

# Panther Pages

May 2009



St. Pius X School, Westerly RI

## Reaction to Our Interview with Bishop Tobin

*Mary Brodeur*

We set off on Tuesday, March 31st at 9:30 A.M., during school, to drive to Providence to interview the bishop of Rhode Island. Let me tell you, though - Sarah and I were not at all nervous. As we exited the school, we had a couple people ask us if we were more excited or nervous. We answered that we were definitely excited, but not really nervous.

We hopped in Sarah's car, with Sarah's mom, Mrs. Lennon, the school nurse, driving, and Mrs. DiMuccio, our English teacher and one of our Grade 8 homeroom teachers, sitting in the front seat. With the ipod blasting as Sarah and I sat in the car, we nonchalantly made our way up to the bishop's office.

We eventually were sent upstairs to the second floor to the waiting room, where the tension slowly started to rise. Sarah and I played a couple games of hangman to keep ourselves busy and calm. Before we knew it, the bishop was ready. We were led into a huge conference room, professionally furnished and everything, where we waited for Bishop Tobin to join us. When Sarah and I saw how professional everything looked, we really started to get more and more nervous. The bishop finally entered the room and we greeted him as he greeted us. It was going very well as we took some pictures for some local newspapers and talked to the bishop. The one thing I did not expect was to find us prefacing the interview by talking about drugs for colds!

Sarah and I started the interview, taking turns asking Bishop Tobin questions. It was going very smoothly for our first "professional" interview ever! I am not a very fast writer, so I was glad to have Sarah as my speedy backup. Right before the interview was about to come to a close, Bishop Tobin pulled out his wallet and showed us a picture of his dog, Molly, who is a cockapoo. We didn't know the bishop had a dog!

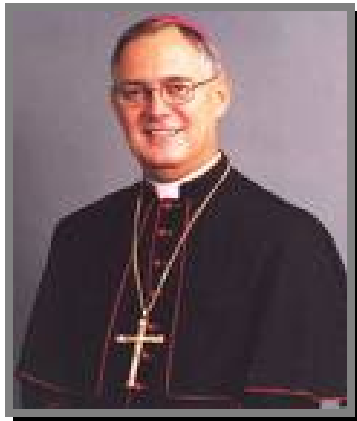
Then we said our good-byes and thanks to the bishop and departed. We took the elevator down to the first floor and stepped out the door. Right before we entered the parking lot, however, Mrs. DiMuccio took a little tumble off of a crack in the pavement! We worried for her and got her seated down in the car. Mr. Fiore ran back to the bishop's office to get some ice. After a half an hour of "Oh, you're sure you're okay?" we finally left.

But we weren't out of Providence just yet. We met Mr. Fiore and Fr. Ray at Caserta's, a pizzeria on Federal Hill, where Fr. Ray treated us to a little pizza treat. Sarah and I felt kind of out of place to be out of school, at a pizzeria in Providence, and sharing a pepperoni pizza with Mr. Fiore, Fr. Ray, Mrs. DiMuccio and Mrs. Lennon! The pizza was good, though!

Our little excursion to interview the bishop was over. We drove back to the school and got back just in time to finish religion class with the rest of the class. It was a very exciting experience for not just Sarah and me, but for the rest of our group. It was an honor to interview Bishop Tobin personally.

We want to thank Bishop Tobin for his time, and all the adults who brought us to his office.

## Interview with Bishop Tobin



Following is an interview given by Bishop Tobin on Tuesday March 31, 2009 to Mary Brodeur and Sarah Lennon, editors of the St. Pius X School newspaper, *The Panther Pages*.

