

# The Cistercian Informer

Volume 52 | Issue 1 | September 2020

www.CistercianInformer.com

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## Embracing This New Year

*Chase Frutos, '21, who is more than pumped.*

2020 has been a disorderly and uncomfortable year in many different ways: the seniors missed out on a Senior Prom and went through an unpleasant last quarter with an unusual graduation, all students remained at home on computers for the majority of each day, and the Cistercian faculty endured so much stress and worked overtime so that we students could have the best learning experience possible. Everyone has gone through their own trials and discomforts during these times, but with an upcoming school year comes many exciting improvements and thrills to look forward to.

School officially starts on August 24, with all grades having online school for the first week and in-person classes beginning on September 2. This initial, online start to school offers everyone – both student and faculty – a comfortable easing into the new school year. Additionally, improvements to online schooling and technology have been made in order to give all students an easier, and more enjoyable, learning experience outside of the classroom.



*Photo By Fr. Raphael*

As some of you may already know, Cistercian is switching to Office365 and Microsoft Teams. The switch to Microsoft is a huge improvement from an organizational standpoint, but this switch will also give us students a better feel of programs that are actually used in real, day-to-day business jobs. Additionally, having Teams and Office365 will allow for everyone to be more organized with assignments and projects from home even after in-person schooling

begins. Although cumbersome at first, by getting used to these new setups, there is so much that we will learn from a technology standpoint that we would not otherwise get in our normal, less electronic routine.

With the effects of the pandemic, Cistercian has taken the opportunity to make vast terrain improvements and safety changes. Personally, I am most excited for the incredible renovations to the Upper

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## The Need for A Third Party

*Coby Scrudder, '21.*

As we move closer to November and further into this tumultuous election season, a sad reality of the American Political system becomes clear again. Unlike most other Western democracies in the world, America is dominated by two political parties that have been in power, almost completely unchallenged, for over 160 years. Even though the Republicans and Democrats have both increasingly started marketing themselves as populist parties for the good of the people, both parties work against the good of the American people so that their diarchy can continue, and they can carry on lining their pockets.

But to understand the dangers of a two-party system, it is important to understand how we got here. Since the founding of the Republican Party in 1854, there has been no new long-standing political party in America. Until the late 1890s, the two parties enjoyed a period without any opposition and

with major political machines, like the infamous Tammany Hall Ring, helping them to keep their power. However, in the late 1890s, a new political movement was rising: the dawn of the Populist Party. However, this was a short-lived experiment and no Populist ever won any national election. The Populist Party, however, did have many ideas, like the direct election of US Senators and party primaries. Although these ideas were supposed to help give the people more control over the political process, it wasn't long until even these measures were co-opted by the parties to keep themselves in power. As time went on, third parties began to die out as it became impractical in the system to run them. Campaign finance laws were passed that made it harder to finance third party candidates. The Presidential Debates were taken over by the RNC and DNC in the 1970s for the express reason of keeping third party candidates out. It has been over 50 years since a third-party candidate won any electoral votes. Even the most

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New Year (Cont'd)

Field, which is being completely upgraded. The hill and trees located in the far back of the original Upper Field, which have taken the lives of many balls and frisbees, are being totally demolished in order to make the field nice and big. Upon entering the classroom again for the first time since March, I highly recommend you take a look at the new field improvements. Another one of my favorite additions for students is the water fountains. Cistercian is replacing all of the past water fountains with fast water bottle filling stations. This improvement is primarily for the safety of the students, but now you'll never be late to class again after waiting in the long water fountain line only to get one sip in before the bell rings. Unfortunately, lunch will not be held in the lunchroom anymore, and the use of the micro-waves and vending machines is no

longer allowed. However, the classic lunch banter can be taken outdoors, especially with the new shading and extra lunch spaces Cistercian is creating. Also, tons of new furniture has been added outside on campus, making even the outdoors feel like home.

As a rising senior, I see endless amounts of fun, learning, and opportunity ahead of us. There are so many different changes being made for our school, how could I not be excited for such a unique year? How awesome is it that we will go back to school without a teacher's desk, social distance with classmates, wear uncomfortable masks all day, and still manage to find unique ways to have fun and learn with each other?

