



The HeartBeat

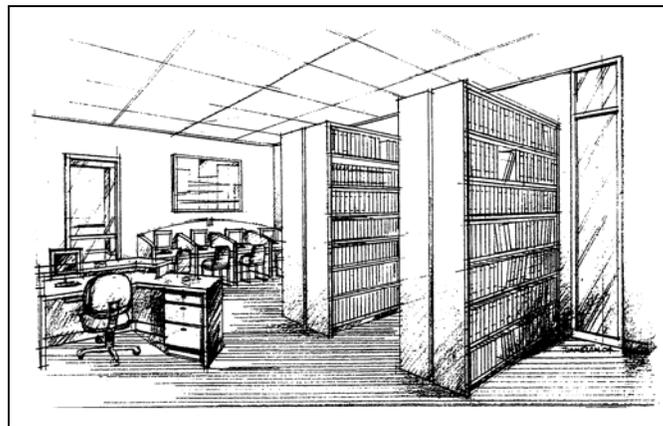
A Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of St. John Eudes School

McNamara Library Dedication Set for January 23 at 1:00 pm

It's been many years since the parish and school have had a place for books to call "home". Mostly they've been on the shelves in each of the school classrooms, available only to those students during school hours.

On January 23, when the McNamara Library is dedicated by Bishop Gerald Wilkerson, books will be homeless no longer. Thanks to the vision and effort of many people, the old library room has gotten a facelift through major reconstruction, and actually looks like a library!

SJE school principal, Mrs. Barbara Danowitz, has been a tireless advocate for the establishment of the library/media center. Generous parishioners and benefactors supported many



Architectural interior view of the McNamara Library

fundraisers to make this possible, and a handful of people went the extra yard, organizing events to benefit the library fund.

Mary Melton and Barbara Hoppe brought us a special performance of "Late Night Catechism", Jeanne Schiro ran a limited raffle drawing, and Jerry Niehaus chaired the SJE Golf Classic Tournament.

The library dedication ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following in the old parish center. All school alumni and friends are invited to attend.

The new library is named in honor of Fr. Robert McNamara, St. John Eudes pastor from 1989-2001. Fr. McNamara will be attending the dedication.

School Spring Fundraiser: It's a Fiesta!

The SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) will be having its spring fundraiser on May 21. This year the PTSO event will have a special theme: "Celebrating the Latin Culture" with ac-

tivities, music, and food reflecting the richness and influence of the Latin culture in our community. Tickets will be on sale several weeks before the event. Donations for the raffle and other prizes

are needed. If you'd like to help, contact the School Office (818) 341-1454. It's a great way to help support our school community.

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- ♦ **Student Council Raises Funds for Tsunami Relief**

SJE Endowment Provides Funds for Library Books

In a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the St. John Eudes School Endowment, the Trustees voted unanimously to allocate \$4,000 of trust fund earnings to help pay for a portion of the costs of the books required for the new McNamara Library. Under the terms of the Endowment Charter, this was the maximum allowable allocation for the year.

The St. John Eudes School Endowment was founded 12 years ago for the purpose of helping to guarantee the opportunity of a Catholic education at St. John Eudes for future generations of school children.

The Endowment was established as an independent charitable fund with the anticipation that it would grow to provide financial support for school programs or in exceptional circumstances of school need. Several years ago, the Endowment was

restructured to comply with the archdiocesan guidelines for a school endowment and a Board of Trustees was appointed that include Dan Lien (school alumnus and current school parent), Tim Dawson (school parent), and Ernie Star (former school parent). Msgr. Nugent, as

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pastor, and Mrs. Danowitz, as school principal, are ex-officio members of the Board. Msgr. Nugent has indicated that the Board of Trustees will be expanded in the near future to include additional members.

An annual appeal for the Endowment has been made regularly over the years at masses during Catholic Schools Week. And through contributions and earnings received since its inception, the Endowment has grown to nearly \$100,000. At this level of funding the Trustees felt it was appropriate to begin using endowment earnings to help the school. The allocation for the library books by the Board of Trustees was the first such use of Endowment earnings.

