

The Teen Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



My Four Years at Nazareth

By: Joey Frederic

I remember it like it was yesterday. Three years ago in September, I became a freshman at a school that would soon become my second home. Nazareth Regional high school, home of the Kingsmen. Our proud colors are maroon and gold. We are a small school, but I can tell you from experience, once you walk through our doors, your life will be changed forever. In the famous words of one of my favorite teachers, we are "the little school in the hood that could", and trust me when I say it, we, as a school, have done a lot of great things. For the last four years, I have known many of my fellow students as my brothers and sisters, and I mean this in the deepest sincerity. The teachers and staff are like my second parents, and they put in so

much hard work, and extra time for the betterment of this school. Although we as students don't always give them the thanks they deserve, they know through our success that they are appreciated and needed.

My years at Naz went by faster than I can remember. The fastest of them all was my freshman year. What a funny year. I remember my initial dream at Naz was to play basketball and become the next Samson. Little did I know I was missing a major factor, the skill. So I went through most of the year being a manager for the JV basketball team. Although I wasn't actually playing, I still became close to many players that I called my teammates at one point, and now my close friends.

November 2014, Issue 1

Have a happy holidays from the Excalibur staff!



- Upcoming 2014 Events -

- 11/26 Turkey Bowl
- 11/27-11/28 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/8 Immaculate Conception
- 12/11 Winter Ball
- 12/19 Christmas Show
- 12/22-1/2 Christmas Break

My Four Years at Nazareth continued...

As a freshman, I told myself that I wanted to leave Naz knowing that I did something. I ended up joining student government and XBSS. I knew I wanted to make a difference in my school and over the years.

My sophomore year brought a major change in my life and I'm thankful for all the people that it involved; that was the year I started playing football. It initially only happen because a man who I will soon know as one of the greatest coaches at Naz, asked me, a kid who never played football in his life, if he wanted to play. Coach Ant taught me the value of hard work and if you really want something, you won't let anyone take it from you. You have to earn it through pain, sweat and tears. "Pain is weakness leaving your body" he always said. Playing football also brought me an unlikely family which I am proud to call my teammates. I've known for a long time that I can rely and trust them to have my back on, and off the field.

My junior year came with a lot of changes as well. I was entrusted with a lot of responsibility that unfortunately I had difficulty handling. This year helped me realize what I needed to fix about myself as a student. I realized that the real world was coming in close and the protective walls of high school will soon be removed. This year also came with a lot of spiritual growth that I am thankful for XBSS for contributing to. This was the year I was blessed enough to go with my fellow juniors, seniors, and XBSS leader to a religious retreat in Connecticut. There, we met with the other thirteen XBSS schools and indulged in workshops, community service, and discussions on how we can strengthen the Xaverian values in not only our schools, but also in ourselves.

Now I am a senior, and have a lot of decision making to do about life after high school. But one thing's for sure, I'm glad that I can call myself a Nazareth student. I will make sure I will be walking across that stage to receive my diploma. "In harmony small things grow" and Nazareth is responsible for my growth.

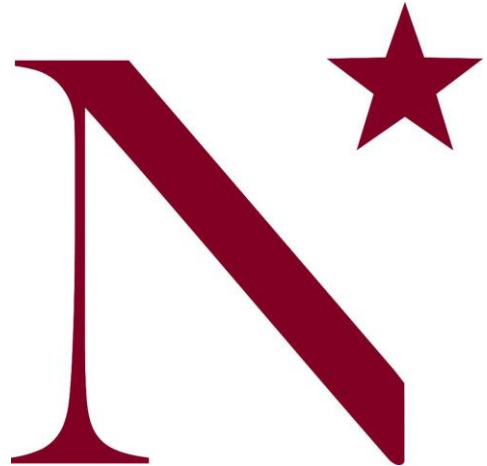


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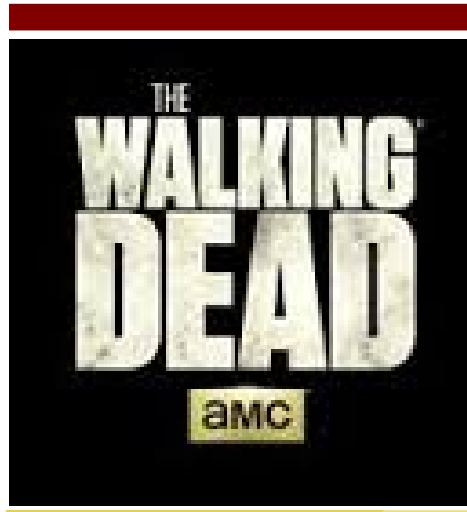
TV Review: The Walking Dead

By: Jacob Donato

2014 is nearing its end and the nation's TV line up was flooded with a plethora of exciting new season/ series premieres and finales. From the newly-christened dark chapter of BBC's Doctor Who, to the ever gut-wrenching NBC's Hannibal that will enter its 3rd Season next year, nothing is as cringe worthy as the critically acclaimed AMC Original Series: The Walking Dead. The Season 5 premiere shot through the TV screens of millions of homes in America and has already gained some wide eyed reception and praise.

