Domenic Savio - a model student  
(50th Anniversary of his Canonisation)

Domenic Savio is one of the few teenage saints in the history of the Church. He is renowned for his dedication to his studies, his qualities as a student leader, the sincerity of his faith and generosity of community service.

Domenic Savio was born in 1842 in the tiny village of Riva (northern Italy). He was the eldest child of poor and hard working parents.

At the age of twelve, Domenic's teacher, recommended that he enrol at St John Bosco's school (The Oratory of St Francis de Sales) in Turin. He soon impressed his teachers with his dedication to his studies, commitment to his faith and his maturity as a person. Although he was from a poor family, he soon became friends with the other students, who were drawn to him on account of his outstanding qualities as a person, his cheerfulness and his willingness to be part of every activity.

Domenic had a strong and active faith. He prayed regularly and had a great love for the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. He often spoke to his companions about the benefits of loving and serving God. He wanted to become a priest and to be a missionary. At times Domenic went a little overboard in his religious practices, undertaking severe fasts and other penances. When Don Bosco discovered this, he forbade Domenic to undertake such practices. Instead he encouraged Domenic to grow in his faith by conscientiously attending to all his duties as a Christian, a friend and a student. Domenic took Don Bosco's advice and his faith strengthened and matured.

One practical expression of Domenic's active faith was his founding of a Christian Action Group. Domenic gathered a group of his friends together for the purpose of influencing others by good example, supporting each other in prayer and serving God by service of one's neighbor. Domenic's strong prayer life overflowed into practical action for others. He was actively involved in community service. Together with his friends he would go out into the city to assist those who were old or ill. He continued to do this work even when the city of Turin fell victim to an epidemic of the plague. At great risk to his own health, he would visit and nurse those struck by illness, especially those who had been abandoned by their families.

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Domenic would actively look out for those who were sad or lonely, befriend them and encourage them to become involved in the life of the Oratory. When a new student arrived at the Oratory he would be the first to greet them and would encourage them by reassuring them that “here we make holiness consist in always being happy” and that to become a good Christian as “not a matter of doing extraordinary things but of doing ordinary things extraordinarily well”.

Domenic was never a physically strong boy and his health was always weak. His teachers and friends admired the way he endured all kinds of sickness without complaining and with a positive spirit. Domenic died at the age of fifteen in the care of his parents after a particularly serious bout of illness.

Domenic’s life is a great example for all members of the College community. He was a young man whose short life was dedicated to loving and serving God by actively fulfilling his responsibilities as a Christian, a friend and a student. His dedication to his studies, his loyalty as a friend, the generosity of his service to others and his love of God have inspired generations of young people throughout the world.

From the Principal
I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter celebrations and experienced a restful holiday period. The full school assembly on the first morning of the new term was a good opportunity to reflect briefly on the meaning of sacrifice. In the context of both the Easter experience and our ANZAC remembrance, we were able to focus on the ultimate gift – to lay down one’s life for another – and the fact that this does not necessarily mean that one has to die, as did Jesus and as have so many soldiers over the years, but rather, it is about being willing to put the needs of others before oneself. Many parents do this on a daily basis, as do others when they open their hearts compassionately to the needs of others. The sacrifices that individuals make are what brings hope into our world and what restores life where there is suffering. Dominic Savio is an inspiring example of what a young person is capable of achieving when committed to the service of others.

Welcome
I would like to welcome Caroline Hazel to our staff. Caroline joins our English faculty for Term 2 whilst Aurora Reid is working at Kildare College in a coordination role. We also welcome back from long service leave Greg Steele and Michael Hennessy; both appear refreshed and eager to return to their significant positions of responsibility at the College.

I would also like to announce the appointment of Rebecca Donnon to the position of SACE Coordinator and Carly Meakin to the position of Music coordinator, I am confident that both will bring much to the respective roles. It is also appropriate to acknowledge the contribution of Phil Johnson, Phil Salter and Emma Kent-Collins, all of whom have made valuable contributions to the school community over recent times, whilst undertaking various leadership roles.

Farewell
Ken Brown retires this week after giving good service to the school community over the past three years through his work with the grounds staff. I wish him every happiness and better health in his retirement.

Congratulations
Over recent weeks two members of the teaching staff have received exciting news. Peter Thornton was awarded an ‘Excellence in Teaching’ award from the Design Teacher’s Association and Paul Elliot received a very exclusive invitation to the Australian Academy of Science’s annual 3 day event, ‘Science at the Shine Dome’ in Canberra.

Obituary to Fr. Dennis Handley
I draw your attention to the current issue of the Southern Cross, in which there is an Obituary to Fr. Dennis Handley. As a matter of interest the Southern Cross is sent home each month and often contains various interesting and informative articles.