To all seniors, I have a special goal for us for the 2020 school year. As the eldest students at



Photo By Fr. Raphael

Cistercian, we play a unique role as leaders and role models for the rest of the student body. Upon returning to school, we will have our classes in the library separated from the rest of the school. Although far from the rest of the students, I challenge us to be a source of inspiration and excitement for the Cistercian student body. Through all of the discom-

forts, we will learn the most, we will have the most fun, but most importantly, we will be a shining light for the rest of the school to look at, so that we might instill a sense of excitement and passion for this new school year—our last opportunity to make our mark, and leave behind a great legacy, at Cistercian, the school we know and love.

Reflections On Quarantine



Fr. Raphael

*I learned a lot about myself in quarantine. When the abbey went into red alert lock-down, we stopped communal prayer, mass, and meals, giving the abbey an eerie ghost town feel. I tested negative, so I was the designated monk to maintain praying the daily prayers and celebrating mass in the chapel, sort of a “one for all” situation. But even in that solitude—as in any solitude we may experience in life—the opportunity to encounter Our Lord is still there. Often I felt even closer to God during those moments of hermit-like monasticism, though I still missed the community.*

*I’ve been through so many stages of thought and attitude regarding the Covid mess. At this point in August when I hear that for many Europeans, like the Hungarians and Italians, the pandemic is largely over, I’m jealously smh. Why can’t it be that way here! But hopefully it soon will be, so I hold onto hope. The struggles of 2020 have forced me to reckon even more with the instability and uncertainty of life. Over the last several months, it has been hard to sacrifice seeing my students in person, exercising my priestly ministry outside of the monastery, and socializing with family and friends. I am really grateful to have felt the comfort of God’s love and the stable love of so many people. Love never fails, and pandemics can’t do a thing about that.*



Fr. Augustine

*Monk-time during COVID-time...what’s that been like? We still pray together morning, noon, and night, have Mass, Adoration, etc., but with the empty pews staring us down each and every time we gather in the Abbey church, it’s given us daily opportunities to reflect on our lives: the people we serve, the disrupted relationships and work, and ultimately, that stirring of our hearts and our faith by the Holy Spirit that brought us into monastic life in the first place. In other words, a monk in quarantine must consider anew whether he really came primarily to be with God, and the brothers, now that so many other layers of our daily life have been put further out of reach.*



Fr. Ambrose

*I believe that as a Cistercian I have a threefold vocation: priest, monk, and teacher. During these past few months, I’ve struggled most with the feeling that I have been unable to fully live out those vocations. As a priest I haven’t been able to provide the sacraments or preach sermons as frequently; as a monk there were times when we were unable to pray together or eat together in community, and I haven’t been able to teach in the classroom or be there for the students in my Form the way that I normally am. I’ve felt incomplete - as if something has been missing. I look forward to the day when we’re whole again.*



Fr. Anthony



# The Need for A Third Party (Cont'd)

popular third-party candidate in the past century, Ross Perot, did not win any electoral votes when he won 19% of the popular vote in 1992. It has become clear to all that the American political system, as it has been built, has no room for a third-party by design. But why is this a bad thing?

There are three main dangers with a two-party system. First, it creates an Us vs. Them mentality. Second, it disenfranchises voters who do not hold party-line positions. Third, it allows people to vote off of one issue or off of party-line, without knowing anything about a candidate. Let me explain these points in greater detail:

1. How many times have we heard Donald Trump and Fox News make blanket statements demonizing all Democrats or blaming all of America's problems on them? How many times have we heard Democrats and CNN say the same things about Republicans? This is not how the political system should work. It should be a system of collaboration for the good of America, but instead, each side is polarized and, on many important issues, refuses

to work together. Many of the most important pieces of legislature in the past ten years have been passed by straight party line votes. Speakers of the House can refuse to bring to vote bills that would pass because a majority of their party would not vote for them, even if a majority of the House would. House Committees have stopped being given out based on seniority, but instead on willingness to stick to the party-line. The number of bills originating in these Committees has shrunk as each party prefers their own party think-tanks instead of Committees with both parties. This is not how our political system should be. It should be a system of conversation and compromise, not party-line votes. A multi-party system would help to fix this divide. With more than two political parties, you cannot disagree with another party on every issue. There would have to be compromise and collaboration, and not just demonization. No longer could a candidate run on only negative ads meant to scare people away from voting for his rival. Each candidate would have to run on their strengths in order to get

elected. Members of different parties would have to collaborate in order to get bills passed if no party has the majority, and this collaboration and civility would change the way American Politics work for the better.

