



The HeartBeat

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

Class of 2005 Continues SJE Tradition Going Forward to High School & Beyond



Photograph courtesy of Alexander's Photography, Chatsworth

Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, Ms. Stula, and Mrs. Thies pose proudly with the Class of 2005 as they get ready to join the proud ranks of SJE School Alumni.

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

This was the theme for the graduating class of 2005, with a focus on faith, scholarship and service, as commencement activities culminated on June 10.

Pastor Msgr. Peter Nugent and principal Barbara Danowitz conferred diplomas to twenty-eight exuberant 8th grade “Eagles”. They are: Frances Abbene*, Lorena Acevedo, Ashley Aquino*, Brittany Bin, Victoria Chu*, Kori Conemac*, Anthony Dapello*, Stephen Erickson, Lara Feghali, Elizabeth French, Amber Heitkemper*, Meg Jacoby*, Nigel Jones*, Pedro Lozano*, Christian Mendoza, Connor Mendoza*, Shawn Meusborn*, Monica Mikhael*, Ryan Molique, Taylor Munoz, Alana

Muntz, Tharith Perera, Markus Rosales*, Kevin Shacter, Lauren Summerville, Brett Wang*, Julia Walther, and Meaghan Wheeler.

Fourteen classmembers (denoted above by “*”) began as first-graders with Mrs. Gabaya in 1997, under the guidance of pastor Fr. McNamara and principal Sr. Rosemary. Their other teachers through the years were Ms. Carpenter (Malici), Mrs. Drivels, Sr. Encarnación, Sr. Liliana, Sr. Georgina, Mrs. Thies, Ms. Stula, Mr. Allington, Mrs. Strom, Ms. Chung, Mrs. Reyes and Mr. Medrano.

It was a busy week leading up to the ceremony: Tuesday was retreat day, planned and presented by parish

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Highlights:

- ♦ ***Class of 2005 Ends School with Busy Week; Pray for Guidance and Strength***
- ♦ ***School Year Reflects Expression of Faith in Hope***
- ♦ ***SJE Sports Teams End Year Undeafated; Teams Win Division Championships***
- ♦ ***Yearbook Prediction Comes True for SJE Alumnus***
- ♦ ***St. John Eudes Feastday Focuses on Love of the Heart***
- ♦ ***Scholarship Established in Memory of SJE Parishioner, Educator***
- ♦ ***World Youth Day to be Attended by SJE Alumni, Student***

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End of the School Year - A Time for Reflection

As you leaf through the school annual with "Pomp and Circumstance" playing in your thoughts, you can't believe that another school year has passed and the St. John Eudes Class of 2005 has graduated.

Sometimes the days seem so long as we hustle to get the kids to and from school, to get homework completed, and to make it through a myriad of after-school activities, not to mention the family meal. Despite these long days, the years really do fly by. And even though this past

"Numerous times throughout the school year our faith found its expression in hope. We prayed for peace in the world. We encouraged the success of our students in academics and extra-curricular activities. We gave of our time, talent, and treasure to build community . . ."

nurture the seeds of faith planted in each SJE student at Baptism.

Through daily prayer, classroom study, weekly class liturgies, monthly school Masses, paraliturgies, service projects, student and staff retreats, family catechesis, the Christmas Pageant, and many other creative prayer experiences, the school community encouraged the growth of faith in one another.

Numerous times throughout the school year our faith found its expression in hope. We prayed for peace in the world. We encouraged the success of our students in academics and extracurricular activities. We gave of our time, talent, and treasure to build community, while raising funds for our school.

In January, we celebrated the dedication of the McNamara Library and rediscovered the joy of reading. In that same month we mourned the sudden and tragic loss of our dear first grade angel, Angela Abbene. Her joyful, helpful, and passionate spirit made a lasting impression on our lives. Her legacy lives on through the courage, commitment, and character by which the Abbene family is defined. Through their example they have taught us much about "the three things that remain: faith, hope, and love." And St. Paul reminds us that the greatest of these is love.

Indeed, love is the theme that will be best remembered from this past school year. It is by planting seeds of faith, and

coming together to nurture them with both laughter and tears, that we foster the growth of love.

