



# THE CARDINAL

## Happy Holidays!!!!



### Editorial

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# EDITORIAL

Christmas isn't only a time to receive and give gifts to loved ones, its a time to remember our savior, Jesus Christ. The New Year is a time for new beginnings but it's also that end of year time that makes us think about the person we were in the past year and to look forward to the year in front of us. No-one can forget that this time marks the halfway point of our school year. Everyone will start to feel nostalgic because time passed so quickly. Soon everyone will get antsy to run out of the scorching hot building for summer break. It's one step closer to the next grade and for the seniors, college. As a senior, I can't help but think that my time at the fine academy is almost over. Where did the time go? These were the fastest four years of my life. Now it's time to finish. It's time to wrap the bow on everything that I've done at La Salle alongside my fellow seniors. For the most part everyone is tying the strings from the past year and getting

ready to  
start our  
next  
chapter.

Wilfredo Cueto





# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

## Jimmy's Christmas Experience

Christmas, to me, is a holiday that is meant to celebrate the spirit of giving. What I mean by that is this: you give without asking anything in return and give with the person in mind. When I was little, I was happy with what I got for Christmas no matter what it was and nothing has changed. Our family always buys a tree and decorates it with lights. Presents are not guaranteed but we have big dinners together. The dinners consist of some type of meat like chicken or beef, then, rice, beans, lettuce and something on the side, usually empanadas, which my mother prepares. I eat lot and have a good day, I can't complain.

I don't believe in Santa, but there was a time when I did. It has been too long ago to remember how I felt about Santa Claus. My older sister told me he was not real and I eventually believed her because there was no proof. I was seven at the time. Christmas has not been ruined for me in any way because I don't believe in Santa; I still give the holiday the same amount of attention as I did when I was a child. I think children need to know that it's not a jolly stranger giving presents to people; we give the presents to each other. That way the holiday is more applicable to their lives and still carries the same meaning.

I do not particularly like to see Christmas advertisements after "Black Friday" in November, an entire month before Christmas. I, however enjoy the Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular which is usually before the Christmas holidays begin

Jimmy Franco

## Christopher's Christmas Time

We have approached once again the time of the year to celebrate and remember what it means to spend time with friends and families. The weather starts to decrease in temperature, Christmas trees are placed in malls and houses, and it is the beginning of Christmas shopping. During my childhood I used to go Christmas shopping and see numerous toys on shelves waiting to be picked up but I didn't understand why my mom bought toys for my cousins and not for me! For once in my life I thought she stopped loving me until it was Christmas Day and she gave me toy cars that I added to my collection of toy cars. Who knew that just giving a gift to someone can change someone's emotions in a split second? That's what I call the power of Christmas because you barely see a person depressed on Christmas Day. The meaning of Christmas is to be happy that we are surrounded by the people we love and make sure no one is left alone on Christmas Day.

Occasionally my family would visit my aunt's house on Christmas Eve and have a big Christmas dinner. Once the clock struck midnight it was time to wish everyone in the room a Merry Christmas and open presents, which was my favorite part of the day. We would then sit around the living room and reflect on what we did the past year since the year is basically over. I consider this my Christmas tradition. Almost all families have Christmas traditions whether it's just opening presents on Christmas morning, or having a huge Christmas party. We remember these traditions and create brand new memories that will last a lifetime. We also have past memories to recall and reflect upon to re-live the good times everyone had with each other. One of the most important elements to understand the meaning of Christmas is spending time with family. One should never spend Christmas alone but should have the comfort of being around by caring people.

As a Catholic, I recognize that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the person who died for our sins on this day and remember the story of the Nativity. I remember when I was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade we learned the story of how Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for Jesus to be born. Joseph's and Mary's journey to Bethlehem and the three kings' presentation of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are always in my memory when I celebrate Christmas. Almost all Catholic churches create the Nativity Scene in honor of Jesus' birthday but before Christmas arrives the church celebrates Advent. Advent is the countdown to Jesus' birth; it is the four weeks before the Christmas day. To help the count-down, the church uses an Advent wreath with four candles (purple, purple, pink, and purple).