2. Imagine that you are a strict Constitutionalist or a Bernie Sanders supporter voting in this election. With the two main-party candidates, you would have to make a huge compromise and vote for a main-party candidate, or you would have to vote for a third-party that has no way of winning in our current system. There is no good option for your vote to matter for something you believe in. While this is an inherent problem with a Representative Democracy, as no one person can have the exact same views as you, it is exacerbated by there only being two real options to vote for. With a multi-party system, you would be able to vote for someone who more closely aligns with your views, and you would not have to make a huge compromise when voting.

3. In the American political system right now, there are many people who vote based on one issue,

whether this be voting for Trump because he's "pro-life" or voting for Biden because of his immigration policy. Voting off of one issue is incredibly easy because of how diametrically opposed the two parties are on many issues. With multiple political parties, this would not be possible because there would be multiple candidates with the same views on issues. requiring voters to educate themselves more and understand deeper issues, not just the one that pops out the most. Multiple political parties would also help stop people from just voting down party line and not understanding each candidate's views.

As bad as the situation may seem, there are many ways that it can be fixed. In the next issue, we will explore 5 ways that we could help make third parties viable in America.

*\*The views expressed within this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of Cistercian or The Cistercian Informer.\**

*Catch part two of this article next month!*



Photo From Creative Commons  
Saish Satyal, '21.

A couple of weeks ago, Joe Biden announced that he was choosing Kamala Harris, the junior Senator from California and former presidential candidate, as his Vice President for the 2020 Democratic Ticket. Immediately after the announcement, political social media devolved into the mess that most of us know it as. Conservatives decried Harris as too liberal, moderates giggled with anticipation as they imagined Harris roasting Trump, and leftists sat there in shock as Joe Biden chose a prosecutor to be his VP amidst nationwide protests for criminal justice reform. Anyway, it's time to take a short and definitely incomplete look into Kamala Harris'

past. Kamala Harris seems to be, as Vox aptly describes, "filled with contradictions." On the one hand, she implied that Joe Biden was racist by mentioning his opposition to desegregation and by saying that he worked closely with segregationists, yet on the other hand, she's his vice president and has heavily endorsed him for the presidency. Of course, the first statement was implied on the campaign trail in an effort to win, but one can't take back their words, especially if those words were said as millions of people watched. Democrats may defend that choice by saying that this shows Biden is able to take criticism well and make peace with people he once considered adversaries, but they had to have known that those clips and quotes would be turned into premium Republican cannon-fodder for the rest of the election.

Kamala Harris' prosecutorial record leaves a lot of questions

## The VP's VP Pick

as well. Why choose a prosecutor and former DA amidst a nationwide reckoning with our broken policing system? Kamala Harris is, quite frankly, the prime example for leftists to use to justify a complete overhaul of the policing system. While claiming to be a "progressive prosecutor," she still argued for the death penalty in court, protected state officials indicted for misconduct, and fought against releasing non-violent prisoners. She even stated that she was against the idea of statewide body cams for police officers. Essentially, for most of the time, critics say she fought to maintain the status quo rather than fight for sweeping reforms. However, her proponents point out that as DA of San Francisco, Harris instituted the "Back on Track" program, which allowed first-time drug offenders to finish high school and get a job. Not only that, but she made sure that California's "third strike" law wasn't enacted as harshly as it normally would. As AG, she launched Open Justice, an initiative that provides data of civilian deaths in officer custody with details about the victim's background. Of course, it also provided data on officers who were

assaulted or killed on the job. As you can see, this is a confusing record. It seems that as DA, Kamala Harris was the progressive prosecutor that her voters wanted her to be, but when she was elected into her Attorney General position, Harris didn't shake up the house. Perhaps the fear of angering voters pushed her towards the safe center, but even after a crushing victory in her 2014 AG election, Senator Harris still refused to do anything drastic. Her supporters may say that she was already planning for her 2016 Senatorial run and didn't want to leave something unfinished to be botched by her successor. Of course, that meant she let ambition get in the way of helping those in need, but that seems to be swept under the rug. There's no way of knowing yet whether Kamala Harris has helped or hurt Biden as the VP candidate. But hopefully this article shines a light into who she was as a politician and can show us what she might be like if she's put in a real position of power.