**Q.) Where were you born?**

*A.) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - the home of the Steelers!*

**Q.) Do you have any siblings? What are their names?**

*A.) I had a brother Raymond, who passed away, and another brother, Robert, and my sister Marjorie.*

**Q.) Who inspired you growing up?**

*A.) Definitely my parents, who are wonderful people and provided a great home for me and my siblings. Also, I looked up to my priest and my Benedictine nuns and lay teachers. My first grade teacher, whom I loved a lot, passed away recently.*

**Q.) When did you start discerning about becoming a priest?**

*A.) As long as I can remember. In second and third grade I played Mass with my friends. When I was 14, I joined the seminary.*

**Q.) Mr. Fiore told us that you were once in a folk group...can you tell us about it?**

*A.) If Mr. Fiore said so, it must be true! When I was in the seminary, I was in a group called the *Ethnics*. It was named that because there were people many of ethnic backgrounds in the group. Later, the remaining members of the *Ethnics* joined with other remaining members of groups that had split up. The group was called *The Remains*. We had become pretty good by the time we were in college! We were televised in Erie, PA.*

**Q.) What was your favorite subject in school?**

*A.) Well, it wasn't Math and Science! Social Sciences, Spelling, Reading and Religion (of course) I was comfortable with. I have bad memories of a Trigonometry test when I was in college!*

**Q.) Who is your favorite saint?**

*A.) It is hard to focus on one saint. I would have to pick, though, St. Thomas, the apostle, because of my namesake, and because bishops are successors of the apostles.*

**Q.) Who do you most admire in the Church? Why?**

*A.) I am a great fan of Pope John Paul II, because he was such a great man with historical importance and he had such an enormous effect on the Church. (Also, an important little tidbit was that Bishop Tobin was the last American appointment of Pope John Paul's life. He died 48 hours later.)*

**Q.) What is your favorite time in the liturgical season?**

*A.) Probably Advent, because it is a very peaceful, prayerful time and I am more of a Christmas person! I also give talks at annual retreats.*

**Q.) Do you have any advice for the young people of the school?**

*A.) Stay very close to Christ and the Church. Young people need the Church; its teachings, sacraments, and support of the Church community. The Church needs your faith, enthusiasm, gifts, and talents!*

**Q.) Do you have a favorite color?**

*A.) It depends on how it's being used and the combination...but I don't really have a favorite. I have been accused of liking beige, however!*



## **Editorial**

Class of 09 ☺

Hi everyone, I'm Sarah, and I've been going to Saint Pius for the past 8 years of my life. As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, I'll be graduating on June 16<sup>th</sup>. I've had so many great experiences here; I don't even know where to begin.

We have the best teachers ever at Saint Pius, because they're not only here to give us an education, they're here to watch us grow up, and guide us through the rough times, the awesome times, and all the times in-between. They're some pretty fantastic people, even if we don't think so at times ☺.

The friends we make here are more like family, and we'll most likely be friends long after we've graduated. There have been more laughs than I care to count, and it's even gotten to the point where our teachers can't sit us next to *anyone*, because we'll talk no matter who it is. We share drinks and each other's food; if one person gets sick, we *all* get it.

We've been through our ups and downs (Algebra!!), but at the end of the day, we're lucky to have such a close-knit class. We've grown in our faith in such a way that it's impossible for me to describe; I wish everyone could experience this. This may sound cheesy and a bit cliché, but Saint Pius has been a really great experience.

Come our high school years, we may grow apart, but we have memories to fall back on when we're missing each other. Though the days slip through our fingers like grains of sand, we manage to pack as much fun as we can into each and every day and make it count. And with love, laughter, and faith in our Lord, we'll hang on to these last few months together. *Sarah L.*

## Pre-K

### Pre-K 3

Pre-K 3 is having fun every day with their share and tell. Dominick Lombard brought his 9 month old baby sister in to share with the class. All the children were excited to learn about her. Dominick was extremely proud to talk about his baby sister Ocean!

One funny moment was when one of the Pre-K 3 students said he was never going to get married because he loved his furniture too much! *Mary B. Patrick D.*

### Pre-K 4

Pre-K4 learned many stories from the Bible such as Baby Moses, Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, and The Ten Commandments. In all these stories, they reflected on God's World and the message He reveals to us on how we are to live today.

