

The HeartBeat

A Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of St. John Eudes School

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

50th Jubilee Milestone Celebrated in Grand Style

Grill Hall was transformed into a gala ballroom to celebrate the school's 50th Jubilee on April 16. The hall was filled with parents, alumni, teachers, staff, friends, and special guest which included former pastors **Msgr. Nugent** and **Msgr. McNamara**, and former associate pastor **Fr. Bob Folbrecht**, as well as visiting **Sisters of the Pious Schools**. **Mrs. Danowitz** gave special recognition to **Sr. Guadalupe**, **Sr. Georgina**, and **Ms. Catherine Stula** for their long-term service to the school over the years. Special thanks to Jubilee Chairpersons **Jenny Crandall '89**, **Collen Crandall '91**, and **Casey Crandall '93** and their committee members for the great job on the Jubilee celebration! Visit the school's *Facebook* page for more information and pictures.



We've got a lot to celebrate at St. John Eudes and we're going to continue the fun at this year's Summer Carnival! There'll be rides, games, shows, great food, the Grand Prize Drawing, Multi-Cultural Festival and more - May 27-29, Memorial Day Weekend. Visit sjecarnival.org for full details.



Top: Grill Hall was never so beautifully decorated as guests arrived to celebrate the 50th Jubilee. Parents, alumni, teachers, staff, friends, parishioners and guests sat down to a great dinner and evening. *Center left:* Alumni in attendance took a group picture to commemorate the special occasion (recognize anyone you know?). *Center right:* PTSSO President **Michele Diaz** addressed the attendees and thanked the 50th Jubilee Committee for all its hard work. *Bottom left:* Taking a que from the alumni, teachers and staff also got together for a group picture. *Bottom right:* **Fr. Gérard** and **Mrs. Danowitz** pose with **Jaclyn Sutley '02**, who was recognized at the Jubilee Celebration as the 2016 St. John Eudes Alumnus of the Year.

Inside This Issue:

- Taking a Look Back - The 50th Jubilee Timeline** 2
- The Pulse** 3

Highlights:

- **Jubilee Celebration Welcomes Guests, Alumni; School Has Much to Celebrate**
- **Timeline Highlights School History, Special Events**
- **Alumna Manages Meeting with President Clinton**
- **In Memoriam: Mel Spratley; We'll Miss You**
- **Fr. Grill Changed Lives with Phone Call in 1966; Alumni Parent Feels Blessed for Yard Duty, Hot Dog Sales**

Taking a Look Back: A 50th Jubilee Timeline of the History of St. John Eudes School

It's always good to look back a little to remember where you've come from - and so you know where you're going. But though it is a little difficult to pick out all the highlights of school history for the last 50 years, here are some that we think are the most memorable . . .



1966 - St. John Eudes School opens. The Sisters of the Pious Schools (Scholarum Piarum - Sch. P.) accept administration and teaching duties. 170 students are enrolled in the 1st thru 4th Grade

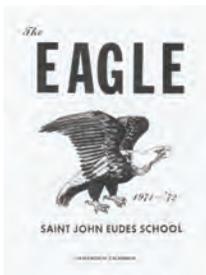


classes. Fr. Philip Grill is pastor. Sr. Beatrice Moreno, Sch. P., becomes first principal.

1968 - Sr. Elizabeth Candelaria, Sch. P., takes over as principal. The school flagpole is erected. A young student at San Fernando Valley College (now CSUN), Ron Allington, starts helping with the sports program. 5th and 6th Grades are added.



1969 - Sr. Beatrice Moreno returns as principal. The eagle is adopted as the school's mascot. 7th Grade is added.



1970 - 8th Grade is added. Ron Allington becomes the first 8th Grade teacher.

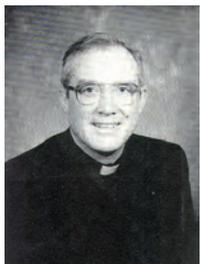
1972 - Enrollment peaks at 40 students per class. The first yearbook, "The Eagle" is published.

1974 - Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P., becomes principal.

The first 8th Grade class that started as 1st Graders graduates. Students enter high school being taught "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy".



1987 - The "Room Mothers" (known today as the "Room Parents") raise funds to provide computers in every classroom.