Such love was clearly evident as we gathered in May to dedicate "The Garden of Student Saints" outside the SJE choir room. Five trees were dedicated in loving memory of students who died while attending SJE: Matt Suszka (1978), Anisha Jacob (1989), Diego Baza (2001), Luke Gaines (2001), and Angela Abbene (2005). It is interesting to note that our litany of saints died during the same years that John Paul II was pope. What a joyful picture to imagine our students welcoming the Holy Father "home".

Yes, the 2004-2005 school year was a memorable one. We shared faith and hope; successes and failures; laughter and tears. Most importantly, we shared love. By God's grace may we keep that love alive for many years to come. ♥



SJE students and Sr. Encarnación help raise funds and build school spirit by participating in the "Jog-a-thon".

school year may be complete, it will never be forgotten.

We began the year in the sweltering days of August, with big hopes and dreams. "Faith in every student" was our motto, and we proceeded to



Macarena anyone? SJE graduating class enjoys dancing after dining at graduation dinner in Grill Hall.



Friends and family of SJE's "Student Saints" help plant trees dedicated to their memory.

Have you Remembered SJE School in Your Trust or Will?

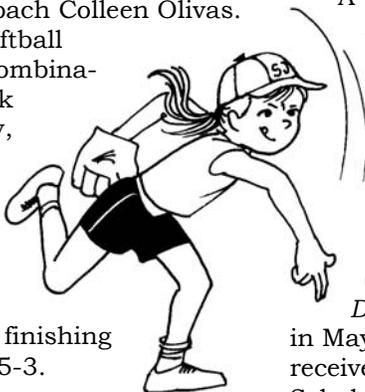
For further information, please contact Deacon Chet at (818) 341-3680 or H. Richard Closson, Director, Trust and Estate Programs for the L.A. Archdiocese at (213) 637-7472 or HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org www.estateplanning.com/trustsacc

Correct legal title is:
The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, A Corporation Sole, for the benefit of St. John Eudes School

Eagles Soar in Spring Sport Competitions

The S.J.E Spring sport teams were again OUTSTANDING this year!

The Girls "B" softball team hit their way to an undefeated record finishing 5-0-2 for Coach Colleen Olivas. The Girls "A" softball team, using a combination of teamwork and high energy, while being coached by Tom Croell and Cathy Stewart, earned a spot in the league playoffs, finishing their season at 5-3.



The Boys "B" volleyball team, coached by Jacqueline Messiha, out-played every opponent for a Division Champ 6-0 record. The Boys "A" volleyball team, under Coach Allington, bumped, set, and spiked all schools for a 9-0 record and the Division Championship. In the playoffs they finished second in League and each received a medal for their great effort.

Sports Appreciation Night (formerly called *Father & Daughter/Son Night*) was held in May and the following students received our St. John Eudes Scholar Athlete Awards:

5th Grade: Preston Blankenship, Kaitlin Fusco, Colleen Kennedy, Mary Lopez, Tiffany Tarampi; 6th Grade: Mary Abary, Bianca Derrick, Nick Jones, Andrew Mezher, Jillian Olivas, Courtney Pascual, Kristina Pollack, Miklos Zoller; 7th Grade: Lauren Broussard, Christian Fuentes, Katherine Glasser, Angie Medina, Sarah Stewart; 8th Grade: Alana Muntz, Meaghan Wheeler.



We are looking forward to another great sports year in 2005-2006!



The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni

Dina Jacobellis '89 graduated from Alemany High School in 1993. She then attended Pierce and Moorpark Colleges where she was active on the volleyball teams. She graduated from CSUN with a B.S. in Health Science in 1999. She has traveled extensively through Europe but has now settled down to work as an advertising manager at John Paul Mitchell Products. She is excited to be the maid of honor at her sister Hanna's wedding this coming October. She feels blessed with the love of her great family and friends.

Michael Modeki '93 graduated Chaminade College Preparatory in 1997 where he was honored as "Mr. Chaminade". He attended Loyola Marymount University, majoring in film, and graduated in 2001. He is currently enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise.

Kimberly Suttles '95 graduated from Alemany High School and attended Moorpark College. At Moorpark she participated in the *American Teaching Zoo* animal training program. Upon graduation she obtained a job with Universal Studios. Her job requires her to care for dogs, monkeys, and other animals. It also involves training them for

movie roles. She is currently the caretaker for an eleven month old baby orangutan named "Archie". Archie is with her 24 hours-a-day and she has to take care of him just like he was her own baby. But while she loves her job, it does put a strain on her social life! It was noted in her yearbook that she would one day be "a monkey trainer". See - those yearbook prophecies really do come true!