They had a leprechaun visit their class causing all kinds of trouble, turning their books upside-down, and moving things around. Luckily, he went back over the rainbow after St. Patrick's Day. *Elizabeth A.*

## Elementary

### Kindergarten

During this Lenten season, the Kindergarten students have been learning about the Stations of the Cross. The students have also been having fun tapping and blending sounds to read words. In math, the students are working on reading and writing numbers to 100! They practice counting by tens each day, and skip counting by twos. The list of sight words the students can read continues to grow. Kindergarten had a

fun 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. The students had made hats that had a collection of 100 objects on them. They paraded them throughout the school. We also made trail mix containing treats like raisins, M&Ms, and cereal. *Nick W.*

### Grade 1

In Religion, the first graders learned about the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Spirit. In Phonics, they are learning multi-syllable words. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders are ordering numbers and adding to 20 in Math. They are reading stories of nonfiction and most are beginning to read chapter books at home. The 1<sup>st</sup> Grade got to make books with their Reading Buddies. They were all happy with the stories and had a good time! *Liz A.*

### Grade 2

Grade 2 students recently sponsored a bake sale to benefit their pen pals' school in Fiji. The south Pacific island nation suffered the worst flooding in its history. When a student asked for a band-aid to a cut on his finger, Mrs. Cozzolino told him to go see, "Dr. Nelson", (classroom aid Mrs. Nelson). Approaching Mrs. Nelson, the student said "Hello, Dr. Nelson what can you do for me?" *Nate E.*

### Grade 3

Grade 3 visited the Westerly Health Center for a Building Bridges visit on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The children made spring kite and shamrock cards for the residents. During the Lenten Season they visited the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday before lunchtime. Self-sacrifice and doing good deeds for others have been their goals. In Social Studies we are studying how our country's great leaders helped to make our lives better through their contributions. In science we are

experimenting with matter and how it can be changed. The Reading theme is, "Tell Me a Story", and grade 3 students love to hear and tell stories. One interesting moment that occurred in grade 3 was that their pet hermit crabs avoided people by hiding under their shells! However, their food and water continually disappears. Grade 3 thinks that this is a natural happening, but the hermit crabs might have a problem meeting people! *Laura-Jo K.*

#### Grade 4

The Grade 4 students are learning about different endangered species. They are working in groups and designing a poster on an endangered species. Once done with the projects they will share their knowledge with grades Pre-K 3 to Grade 3. In Science, they studied fossils and ended with making their own individual fossils. Finally in Math, Gr. 4 is learning all about long division. *Liz A. , James J.*

#### Grade 5

In Religion, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is learning to make good choices, guided by Scripture and the Church's teachings. They also realize that all of their choices affect everyone, not just themselves. In Math, they have been working on greatest common factor, prime factorization, equivalent fractions and least common denominator. In Social Studies, they are studying the settlement of Jamestown and Plymouth and the relationship the English had with the Native American people in both areas. In Guided Reading we have just completed a theme on Fires. There are 4 different leveled groups, and each did their own project interpreting the books they read, and with Some did time lines, some did character profiles & others made post cards from the prairie. We also have just completed making traveling brochures on the book they read. With a

little imagination we can go anywhere. Our class also made illustrated books with their 1<sup>st</sup> grade Reading Buddies. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gr. Really enjoyed drawing pictures for the book with their buddies. In Science, we just finished a chapter on different kinds of forces, like gravity, speed, mass, friction, velocity, & basically what keeps us grounded & what keeps us moving. Now we are discovering how the world is classified. Something Interesting we had 3 consecutive birthdays in March, & each day the Birthday Chaircover covered somebody's chair. *James J. Sarah L.*

## Middle School

### English

Grade 6 students are giving an oral presentation of commercials they wrote for a product of their own design. Students use a specific propaganda technique to persuade others to purchase their product. There is definitely a future in marketing for many of our Grade 6 students. They are also studying the "verb" learning the essential part it plays in reading and writing.

