



# The HeartBeat

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

## It's Time to Salsa! "Festival 2005" A Celebration of Latin Cultures

SJE PTSO Sponsors Spring Fundraiser - May 21

Looking for a good time? We've got one for you! The SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) is sponsoring its annual Spring Fundraiser which this year will be "Festival 2005" A Celebration of Latin Cultures.

This will be a fun filled evening with great food from our local landmark (and SJE family owned) Los Toros Restaurant.

The evening will feature live entertainment, Salsa dancing and lessons, a best salsa contest, bingo, raffle, door prizes, and a silent and live auction.

The live auction will include beautiful keepsakes made by our K thru 8th graders, front row seating at graduation with 2 preferred parking spaces, and a family dinner hosted by the LAFD, (generously donated by our own

Tom Croell), to name a few fabulous items.

The Grand Prize for the raffle is a trip for 2 to Hawaii for 7 days, 6 nights, made possible by the Hannon Foundation. Second prize is a complete desk top computer system and third prize is \$250.00 cash.

... And, don't forget the frozen margaritas!

Further information will be sent out to all SJE Alumni and Friends – so keep your eye on your mailbox and save the date: Saturday, May 21, 2005, 6:30 - 11:30 pm in Grill Hall. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Proceeds will support the important mission of our school.

See you there! Nos vemos!

## A Special Portrait for the McNamara Library



Bishop Wilkerson, Fr. McNamara, Karen Fredrickson, and Msgr. Nugent pose with portrait of Fr. McNamara painted by Ms. Fredrickson. The portrait now graces the walls of the library that was dedicated on January 23. The dedication was attended by a standing room only crowd of SJE school families, parishioners, and friends of Fr. McNamara. The library is now a main resource for SJE students.

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Highlights:

- ♦ **SJE Students Reach Out to World Beyond The School**
- ♦ **Pope's Love Touched Children & Youth**
- ♦ **Trees to Memorialize SJE "Angels"**
- ♦ **Fr. McNamara to Preside at Wedding of SJE School Alumni**
- ♦ **SJE Girls Softball Team Expected to Repeat League Championship**

# The Sports Program at SJE is Alive & Well!



The sports program at SJE is alive and well and continues to develop strong dedicated Eagle teams!

The Boys A football team ran, passed, and blocked their way to a 3 – 1 record and went to the League playoffs under Coach Carlos Fuentes' guidance. The Boys B football team kicked off the sports year with a 4 – 1 record under Coach Ron Allington (yes, he is still here!).

The Girls sports program this year is headed by Kathy Stewart. Coach Stewart and Coach Tom Croell coached the Girls A volleyball team in a fun-filled season netting a 2 – 4 record. The Girls B team had a wonderful year with a record 5 – 2 under the leadership of our 2nd

grade teacher Ms. Danielle Messiha. With very few returning players from last year's Boys A basketball team, new Basketball Coach Paul Swainy knew this season would not be a slam-dunk. The team played hard and learned how to play the game while recording a 0 – 6 season record. The Boys B team passed the season with a 3 – 1 record and Coach Allington was very pleased with the effort displayed by his team.

The Girls A basketball team played hard for Coach Stewart and Coach Croell and shot a 2 – 5 record which doesn't really reflect how much they improved over the season. The Girls B team got off to a slow start but improved rapidly to finish at 4 – 1 for Coach Messiha.

Our Boys A volleyball team is working hard to get back to the playoffs this year and have a great chance to

be successful. Coach Allington has them bump-set-spiking toward a great year. The Boys B team will be coached by Ms. Jackie Messiha. She has a large number of athletes out and they hope to repeat last year's perfect season.

**Returning CHAMPS in Girls A softball!** Our Girls WON the League Championship last year and hope to REPEAT this year. Coach Stewart and Coach Croell are working to get the girls off to a swinging start. Our Girls softball team will be coached by Colleen Olivas. She has many young softball players with a lot of talent and they are looking forward to a hit season.

**Go Eagles!**

## What the World Needs Now

**Question:** What do green snow cones, blue jeans and jump ropes have in common?

**Answer:** These are all ways that SJE's students are reaching out with charity and concern for people in the world outside their school.