1989 - Fr. Robert McNamara becomes pastor as Fr. Grill retires.

1990 - Fr. McNamara & Sr. Rosemary establish the SJE School Parent-Teacher Support Organization (PTSO). The SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization was established to form an advisory council for

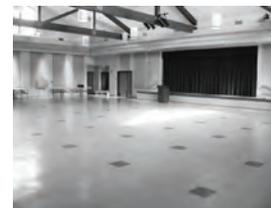
the pastor and principal, and to provide an organizational focus for parent resources. The PTSO holds its first General Meeting in September. *The founding committee included Fr. McNamara, Sr. Rosemary, Ron Allington, and parents/ parishioners Andy Birgel (Chairperson), Laurel Kalchthaler, Adrienne Shaheen, Ernie Star, Sharon Suttles, and Greg Valone. Since it was established, the PTSO has helped raise over \$1,300,000 and provided important input and guidance on school policies and programs. PTSO presidents have been: Frank Phalen 1990-91; Luke Jacobellis 1991-92; Rick Crandall 1992-93; Ernie Star 1993-95; Kina Turner 1995-96; Cheryl Ruebensal 1996-98; Terri Angel 1998-99; Mike Garcia 1999-00; Katie Dawson 2000-01; Ernie Star 2001-02; Bruce Oakley 2002-03; Ellen Abbene 2003-04; Michael Briceno 2004-05; Monica Carr 2005-06; Allen Lien 2006-08; Charlie Aikens 2008-09; Tess Francisco 2009-10; Fred Perez 2009-11; Ricca Francis 2011-12; Nancy Hofmeister 2012-13; Fred Perez 2013-15; Michelle Diaz 2015-16.*

1991 - School Endowment Fund established. First computer network system is installed.

1993 - The First PTSO Spring Fundraiser, "Monte Carlo Night", is held. "Parental Participation" & "Volunteer Service Hours" Programs become a requirement. Mother Paula Montal, the foundress of the Sisters of the Pious Schools, is beatified - accentuating her call "to save families, teaching children the love of God".



1994 - The 6.7 magnitude Northridge Earthquake hits at 4:30 am on January 17. After extensive inspection of the buildings, the school is ready to reopen in 2 weeks. The church however is "red tagged" and for 2½ years a tent on the field will be the church building.



1997 - Rebuilding of the church after the Northridge Earthquake is completed and includes a new plaza and Msgr. Grill Hall, available for use by the school and parish. The Kindergarten classroom opens in the school's former garage. "Glow Buddies" & "Character Counts Coalition" pro-grams become part of the school's focus on values and ethics.

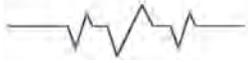
1998 - New "state-of-the-art" Pentium computers are purchased for each classroom. School gets internet access and enters cyberspace age with new website: "www.school.stjohnesudes.org" (sometime later the shorter URL "www.sjeschool.net" was registered).

1999 - 200th Anniversary of Blessed Mother Paul Montal's Birth. Mother Paula mural painted on the wall of the Kindergarten room by Philip and Phil Guastella (SJE school father and grandfather). Children's Choir accepts invitation from Pope John Paul II to participate



(Continued on page 4)

The HeartBeat



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Tiffany Tjan '99 graduated from The High School at Moorpark College in 2003 where she received a number of honors and awards including the Governor's Scholars Award and Scholarship, the Golden State Examination (GSE) Academic Excellence Award for Reading/Literature, and several other awards for academics and student leadership, as well as scoring in the top 2% in the nation in the SATs in 2003. She then attended California State University, Northridge, and graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, and a minor in Marketing. From there she went on to work in hospitality and entertainment positions including being on the opening team for the Four Seasons Hotel in Westlake Village, working in media relations at the Disney Channel, Disney/ABC Television Group, being the first and only Event Services Manager in the history of the Beverly Hilton (executing world-renowned entertainment and corporate events including the Millen Institute's Global Conference, the 70th Golden Globes Award Show and parties, the Oscar Nominee Luncheon, the Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala, and the Television Critics Association Summer

Press Tour. She is currently working at the Ritz-Carlton in Marina del Rey managing meetings and special events. She credits her interest in her field to when she first became a Junior Ambassador for Amgen at 12 years old and continuously participated and volunteered with various non-profit organizations raising money and awareness for cancer research. Most notably, she spent a year living in downtown San Diego in 2011 volunteering with *Manzes*, raising awareness in the fight against pancreatic cancer. Although very busy, she maintains close family ties and is proud to be the Godmother to her niece, Lauren, and confirmation sponsor to another niece, Jada.

