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OLMatters

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To educate the whole person for
global understanding!

“To Educate the Whole Person for Global Understanding” Rio de Janeiro, November 2006

MARY AND THE MOSLEMS (Part I)

From Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's "The World's First Love"

Submitted by Claire Collins

Moslemism (sic) is the only great post-Christian religion of the world. Because it had its origin in the seventh century under Mohammed, it was possible to unite within it some elements of Christianity and of Judaism.

Moslemism takes the doctrine of the unity of God, His Majesty and His Creative Power, and uses it as a basis for the repudiation of Christ, the Son of God. Misunderstanding the notion of the Trinity, Mohammed made Christ a prophet only.

The Catholic Church throughout Northern Africa was virtually destroyed by Moslem power and at the present time (circa 1950), the Moslems are beginning to rise again. If Moslemism is a heresy, as Hilaire Belloc believes it to be, it is the only heresy that has never declined, either in numbers, or in the devotion of its followers.

The missionary effort of the Church toward this group has been, at least on the surface, a failure, for the Moslems are so far almost unconvertible. The reason is that for a follower of Mohammed to become a Christian is much like a Christian becoming a Jew. The Moslems believe that they have the final and definitive revelation of God to the world and that Christ was only a prophet announcing Mohammed, the last of God's real prophets.

Today (1950), the hatred of the Moslem countries against the West is becoming hatred against Christianity itself. Although the statesmen have not yet taken it into account, there is still grave danger that the temporal power of Islam may return and, with it, the menace that it may shake off a West which has ceased to be Christian, and affirm itself as a great anti-Christian world Power.

It is our firm belief that the fears some entertain concerning the Moslems are not to be realized, but that Moslemism, instead, will eventually be converted to Christianity, and in a way that even some of our missionaries never suspect.

It is our belief that this will happen not through the direct teaching of Christianity, but through a summoning of the Moslems to a veneration of the Mother of God.

This is the line of argument: The Koran, which is the bible of the Moslems, has many passages concerning the Blessed Virgin. First, the Koran believes in her Immaculate Conception and in her Virgin Birth. The third chapter of the Koran places the history of Mary's family in a genealogy that goes back through Abraham, Noah, and Adam. When one compares the Koran's description of the birth of Mary with the apocryphal Gospel of the birth of Mary, one is tempted to believe that Mohammed very much depended upon the latter.

Both books describe the old age and the definite sterility of Anne, the mother of Mary. When, however, Anne conceives, the mother of Mary is made to say in the Koran: "O Lord, I vow and I consecrate to you what is already within me. Accept it from me." When Mary is born, her mother, Anne, says: "And I consecrate her with all of her posterity under thy protection, O Lord, against Satan!"

In the nineteenth chapter of the Koran, there are forty-one verses on Jesus and Mary. There is such a strong defense of the virginity of Mary here... in the fourth book....

6th GRADE IN ACTION!

Gloria Santos



6th Grade students went to the Laboratory for a science class on BACTERIA. The computer keyboard, the doorknob of the elevator, coins and other personal objects, and especially the students' own hands were tested. After three days the students were back to the Lab to check the results of their experiment. There they were: the bacteria, in different shapes and colors. What did we learn? Even when things "look" clean bacteria are present, confirming the importance of the advice: **Go wash your hands!!!**

WELCOME MONSIGNOR ANDRÉ SAMPAIO!

Irenilda Fontoura, Society Secretary



The Our Lady of Mercy Society is pleased to announce that Monsignor André Sampaio de Oliveira is the new School Chaplain and Priest of the Catholic, English speaking Parish of Rio de Janeiro – Our Lady of Mercy.

Monsignor is from the Diplomatic Corps of the

Vatican and officially assumed, on the 23rd of October 2006, the Religious Services of OLM School and Our Lady of Mercy Parish. The transfer of the parish to the new pastor and chaplain was held at the Our Lady of Mercy School Chapel, at the Sunday morning Mass concelebrated by Bishop Antonio Augusto, Fr. John Stegnicki, L.C., former OLM Chaplain, and Msgr. André Sampaio de Oliveira. Many OLM staff members, parents, students, Board and Society members were present. It was a new phase in OLM history!

Gabriella Lopes ('10) interviewed Msgr. Sampaio recently.

OLMatters: What does it mean to work in the “Vatican Diplomatic Corps?”

