Yes, Students, There Is a Patron Saint for Taking Tests

By: Sister Joela Leinberger, SND

“Pray for me, I have a test today,” is often heard in the Academic Support Center, especially at semester finals. In the Catholic Church, St. Joseph of Cupertino is the patron saint of test takers. According to Catholic.org, Joseph was born in Cupertino, Italy in 1603 to poor parents. He was never considered smart, nor could he grasp big ideas or remember directions to simple tasks. His mother was very insistent that he be allowed to live with a group of Franciscan monks, who finally let him work with the animals, because he broke too many dishes while working in the kitchen.

Eventually, he was asked to study for the priesthood. He was reluctant, because studying was very hard for him. In order to be a priest, he had to recite a passage from the Bible that the bishop would give. Joseph knew only Luke 15:4, “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” The bishop asked him to recite Luke 15:4, and Joseph passed the test to be a priest.

Part of the prayer, that the ASC students receive before semester exams, says that Joseph received an examination with the question to which he knew the answer, and asks that St. Joseph, “obtain for me a like favor in the examinations for which I am now preparing.”

From personal experience, this prayer works, with study on the part of the test taker. Youtube: “The Reluctant Saint” for more on his life story.

Quick Tips to Snag the Right Job

- Be neat! Employers look for neatness and readability on applications and resumes.
- Get strong references! Make sure you have at least five professional references you can count on for prospective employers to call (professors, former supervisors, coaches, etc.)
- Check your voicemail! Make sure you have a professional voicemail account set up to receive calls and messages.
- Act like you want it! Show enthusiasm and a genuine interest in the position for which you are applying.
- Be prepared! Do your homework about the company to which you are applying. Read the company mission and learn about what the company does.
- Show confidence! Employers want to know you are a positive individual who will work hard for their organization.

The Time Quadrants (Covey, 1998)

Urgent Important

The Procrastinator
- Urgent + Important
- Exams tomorrow
- Late for work/practice
- Car breaks down
- Constantly putting fires out
- Too much time here; stress and anxiety, burnout, mediocre performance

The Prioritizer
- Not Urgent + Important
- Planning, Goal setting
- Busy due in a week
- Exercise
- Relationships
- Relaxation
- Filing up-to-date taxes before April, Quality time in your home, time management, balance, high performance

The Yes Person
- Urgent But Not Important
- Chores/pets: meals, washing dishes, automatically responding to texts
- Answering other people’s phone calls
- Having trouble saying no
- Too much time here: responsibility for being a “yes man”
- Lack of discipline, feel like a doormat for others to walk all over
- Filling up gas tank before empty
- Exercise
- Relationships

The Slacker
- Not Urgent + Not Important
- Too much TV time, video games, YouTube
- Endless time on the phone
- Relationships
- Internet browsing
- Shopping/mothering
- Too much time here; lack of responsibility, guilty, failure

In the Spotlight … Esta Fairchild M.B.A.

American poet, essayist, and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: “Write it in your heart that every day is the best day in the year.” Professor Esta Fairchild’s teaching philosophy is “enthusiasm for the day” which strongly echoes Emerson’s words. Professor Fairchild states, “I try to leave at the door all that is personally affecting me in order to focus on the students and what they need at a given moment.”

Prior to coming to Notre Dame College, Professor Fairchild was an independent consultant implementing MIS technology in retail systems both in the United States and Canada. In 2003 she earned her preK-3 licensure at Notre Dame College and was soon hired as an adjunct faculty member in the Education Department. She became a full-time Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems in 2007, and as she says with a broad smile, “the rest is history.” She finds Notre Dame College students to be inquisitive learners, respectful, friendly, and willing to embrace new challenges. Professor Fairchild is straight forward about her student expectations, “I come to class to give everything I have. I expect you to be here.” She monitors three to four online news services, consistently bringing her class connections to current events and focusing them on developing global responsibility, a part of Notre Dame College’s mission statement. Honored twice on the Academic Support Center’s Wall of Fame, Professor Fairchild is a strong advocate of the success of the ASC experience which, “reduces the stigma of learning differently”. Professor Fairchild’s advice to students is challenging: “Don’t let frustration ever grab hold of you. Take a step back; ask for a little more assistance; try a different approach. For example, write a little narrative to help you remember the facts you are trying to memorize. Embrace the liberal arts … expand your horizon outside your major. Think about life in a broader way and become passionate about taking advantage of everything that happens on campus. You may well discover another passion.”

ASC students recently helped out the Sisters of Notre Dame at their annual chicken barbeque fundraiser. The students helped the Sisters clean up their boutique area and load a truck with the leftover items. The outing was organized by ASC students George Zilich, president of the honor society Delta Alpha Pi, and Dylan Brown, vice president of DAP.

Katie Wetherbee, a new Instructional Advisor, helps students in the ASC! Katie has worked with students and families in a variety of settings including public and private schools, learning centers, churches, and hospitals. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Special Education/Human & Organizational Development from Vanderbilt University, and a Master’s in Education from Hood College. In addition to teaching, Katie is a freelance writer for several publications. Her book, Every Child Welcomed, will be released in 2015.

While teaching and writing are among her favorite activities, Katie mostly loves spending time with her husband, Tom, and their children, Annie and Bill, along with their quirky, darling dog named Mitzie! Katie enjoys going to the movies, reading, and traveling (but her very favorite place of all is HOME!)
“The Nest”

Notre Dame College • Academic Support Center

From the Desk of Gretchen Walsh

During this month of Thanksgiving, the Academic Support Center has so very much to be grateful for:

• gratitude for our students and their progress/success
• gratitude to our parents for their trust and belief
• gratitude to our ASC team for their dedication
• gratitude to our donors for their support and vision

THANK YOU TO ALL AND WISHES FOR A WARM THANKSGIVING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

During this month of Thanksgiving, the Academic Support Center has so very much to be grateful for:

• gratitude for our students and their progress/success
• gratitude to our parents for their trust and belief
• gratitude to our ASC team for their dedication
• gratitude to our donors for their support and vision

THANK YOU TO ALL AND WISHES FOR A WARM THANKSGIVING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

During this month of Thanksgiving, the Academic Support Center has so very much to be grateful for:

• gratitude for our students and their progress/success
• gratitude to our parents for their trust and belief
• gratitude to our ASC team for their dedication
• gratitude to our donors for their support and vision

THANK YOU TO ALL AND WISHES FOR A WARM THANKSGIVING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.

Our semester is quickly passing, as we approach our finals from December 8th to December 11th. Please use these last few weeks to review and study for each class. You might want to try a new study strategy to increase comprehension and retention. Lastly, be sure that you have met with your faculty advisor to chart out your course of study or complete an audit for graduation.