

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Pentecost Sunday, 29 May 2020, the Ground-breaking Ceremonies of a new church, "The Immaculata", has already taken place in Saint Marys, Kansas. She will stand tall near Our Lady of Peace Cemetery at N 2nd Street, between Gideon's Way and Mt. Calvary Road.

It is a magnificent moment for the Catholic Church, an awesome event for the parishioners of St. Mary's Academy and College, and a milestone for the Society of St. Pius X, an Order of priests who have consistently offered the Traditional Latin Mass (also known as the "Extraordinary Form" of the Mass in the Roman Catholic Church) for 50 years! The Immaculata, named

to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, will grace the Kansas landscape for miles, with her soaring Romanesque beauty.

Yet on Pentecost Sunday 2020 and in the days ahead, one cannot help but remember the man, the Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Hector L. Bolduc, who founded Saint Mary's Academy and College in 1978, when he was Southwest District Superior of the Society. There would be no "home worthy of the Immaculata" were it not for the vision, efforts, and self-sacrificing labor of Fr. Bolduc. The groundwork, which enabled the Pentecost Sunday 2020 Groundbreaking, was laid by Fr. Hector L. Bolduc when he responded "yes" to the promptings of Almighty God, Whom he served until

his death on September 10, 2012.

It was a privilege and honor to work alongside Father Bolduc in the early 80s (as his secretary). May this letter serve to remind those who have forgotten Fr. Bolduc, to enlighten those who have not heard of Fr. Bolduc, and to ask those who look upon The Immaculata and/or pass under her portals to remember Fr. Hector L. Bolduc, to thank him, and to pray for the repose of his soul. Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine. Et lux perpetua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace. Amen.

Respectfully yours,
Mary Jane Graham, PhD
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"ONLINE LABS" ARE FRAUD

John Richard Schrock

Israeli universities will be re-opening "in a limited format" upon approval from their Health Ministry, according to the May 9 issue of "The Jerusalem Post." What Israel recognizes and the United States college administrators do not, is the inability to replace "laboratory classes and hands-on workshops."

Today in the U.S., online "simulated labs" are being touted as equal or even better. Such claims ignore the many properties of reality-based experiences that are missing in computer simulations. The below lists the values of real labs and the utter failure of online simulations.

Immediacy. Our brains



John Richard Schrock

Emporia

Observing nature closely for detail is a learned skill. Organs are often color-coded in books. In reality, a student must probe and trace which tissues are connected to others in order to identify the organ. An earthworm's digestive system has two bulges. Pressing on one that is

understanding. Real labs have all the truth in them for the looking.

Career Motivation. Real labs lead some students to go beyond the lesson and conduct additional real experiments, a desire not promoted by passive simulations where students fail to interact with reality.

Universality. Regardless of culture or language, laboratory work confirms that the science results are genuine. The Russian scientist Trofim Lysenko promoted a wrong idea of inheritance of acquired characteristics through textbooks. But real laboratory results eventually showed it to be incorrect.

Real consequences. Genuine experiences and experiments are naturally exciting. Veteran biology teachers know that the

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excavator also dug up and loosened a large pile of dirt for people to take home as mementos of this occasion.

Speaking at the beginning of the ceremony, Fr. Rutledge summarized the long wait for this day, the anxious anticipation from the day of the fire until the day for rebuilding the church.

"For forty years you've been waiting for this day," Fr. Rutledge said. "Some of you have been here since the beginning... Of course, when we bought St. Mary's, the Immaculata stood and it needed some work, but your plan was to have Mass there in the Immaculata. As you all well know, in 1978 it burned down. Two years later, 1980, on exactly this date, May 31, heavy winds knocked down the walls of the Immaculata, sort of dashing to dust everybody's hopes of restoring it. So began this long process of trying to rebuild the Immaculata, trying to rebuild this church that had a priestly significance, which had a significance of consecration to Our Lady."

The time of forty years is not without significance. Fr. Rutledge recalled how rain fell on the earth at the time of the great deluge for forty days, how Moses remained on Mount Sinai for forty days, how Christ fasted in the desert for forty days. "God has chosen the number to be a period of probation, of suffering, of waiting," he said. "And



BY PATRICK MURTHA

Fr. Jurgen Wegner, District Superior for the Society of St. Pius X in the United States, and Fr. Patrick Rutledge, Rector of St. Mary's Academy and College, broke ground on the new Immaculata.

then comes the renewal after the forty.