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## Tragedy in Beirut

*Ethan Ramchandani, '21, who wants us all to help.*

Tragedy struck Lebanon on August 4th when the port of Beirut suddenly exploded. Warehouses which had been storing large quantities of ammonium nitrate caught fire, and multiple small blasts preceded a then massive explosion which leveled the entire port and inflicted severe damage to the city. The blast left behind a 460-foot-wide crater which quickly filled with water from the sea. The cause of the accident was attributed to maintenance taking place on the warehouse prior to the tragedy.

For those who do not know, Ammonium Nitrate is relatively safe when carefully attended to and stored properly, and is very common in agricultural fertilizers, along with being frequently used in the mining industry. However, it can become deadly if dealt with incorrectly, or if an accident occurs, and this is compounded by the fact that Ammonium Nitrate also absorbs moisture, making a reaction with fire worse as time goes on.

The president vowed to hold the guilty party accountable. Government port officials neglected warnings from inspectors that the unsafe quantity of ammonium nitrate being stored was enough to “blow up all of Beirut,” and this negligence was further proof of deep seated trouble that plagues Lebanon’s government.

The explosion was the last straw, and many citizens took to the streets to protest against their government, which has been steeped in corruption for years. In response to these demonstrations, the then-Prime Minister of Lebanon, Hassan Diab, called for an early election. However, on the streets, tear gas and rocks were exchanged between riot police and protesters, and nooses and gallows were erected in Martyrs’ square, an affluent area of the city. The Lebanese economy tanked, with banks withholding money for loans and withdrawals. Even some members of parliament handed in their resignations and joined the movement, seeking reform.

Augmented by the pandemic, the death toll from the explosion grew. Hospitals were swamped

dealing with the approximately 2000-5000 injuries from the blast. Multiple world leaders discussed about how to appropriately administer aid in order to avoid a humanitarian crisis, since many people are displaced and without a home, and some European countries promised aid to the recovering country, along with neighboring countries echoing the same sentiment.

The United States has pledged 17 million dollars, on top of the 403 million given since September of last year. However, there are many ways for us to contribute at home. Organizations such as the Lebanese Red Cross, Impact Lebanon, and Project HOPE provide equipment to the affected parts of Beirut, help transport first responders, and help find missing people. Others, such as Live Love Beirut and The Lebanese Food Bank, and CARE specialize in aiding vulnerable families and giving them provi-



*Photo From Wikimedia Commons*

sions and medical supplies. Save the Children, another group, works with the younger victims of the explosion. Even the psychological toll of such an event is accounted for; Humanity and Inclusions provides mental health resources to those who need it.

It is hard to understand what the people of Lebanon are going through, but it is important that we support them in any way we are able. Hopefully, this tragedy may be turned into a positive turning point for the nation. As they rebuild, everyone must do what they can so that something brighter may come from the blast.



*Photo From Creative Commons*

*Saish Satyal, '21.*

This summer seems to have been a revelatory time for many Americans. We should start by addressing what recent protests in our country have been about: they haven’t just been “about BLM;” they’ve been about addressing the systematic racism so prevalent in our country. The death of George Floyd wasn’t the sole reason—it was the straw that broke the camel’s back. Let’s try to get an extremely rough and incomplete sketch of systematic racism in our country so far.

Traditionally, we think of 1619 as the start of slavery in our nation’s history when “20 and some odd” Africans arrived on Virginian

shores from a stolen slave ship. Historians will squabble over technicalities, but the point is that as our nation developed, slavery also grew into a national institution. Unfortunately, one lesser discussed effect of slavery is the psychological effects that had to have followed after Emancipation. We released a massive group of severely traumatized, uneducated people into a hostile society and told them to prosper. Not to mention that after those black men and women obtained their freedom, the nation then created an extra set of laws (as if it wasn’t enough) to make sure that they wouldn’t be able to exercise their rights to life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness. As black people faced intense systematic oppression, America then entered into the Great Depression. By 1932, approx. 50% of black Americans were out of work. Their unemployment rate was 2 to 3 times higher than whites. Unsur-

## A History of Oppression

prisingly, many black people were evicted and forced to move into public housing built with the help of FDR’s administration. Of course, in the early days of the Depression, public housing was segregated and black housing was far worse.

In an already bleak situation, poor black Americans were then also discriminated against by a Federal Housing Administration policy known as “redlining.” Essentially, the FHA would make sure that financial organizations wouldn’t invest in neighborhoods with large populations of colored people by marking the area with red on maps. Their lack of faith in those communities led to a sharp decline in any other investment from other organizations. Construction companies were only building and selling suburban homes to white people, who were then able to move out of public housing. The FDR administration then decided to integrate public housing, and saw an influx of poor black Americans as white Americans went out to the suburbs.

