academy. Last year, she was a teacher's assistant in 3D Art at RISD. Maeve enjoys working with textiles and plans to minor in psychology.

<http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov/compete.html>

Eric Christensen, LOG 1996

Eric is married to wife Kim and is busy raising three children ages 4, 3 and 9 months. He recently released a music CD named *Jennifer's Farm*. "The songs are about my longing for the unity of the Church," said Eric, a music writer, guitar player, singer and producer. Erik started singing and playing music as a Lamb of God school worship team member. His website is www.erikcmusic.com <<http://erikcmusic.com>>. Check it out!



Touched by the Holy Spirit

Below is a letter one of our teachers received this September. It was an incredible blessing to me, because it expresses the goal of our existence as a school. While not every child will experience such a defining moment, few leave LOG not having been deeply impacted.

Phil Buck

I had to take a few minutes today to write you and let you know what [my daughter] shared with me about chapel yesterday. Usually I don't get much input on what happens at school from her, but yesterday as soon as she got in the car at pick up she looked at me very seriously and said, "Mom I think I experienced the Holy Spirit in chapel today." Then she just started crying tears of joy. She cried all the way home and for about a half hour afterwards she was weeping joyful tears.

Apparently during worship in chapel they were singing "I Want to Know You More" and she just experienced the Holy Spirit (her words) and started crying. The girls asked her if she was OK and she shared her experience with them too. She told me that she feels like she knows God now. When we got home I led her in a prayer to accept Jesus as Savior and she knows that she is saved and she is very joyful and grateful. I am so glad that God revealed Himself to her in such a special way in the Upper Room.

This is the greatest gift and I wanted to share it with you. I thank God for your spiritual leadership, which I know helped bring [my daughter] to this place and the prayers and support of all the Lamb of God School staff.



Phil Buck prays over a student during a weekly chapel prayer meeting.



8th graders Phil Meyer and Luke Mercier

Attention Alumni:

We'd love to include you in future Alumni Spotlights. Please write and tell us what you are up to. Recently married? An exciting trip or job? This is a great way to keep up with fellow alums. E-mail Betsy Stein at bstein@patuxent.com

2011- 2012 Wish List

1. Replace wooden windows in basement of the old building.
2. Replace old, noisy and inefficient 220v Air conditioners in old building. 4 @\$800
3. Paint or cover with aluminum the white decorative band around top of old building.
4. Ceiling mounted computer projectors with sound systems in more classrooms \$1,700
5. Install motion detectors to turn on lights in unused areas.
6. Replace all flourescent tubes in new building with more efficient bulbs (they are at the end of their life expectancy).
7. Upgrade computers.
8. Upgrade to energy efficient flat screens for all computers.
9. Install security cameras.
10. Equip some classrooms with color printers.

Donated from last years list: one 25,000BTU air conditioner in old building.

The Lamb of God School Newsletter



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The Lamb of God School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis or race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.