Monsignor Sampaio: What is important is service, to be free to work representing the Holy Father in any country one is sent. The Vatican in reality is the Holy See, which means where the Pope is the Head of State. The Holy See has international relations with most countries and the Diplomatic Corps represents the Holy Father as well as informs him of situations to his interest or that of the local or universal Church. For more information see:

<http://www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=46792>

OLMatters: What does your title “Monsignor” mean, as opposed to Father or Bishop?

Monsignor Sampaio: There are three levels to the Sacrament of Holy Orders: Deacon, Priest and Bishop. Everything else is only a title. I am a priest, but for my work in the Diplomatic Corps the Holy Father gave me the title of Monsignor..

OLMatters: What would you like to share about your childhood, youth, and your vocation choice, your life in preparation for the Priesthood?

Monsignor Sampaio: I grew up in the suburbs of Rio and I studied communication, publicity. After that I start my studies toward a B.A. in Tourism. Then I entered the seminary to study Philosophy and Theology. When I was ordained a priest 9 years ago, I was appointed Secretary to Cardinal Eugenio Araujo Sales which was an interesting beginning. I learned a lot about organization skills. I helped out pastorally in Igreja da Ressurreição, Arpoador, São José da Lagoa, Nossa Senhora da Glória, and the Parish in Largo do Machado. Finally I was sent to Rome to study in the Vatican Diplomatic School where I finished a Master’s and Doctor’s Degree in Canon Law.

OLMatters: What was one of the most meaningful or memorable events of your life as a priest or diplomat thus far?

Monsignor Sampaio: I can’t say just one. I am happy with my vocation: I love being a priest. I have a lot of fantastic experiences traveling around the world, meeting different people, cultures, mentalities, and religions. I have lived in Italy, Thailand, Lithuania, Nigeria, Columbia; and I took many courses through the years or participated in meetings in Finland, Norway, US, Israel and many more. I had special access to Pope John Paul II and in the years of diplomacy met many famous people like Queen Elizabeth, the Prime Minister of England and his wife, François Mitterrand, the Dalai Lama and others. My most memorable experiences dealt with

helping the poor by working for Human Rights, especially for refugees, children and women..

OLMatters: What brought you to decide to accept the post of OLM Chaplain and what do you look forward to doing in this new ministry? (Or have you been a Chaplain elsewhere, already?)



Monsignor Sampaio: I consider working at OLM School a very special invitation. First of all as a Brazilian I

would need to celebrate Mass and to talk in foreign language, giving special attention to the students, to the members of the Society and the parishioners. For me the most important thing now is to become a good friend to the students.

CONGRATULATIONS 8A!

It was a rainy Friday morning. Three serious accidents we encountered extended the first, usually ten minutes of driving time into over an hour. Weather conditions also interfered with the possibility of calling anyone in time to advise that I would be delayed. When I finally arrived on the fourth floor for homeroom the 8:10 bell rang. Seated quietly on the floor in front of the locked classroom door, 14 members of 8A were preparing themselves for a math test, without disturbing anyone. The attendance sheet had already been filled out and posted on the door. I thanked the students for their maturity and understanding. Through this note I salute them for their spirit and example.

(John Majka, Homeroom Teacher)

WHY OFFER A THANKSGIVING PRAYER?

Kátia Souza

There is no official ‘Thanks to God’ but prayers of gratitude have been offered since long before the 1620 American tradition began. It is the source by which the Pilgrims decided to begin with a *prayer of thanks* at this historic feast shared with the Wampanoag Indians. Years later, both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving history with their Thanksgiving proclamations.

Each one of us can make our own thanksgiving prayer, for we do have thousands of reasons to be thankful to God. Look around and you will see how blessed you are. Here is a suggestion:

Lord, I thank You, I praise You.

Lord, in You do I find strength and courage to go on.

Lord, I thank You for the author and finisher of my faith – Jesus Christ and that in You is hope everlasting. Amen

But why don't you try one for yourself?

November's Contest: Memorize a list below of things we could be thankful for. Go to the Religion Department and recite them in alphabetical order. Don't delay. There is only one prize to the first student who recites the list correctly.

1 - faith 2 - family 3 - health 4 - school 5 - nature

6 - friends 7 - teachers 8 - home 9 - relatives

10 - belongings 11 - life 12 - food 13 - Pope

14 – Church 15 - Mary

Congratulations to the **winners of the October**

Contest: 1st place: Isabella Torres Nothhaft ('13) and

2nd place: Giulliana Allegretti Ribeiro ('14)

ALL SOULS DAY

What does Death mean to a Catholic Christian?