Sometimes there may be unfortunate events when family members argue with each other and it is hard to forgive each other. Christmas, however is the time to forgive and forget all the arguments you had with friends and family members in the past. This is the time when I think we should bury the hatchet and start off with a clean sheet. It's time to live a life without any regrets and start fresh all over again. Christmas only comes once a year and this is the day when everyone should be nice to each other. We shouldn't be nice to everyone for just one day; we should be kind to everyone every day and this Christmas season is a great way to start bringing kindness to the world. In conclusion, I believe that Christmas is the time to rejoice, relax, and reflect with our friends and family as we share gifts and remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christopher Cumbe

# Keeping Christ in Christmas

Quincey Ford-I can keep Christ in Christmas by going to midnight mass, and by giving back to those who might not have anything.

Steven Hernandez-We can keep Christ during our Christmas season by remembering everything and showing gratitude for our life. Through the teachings of God and by praying together, we will always be able to keep Christ for Christmas. We not only have to give, or take, but by just being together we allow ourselves to live with Christ.

Shameek Smith-We can serve at different soup kitchens and give to people less fortunate. Also, we must praise Christ and remember why we have the holiday in the first place.

Oliver Munoz-We can keep Christ in Christmas by celebrating this event via the religious traditions instead of celebrating it for the presents.

Ruben Cruz-We can continue to remember the birth of Christ. Now that we are older, it is easier not to be distracted by Santa Claus. Instead, we can thank Jesus, by praying to him about the wonderful event. People can be witnesses as kinder persons during Christmas.

Sidney Birch-We can keep Christ in Christmas by saying a prayer and remembering all that He has done for us.

Wilfredo Cueto-We can sacrifice something in our lives to give others something as a reminder of Christ.

Wilson Ramones-I don't want to remove Christ in Christmas, I believe the idea of Christmas is changing from a religious aspect to simple commercial traditions. I rather share it with everyone rather than just one group.

Kelvin Montesino-We need to make Christ a day of invitation instead of gifts. It's about being a wise person by discovering new ideas which could help with our gifts.

Steven E Hernandez-We can keep Christ in Christmas by bringing a reminder to your friends. A simple prayer with friends or family would be enough. Also, we need to be nice to people and share the kindness of Jesus.

Isaiah Johnson-We can keep Christ in Christmas by going to church and remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

Brandon Leon-By giving to the poor and going to mass. It is better to give than receive.

Christopher Pena-We can keep the word of Christ by giving, praying, and keeping Jesus in Christmas. Also we must show people how Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

Shawn Choon-We can keep Christ in Christmas by being humble and remembering why we are celebrating Christmas. We can also go to church and give to others rather than always expecting something for ourselves.

Julian Nieves-I can keep Christ in Christmas by thanking him for this special day not only for us, but mostly for him. I can also thank him for the quality time I can spend with my family and get into the Christmas spirit. But, most importantly, go to church on Christmas day for the special day of Christ.

Ricky Jagroo- The best way to keep Christ in Christmas in my opinion, is to go caroling! It is open to everyone, and it is the perfect way to evangelize nations at a time and keep the truth of Christmas alive. Sing praises of the Lord with all your spirit.

Daniel Baker-We can keep Christ in Christmas by continuing his work. We can take part in a food drive, and donate toys and clothes to the less fortunate.

Arthur Escobar-We can keep Christ in Christmas by helping people who are less fortunate than you. Also we could pray and spread the word of God.

Alexander Valcourt-We cannot just focus on gifts and focus but we must focus on Jesus himself. This is his holiday so we must make it all about him.

Tristian Fervor- We could keep Christ in Christmas by praying in Church to wait for his second coming. Also we remember Mary who went on her journey to give birth to Jesus, we pray for her travel along with Joseph since this is his first coming.



# Spanish Class Trip

On Friday, December 4th, my Spanish Native class got the opportunity to experience Hispanic culture at El Museo del Barrio, the only museum in New York dedicated to Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latin American art.

The museum featured an extensive collection of pre-Columbian and traditional artifacts as well as 20th century arts and crafts, graphics and popular media, Mexican masks, textiles from Chile and photographs and traditional art from Puerto Rico. I was particularly impressed with the special exhibit of a Puerto Rican artist by the name of Rodriguez Calero who painted "Urban Martyrs and Latter Day Saints". The painting, Transcendent, showed a man facing a cross. This painting is symbolic of him being a martyr.

Although the tour was only one hour, the experience was interesting, entertaining, informative and educational. I feel that I know much more about Latin American and Hispanic culture.

Kudos off to Mr. Torres for organizing this trip!

