

· VISION ·

What motivates me is a dream. I dream of ...

... classes, schools, educational systems in which visitors cannot distinguish faculty from students, because all are equally engaged in learning from whatever lies before them, whether that be a tree, a specimen under a microscope, a piece of music, the host and rank of heaven, or ideas in words on pages.

... places of learning where men and women recognize the unity of creation and the ubiquity of truth, so that their goal is to know and confess reality—that what exists *is*; where all that exists, and even existence itself, is respected as a means of divine revelation, whether it be the dumb created order, the outpourings of the human heart (in any form or medium), the Word of God written in Scripture, or the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ.

... schools that are places of genuine leisure (*scholia*), where students are free to pursue their interests, and where “courses” are joint ventures between tutors and students, opportunities to help each other further understand some aspect of what is true and right and good and just, their studies deliberately collaborative in conception, design, execution, and evaluation, open to all, for the good of all and for the well-being of each.

... an *academy*—a grove!—in which every man or woman understands and seeks to realize his or her responsibility to and for himself or herself, as well as their responsibility to and for each other, so that we all—who “are not yet what we already are” (Pieper 1989, 4)—may continue to become what we were created to be by learning to grow in prudence and justice and fortitude and temperance, because we live in the faith, hope, and love that are the gift of God, so that our learning—whether it be biology, literature, history, theology, art, mathematics, dance, philosophy, physics, poetry, music, biblical studies, or (perhaps above all) “merely” learning to *open our eyes*, that we may see and know and confess “the truth of things”—increasingly enables us to pursue what is good and right and just, in a community in which righteousness and mercy, joy and peace are themselves infectious.

And may God have mercy on us all.

*fcp*  
Feast of Alfred the Great MMVII