No one can deny that death is one of the issues that scares most of us. Death has always brought an uncomfortable feeling of loss and doubt. Some do not even like to talk about it. Man refuses to accept

death. He does not want to terminate. He has a desire for eternity.

In many of his teachings, Jesus Christ brought a new vision to suffering and death: He affirms that whoever went to Him, would have eternal life. When rising from the dead, He overcame death and is seated at the right hand of the Father. We do not need to be afraid because something much greater had been prepared for us. Jesus promised everlasting life to those who followed Him. In John 14:5, we read: “I am the way, the truth and the life”. [K.S.]

THE TRUE MEANING OF HALLOWEEN

Florencia Monsalve ('07)

Halloween is one of the most important celebrations in the American tradition. Every year children prepare their costumes and get ready for trick-or-treating and parties.

Did you know that the history of this celebration traces back to the ancient Celtic tradition? The Irish brought the festival of *Samhein* to America. This festival was celebrated at the end of the summer and beginning of winter, usually on November 1st. The day was associated with death; on the night of October 31st they believed that the division between the world of the living and the dead became so thin that it allowed the ghosts of the dead to return to the earth.

In the VII century Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints' Day so that Catholics had a day to honor the saints and martyrs. In 834, Gregory III moved the day of this celebration to November 1st, so that Christians would remember the life of the dead saints, with the purpose of replacing and diminishing the pagan celebrations of the dead. October 31st became All Hallows Eve or *all hallow e'en* from the Old English (“hallow” means “holy” or “saint”), a night of preparation and prayer.

It is sad to see that the customs of celebrating the day of the dead has survived and was accepted by Christians, who tried to adapt them and blend them with religion. Originally families spent the day of October 31st together, in preparation for the day of

All Saints, praying for the souls of their dead in Purgatory.

“These good Catholic customs and practices have been largely forgotten and put aside with the increasing decline of Christianity and corresponding rise of Paganism” says Marian T. Horvat, Ph. D. when talking about the Christian view of Halloween. It is true that Catholics have forgotten the true meaning of Halloween; we notice this even in our own school that ironically calls itself “Catholic”. This negligence of the Catholic customs is stimulated by the media, by the lack of religious education in the classrooms, by family environment, and by the amount of attention that is placed on carving pumpkins, monster costumes, haunted houses, blood and witches.

This pagan society has chosen to wipe out the Catholic feasts, exactly the feasts that show the believers in the Resurrection and Eternal Word how they shouldn't fear death, and should believe in eternal life. Exploiting and misusing the skeletons, ghosts, demons and trying to create absurd costumes destroy the memory of the dead together with the respect they deserve. Children are being exposed to ideas of the devil, and horror, perhaps the worst side of Paganism. It is the creation of a generation of children that will not have the memory of Catholic holidays and traditions.

I encourage everyone to motivate children to celebrate the festival of Saints, by opening the doors to imagination and their perspective on the deeds of the saints that dedicated a lifetime to God. Prayers of remembrance and celebrations for the souls of the faithful departed will bring peace to our hearts, instead of unbalance and fear, because we are Catholics, and we *should not fear*. (Pope John Paul II) The above editorial is based on the following links, which can provide further information for interested readers:

http://www.traditioninaction.org/religious/e008rp_Halloween.htm

<http://www.jeremiahproject.com/culture/halloween.html>

www.christiananswers.net

HOW TO BE DECLARED A SAINT

THE EXAMPLE OF CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

On November 9, 2006 the Archdiocese of Boston formally closed the diocesan phase of the investigation into the miraculous healing, through the intercession of Venerable John Henry Newman, of an American deacon with severe chronic spinal problems. All witnesses involved have given their depositions, including doctors involved in examining the relevant medical records.

The diocesan study team has judged that the materials are strong enough to be submitted to Rome, where a similar process of examination by doctors, theologians, the *Congregation for the Causes of Saints* and the Pope himself will take place. The Catholic Church's standards for an alleged miracle deal with its instantaneous, complete and lasting nature, without having any scientific explanation. If authenticated the miracle would allow for Newman to be beatified. Another miracle, subject to the same process of careful scrutiny, would then be needed for canonization.