Grade 7 students are taking turns presenting their written description of a scenic picture of nature. Pictures were randomly chosen by each student. Sensory adjectives were used to replace the camera's lens. The class has begun to review and extend their study of the "verb". Students are challenged to use verbs in their writing, which show correct tense, mood, and subject and verb agreement.

Grade 8 students completed their essays for the School Speech Contest-"A Person Who Touched Many Lives". The women/men were varied and unique. They are now preparing for the oral presentation of their work. *Nate E. and Sarah L.*

## Literature & Reading

6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Reading) - Grade 6 has recently voted on the four or five stories they'd like to read next in their reading books. The students have been exposed to a wide variety of genres so far. Some of the reading topics they've covered already involve computers, space travel and astronauts, deep sea exploration, and a famous shipwreck in Antarctica.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Literature) - Grade 7 students have been reading about the RMS Titanic. They've learned about "chivalry" and how that concept came into play when women and children were instructed to enter the lifeboats first. Because of the Titanic tragedy, people nowadays have better safety equipment and have made sure that boats are safer. Mrs. Swain is also trying to teach the real story of the Titanic vs. Hollywood's, "Jack!" "Rose!" "Jack!" "Rose!" version of the Titanic account. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Literature) - Grade 8 students have been choosing scary, barbaric stories to read and act out. They pick stories, get into small groups, and practice for their performances. While some don't always like to read, others love it! *Alexander B.*

## Science

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Recently, the Middle School was visited by Mr. Ron Lizotte from the American Cancer Society so the students could hear about the dangers of smoking from an actual cancer survivor. The students listened intently as Mr. Lizotte related his story of being a healthy, six foot tall, 200 lb. man who lost 40 pounds and faded into a sickly man. He detailed the feeding tube that was shoved through his nose, down his throat, into his stomach, and pushed out his abdomen. He also showed them the actual tube he used for eating when chemotherapy damaged his throat so

much that he couldn't swallow. According to Mr. Lizotte, it was like trying to swallow "ground up glass that was on fire!" Mr. Lizotte lost 16 lbs. in two days. He brought in a picture of himself with no hair. Losing hair is actually a good sign when receiving chemotherapy (since the hair cells are dying, the cancer cells are dying too). Mr. Lizotte also brought in his radiation mask. It looked something like a fencing mask, only the mesh was not closely-knitted together. The mask had small X's in a few areas to mark where the radiation beam should "aim and shoot". The beams needed to be precise, so the patient had to stay still. That's why he had to wear the mask and be bolted to the table. Afterwards, Mr. Lizotte gave a Question and Answer session for the students. His presentation was an informational lecture that really seemed to impress the students. *Alexander B.*

## Math

The sixth grade finished a chapter on adding and subtracting fractions, and is now starting the next on multiplying and dividing fractions. The seventh grade is in Pre-Algebra. They are working on Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Multiple relating to fractions by using variables. Grade eight is learning Algebra, and they just finished a chapter on proportions, used trigonometry with triangles, and solved mixture problems and problems involving uniform motion. *Liz A.*

## Social Studies

Gr.6 is studying ancient Greece. They are making posters of the Olympic Games during the time of an ancient civilization we have studied. Gr. 7 is studying the formation of the thirteenth colonies and the events leading up to the American Revolution. Gr. 8 is studying the actions

that sparked WWII and why the U.S. entered the war.

### Religion

In the Middle School, we have been learning more about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Grade 6 is working on a project researching people who have carried out the Church's mission. Grade 7 worked on a project for Unit 3, understanding the Eucharist. They corrected errors in sentences about the Eucharist. Grade 8 completed a project researching a saint that they might choose for their Confirmation name. *Laura-Jo K.*

### Specials

#### Music

The music program is moving along quite nicely. Grades K and 1 hosted the March 9<sup>th</sup> Lenten Mass. Due to inclement weather, the Mass was held in the Science Lab. It was a prayerful experience for all in attendance. 3<sup>RD</sup> Grade recently danced to *Circle Round the Zero*, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade danced to the *Tantarella* as they shook tambourines, a gift from the Dante Society. The choir has four more liturgies to sing: Easter season April 27 hosted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Ascension Thursday Mass, May 21, hosted by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, graduation for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and the last school Mass, hosted by 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in June. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade continues to work on playing the *Immaculate Mary* on their recorders as they prepare for the Crowning of Mary on May 15. Every day in music is interesting and fun as the students are always learning new things. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade knows that DC is not the District of Columbia, but means Da Capo. *Nick W.*