The producers have stepped up their game and managed to have the gore and drama even each other out rather than one trait overpower the other, the latter of which seemed to been an issue I've seen in prior seasons, most notably

fleshing the storyline out on a sluggish gait. All the while, both aspects have seemed to multiplied significantly than



before. This was especially true since the first episode of the new season, where survival against other humans has become the focus point from thereon.

There's no saying that while the 'walkers' earlier along the timeline of the story are starting to literally wither away, they still don't pose any less of a threat than before.

There's bound to be newly resurrected corpses to threaten any survivor out there, friend or foe alike, in the Walking Dead universe. It would seem to early into the new season to further critique it. Fan or not, it's worth catching up to the fresh, clean slate that is Season 5 of the Walking Dead.



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Artist Corner: Spook-tober

Movie Review: Annabelle

By: Yajá Mulcare



Most horror movies of this year, 2014, went from terribly produced to well-structured in a matter of months. 2014 had the worst to start, and then the best to finish. It seems that some directors actually tried to create a good film, pushing for better scares and better performance. One of these well-structured, better films is *Annabelle*, the sequel of *The Conjuring*.

Remembering how the first *Conjuring* occurred, it was a pleasure to hear that the story had shifted its focus upon the doll, *Annabelle*, who had the most prominent opening in the first film. *Annabelle* was, honestly, the biggest highlight of the first, so it's understandable that so many people were excited to see the evil doll once more. However, many were skeptical of *Annabelle*. How can they focus on the doll alone? Who can be scared by one simple object? Well, that's the best thing. *Annabelle* doesn't just focus on *Annabelle*. We're introduced to a set of new characters and new places. Everything is well put together, and sought out perfectly. The only bad thing is that these characters are short-lived, as they barely have enough screen time for the viewer to relate, or actually care for their safety.

Story: The story is very cliché, at best, but it still keeps the viewer intrigued. We've seen the trope before: evil doll, possessed by

demons, main characters don't pay mind, the doll attacks at random, etc. But one good thing is that it's not done in the "B-horror" way, as in having the doll talk or showing the doll move. *Annabelle* isn't seen as Chuckie, or a typical moving puppet. While the story continues, *Annabelle* lingers in the background, which makes the situation more and more intense.

Characters: For once in my life, I'm introduced to a horror cast that *doesn't* make too many stupid decisions. Mia and her husband realize the situation immediately when it happens, and actually try their best to get rid of the doll. Mia tries her best to determine where the doll arrived from and doesn't let the doll try to detest her. The priest, Mia's husband, and the librarian next door all have common sense. They are aware, and they are terrified. The only

Movie Review: Annabelle continued

Effects: In any boring horror story, the possessed doll would be repetitive if it kept appearing all the time. That's why there is more to the scares than just Annabelle. There are actual people and actual demons that appear. The doll served merely as a tool for the demons to play their "games" with the main characters (which is excellent).



Overall: *Annabelle* is very cliché, but very good. It has its moments of stupidity, but that just adds to the scares. This film truly serves as a great Halloween movie, as well as a good movie to watch in general. If you want a good scary, fun time, definitely watch *Annabelle*. It's a pleasure!



Poetry Corner: *Different People* by: Jeremy Rigault

*When I came to a town,
people look at me.
Come to the store,
the stores clerks have their
expressions out.
I can't be lovely
or kind anywhere.
I sit next to them,
and they moved their desk in
fear.
When I try to befriend them,
they want no part of it.
And now I'm lonely again.
When I leave,
people say good riddance.
And when another comes
again, the event will repeat
itself.*



