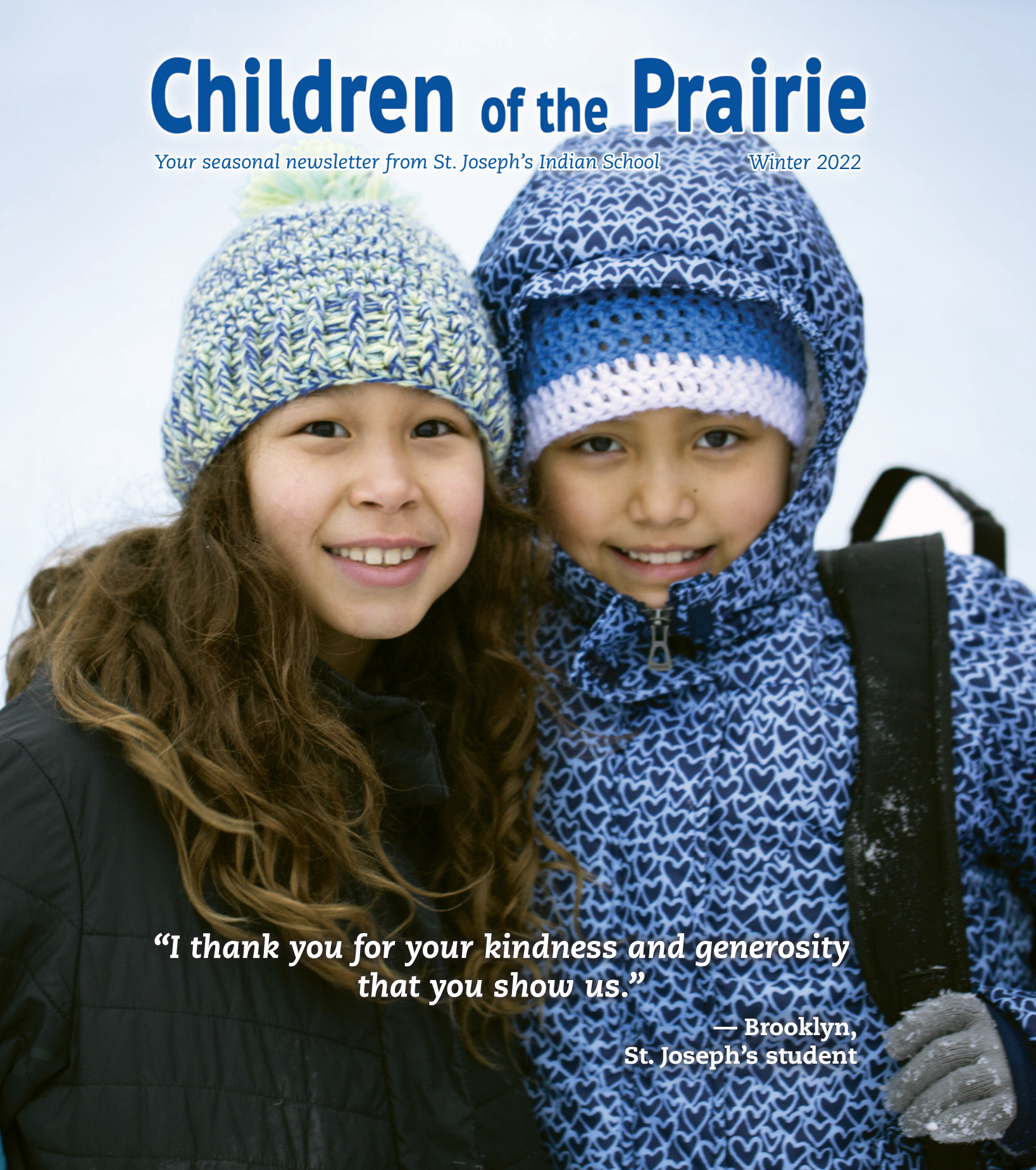


Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Winter 2022

A photograph of two young girls standing outdoors in a snowy environment. The girl on the left has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a black quilted jacket and a blue and white knit beanie with a pom-pom. The girl on the right is wearing a blue and white patterned hooded jacket and a matching knit beanie. Both girls are smiling at the camera. The background is a bright, overexposed snowy area.

***“I thank you for your kindness and generosity
that you show us.”***

— Brooklyn,
St. Joseph's student

From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

of Chaplain and Spiritual Director at St. Joseph's.

This new role marks my second assignment since I was ordained to the priesthood 10 years ago. Before coming to campus, I was assigned to a cluster of six parishes in Mississippi. Mississippi is a long way from South Dakota. Driving from Point A to Point B was 971 miles to be exact!

I'll be honest, when I arrived at St. Joseph's, I was a little anxious. It is clear to me how beloved the Chaplains before me have been, and I did not want to

let the kids down.

As anxious as I was, when the students arrived, everything that may have looked blurry or out of perspective came into clear focus. I can see how enthusiastic they are to learn, and already they're asking really intellectual questions you may not expect from children their age.