Alumni mother, **Rosemary Heier**,

wrote regarding the 50th Jubilee: *"We were parishioners of SJE for forty years. . . . We've been married for 62 years and have four children. We've been retired for 25 years. My many fond memories of SJE include attending Sunday Mass at Rancho San Antonio, our oldest daughter in the first First Holy Communion class, our twin sons' baptism in their chapel, and our other daughter belonging to the school's pioneer 1st Grade Class. Also having known Mother Superior, Srs. Beatrice, Rosemary, Laura, Georgina, and Guadalupe was special to me. To this day, when I run into Srs. Georgina and Guadalupe, they give me a warm hug and ask "How are the twins doing?" So nice to be remembered after so many years*



Tiffany Tjan met former President Clinton when she was Event Services Manager at the Beverly Hilton in 2012. She was in charge of handling all VIP guest arrivals for US presidents, foreign dignitaries and celebrities.

have passed. Oh, so many good times with yard duty, hot dog sales, Room Mothers, the Sisters' annual bazaar, after school sports, guild meetings and activities, and so much more. Our family truly was blessed when I received the phone call from Father Grill two days before the start of the 1966 school year that our daughter, Keri, was accepted in the 1st Grade. God is Good." She also included a



Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at **SJE365.com** and *like us!*



Read the latest tweets about the school on Twitter @**sje365_news!**



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram **SJE365!**

quick note about her three SJE alumni children: **Keri (Heier) Lorenson '72** was in the Pioneer Class and attended through 6th Grade. She graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and is presently COO of a privately held financial institution in Pennsylvania. She is married and has one son. **John Heier '79** graduated from Loyola Marymount and is a math teacher at Monroe High School. He has three children. **Joseph Heier '79** graduated from CSUN and teaches P.E. in Palmdale. He is married and has two children.

In Memorium

Our condolences to the family of **Mel Spratley** who passed away earlier this month. Mr. Spratley was a great supporter of the school and parish. He was active as a school tutor and helped with campus maintenance. He was recipient of the first St. John Eudes Medal. A rosary and funeral Mass were held on April 22 in the church. He will be greatly missed.

1996 - New St. John Eudes School logo is adopted. As part of a contest to include student artwork in the celebration of the rebuilding of the church after the Northridge Earthquake, **Lina Wallace '96** submitted her heart-shaped vision of the church. This depiction was adopted as the school logo to represent unity and dedication to the faith.

2005 - The current St. John Eudes School logo is adopted. *The Shape of the Crest is meant to remind us of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The Colors are our traditional school colors of red & white. Red represents God's love for us and our love for Him. White represents our dedication to purity and joy in our faith. The Letters "SJE" are our school monogram and flow interconnected to each other. They are formed at the foot of a cross to show our humility and understanding that we are servants of Christ. But the letters are also hold the cross to show our support and commitment to Christian values. The Cross declares our Christian faith and emanates from the school monogram to remind us that an education at St. John Eudes forms the basis for a life of Christian growth and development. And the arms of the cross extend unrestricted across the crest, without limit or boundaries, to remind us of God's infinite love and care for us. The Date on the crest was the year in which our school was founded. We are reminded of the legacy our school holds for all who have graduated from SJE.*



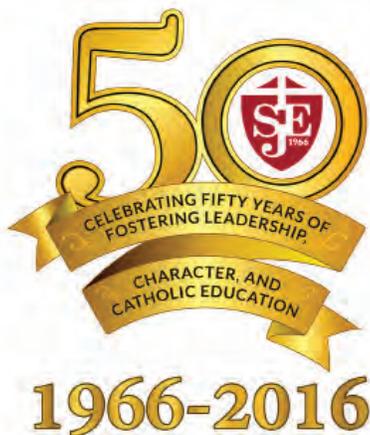
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Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal



The HeartBeat

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St. John Eudes School
Development Office
Ernie Star, Director

Timeline

(Continued from page 2)

in a Children's Liturgy in St. Peter's.