"And so we've tried and tried and tried for forty years now to rebuild the Immaculata," Fr. Rutledge said. "Many valiant attempts have taken place, designs have been presented to you, various fundraising efforts, dating all the way back to Archbishop Lefebvre himself. Yet God in His providence wanted to wait until today, wanted to wait until forty years later to make it a reality. It is not insignificant that He chose forty years. Forty years have always been a period of probation, a period of trial."

The groundbreaking ceremony itself took place in the space that will become the sanctuary of the new church. Fr. Rutledge spoke from where the pulpit will stand. A cross was blessed and planted where

the altar will be erected. And, following the groundbreaking, a Mass was offered where the steps leading into the church will be.

The placement for the Mass corresponded to part of the ceremony of baptism. The person to be baptized starts outside the church, and is led into the church by an act of faith. "It is how it is for us today," Fr. Rutledge said. "We're making an act of faith to prove our worthiness to enter the church."

As Sunday, besides being the Feast of Pentecost, was also the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, following the Mass, the faithful went in procession to crown a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The statue itself had been placed in the location where another statue of Mary will crown the church, standing 134 feet

in the air overlooking the city.

"Today, despite the good number of people here, despite this fierce noise of the excavator, it's not a demonstration of our own ingenuity, of our power," Fr. Wegner said in his sermon. "And it's for you, not a quest for a comfortable place, a church where you find a seat, parking not too far away. What we celebrate today is a start of a work that we want to build a home for Our Lady."

"This work has to go at our expense," he added, "time, money, effort, prayer, sacrifice. All here is a filial act of love for our heavenly mother."

And so with the ground being broken, perhaps it may be said by those eye-witnesses there, "Today, I watched our church be born."

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FROM DEATH TO LIFE

St. Marys celebrates Immaculata groundbreaking

BY PATRICK MURTHA
Special to the Star

"Today I Watched Our Chapel Die"—that was the title of Betty Pappas's article in a November 1978 issue of the St. Marys Star. The article reported the November 8th fire that destroyed the Immaculata chapel on the grounds of St. Mary's Academy and College in St. Marys.

Pappas's eyewitness account was more than a mere reporter's description of a building burning; it was a personal narrative of the last moments of a loved one. Her own words show her being caught in the shock of that tragedy: "We stopped and took a couple pictures, and the camera just hung around my neck. I wanted to cry."

"To me, the chapel died today," she wrote, "and I mourn its loss along with the many who loved it for its beauty, its religious significance, and its historical memories. It will never be the same. But, life goes on, we have our memories, and the chapel will be rebuilt and restored. It will be different, and it might even be more magnificent."

On Sunday, May 31, 2020, 42 years after the fire, the hope of thousands became a reality. The Immaculata will rise out of Kansas soil once again. On a hill overlooking both the college campus and the city, the ground was broken to begin the project of building a new Immaculata, a church designed to stand 12 stories high, to be visible for miles around, and to hold 1,500



BY PATRICK MURTHA

Top, Fr. Jurgen Wegner, District Superior for the Society of St. Pius X in the United States, and Fr. Patrick Rutledge, Rector of St. Mary's Academy and College, planted a cross where the altar of the new Immaculata will be erected.

faithful.

With nearly 1,400 people present, in a large field off of Second Street in St. Marys, Fr. Patrick Rutledge, rector of St. Mary's Academy and College, and Fr. Jurgen Wegner, the District Superior for the Society of St. Pius X in the United States, broke ground for the building of the new Immaculata. During the ceremony, Fr. Wegner blessed the site on which the church will stand, and blessed a cross which was then planted where the altar will be erected.

After the blessings, Fr. Rutledge and Fr. Wegner were the first to break the ground. After them the project team and then the major donors took turns breaking the earth. An

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BY PATRICK MURTHA

Members of the Fr. Shyne League, people who have donated at least \$500,000 to the building of the Immaculata, assist at the groundbreaking ceremony. This donor level was named after Fr. Cornelius Shyne who collected \$300 donations from 1,000 alumni for building the first Immaculata in 1908.