Student service projects began in November and December with the Archdiocese' *Adopt-a-Family* program. Students collected non-perishable food and household goods, filling the large boxes in each classroom with different items for families in need. Then they donated wrapped gifts, for a child their own age and gender. A pile of hand made Christmas thank-you letters were mailed to American service men and women serving overseas.

When the children returned from Christmas vacation, donations began for the *Catholic Relief Services' Tsunami Victim Collection*, organized by the student council. On \$1.00 Jeans Day, the free dress "fees" went to our sister school, Our Lady

of Guadalupe, in L.A, for school supplies. Valentines Day was a celebration at local convalescent homes, as residents enjoyed cards made by SJE's "cupids", delivered by parish Eucharistic ministers. On St. Patrick's Day, students enjoyed green snow cones for 50 cents – the proceeds went to *Get On the Bus*, a prisoner's outreach that helps children visit their moms behind bars.

During the Lenten *Holy Childhood* collection, *Math-a-thon* for St. Jude Children's Hospital, and

*Jump Rope for Heart*, students offered up their allowances, worked 200 extra math problems and jumped rope for an hour. If that's not love, what is?



SJE students celebrate St. Paula Montal Day by joining in activities that build cooperation and community spirit.

# Dedicating a Garden of SJE Angels

Now that spring is in the air, take a moment to wander outside the choir room and look at the beautiful magnolia trees planted in memory of two St. John Eudes students who died in 2001. The first was planted for Diego Baza, a third grade student who suffered stoically his entire life with a congenital heart condition. The second was planted for Luke Gaines, a first grader who was hit by a car while crossing a street to gather flowers for the May crowning at school.

On May 22, the parish community

will gather to complete this garden of student saints. We will plant three additional magnolia trees: one in memory of Matt Suszka, a fifth grader who was hit by a car while walking to school in January of 1978; another for Anisha Jacob, an eighth grader who lost her battle with leukemia in October of 1989;

the third in honor of little Angela Abbene, a joyful first grader who went home to Jesus in January of this year, following a tragic car accident.

*"Many tears will water the trees in this beautiful garden, but they will serve as a reminder that our school has been touched by God's special messengers."*

Many tears will water the trees in this beautiful garden, but they will serve as a reminder that our school has been touched by God's special messengers. Our litany: Matt, Anisha, Diego, Luke, and Angela, taught us that life is precious, that we must make the most of each day we are given, and that all of us are beloved children of God who will return home to Him.

All are invited to the tree planting ceremony on Sunday, May 22, after the 12:30 pm Mass. A light reception will follow in the plaza area; the celebration will culminate with the SJE Children's Choir performance of their Spring musical at 3:00 pm.



## The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni

**Hanna Jacobellis '87** graduated from Alemany High School in 1991. She attended CSUN where she graduated in 1996 with a degree in Child Development. She then worked as a preschool teacher for several years and is currently a marketing manager for John Paul Mitchell Products. Last year an old friend reintroduced her to a former high school acquaintance, Jimmy Larkin (who she found out had a major crush on her in high school). After asking her parents for permission, Jimmy surprised her with an engagement party on New Year's Eve, which included all their family (which she said was the best night of her life). Fr. McNamara will preside at their marriage this coming October.

**Anna Modeki '95** attended Chaminade College Preparatory and graduated in 1999. She attended the University of Washington at Seattle and graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in English. After college she worked for a number of months in China teaching English as a second language. She is currently attending Georgetown University to obtain a Master's Degree in English.

**Gina Zambetti '96** attended Alemany High School and graduated in

2000. She then attended Mount St. Mary's College where she received a B.S. degree in Nursing in 2004, and was honored as the student commencement speaker at graduation. She is currently employed at the Los Angeles Children's Hospital and plans to pursue her Master's Degree at UCLA in the fall.

**Amanda Setto '00** attended Louisville High School and graduated in 2004. She is currently attending California Lutheran University and is majoring in Biology. Her dorm roommate, **Kristina Star '00**, graduated last year from Chaminade College Preparatory where she received numerous awards for her activities in the music program. Kristina is majoring in Multimedia at CLU. Both Amanda and Kristina are enjoying the hard work and excitement of college life.