#### Italian

In Italian class, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have learned vocabulary pertaining to clothing, houses, and the rooms of a house. The

students became architects and designed homes on graph paper indicating the rooms, all in Italian. They studied and wrote about the cultural differences between Italian and American pizza. For grammar, they are learning conjugation of verbs in the present tense, and will end the year with a cultural and vocabulary unit all about Italian food. *Alexander B.*

#### Latin

Grade 5 is putting their knowledge of Latin (and Greek!) "word parts" to figure out scientific (binomial) names of various animals. They will soon invent and draw their own dinosaurs. Grade 6 is beginning a unit on the history of the Bible, St. Jerome, the monks and calligraphy. They will ultimately write and illustrate their own Bible verses, which we will bind into a class Bible. Grade 7 will study the history of the Apostles' Creed, examine its basic grammatical structure, and learn to recite it in Latin. *James J.*

#### Art

Grade 6 is learning the process of abstraction. Grade 7 is completing a crayon resist landscape inspired by the work of the Impressionists. Grade 8 created close-up views of animals using oil pastels. *Nick M.*

#### Computer

Grade K and 1 are practicing their keyboarding skills, making up their own very silly stories. Grade 2 continues to explore sites on the internet (with strict supervision!) that has to do with their reading book stories. Grade 3 has just begun a unit on computer programming. They are going to take charge of their machines! Grade 4 recently learned all about "money", and ran their own Ice Cream Truck business. Grade 5 has been having a lot of fun with science and math

links on the internet. They are about to draw their own Latin-named dinosaur. Grade 6 will be doing a lot of research for their Latin project on the Bible and calligraphy. Recently they finished making their own web pages using the HTML language. Grade 7 used Excel to make a "Randomizer Thingie Machine" which produced really weird sentences at the push of a button. They are now forming their own CSI (Catholic School Investigator) unit to keep track of fingerprints in a database. (Who is the criminal?) Grade 8 continues to learn about Budgeting in the Real World, and is producing summary PowerPoint shows to tell others how hard (or easy?) it is to manage money without ending up short at the end of the month. Soon we will begin "investing" our extra money, using real time stock market data. *James J.*

### Library

Mrs. Burris read "The Tale of Three Trees" and "Easter Journey" to the lower grades, trying to get them to grasp the true meaning of Easter. *Patrick D.*

### Spanish

Grades K and 1 have been listening to Mr. K's dramatic reading of the Spanish stories. Grade 2 has been having fun with "things that fly, and maybe don't". Grade 3 is learning "really annoying songs and games" such as "Going on a Bear Hunt", "The Song That Never Ends", and "It's a Small World" (all in Spanish, of course!) *James J.*

### Physical Education

Each class is learning about healthy eating habits by following the Food Pyramid. They are also playing basketball. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mrs. DeSarro gave a lesson in friendship. Many friends learned new things about each other! *Alexander B.*

### Resource

Miss Magowan tells us that the resource classes have been very busy with enrichment activities in addition to regular "resource" schedule. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrichment class interviewed Sylvia Manfred about His Home for Children in Haiti. They will be producing a video, coordinate a fundraiser to support this orphanage, and raise awareness of the dire need for help in Haiti. Other enrichment groups are studying solar systems, making comic strips, and even are learning about ancient Greek and Roman life! Miss Lepore adds that during resource she introduced Grade 1 to Frame Your Thoughts, a multi-sensory writing program. Miss. Lepore says she is very proud of all the students in resource. They have become fluent readers, wonderful spellers, and great mathematicians. Great job everyone! *Tyler G.*