Pope John Paul II declared Newman Venerable in 1991. Usually a great deal of time passes from one step to the other, but there is worldwide interest in Newman's cause, including on the part of Pope Benedict XVI, who has long been familiar with Newman's theology of conscience and is familiar with the body of his theological work, especially as it deals with Catholic identity and the development of doctrine. Newman was a convert from Anglicanism and his work could be instrumental in ecumenical efforts within Christian Churches, as his book *The Grammar of Assent* shows.

For more information see:

www.newadvent.org/cathen/10794a.htm

(A deep, erudite article)

<http://www.answers.com/topic/john-henry-cardinal-newman>

(A complete, though more simple treatment of his life and work with excellent further links.) [J.J.M.]

POPE CANONIZED FOUR SAINTS

BENEDICT XVI CANONIZES INDIANA'S FIRST SAINT
WHO FOUNDED ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

St. Theodora Guérin (1798-1856) founded St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana, U.S.A. and is Indiana's first saint.

St. Filippo Smaldone (1848-1923) was an Italian diocesan priest who founded the Congregation of the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart. He is known as the Apostle of those who cannot hear or speak.

St. Rosa Venerini (1656-1728) founded the Congregation of religious Teachers Venerini and the first public school for girls in Italy.

St. Rafael Guizar Valencia (1878-1938), a bishop of Veracruz, Mexico, becomes the first bishop-saint born in Latin America.

The four new saints left a lesson, Benedict XVI said during the homily of the canonization Mass: "If man puts his trust in riches in this world he does not attain the full meaning of life or authentic joy.

"On the contrary, if, trusting in the word of God, he denies himself and his properties for the kingdom of Heaven, he seems to lose much, but in reality gains everything," the Pope said.

"The saint is precisely that man or woman who, responding with joy and generosity to Christ's call, leaves everything to follow him... Earthly riches occupy and preoccupy the mind and heart. Jesus does not say that they are evil, but that they separate us from God if they are not 'invested' so to speak, in the kingdom of heaven, if they are not spent for those who are in poverty." (Zenit)

ALL SAINTS' DAY

The feast of All Saints, also sometimes known as "All Hallows," or "Hallowmas" ("hallows" meaning "saints," and "mas" meaning "Mass"), is a feast celebrated in their honors. All Saints is also a Christian formula invoking all the faithful saints and martyrs, known or unknown. In the Catholic Church, it is one of the Holy Days of Obligation (participation at mass required). [K.S.]

CINDERELLA AT OLM!

Sandra Fortes

I would like to tell you about our next OLM play: "**Cinderella Wore Combat Boots,**" to be presented on **Thanksgiving Dinner, November 23, 2006.**

Although it is a non-traditional version of the Cinderella everybody knows, it is still a fairytale with all the elements of: magic, humor and lots of imagination!!! And lots of interesting characters too, such as mice, birds, pumpkin pieces, more mice (who are also cheerleaders), rebel maidens, etc....

As the actors in our cast, we have representation from second graders to seniors, a challenge that I am looking forward to, making sure that everyone works together as a harmonic team. I am also thinking about the moment I will watch the play as a spectator rather than the "controlling" person I have to be during rehearsals. Do you think I'll be able to do it? Hmm...Neither do I...But there is a moment that the director has to step back and let each one assume his/her own responsibilities. And this is wonderful because they all end up realizing how important they are to the production. Everyone is part of a big happening that needs to work smoothly. Besides all the characters mentioned before, here are the ones who lead the story itself: the **Storyteller**, played by George Sauma ('08), the **King**, by Lucas Mayall ('08), the **Prince**, by Aaron Orgeron ('07), **Cinderella**, by Fernanda Pereira ('07), the **Stepmother**, by Luciana Fortes ('08) and the **Stepsisters**, by Carolina Moreira ('09) and Maria Julia Argollo ('09).

I would also like to acknowledge the work of all those who are not physically on stage but whose work is represented by so many theater elements such as the sets, music, costumes, lights, etc...or by a structure that allows the play to happen. My sincere thanks to Ms. Merchak, Mr. Camera, Ms. Tinoco, Erica, Adriano, Jussara, Ms. Valente, Dr. Lyndaker, Ms. Zalusky, Ms. Peternel, Ms. Katia Souza, Carlos, Mário, Anderson, Raimundo, the maintenance crew wow ... the list never ends! Forgive me if I forgot someone. Oops! My wonderful cast! Thank you, my performers!

Well, after this enthusiastic presentation, I hope you'll all come to see our play! It has been fun and, I must confess, a little bit stressful at the same time, but I hope it will all be worthwhile!

See you all on Thanksgiving!

