

## HSPT TUTORING

*Just about any of us, if given enough time and water, could walk, roll, or crawl 26.2 miles. Could we make that marathon course under in 3 hours? Probably not, and likely, most of us should not try to run twenty-six consecutive seven-minute miles. The introduction of time complicates it.*

The High School Placement Test is the admissions exam used by all Catholic high schools in San Antonio, and it is a broad qualitative and quantitative test for upper level 8th graders. One of the larger challenges in the test, similar to our marathon example above, is that each section is timed. The limited time given means that some students will run out of time in some sections. A measure of specific preparation is a good idea for all students, so that there is a comfort with the kinds of questions asked and an understanding of the speed necessary. Any of the guide books available at a bookstore will work, and will have complete sample tests for students to work through.

We will offer our own tutoring sessions, roughly equivalent to the practice tests that many schools are offering on weekends. In our case, we want to give more individualized attention and specific feedback. The sessions will cover all the sections, but focus on types of problems and questions that are asked over multiple sections.

### THE SCHEDULE

— each day from 3:30-5:00 in the school —

Monday, 10 Nov.—St. James, Seguin

Tuesday, 11 Nov.—Sts. Peter & Paul, New Braunfels

Wednesday, 12 Nov.—St. Monica, Converse

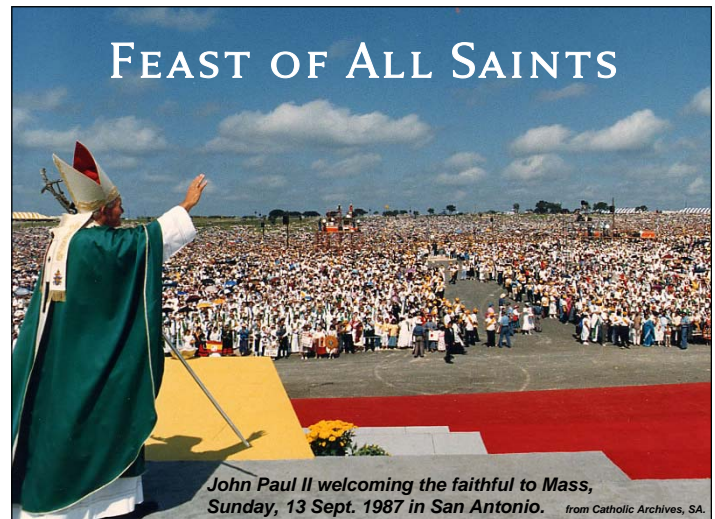
Thursday, 13 Nov.—OLPH, Selma

*If you are not a student at the school at which you want to attend the session, please call JP II at 210.601.0920 so we can make the necessary arrangements. Likewise, if you have a commitment right after school, but would like the help, call and we will make arrangements for later that day.*

### \*\*\*\* TEST YOURSELF \*\*\*\*

*Here are a few sample math problems: (answers on back)*

- 1/4 of what number is 4 times 5
- 1/6 of what number after adding 5 leaves 4 less than 19
- Bill has 4 pencils more than Hank, and Hank has four times as many as Jim. If Bill has 8 pencils, how many will Jim have if his teacher gives him 2 more?



## FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

John Paul II welcoming the faithful to Mass, Sunday, 13 Sept. 1987 in San Antonio. from Catholic Archives, SA.

For the Feast of All Saints, we share some of John Paul II's words on All Saints Day, 1999: "On this festive occasion the pilgrim Church on earth lifts her gaze to heaven, to the immense throng of men and women to whom God has given a share in his holiness. As the Book of Revelation teaches, they come "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues" (Rv 7: 9). During their earthly life they were commit-

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## STUDENT LEADERS AT JP II

Page five of the current ApplyTexas on-line application\* for all public universities in Texas asks students to list their extra-curricular, personal, and volunteer activities. In every activity or experience that they list, students are asked if they held any leadership or special roles, with space for descriptions of that work. At John Paul II, our graduates will be able to fill that entry with tangible evidence of four years spent developing leadership skills and experience.