Zadquiel Zuniga





# Students of the month



Christian J. Toledano from homeroom 507 was awarded student of the month. He says that he believes he was awarded student of the months because of his good grades and good effort. He was very surprised when he heard his name on the loud speaker. Christian formerly attended Manhattan East Elementary school and likes to play soccer. Christian enjoys horror movies but his favorite recent movie was ***Toy 3***. His parents are his heroes because they provide him with the tools to survive. Christian’s favorite sport is soccer and his favorite player is Cristiano Ronaldo. Christian believes that the world will be a better place when racism no longer exists.

John Naolitano

Mark Bermeo of homeroom 405 is the positive epitome of a hard working student who takes pride for his accomplishments at La Salle Academy. Mark was very surprised, proud, and shocked when he found out he was awarded student of the month. He also realized that he wouldn’t be earning this award if it wasn’t for his teachers’ help. He is very thankful that his teachers take their time every day to educate all students.

Mark previously attended Our Lady of Guadalupe located in Brooklyn, New York. When he isn’t earning good grades by studying he enjoys reading and watching manga. Some anime books/shows he enjoys are Fairy Tail, Soul Eater, and Attack on Titan. Fairy Tail is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Hiro Mashima. He follows the adventures of Lucy Heartfilia, a teenage wizard, who joins the popular wizards’ guild and teams up with fellow guild member, Natsu Dragneel, as he searches for the dragon, Igneel. Soul Eater is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Atushi Okubo and is set at the “Death Weapon Meister Academy”. The series revolves around three teams, each consisting of a weapon meister and at least one weapon that can transform into a humanoid. They must collect the souls of 99 evil humans and one witch, in that order; otherwise, they will have to start all over again. Lastly, Attack on Titan is also a Japanese manga series, written and illustrated by Hajime Isayama. It is set in a world where humanity lives inside cities surrounded by enormous walls. It is a defense against the Titans, gigantic humanoids that eat humans seemingly without reason. Marc doesn’t enjoy listening to music but he does enjoy listening to anime openings and closings of anime shows. Mark also likes soccer and plays the game in his free time.

While Marc’s passion for Anime has him thinking to become an anime creator, his love for world history is inspiring him to become a history teacher if his anime creator job doesn’t go as planned. Because of his love for world history, Marc’s favorite subject is Global and he enjoys Mr. Pally’s Global class. It is Mark’s favorite subject because he understands it easily and gets high grades. Mark’s weakest subject is Algebra but luckily the tablet helps him to understand the difficult material. An invention Mark thinks would improve the world is a time machine because it would be able to change the past and the future for the better.

Once again La Salle congratulates Mark for his achievements of success and we wish min continued success in the future.





# Students of the month Cont...



Malik Campbell believes he was awarded student of the month because he is hard working, cooperative and cooperative. He was surprised to hear that he had earned the award because he had previously won this award but is glad to receive it again. For pastime, Malik skateboards and plays games online with his friends. Malik’s favorite genre of

movies is action movies and he is planning to see the movie *Creed*. Malik recently read the book *Catcher in the Rye*. His favorite rapper is “Logic” because he spreads messages of love and optimism and his favorite music is rap and hip hop. Malik likes to watch UFC and wants to be a lawyer because he is interested in law and justice. There are things that exist in the world that Malik doesn’t like such as racism. He believes that if we have unity, we will all be happy. Malik’s favorite subject is History. His least favorite subject is Math but he is grateful that Brother Peter is always available for extra help.

Matthew Perez

October’s student of the month is none other than our new student body Vice President Jason McCoy. Coming from Simon Baruch 104 Middle School, Jason has worked hard at LaSalle Academy, and has achieved many academic honors as a result. Whether it be working diligently in English class, or working his hardest in Mathematics, Jason always strives to do his best in everything he does. Even now he continues to work hard to ensure that he’ll get into either SUNY Syracuse or Penn State so that he can major in marketing.

Although Jason only recently acquired the position of student body Vice President, he is confident that he can lead the school in the right direction. Jason acknowledges that the students here at La Salle are his peers. He, therefore, takes this job seriously because he knows that his peers are depending on him for guidance. Jayson said that his position is not only an honor but it is eye-opening experience to see that the students of LaSalle Academy recognize, trust, and accept him in this prestigious leadership position. Jayson emphasized that his main goal is to make sure that we have a great school year, and that the student body is happy and healthy. Jason’s favorite motivating factor is success. Jayson said success is his greatest motivator, and he uses it as a driving force every day.

Erik Ayala





# LSA Winter Dance



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