We can see how these situations are the basis for the “inner cities” that we hear so much about

today. Suddenly, we were seeing mostly uneducated and poor black Americans being forced into public housing or living in neighborhoods that the government didn’t want to invest in. Though explicit redlining ended in 1968 with the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the effects are still being felt to this day. There’s a lack of social mobility and an excess of crime in those low-income neighborhoods. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 laid a foundation for future black Americans to build generational wealth, but the damage had already been done. The price of homes in the nicer neighborhoods were now far too high to afford, relegating black Americans to less nice neighborhoods. Of course, this overview of the oppression of black Americans is only considering housing and voting. I haven’t even touched on our criminal justice system or the War on Drugs yet. However, I hope this introduction to America’s history of racism helps you understand part of why people were angry enough this summer to try to burn everything to the ground.



# Returning to Football

*Maxwell Vaughan, '21, who is very proud of the team.*

At the beginning of the summer, the football team was not sure if they would be able to work out as a group this summer. Considering 7 on 7 and spring football had been cancelled, the team (along with other athletes) needed a chance to get together through strength and conditioning. Thankfully, the administration approved the idea of having strength and conditioning, and with the careful planning of our coaches, we were at school on Monday, June 15. But there was one main challenge that had to be done: we had to safely socially distance while doing an activity that, traditionally, is not conducive to social distancing.

This meant that this summer's strength and conditioning would be very different than any of the athletes were used to. First, in order to keep athletes distanced from one another, there was a limit of thirty athletes per session. In years past, there have been upwards of fifty or sixty athletes at strength and conditioning. Of course, when

only half the number of people can attend, you have to make two sessions to accommodate all the athletes. On top of this, extra measures were taken to clean equipment and make sure players stayed safe. Athletes were required to wear masks in the weight room, and every time someone finished using a piece of equipment, it was sanitized with clorox wipes.

Despite the unusual circumstances surrounding strength and conditioning this summer, the Hawks were very successful in the weight room and on the track. Fifteen athletes ran a sub-1.1 second flying 10 meter run (a measure of a player's top speed) compared to last year's seven. Devon Comstock ('22) and Charles Treadway ('21) both broke the all-time vertical jump record, which they both previously held, with Comstock jumping 38.1 inches and Treadway 37.3 inches. In the weight room, the Hawks had an average bench max of 194 lbs, and eighteen players benched more than 200, which beat the previous record of thirteen. They also had an average hang clean max of 198 lbs, which is the highest the team has ever had.

Many records were broken this summer, and the team looks bigger, faster, stronger, and more explosive than it has ever been.

But there is one thing I would like to

point out that is arguably more important than the records we broke: we managed to have six weeks of strength and conditioning without a single positive COVID test, and without having to stop or suspend workouts at all. We were the only school in SPC that managed to achieve this. So, not only are we physically strong, but we are also disciplined and responsible group. I think this speaks volumes to what the Cisterian athlete is: he is committed, ready to make the sacrifices necessary to better himself and the team.

After six weeks of strength and conditioning, the team usually takes a week off, and then begins summer practices the first week of August. But, since the season was

moved back, and the team cannot practice until we are on campus September 2, we were left with nothing to do as a team. So, unofficial workouts were offered three times a week (similar to strength and conditioning) at a gym in Dallas. Needless to say, the Hawks have been making the most of their time off.

The team is more physically imposing than it has ever been, and we have shown our discipline and responsibility all summer. This, combined with the many returning Seniors and Juniors who have varsity experience, points towards a very successful run this year. While we are not certain what the future holds for fall sports, if it's possible to at least play, then it looks like the Hawks are in very good shape.



*Photo By Fr. Raphael*



*Photo From Creative Commons*

*Tarun Senthil Kumar, '23, who could be completely wrong.*

2020 has tested us in many ways, but on March 11th, things became even worse as COVID-19 caused the suspension of the NBA for 141 days before a plan of action was finalized. Now, the NBA is back. To contextualize the format of the restart, we must revisit the regular season. Before the suspension, the Lakers, Clippers, and Bucks were the favorites to win it all. The West was deep with thirteen playoff-worthy teams, and the East, stronger than past years, had six elite teams. Zion Williamson was receiving hype like none other, despite only playing nineteen games, while LeBron

hosted its players at the resorts of Disney World in Orlando, which are adjacent to the arenas of ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex. The plan to form a "bubble" to shield the players from the virus has been successful, with zero positive tests so far. The new format involved the twenty-two teams invited to the Bubble playing three scrimmage games, followed by eight seeding games (and an 8th seed play-in game), to determine which teams would make the playoffs.