John Paul Ledo '99 graduated from Notre Dame High School in 2003. He was active on the football, baseball, and track teams. He is currently active in the family business *Information Management Systems* and is working on his degree at Pierce College.

SJE students go on to do wonderful and exciting things — and we'd like to hear from you! You're invited 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*

Class of 2005

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youth ministry director, Laura Diaz. Wednesday evening, parents and students participated in an inspiring prayer service; a dinner-dance followed in the beautifully decorated Grill Hall, including a wonderful buffet, energetic DJ, and sentimental slideshow. Thursday was "play day" as the faculty and staff challenged the class in a volleyball tournament. The rest of the classes came out to cheer; an *In 'n Out* lunch helped to ease the "agony of defeat" for Grade 8. On Friday morning they attended their final Mass of elementary school in red and white robes, and were treated to a charming song from their kindergarten buddies.

Later in the day, the class of 2005, comprised of twenty-eight unique and special personalities, closed their grade school careers by asking the Holy Spirit of Jesus for wisdom, courage and love to guide, strengthen and surround them, and to walk with them, as they go forward to high school and beyond. ♥

Congratulations Class of '05!

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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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A Note From the Editor

When St. John Eudes Church was rebuilt after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, our school children were asked to draw pictures of the new church as part of the dedication celebration. While most students drew wonderful pictures of the new hall, tower, and remodeled church building, **Lina Wallace '96**, drew her vision of our church – and she used the very powerful symbolism of the heart to convey her idea. Her vision was an extraordinary insight into what it meant to be a church community and the design was adopted by St. John Eudes School to express the importance of our sense of community and our love of God. It is this “heart design” that is on the front cover of *The HeartBeat*.

The heart has long been a sign of love and unity. And it was our school's patron saint, St. John Eudes, who “brought people to love

Christ and the Virgin Mary by speaking tirelessly about their Heart, the sign of the love God shows for us and the communion to which we are called.”* But he not only spoke of God's love – he himself was an expression of that love to those around him in all he did and accomplished.

St. John Eudes School continues to express the love of the heart in educating students in faith and knowledge, and in modeling Christ by centering teaching on integrating faith, life, and learning. As we celebrate the feastday of St. John Eudes on August 19, let us remember the importance of the love of the heart in our own lives, and in the lives of our children and their families.

* www.eudistes.org/cjmhistro.htm



A Special Message From the Principal The Lydia Burke Memorial Scholarship

I recently had the privilege of meeting a gentleman by the name of John Burke whose mother, Lydia Burke, was a parishioner here at SJE. Mrs. Burke died earlier this year at the age of 93.

John shared with me the story of his mother's life and how she dedicated herself not only to him and his three siblings, but to the many children she taught over the years as an elementary school teacher. Mr. Burke conveyed to me that education was highly valued in his family - in fact, all four of Lydia Burke's children went on to become teachers from the elementary grades to the college level.

As he pondered her life he asked himself what he could do to honor her memory. It was at this point that it came to him that the greatest tribute he could bestow upon

his mother's legacy was to establish a memorial scholarship for tuition assistance to worthy eligible students who desire a Catholic education.

We are so thrilled to announce that Mr. John Burke has established the *Lydia Burke Memorial Scholarship* to benefit students at St. John Eudes School. We wish to thank the Burke family for their generosity and commitment to education and commend them for thinking of those in need.

We thank God for the life of Lydia Burke who touched the lives of young people in her vocation of teaching and will continue do so through this scholarship.

Barbara Danowitz

SJE School to be Represented at World Youth Day

Over 800,000 young people are expected to converge on Cologne, Germany, for World Youth Day 2005. Among those attending

will be the Dawson Family - a current SJE school and alumni family.

In addition to their own children, parents Tim and Katie will accompany a youth group from the United States. Their journey will begin in Rome and then take them to a number of pilgrimage sites in Italy.

They will join a larger group from the U.S. in Cologne for the August 15 beginning of WYD.

Pope Benedict XVI will attend the celebration and end WYD activities with a Mass. Additional information about WYD can be found at “www.wjt2005.de”.



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World Youth Day
Cologne 2005