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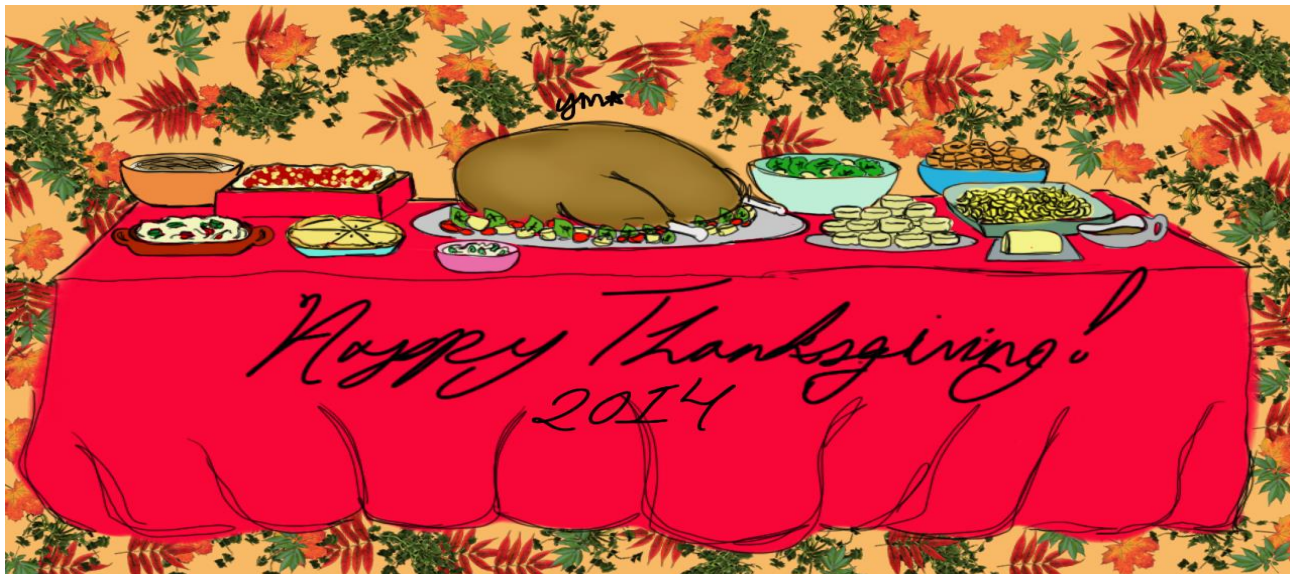
The Xaverian Charism

Nazareth Regional High School is a proud member of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools. The vision of a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School has its origin in the charism of the Brothers of Saint Francis Xavier. This charism, the founding impulse of the Congregation, is a gift received by the Founder, handed on and developed throughout the history and lived experience of the Brothers, and further enriched and enlivened by the giftedness of those who collaborate in Xaverian Sponsored education. Together, the Xaverian Brothers and those who collaborate with them in their educational ministry serve as stewards for the Xaverian charism.

“We Xaverian Brothers, associates, and collaborators are a true religious family, striving to fulfill the spiritual aspirations that Theodore James Ryken had for his Congregation. Following the path of our Founder, we are called to live ordinary lives that give witness to God’s unconditional love. We believe that the Xaverian calling is a way of being put in our place in the world, a place of humility and simplicity, from which we receive the grace to turn toward God, fall in love with God, and put ourselves in God’s service as followers of Jesus Christ. Within each distinctive life choice, we are further invited to attentiveness, simplicity, flexibility and openness to the common, unspectacular flow of everyday life. We unite ourselves to God through an integrated life of both contemplation and service. Through the Xaverian Way we are awakened by the Spirit of God to our own graced potential and freely offer that giftedness in service to the gospel. Through our ministry, in particular among the poor and the marginalized, we work to help others discover their own uniqueness so they, too, may “share the love of God with the world through their own giftedness.” In a spirit of hospitality, we try our utmost to be approachable and available, as true brothers and sisters who welcome others and accompany them in the joys and sorrows of their lives.”

Recognized in the Xaverian charism are certain values that distinguish the spirituality of the Xaverian Brothers and are rooted deeply in the Brothers' history and traditions. These values are humility, trust, zeal, compassion and simplicity. We have identified several students who have openly exhibited these values and would like to recognize and thank them for such:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| -Jeremiah O'hara | -Nia Phillips |
| -Eleazar Okyere | -Kai Wilson |
| -Jacob Donato | -Kevin Howard |
| -Amari Eberhart | -Kamil Watson |
| -Aaliyah McQueen | -Andre Westbrooks Jr. |
| -Joshua Germain | -Issac Michael |
| -Adenike Balfour-Fagan | -Tarif Keenan |
| -Nadif Howard | -Korey Armstrong |
| -Sergey Sterling | |



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