The Battle of Los Angeles has been the most exciting Bubble development so far, since, in the seeding games, the Lakers struggled to find their offense, while the Clippers lacked chemistry. The Rockets' "small-ball" lineup presented another

## NBA Bubble Restart

and Giannis were neck-and-neck for MVP. This excitement was curiously put on hold when Jazz center Rudy Gobert contracted COVID-19. To resume the season, the NBA

er subject of controversy. Houston's unique offense has worked in the Bubble as the lack of a center has created more space for Russell Westbrook to attack the basket. In the Bubble, Milwaukee has played like a G-League team with Giannis on the bench, and Khris Middleton not being an adequate second star. There have been a few surprises starting with TJ Warren. He averaged thirty-one points in the seeding games, up sixteen-points from his regular average. The most surprising teams have been Devin Booker's Suns, going 8-0 in the seeding games, and Damian Lillard's Trail Blazers, featuring newly regained Jusuf Nurkic and Zach Collins. Despite their efforts, the Suns missed the playoffs while the Blazers captured the eighth seed. My favorite surprise has been the duo of Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis. They have led the Mavs to be the most efficient offense in history, while combining to be the highest scoring duo in the Bubble. These continued developments will make these playoffs legendary.

Though the league is dominated by stars, the championship is

won by teams. In the West, I predict that the Lakers, Clippers, Nuggets, and Rockets will all advance, and in the East, I predict that the Bucks, Raptors, Celtics, and Heat will all advance. In the Western Semifinals, the Lakers will beat the Rockets, utilizing their big men to expose Houston's lack of size, and the Clippers will beat the Nuggets because they possess better stars, depth, and experience. In the Eastern Semifinals, the Heat, who are candidates to land Giannis in 2021, will use their chemistry and hard-nosed culture to upset the identity-lacking Bucks. The Raptors, currently playing with supreme confidence, will defeat the Celtics, who will be missing Gordon Hayward to an ankle injury. In possibly the greatest Western Conference Finals ever, the Lakers will beat the Clippers because LeBron will force the ball to Anthony Davis, and in the Eastern Conference Finals, the Raptors' championship experience will lift them above the Heat, who have the same type of roster that Toronto has. In the Finals, the Lakers' star power will overwhelm the Raptors' depth, earning LeBron his fourth ring and GOAT status.



BY THE  
NUMBERS

Days left until  
summer starts:

267

Amount of  
Informer staff:

8

Number of as-  
signments given  
on Day 1:

2  
MANY

# To the Class of 2028

Ayden Kowalski, '21, who would like to pass along this message.

Dear Class of 2028:

You are now embarking on a journey that is totally your own, with a beginning chapter unlike that of any other class. But just because your story is different doesn't mean it won't contain the same amazing episodes of friendship and formation experienced by the many forms before you. Cistercian, as I know you'll soon discover, is much more than a school: it is a place that forms you, and that introduces you to incredible teachers devoted to helping you succeed, to traditions that will outlast these extraordinary times, and to classmates with whom you will make friendships you can't even imagine yet. To go to Cistercian is to embark on a great adventure.

You'll be learning more than your curriculum from your teachers at Cistercian. Your Form Master, Fr. Philip, isn't just a homeroom advisor as you might have had at another school—he is a mentor who will shepherd you throughout the next

eight years, talking with you about matters great and small. The monks who teach here have dedicated their whole lives to this place, and they will bring all that they are to the classroom, forming friendships with you, talking with you outside of class, and helping you as much as they possibly can. There are also lay teachers, some who have taught at Cistercian longer than the seniors have been alive, who now turn to you, and dedicate themselves to you, as you will see through their passion and their care for you in the classroom. You may find yourself in dialogue with your teacher about fantasy football, Batman movies, politics, or anything else that may happen to come into conversation. Also, at Cistercian, you will learn not only formulas and dates, but, more importantly, how to think, so that you can go out into the world, engage with it, and succeed in it.