2000 - Msgr. Peter Nugent becomes pastor. The school's "Fundraising Commitment Program" is adopted.

2001 - Blessed Paula Montal is elevated to sainthood by Pope John Paul II on November 25. SJE teacher, Catherine Stula, and the Sisters, represent school and parish at canonization in Rome.

2002 - Sr. Rosemary retires. Mrs. Barbara Danowitz becomes first lay principal. "Tutoring Program" expanded to recruit "seasoned citizens" of the parish.



2003 - Windows are added to the School Officed and Principal's Office. Lunch Area receives a new roof.

2005 - Bishop Wilkerson dedicates the McNamara Library. Mrs. Danowitz establishes SJE Development Office to maintain relationship between school and alumni. "The Heartbeat" newsletter is born.



Students sweep most of the top honors in the citywide Archdiocesan Art & Writing Contest. Flatscreen monitors installed in classrooms for web and DVD access.

2007 - First "Alumnus of the Year Award" presented as part of 40th Anniversary celebration. *Alumnus of the Year Recipients include: 2007 - Dan Lien '74; 2008 - Paige Huff-Hemmis '86; 2009 - Sarah Connor '81; 2010 - Patricia De La Riva '74; 2011 - Mark Gendernalik '84; 2012 - Kym Piekunka Raines '83; 2013 - Bonnie Mertus Gore '80; 2014 - Brian Suttles '86; 2015 - Sandra De La Riva Repede '75; 2016 - Jaclyn Beardsley Sutley '02.*

2008 - Parish School Board established. "Gradelink" online grade access becomes available. First "Summer Carnival" celebrated. *Parish School Board Chairpersons: Ernie Star 2008-10; Rick Crandall 2010-12; Jenny Zoller 2012-14; Chad Rach 2014-15; Barbie Davalos 2015-16.*



2009 - Science Lab (located in the former Religious Ed. offices) opens. Old Parish Hall is rededicated as "St. Paula Montal Hall" in recognition of the great commitment of the Sisters of the Pious Schools to the school and parish.

2010 - "Smart Board" installation in classrooms begins. iPad program initiated in middle school grades. School Facebook page makes debut. Computer lab receives new iMacs.

2011 - Msgr. Nugent retires. The Congregation of Jesus and Mary ("Eudists") accepts administra-



tion of the parish. Fr. Gérard Lecomte, C.J.M., is welcomed as pastor.

2011 - SJE alumna, Jaclyn Beardsley '02, returns as SJE parish choir director and school music teacher - only alumnus to hold this position.



2012 - iPad program extended to include K-4th Grades. SJE PTSO President recognized by Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber as "PTA President of the Year". National Junior Honor Society Chapter founded at SJE. After 30 years of teaching at SJE School, Sr. Encarnación Alvarez (Sr. "E") retires and returns to Spain.

2013 - Parish and Sr. Georgina Gutierrez, Sch. P., both celebrate 50th Jubilees. First "St. John Eudes Medal" (designed and produced by SJE alumnus Miguel Davalos '85) presented to Mel Spratley for his work in the parish and as a school tutor.

2014 - 20th Anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. WASC/WCEA accreditation committee gives school highest rating possible. Srs. Guadalupe Gonzales, Sch. P., and Georgina Guiterrez, Sch. P., receive St. John Eudes Medal for dedication to school and parish.



2015 - Transitional Kindergarten opens. "Pillars of Character" painted on north school building by alumnus Frederick Cantarine '12. Parish capital campaign launched to fund school & parish improvement projects. Lockers installed in middle school classrooms. Daily News recognizes school as one of "Best Private Schools in L.A.". Twitter, Instagram pages go online.

2016 - School celebrates 50th Jubilee. Sr. Rosemary begins process of establishing school in India based on SJE School model.

"The Christian life is a continuation and completion of the life of Christ in us . . . Let us therefore give ourselves to God with a great desire to begin to live thus, and beg Him to destroy in us the life of the world of sin, and to establish His life within us."

St. John Eudes