**Robert Ledo '01** will be graduating from Notre Dame High School this June. He entered NDHS with honors in English and Math. He has been active in athletics playing football and being on the track team. Last year he received National Honor Society recognition and this year is NDHS student vice president. Robert is still considering his options for college since he has

been accepted to San Diego State University, University of San Francisco, UCLA, USC, and California Polytechnic Institute.

*SJE students go on to do wonderful and exciting things — and we'd like to hear from you! You're invite you to share what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School (or if you're the parent of an alumnus, this is your chance to do a little bragging!). You can e-mail us at "theheartbeat@socal.rr.com" or send us a note to:*

*Attn: The HeartBeat  
St. John Eudes School  
9925 Mason Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

### Upcoming Events

- **April 30: First Communion.**
- **May 13 / 9:15 am: May Crowning**
- **May 21 / 6:30 pm: "Fiesta 2005" A Celebration of Latin Culture —** Friends and Alumni are invited to join in this gala event
- **May 22 / After 12:30 pm Mass at SJE: Garden of Angels Tree Planting**
- **May 22 / 3:00 pm: SJE Children's Choir Spring Musical**
- **June 10: 8th Grade Mass and Commencement**

## St. John Eudes School

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

### The HeartBeat

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## A Note From the Editor

St. John Eudes School has always been a loving and caring community where we share our sorrows as well as our joys. Last January we lost one of our special first graders, Angela Abbene (see *Dedicating a Garden of SJE Angels* on pg. 3). While this was an especially hard sorrow for us to share, the love and compassion shown by our school families reaffirms the strength of the love in our school community and

of our particular affection for the Abbene Family. We also lost another special member of our community, Bob Muldrew. Bob was a very active and supportive school parent and one of the original members of the PTSO Executive Council. Bob's presence will be greatly missed. We wish to express our condolences to both the Abbene and Muldrew Families.

## Parishioners Support Endowment

Since its inception 12 years ago, the St. John Eudes School Endowment has grown to be a major fund to assure the continued availability of a Catholic education for our children. As has been the tradition at St. John Eudes, parishioners have been asked to support the endowment through a special collection during Catholic Schools Week. They have always shown a great generosity of spirit in supporting the mission of the endowment.

This year was no exception and over \$3,000 was added to the endowment fund. Because of the growth of the endowment fund the trustees have now been able to use fund income to support special school needs and projects. Any alumnus or friend of SJE School who would like to support the endowment (including general or specific gifts) should call Deacon Chet Holly at (818) 341-3680.

## A Special Message From the Principal

As we mourn the recent death of Pope John Paul II, we reflect on this amazing man and his impact on the world. The outpouring of love from all over the world for our pope is testimony to his spirituality and greatness. People of other faiths, or those with no faith at all, were touched by his life. When we examine his legacy we find authenticity and consistency in his message because he was spreading the message of Christ.

Pope John Paul was unwavering in his message on the culture of life. He believed in the sanctity of life from its beginning to its end. He spread the message of peace and denounced war and he spoke out against the death penalty. He was a champion of human rights and so-

cial justice. He was against communism and against capitalistic greed. He warned against the evil of consumerism and materialism and the growth of secularism that is so ram-

pant in the western world.

As he preached and lived the beatitudes, he helped us on our journey back to God again and again. He taught all of us the values of

Christ and reminded us of what it means to be truly Christian. His love of children and youth was so touching and they reciprocated that love to him. The look on the faces of babies, children and youth when they met Pope John Paul II was a look of recognition for the face of Christ. Humanity has lost a great

servant of God.

I would like to close with an excerpt of a prayer composed by John Paul II the week before his passing:

*“ . . . To humanity, which at times appears lost and dominated by the power of evil, of selfishness, and fear, the Lord resurrected offers as a gift His forgiving love, reconciles and reopens the spirit to hope. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much need the world has to understand and receive Divine Mercy! Oh, Lord, who with Your death and resurrection reveal the love of the Father, we believe in You and with confidence we repeat today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy on us and the entire world.”*

Barbara Danowitz