The Cistercian classes before you have gone through the school's set of wonderful, exciting traditions, and, together, so will you and your Form. You will dash across the football field at halftime in the Form II Dot Race next year. You will pass by

faraway cities and unknown towns on the Texas History Trip in Form III. You will host one of the preeminent school parties in the Dallas area, the Freshman Mixer. And you will construct and enjoy the best Homecoming in town. Cistercian's rites will tighten the bonds between you and your friends, and it may even be during one of these smaller adventures that you form new friendships, too.

As you go through the years alongside your classmates, through milestone traditions and daily incidents, not only will you find that within your Form are some of your best friends, but you will also witness the entirety of the Form unite as a whole. By the end of your Cistercian adventure, your Form will truly be a community of friends, looking out for one another, having fun with one another, and celebrating one another.

*Bonam fortunam,*

Ayden Kowalski, Class of 2021



Photo From Creative Commons

## Bald Eagle Attacks State's \$950 Drone, Sends It to Bottom of Lake Michigan

I have to fight to resist the incredible urge to scream "AMERICAAA" from the rooftops after reading this. Unfortunately, this drone was harmless and used to document and monitor cool environmental conditions, so I can't be as happy as I want to be about this destruction of government property. But let me tell you: in his grave, hearing this headline, Thomas Jefferson is definitely shedding a tear of pride.

## New Zealand Wizard Insists Reports of His Retirement Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

and government competency. Nope, it's because of their real-life wizard, who has insisted he's not going to stop being a wizard until he dies. His apprentice has been trained and is ready to take on the mantle, though he is content with his apprenticeship as of now. Ian Brackenbury Channell, the official wizard, says his enemies are bureaucrats, scientists, priests, and all of those boring people who don't like real-life wizards. His job, for which he gets paid around \$10,000 per year, is to drive up tourism in New Zealand, and, amazingly, it works! He's said this is getting harder since wizards aren't as cool anymore, but he does his best and hopes his apprentice can do even better.

# Garbage Guru

There is a reason that New Zealand has some of the lowest numbers of COVID-19 cases in the world, and it's not because of their insanely strict lockdown

## Ireland under Attack from Extremely Aggressive Seagulls Spreading E. Coli

Where's St. Patrick when you need him?

## Arizona Senator Tells People to Skip a Meal to Donate Money to Her Campaign

There's not even extra context to this headline. She's losing to a former astronaut, so she told people to fast a little bit and donate to her campaign. It's a new seasonal weight-loss regimen, only available during election years! Are you a politically involved citizen trying to lose weight by getting into a calorie deficit? Well BOY, do I have the solution for you! Introducing Martha McSally's Weight Loss Program, a regimen designed to help you lose weight by taking \$5 from your bank account DAILY to make sure you skip a meal. Not only will your favored candidate keep her seat, you'll get to be skinny when celebrating her victory! Both you and your candidate win! Donate today!

## Georgia Police Officer Has Melt-down over McDonalds Egg McMuffin Order

This officer pulled into the drive-thru with a McMuffin order ahead. The underpaid McDonald's workers asked her to repeat her order, told her to pull into the parking lot because it wasn't ready, and then brought her the coffee that she had ordered because her food still wasn't ready yet. She then told the worker not to bother with her food and drove off, probably because she was afraid it would be poisoned or something of that nature. First of all, the cook in the kitchen has NO IDEA that the McMuffin would be for a cop; there'd be no reason to do ANYTHING other than make it. Second, no fast-food worker gets paid enough to intentionally poison someone. Third, if it's busy, no one actually makes the ordered-ahead food first. I could go on, but just know that I used to find it hilarious how much she overreacted, and now it's annoying because I've dealt with people like her and it's very draining to have to treat them seriously.

## Portraits: A Study



By Peter Novinski, '21

*“There is so much to learn by interacting with other artists. Getting to see different people’s styles and techniques is really eye opening and often serves as great inspiration if you ever find yourself feeling unmotivated. I had a great time using all of my favorite digital and physical techniques to make my portrait of David, such as collage, color manipulation, and cut-out techniques using computer filters as well as manually so that the features closer to the viewer are smooth (drawn by hand) and the features further away are fuzzy and pixelated (made by the computer).”*



## Portraits: A Study (Cont'd)



By David Dorward, '21

*"I wanted to make a portrait of Peter that not only represented his physical appearance realistically, but also depicted his personality, which I decided to do primarily through my careful selection of colors. I chose an unorthodox color scheme, giving him blue hair and orange glasses, to represent his unique personality in a way that did not subtract from his appearance."*