PATRIOTISM

Thiago Queiroz ('08)

Our place of birth is one of those things that are not chosen by us, but rather a gift from our country. From the moment we are born, we are taught to cherish this place, no matter how complicated situations within it are. There are times in which we feel proud of being from where we are, when we want to shout to the world about our homeland. But there are also those moments of difficulty, where shame takes over the place of pride, and we wish we could be from anywhere except our country.

On November 15th, Brazil will for one more year celebrate the proclamation of its republic, completing 117 years since its people are no longer part of a monarchy, but from a country with an independent and federate government. Over these last many years, Brazil has overcome many issues, and is today an important country on the international scene. Of course many problems continue to haunt us, including violence, poverty, and corruption. Due to these and other issues, Brazilians have begun giving up on their country, and also to develop an ever-growing feeling of anti-patriotism. People have started to demand less, and consequently, be satisfied with less. We saw a clear example of this during last month's election, where a vast amount of votes were blank or null.

Furthermore, the feeling of patriotism, as defined in the dictionary as "to show love, support, and sacrifice for one's country", is essential into helping the country overcome its issues. Without this, politicians have less motivation to do well, and so do the people, who are equally, if not more, responsible for the well-being of their country. In practice, to be a patriot is to respect one's country and to stand up for it no matter what the instance.

What is more, to be patriotic is to fight for democracy and equality of its people, where all are treated equal, independent of race, sex, and social classes. Everyone is to be provided with the right to

live, and therefore, all things necessary toward maintaining that life. This struggle that may never be settled, but it will certainly be lost if the hope and will to fight for it were to cease.

In conclusion, we can demonstrate our patriotism for our homeland anywhere we are, be it at home, at work or even in school. By lifting our country's flag and singing the anthem we already demonstrate our support and pride. By watching national movies and plays we are supporting our culture. And finally by showing respect to each other we demonstrate that, we, the people, are united in helping and doing all we can to make sure our country will prevail.

THE NATURE OF PATRIOTISM

Reflections on Veterans Day (USA-November 11) and Republic Day (Brazil-November 15) - John J. Majka

In www.dictionary.com *Patriotism* is defined as: "devoted love, support, and defense of one's country; national loyalty." Educators have striven constantly to unravel the secret behind what makes students patriotic citizens. What fosters national loyalty without debauching into elitist ethnic pride or racial prejudice, without preaching some form of superiority myth?

History has taught us we are all equally capable of deeds of sublime artistry or shameful barbarism. Genius has manifested itself in all peoples. Artisans of all kinds have never been limited by boundaries, cultures or genealogies. A generous Bangladeshi businessman wins the Nobel Peace Prize for making loans to the poor in his country, while a Turkish writer wins the Nobel Prize for Literature for writing, among other things, about the mistreatment of the Kurds, an ethnic subgroup in his country. When Italy won the World Cup in Soccer, Italians the world over celebrated. There is no superior race, though there are differences.

My Father is among the most patriotic persons I know. His patriotism to the United States comes from the deep gratitude he feels for the opportunity he received to be himself. He is deeply

loyal to his family roots in his native land, Poland, but Stalin and company took away all hope of his returning there after the war. In the freedom he experienced in the U.S.A. he raised a family with my Mother and has been involved in civic and church groups for the betterment of society, since he became a citizen in 1955. For over fifty years he has supported his adopted country as his own with pride and dedication. His children have all been responsible, participatory citizens. He is especially proud of Chris, the youngest, who spent twenty years in the Air Force (twice risking his life for his country: once in the Gulf and once in Iraq).

My students have asked me about my patriotism and I discovered a wonderful truth about myself as I sought to answer them. I love Austria into whose music I was born; Poland whose heritage of identity in suffering I admire; United States of America, where I grew up and whose values of individual freedoms for individual rights and duties are my second soul; Italy, where I made some great friends and grew professionally in a multi-cultural context; Guinea Bissau's tribal peoples whose colors and smiles amidst the gray-brown landscapes of the ever-expanding Sahara desert let me feel their hope; the Philippines whose Asian/Spanish mix of Catholicism enriched me spiritually; Medjugorje, Croatia, where my father and I shared the faith of an oppressed people in the presence of Mary, the Queen of Peace, in her vision to a group of their children; and Brazil, whose soil has given birth to lush natural surroundings and a sensuous, vibrant people, whose life will go on forever in my heart. I am my Father's son.