The Endowment accepts monetary and negotiable donations, including donations made to establish specifically allocated funds or scholarships. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Deacon Chet Holly (818) 340-3680.

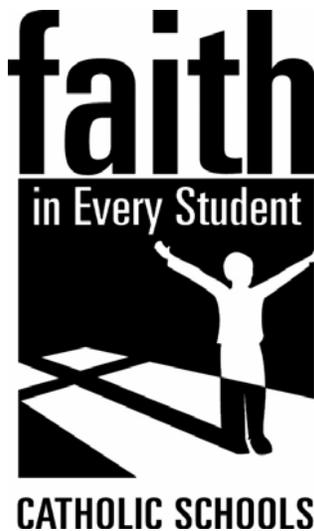
Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 30 - Feb. 5, 2005

“Faith in Every Student: Catholic Schools” is the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2005. The week runs from Jan. 30 to Feb. 5 in Catholic schools throughout the nation and was launched 31 years ago. The observance begins on the last Sunday in January every year.

National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools will be observed Wednesday, Feb. 2. Two other highlights of the week are National Appreciation Day For Catholic School Teachers, a tribute to the 163,000 Catholic educators, observed Feb. 4 and, new this year, Vocation Appreciation Day, on Feb. 3. The latter was established to recognize the leadership of religious orders and clergy in serving Catholic education and to

encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

The logo for the campaign features a student whose stance and outstretched arms cast the shadow of a cross. The message “Faith in Every Student: Catholic Schools” is featured on the design.



In a recent interview, Michael J. Guerra, National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) president, said, “Catholic education is one of the great and generous works of the church. Our graduates have become leaders of this country, teachers, religious men and women and business entrepreneurs. Without doubt our schools

have had a far-reaching impact on shaping the world.”

Dominican Sister Glenn Anne McPhee, secretary for education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that the theme of “Faith in Every Student” underscores two guiding principles of Catholic education--the fact that faith is an important value at the foundation of a Catholic school curriculum and that Catholic schools have faith that every student can achieve.

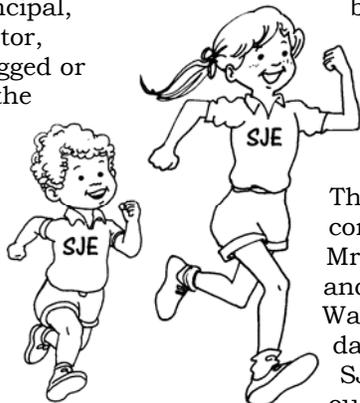
The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build support and recognition for the almost 8,000 Catholic schools nationwide. During this week, many dioceses encourage parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools. CSW also is an opportunity to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to local Catholic schools.

(From a press release issued by the NCEA)

Running Eagles: The Jog-a-Thon Tradition Continues

The tradition of St. John Eudes Jog-a-Thon continued this past fall, as the students, teachers, principal, Barbara Danowitz, and pastor, Msgr. Peter Nugent, ran, jogged or walked to a record sum at the annual fundraiser on November 4, 2004.

Each grade (K through 8) had a class goal, with incentives offered for reaching various levels of participation. The prize for the class raising the highest dollar amount included a week of free dress!



As always, the students had a special Jog-a-Thon lunch (In-N-Out burgers made to order) and were able to purchase raffle tickets for a huge assortment of prizes.

The room parent committee, led by Mrs. Molly Gaines and Mrs. Yesmin Wall, organized the day and our spirited SJE parents were out in force, cheering

on the students, helping to set-up, serving lunch and keeping things in order.

The result: \$47,000 raised for this year's school operating budget. YEAH EAGLES!

Congratulations to the fabulous 2nd Graders who won the class fundraising contest and to Mrs. Erin Plowman (1st grade teacher) winner of the faculty contest. Many thanks to all who sponsored students, donated prizes and helped out to make the day a wonderful success.