### Sports

#### *Meet this year's Soccer Team!*

##### Grade 4:

Lily Vitalo  
Trent Rockwell  
Kirstin Marone  
Dominique Johnson  
Annan Gass  
Maggie Spano  
Zachary Cholewa  
Jessica Kampfer  
Katie Kuzmic

##### Grade 5:

Jason Wollenberg  
Meghan Boegler  
Megan Kirby  
Christopher Mancini  
Maryam Asenuga  
Mary Grace Kuzmic  
Kacie Pryor

Marissa Trombino  
Rachel Phelps  
Phoebe Delmonte  
Lydia Crandall  
Connor McGill

**Grade 6:**

Sarah Phillips  
Tyler Ringling  
Laura-Jo Karam  
James Johnson  
Nicholas Mead

**Grade 7:**

Tyler Gardiner  
Tina Pearson  
Kyle Kirby  
Krystal Colasante  
Nicolas Wollenberg  
Catherine Small  
Hollie Pryor

**Grade 8:**

Mary Brodeur  
Sarah Lennon  
Matthew O'Brien  
Amanda Mumford  
P.J. Phillips  
Katie Boegler  
Hayden Pryor

The Grades 4 and 5 soccer team has yet to win a game, although they're rapidly improving. They're sure to win soon!! The Grades 6, 7, and 8 team recently won their first game, a 3-1 victory. Coach Lennon claims this is due to "good passing and ball control." Yay panthers!!! *Sarah L.*

**"The Survey Says...!"**

The Newspaper Club did a survey on all the kids in the school. The favorite color of the boys in Pre-K 3 was green, and the girls was purple. In Pre-K 4, the boys was red, as well as the girls. In kindergarten the boy's favorite color was surprisingly

purple, and the girl's was blue. The entire First Grade favorite was blue. In Grade Two, the boys liked blue, but the girls liked light blue. In Grade Three, the boys liked green, and the girls liked blue, yellow, orange, black, and purple. The whole Fourth Grade liked green. In Grade Five, green, blue, and purple tied for boys, and the girls liked purple. In Grade Six, the guys liked purple, and the girls liked purple and blue. In Grade Seven, everyone liked green. And, in Eighth Grade the boys liked blue, and the girls liked pink and blue. *Liz A.*

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**Special Accomplishments**

Ilana Coffey and Claire Jalbert (Gr. 2) missed school to dance Irish step at many nursing homes at senior centers in Rhode Island. They brought many smiles to many people. Ilana and Claire did a great job.

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**Interview With  
Graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

In June, we will be saying goodbye to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Nick W. and Laura-Jo K. interviewed each of them concerning their favorite moment here at Saint Pius X School.

**Lizzy Andres-** Hasn't happened yet.

**Katie Boegler-** Katie has too many favorite moments to pick one, especially Italian with Mr. Fiore. ☺

**Mary Brodeur-** When I was in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, we won the State Championship in soccer, and we were undefeated. "Good times, good times."

**Nicole Corneau-** Hosting last year's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade banquet.

**Matthew DiPietro-** The field trip to the corn maze.

**Megan Hudson-** Dances and games played with teachers over the years.

**Adrienne Husband-** The last field trip of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. "Wicked crazy!"

**Sarah Lennon-** Passing out ice cream in Grade 7.

**Amanda Mumford-** the Summer Carnival when I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. "It is a memory I will never forget!"

**Matthew O'Brien-** Sneaking into a dance in Grade 5.

**P.J. Phillips-** His class was first to use new wing all 3 years of middle school.

**Hayden Pryor-** "The first time I got to ride the big yellow school bus!"

**Mr. Fiore's**  
**Joke of the month**

*Fr. Ray was visiting a school assembly at the church hall one day, and during intermission, the St. Pius X School students were gathering around the refreshment table. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. Fr. Ray made a note, and posted it on the apple tray. The note stated, "Take only one. God is watching." Moving further along the table was a pile of chocolate chip cookies. One student whispered to the other, "Take all you want, God is watching the apples!"*