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Photographer: Mônica Tinoco

LUCAS MAYALL, STUCO PRESIDENT ('08)

HIGH SCHOOL STUCO AT LEADERSHIP CAMP

The Leadership Camp was held at Graded School in São Paulo on October 6-8, 2006. It featured some hours of lectures and discussions about ethical decisions and emotional intelligence, followed up by a leadership group dynamic involving rafting. The lectures were very positive. The ones about ethical decisions were not really new for us, but they were presented in an interesting way and generated meaningful discussions.

The best lecture was the one about Daniel Goldman's new book *Social Intelligence*. (There is a great review of the book on a bulletin board in Room 202. I hope to get a copy of the book for Christmas.) It provided us with new information and brought about insightful reflections on the way we behave socially.

After the lectures we went rafting on the outskirts of the city. It was a fun activity that promoted leadership skills among us leaders from a number of American schools in Brazil. That night we went out for dinner, enjoying our time together, debriefing each other informally about the day. Overall it was a memorable experience. We all look forward to next year's camp that we of OLM may organize here in Rio de Janeiro.

BIG EIGHT 2006

From Oct 29 to Nov 5 OLM participated in the Big Eight Tournament in "Nosso Recanto" Camp in São Paulo. This was the first time this tournament was held and it substituted the Super Six tournament.

Unfortunately OLM did not present a good level in its teams and was last placing overall. Actually of all 20 games OLM teams played it won once, tied once and lost 18.

The boy's soccer team was the only team that at some point actually made the Lancers proud as it beat PACA in the last game 4-3. It was a thrilling game with a lot of turnarounds and exciting plays like the one in which Daxton, the best player ever to come from Utah, scored our winning goal in the dying moments of the second half. The celebration was bigger than any of the champions celebration – everyone was carried away by a stroke of the purest feeling of happiness: winning. Almost ironically the whole team sang "We are the champions" by Queen with smiles on their faces. OLM boys had been winless in Ranchão since 2004. As the captain for that team I felt tremendously motivated for the following years because it is a very young team with a lot of individual talents. Better years are coming!

A VISIT TO REMEMBER



It had been a few years in between visits, and only the Class of 2007 had Andrea Oliveira for 6th Grade Science. Now she was back as Mrs. Andrea Oliveira Taylor with her husband Leonard and their two-month old daughter Isadora.

Fellow teachers and former students processed in and out of the Seminar Lab on a Friday afternoon, exchanging *oohs* and *ahs*, many laughs, memories and best wishes for continued happiness to the new family.

Family. A key word. *"That's what I miss most,"* Andrea said. *"I wanted Isadora to experience the warmth and closeness of my family—the human warmth that is Brazil. Family is good for family."* We could all feel that family spirit as we spent more time together.

Funny, all the friends who had already been mothers wanted to carry the baby in their arms. Sandra even took her for a tour of the school as the parents

looked on with delight at how much the baby loved the attention and responded with glowing smiles. They have three cats, so this

event of having a baby in the home was peculiar at first—something like having a complicated pet.

"We read all the books," the couple said, *"starting with What to Expect When You're Expecting – Arlene Eisenberg / Heidi E. Murkoff - to whatever was the going help manual of the time. It was too much change all at once."*

"Coming to Brazil was a bonding experience for Isadora and me," Andrea added. *"She was fine throughout the trip, while I was nauseous and un-comfortable. Leonard followed a few days later, and by then I felt like a real mother somehow."*

Leonard works for the Toledo Museum of Art as the Administrator of a community art school. (See more



at www.toledomuseum.com). He loves Rio for his wife's family and for the contrasts between beautiful landscapes, modern buildings and spreading *favelas*. They amaze him.

When asked about the differences between OLM and Notre Dame Academy of Toledo where she teaches high school Chemistry, Andrea didn't hesitate: *"The cafeteria food!" "Here there's smoke and delicious smells from the pots, food that is carefully and personally prepared by the cooks and food assistants. The nutritionist actually has work to do and does it enthusiastically. There the food is frozen semi-ready and then heated up and served. It's clean and safe, healthy, but far from delicious. As a result I learned how to cook!"* (Raquel Braga reminded her how she barely knew how to fry an egg before!)

Andrea ended the interview with a message for the Class of 2007: *"Keep working. Everything you learn this year will be useful to you in the future, if only to give you a preview of how hard you'll have to work, soon, in college. Success to your efforts, and be nice to your teachers like you once were to me."* [J.J.M.]