After meeting the students and staff, I knew there was still one thing left to do. And that's meet you, a valued member of our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family*. I cannot begin to describe the joy and determination I have to serve as Chaplain at St. Joseph's. I look forward to writing to you in the future, and thank you for opening your heart to me as the new Chaplain.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

SPOTLIGHT: Willow the Horse

Along with Fr. Greg, there is another new face on campus! She arrived just shortly before he did ... and her name is Willow! She was born in June and although last summer was hot, hot, hot, she stayed strong and healthy. Willow is officially the newest member of the St. Joseph's Indian School's Equine Therapy program.

Willow's mom is Gramma, another St. Joseph's horse. The pair spend their days together rolling in the dirt, eating grass and grain and nuzzling. They also spend time providing therapy to the

kids at St. Joseph's. The kids love Willow so much, and tell her frequently.

Gramma and Willow are not the only horses on campus. There are also Sox, Cochee, Violet, Black, Blue, Rebel and Willow's favorite: Pony Boy. He is a mini horse, meaning Willow already towers over him. He may look small, but he is a mighty protector! He has barely left her side since she was born.

We are so happy for the safe arrival of Willow. She is already well on her



way to helping more kids discover healing through Equine Therapy.

Learn more about this program by visiting stjo.org/horses.

Meet Our Chaplain!

St. Joseph's Welcomes New Chaplain to Campus

There is a new face on campus this school year, and we are all very excited for you to get to know him better. His name is Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ and he is St. Joseph's Indian School's new Chaplain!

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas.

Q: What made you decide to join the priesthood?

A: My decision to discern the priesthood was a decision that had me going back-and-forth for years — as far back as my time as a young adult. Never was the decision one I made overnight, but through years of thought, reflection and prayer. I am glad I approached the priesthood in this matter, as this is a lifetime commitment.

Q: Where have you served prior to St. Joseph's?

A: I was ordained in 2010 as a transitional deacon and served at St. Martin of Tours



in Franklin, Wisconsin. After six months of serving, I was ordained to the priesthood and transferred within a month to a cluster of four parishes, which expanded in 2016 to six parishes, in northern Mississippi.



Q: Can you share any of your most memorable moments?

A: This is a hard question to narrow down. I have had many memorable moments, thanks primarily to the support I have received from parishioners and the local community of SCJs in Mississippi. I have enjoyed invoking house blessings and farm blessings. Parish outreach is of most importance to me because some people think priests only work on the weekends when they are up on the altar, but that is only the most public element of their ministry.

(over, please)



Q: What are you looking forward to most?

A: I look forward to building relationships, celebrating Mass in the presence of students and staff, and I must say I have an intense interest in learning more about the Equine Therapy program.

Q: Describe the moment you found out you would be the next Chaplain at St. Joseph's.

A: When I was informed I would become the next Chaplain at St. Joseph's, I was both excited and saddened simultaneously. I was saddened to know I'd be leaving the only ministry I had known since my ordination to the priesthood and the people I had developed bonds with over the years. However, I was excited to learn I was going to have a change of scenery. I believe it is healthy to change assignments every so often. At St. Joseph's I am excited

to be serving the school and the children and to be a source of support for the organization. The ministry is going to be much different and this will give me the personal opportunity to develop a new ministerial experience.

Q: Do you know much about Lakota (Sioux) culture and the backgrounds from which our students come?

A: When I was in graduate school I took a course on Cross Cultural Ministry, which had my class participating in a one-week immersion at the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations. I also visited the Lower Brule Reservation in 2010. There is much more to learn about the Lakota culture outside of books and a one-week immersion, and I am looking forward to learning more over the course of time.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish in your role as Chaplain?

A: I see my role at the beginning as a ministry of presence, with the hope of getting to know the students and families and going from there.

Learn more about Fr. Greg by watching a video at stjo.org/fathergreg.



BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN



Are you looking for an easy, cost-effective and convenient way to support St. Joseph's Indian School? You may want to consider sharing a gift through your IRA or Donor Advised Fund. You can help make a difference for approximately 200 Native American children who call St. Joseph's a home-away-from-home.

Please contact Denise Hyland at 1-800-584-9200 or dhyland@stjo.org for more information! Or visit our website at stjo.org/plannedgiving for easy ways to give.

Special giving options should always be researched and discussed with qualified individuals, so friends are encouraged to call St. Joseph's Planned Giving Department or contact their own legal representative.



If you had \$1 million, how would you spend it?

"I would buy a PlayStation, boat, four wheeler and a telescope!"

— Romeo



If you could create a new planet what would you name it, and what would it be like?

"I just love living on Earth because it's safe and fun."

— Aleighya



How do you like to help others?

"Be kind and help my friends."

— Isabella

Do you have a question to ask the Lakota children? Email it to saintjosephs@stjo.org.



• WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
- *Philamayaye* -
THANK YOU
• FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