Term 2
This term is a particularly busy one, punctuated with three long weekends it is reduced in time but not in intensity. Exams for students in years 11 and 12 are a conspicuous reminder of the realities of senior school education. Two Parent/Teacher interview evenings provide important opportunities for each of the partners on this journey to share information along the way. Year 12 Retreats are always an amazing highlight for students in their final year of secondary education. They provide a valuable opportunity for each to reflect on the Spiritual dimension of their being, in the context of living in a complex world.

On a more personal level, this term is I will be having with some 260 interviews with prospective new year 8 students and their families. These are always a great delight as I glean a sense of the excitement that these students and their parents have about all that a secondary school education at Xavier College might mean for them. I hope and trust that we, as a school community, will live up to these expectations.

Lynn Martin
PRINCIPAL
Michael Carr-Gregg is an Adolescent psychologist working at the Albert Road Centre for Health in Melbourne. He specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health. In 1985, he founded the world’s first national teenage cancer patient support group, Can Teen - The Australian Teenage Cancer Patient’s Society.

Michael is the Consultant Psychologist to the Victorian Secondary Schools Principal’s Association, The Australian Ballet School and Melbourne Girls College. He has had extensive experience in the media and spent almost two years as Channel 7’s health psychologist on the “11 AM” morning television program. Michael has written two books, “Adolescence - A Guide for Parent’s” co written with Erin Shale and “Surviving Year 12 - a sanity kit for students and their parents”. Michael is in constant demand across Australia as a speaker, entertainer and educator.

**Dr Michael Carr-Gregg**

**Adolescent issues for parents - impacts and strategies**

Every year the College holds a Canned Food Appeal as part of its ongoing support for the vital work carried out by the Gawler Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in this region. During weeks four and five we are asking members of the entire College community to donate at least one tin of canned food towards the Appeal. It is hoped that through the Appeal we will be able to collect 1000 tins of canned food to aid the work of St. Vinnies. Donations can be left at either the Front Office or taken to your child’s Tutor Group. St. Vinnies have asked, that donations be non-perishable and tinned only. Thank you.

**Quiz Night**

**Friday 28th May 7:30 P.M.**

St Joseph’s Hall
Porter Street

Organised by the Gawler Catholic Parish
Social Group to raise funds to purchase new chairs for St. Joseph’s Hall

Tables of up to 8 persons can be booked
Tickets $8 per person

GET YOUR FRIENDS TOGETHER AND ORGANISE A TABLE FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND BRAIN STORMING

LOTS OF PRIZES & GIVE-AWAYS!

BYO Supper & Drinks
Coffee & Tea Available

Tickets available from:-
Convent 8522 2376
Clair McCathy 8523 1760
Maxine 8522 3875
Kaye 8522 3259

**St Vincent De Paul Society**

**Canned Food Appeal**

18TH - 28TH MAY

**Blue Light Disco**

**NEW VENUE**

**STARPLEX**

**Friday 21st May**

7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

COST:- $10.00 Single $15.00 Couple
Families who consider they may be eligible for School Card in 2004 and have yet to apply, are urged to do so immediately.

Substantial benefits (eg Fees reductions) are available for school card recipients. For further details please contact the College Administration. PHONE 85-214529.

For all uniform enquiries please phone the Uniform Shop direct on 85-214547. If not attended, please leave a message.

OPENING HOURS FOR TERM 2
(Please note, in the event of a Public Holiday Monday, the Uniform Shop will be open on the Tuesday between 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm)

Monday’s
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Thursday’s
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Local families are sought for exchange students for the second half of this year. The students will arrive in July to experience high school in Australia, to learn all about Australian life and culture with their host family. Students come from countries such as: Canada, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, Spain, Sweden, Norway and Italy!

Hosting is on a voluntary basis and the students are aged from 15 to 18. The program is an academic and cultural exchange for students wishing to study English and our Australian culture for 3, 5, 10 or 11 months. The reward to you is the student becomes a part of your family for now and a lifetime, and this is also a great way to rediscover your local community!

Although host families are not paid, having an exchange student as a part of your family is an amazing way of learning about other cultures without leaving home! Host families provide a bed and a place at the table for their new international family member.

The exchange student pays for his or her school fees, school uniform, transport, entertainment and any other expenses. Full medical and travel insurance is also provided for.

Many of the students come from large cities in their home country and have never been to a smaller city or town. We believe the life that can be offered in the country is an experience that should not be missed.

Students are asked to become actively involved in their communities. Playing football for boys is an experience and a culture that will live with them forever. Netball is a sport that many girls have not heard about. Seeing stars to most of these students is an adventure due to the bright lights of their home cities. Seeing a sheep, kangaroo or having a BBQ can be fun. These are just a few of the things that you can share with a new family member. All these things we often take for granted.

If you would like to share your life with a new family member then call Norma Parker on 08 8523 4016 or 0418 815 527 for more information.