Given that our school's programs will start necessarily from square one, we have a unique opportunity for students to develop leadership skills and to have meaningful chances to apply those skills. What does this mean?

Take a student who wants to work on the yearbook. The opportunity exists to create the title of the book (a name that endures for decades, if it ever changes), to create one of the enduring records of the first years of the school, and to develop the special features that will make

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\* For future reference: Both UT-Austin and Texas A&M-College Station prefer and in many cases require use of this on-line application for freshmen.



\*\*\*\* TEST YOURSELF ANSWERS \*\*\*\*

Here are a few sample math problems: (answers on p. 2)

On the HSPT, the math sections ask very basic algebra equation questions in a variety of ways. In all cases, we suggest that students write the equations out. It is true in with some of these questions, a student can think his/her way through what is being asked, but accuracy is increased when a student first writes out the equations, so that nothing is lost.

a. 1/4 of what number is 4 times 5

*One can see the words becoming an equation:  
of = times, is = equals, what number is the variable (x)*

$$1/4 (x) = 4 \times 5$$

$$1/4 (x) = 20$$

$$4 [1/4 (x)] = (20) 4$$

$$x = 80$$

b. 1/6 of what number after adding 5 leaves 4 less than 19

$$1/6 (x) + 5 = 19 - 4$$

$$1/6 (x) + 5 = 15$$

$$1/6 (x) + 5 - 5 = 15 - 5$$

$$1/6 (x) = 10$$

$$6 [1/6 (x)] = (10) 6$$

$$x = 60$$

*Granted, given the speed of the test, a student may not go through this whole solution, but writing the equation out correctly makes solving the problem easy.*

c. Bill has 4 pencils more than Hank, and Hank has four times as many as Jim. If Bill has 8 pencils, how many will Jim have if his teacher gives him 2 more?

$$B = 4 + H$$

$$H = 4 (J)$$

$$B = 8$$

$$8 = 4 + H$$

$$8 - 4 = 4 + H - 4$$

$$4 = H$$

$$4 = 4 (J)$$

$$4/4 = [4 (J)]/4$$

$$1 = J$$

*Then the teacher give him 2 more,  
so Jim has 3 pencils.*

STUDENT LEADERSHIP, *continued*

the book uniquely John Paul II. Their first book will set the standard. And because of the size of our student body, every member of the team will have a chance to edit their own section and make a real contribution.

At our weekly masses, for a student who plays an instrument or who sings, there is the chance to play and sing weekly for Mass, to help select the liturgical music, and to build the music program with the help of teachers and adult musicians.

For a volleyball or basketball player, another unique set of opportunities exist. She will have the chance, with her coaches, to set the traditions of the team, to perfect them, and to pass them on to future classmates. In athletics, our students will have real chances to play, not just to try out.

All of this will occur with the help and guidance of qualified faculty and volunteers, and within a longer range vision for the growth of our programs. However, the energy and development will come from our students. We have often said that our first years will be our best, given these kinds of opportunities and the tight-knit community that will develop as a result. For many at our student/parent presentations, this was one of the areas of most favorable response.

Though it is important to help our students get into college, we look most at the skills that they will have when they leave. A mid-1990's survey revealed that, in the U.S. Catholic Church, 85% of parish leaders came from Catholic school roots. *We are building the future of our Church and the future of our country.*

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JOHN PAUL II on the Feast of All Saints, *continued*

*ted to always doing his will, to loving him with all their heart and their neighbour as themselves. For this reason they also suffered trials and persecutions, and now enjoy their great and eternal reward in heaven (cf. Mt 5: 11).*

*Dear friends, this is our future! This is the most genuine and universal vocation of all humanity: to form the great family of God's children by striving to anticipate its essential traits here on earth. We are drawn to this goal by the shining example of our many brothers and sisters whom, down the centuries, the Church has recognized as blessed and saints, offering them as examples and guides to everyone. Today we call upon their common intercession, that every person will open himself to God's love, the source of life and holiness."*