Open House, Open School, Open Hearts

Each day, almost 300 faces of the future Church gather in the classrooms of St. John Eudes School. They learn two-plus-two equals four, how to spell "odiferous", that electricity has charges and magnets have poles, why the Japanese have tea ceremonies, that the Nutcracker is also a dance, how "smirk" and "gargantuan" can make a sentence more interesting, what CPU and HTML mean, and at least a hundred more things.

They pretty much understand that life isn't always fair, that if you run

on the blacktop sometimes you end up with a skinned knee, and that late homework gets partial credit. But, the best thing they learn and understand, is that God is there for them and that Jesus lived and died because of love. What an education!

On Sunday, January 30, the school will be OPEN for all to come and view this ongoing process of learning. There will be displays of students' work in Grill Hall and the classrooms will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Scholastic

"But, the best thing they learn and understand, is that God is there for them and that Jesus lived and died because of love. What an education!"

Bookfair will also be open in Grill Hall, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the McNamara Library.

Come support our school and take a tour of the beginnings of the future!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- **January 23 / 1:00 pm: Dedication of McNamara Library.**
- **January 26—January 30: Scholastic Book Fair** in Grill Hall. Portion of proceeds to benefit the McNamara Library.
- **January 30 / 10:00 am—1:00 pm: SJE School Open House.** Applications for 2005-2006 will be available.
- **January 30—February 5: Catholic Schools Week.**
- **February 3 / 7:00 pm: PTO Parent Education Night.**
- **February 7 / 7:00-8:30 pm: Kindergarten Readiness Meeting** with Guest Speaker, Bonnie Geary.
- **February 26: St. Paula Montal Feast Day.**
- **April 30: First Communion.**
- **May 13 / 9:15 am: May Crowning.**
- **May 21: PTO Spring Fund-raiser.** Friends and Alumni are invited to join in this yearly gala event.
- **June 10: 8th Grade Mass and Commencement.**



Mark Your Calendar Now!

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Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

*A Community of Faith
is a community of learners
who recognize and nourish
God-given gifts.*

The HeartBeat

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St. John Eudes School
Development Office

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A Special Message From the Principal

Dear SJE Alumni and Friends:

Happy 2005! I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas vacation and were able to spend quality time with family and friends.

It is hard to believe that 2005 is here and we look forward to many events in the coming school months. From the dedication of the McNamara Library to Graduation, we will be celebrating many accomplishments.

We must pause and count our blessings, especially in light of the tragic human suffering that resulted from the Southeast Asian tsunamis. We pray for the people of the affected countries, especially the children, that they may find relief from their devastating experience. Our Student Council is sponsoring a relief effort and asks that you join us in raising funds for the victims through Catholic Relief Services.

May God continue to bless you and our school community in the coming months.

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz

A Note From the Editor

Since its founding nearly 40 years ago, St. John Eudes School has graduated well over 1,100 students and families. Many return to visit SJE to reminisce about the "good old days" and keep in contact with some of their former teachers and friends. Through *The Heartbeat* we hope that we can continue to foster the sense of community that so many alumni, families, and friends cherish as a core of the educational experience at SJE. *The Heartbeat* will be published quarterly and if you know of anyone who would like to receive a copy, please let us know by sending a note to the address on the form below. We hope you enjoy reading about what's happening at SJE!

So, What Have You Been Up To?

It's always great to hear about what school alumni and families have been doing since they graduated from St. John Eudes School. It's amazing how many are doing such great things and how some of our older alumni have become parents themselves and have elementary or middle school (or even high school) aged children of their own (and some alumni even have kids at SJE now!).

If you'd like to share what you're doing or what you've done, drop us a note and we'll feature you in our next HeartBeat. You can use the form at the right or send your information on a separate piece of paper. You can even e-mail your information to theheartbeat@socal.rr.com. Please make sure to include your telephone number in case we have questions about your information.

So whether you're an alumnus or are alumni school parents, we'd love to hear from you. And we're sure your school friends would love to hear from you too!

Yes, include me in your next issue!

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

I am an Alumnus - Year Graduated: _____

We are an Alumnus Family - Kids Names & Grad

Dates: _____

What I've/we've been up to:

Mail to: Attn: The HeartBeat
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