



The HeartBeat

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

SJE Class of 2006 Ready to "Soar Above and Beyond"



Photograph Courtesy of Alexander's Photography, Chatsworth

Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, Ms. Stula, and Mrs. Thies pose proudly with the Class of 2006

Each year, as the graduates of St. John Eudes step forward to receive their diplomas, smiles, tears, and cheers fill the Church. And we ask ourselves, "Where did the time go?" "How can these kids be old enough for high school?" We thank God for all that our students learned during their elementary years. And we reflect on that we have learned watching them grow.

This year's class made history at SJE. They are the first kindergarten class to graduate. Thanks to the efforts of all who worked so hard back in 1996, their foundation of faith, commitment to family, and propensity for fun were all clearly evident through their years at SJE.

This year's graduation speaker, L.A. City Fire Captain and 2005 Fire Fighter of the Year, Steve Ruda, reflected these same themes in his inspirational message to the graduates. His words were well received by all in attendance as he spoke of pursuing dreams with a servant's heart.

The class of 2006 also had a very special guardian angel in Diego Baza. Despite a heart ailment he was a vibrant member of this class from kindergarten through third grade. He was an inspiration to all who knew him, but especially to his classmates. The entire community of St. John Eudes mourned his loss, but together we learned to trust in God and to appreciate each precious day of life that God gives us.

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SJE School 40th Anniversary to be Celebrated with Gala Alumni Dinner Bishop Wilkerson to Preside at Anniversary Mass

As the 2005-2006 School Year draws to a close, our school is already looking forward to a unique milestone next year. The 2006-2007 school year will mark the 40th Anniversary of SJE School. And since a 40th birthday is a special event for anyone, even a school, this will be a great opportunity for our

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Highlights:

- *Class of 2006 Graduates; First of SJE Kindergartners become Alumni*
- *40th Anniversary Gala Planning Continues; Bishop Wilkerson to Attend Mass, Dinner*
- *Catholic Digest Award Salutes SJE Student Leadership Qualities*
- *Sr. Rosemary to Travel to India; Will Teach at School in Kerala*
- *Alumni Cancer Patient Needs Help; Will Ride 100 Miles to Help Herself, Others*
- *Softball and Volleyball Teams Win Division Championships*

Class of 2006

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At this year's graduation ceremony, a very special tribute was made in memory of Diego. His parents, Sandra de la Riva and Rick Baza, shared a heart memento with each of the graduates, calling them forth one at a time, and reminding them to live life with whole hearted passion, just like Diego. The winner of the Diego Baza Memorial Scholarship was Alejandra Rivera.

Numerous scholarships and awards were given to recognize the talents of the Class of 2006. When school principal Barbara Danowitz asked them to stand, move their tassels to the right side of their caps and officially graduate from St John Eudes School, the smiles, tears, and cheers once again filled the Church. All in attendance reflected upon what we had learned while watching these young achievers grow for the past nine years. We wish them well as they step into the future. Congratulations to our newest Alumni!

Members of the Class of 2006 are: Daniel Ab-bene, Matthew Alvarez, Cas-sandra Angel, Ricardo Ar-gueta, Daniel Arteaga, Lau-ren Brous-sard, Amanda Carmona, Collin Cierlak, Alexandra Croell, Chris



Czapla, Carolina Davidson, Johlene De Los Santos, Christian De La Riva-Fuentes, Grace Freymiller, Katherine Glasser, Shanice Hernandez, Violet Hollywood, Jordan Klein, Patrick Lien, Angela Medina, Nadia Medina, Brandon Mikhail, Nicolas Montaña, Mireille Nasr, Ethan Pascual, Christian Pitts, Alejandra Rivera, Samantha Sarmiento, Sarah Stewart, Mark Suizo, Nicholas Trinidad, and Sean Wheeler.

Special Congratulations to

Sr. Guadalupe Gonzales on her 50th Jubilee with the Sisters of the Pious Schools. Sr. Guadalupe has long been associated with SJE School in numerous capacities and we wish her all the best for the coming years!

SJE Student Receives Catholic Digest Leadership Scholarship

Graduating 8th Grader, Alejandra Rivera '06, was awarded the Catholic Digest Leadership Scholarship. She will be awarded \$500 to be used towards educational needs at Louisville High School during her freshman year.

Based on a nomination by SJE Principal Barbara Danowitz, Alejandra was selected from several area wide applicants for exemplifying the Catholic Digest Leadership qualifications of outstanding leadership, good character, a positive attitude, outstanding class attendance and participation, and strong community involvement. Alejandra hopes one day to pursue a career in law.



Sr. Rosemary to Teach in India

Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, former SJE Principal, will be taking a teaching position with the Sisters of the Pious Schools in Kerala, India. Sr. Rosemary will be leaving for India on August 6. All of us at SJE are thankful for the time and effort that Sr. Rosemary gave to us to develop and build the SJE School community for 26 years. May God continue to bless and keep her as she begins this new chapter in her ministry.



A Special Thanks to Our Special Supporters

With the completion of the 2005-2006 School Year, we would like to acknowledge those Alumni and Friends who have contributed to the SJE School Capital Campaign and the Adopt-A-Student Program. Donors will also be acknowledged on a plaque that will be displayed in the School Office for the coming year. Thank you to all those who have supported the school through these programs.

2005-2006 Capital Campaign

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Ronald L. Piekunka

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Susan Zambetti-Ruda

SJE alumni and friends enjoyed themselves immensely last May at the PTSO sponsored "Casablanca 2006" Monte Carlo Night Fund-raiser. Fr. Grill Hall was transformed into a desert oasis casino with fabulous prizes, including the Grand Prize Drawing for the trip to Hawaii. Thanks to the support of those who attended and the hard work of PTSO volunteers, \$45,000 was raised to help support the school!



The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni

Suzi Hendricks (Sandoval)

'84 attended Chaminade College Preparatory and went to college at Cal State Long Beach where she earned a B.S. degree in Nursing. She met her husband, Ed Sandoval, while working at Ruby's Diner on the Seal Beach Pier and they are celebrating their 12th Anniversary this year. They have 2 boys and 2 girls (ages 8, 5, 3, and 1) and her children are attending Catholic school. Besides her duties as a mother, she is currently an RN, working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura. Suzi and her husband also own and operate a retail embroidery store, called *Embroidery Studio*, located in Thousand Oaks. Suzi says it's a busy, fun, and rewarding life! She made some very good friends at SJE and about half a dozen of them remain best friends to this day.

David Cowan '94 graduated from Royal High School in 1998 and then joined the Marines. He is currently stationed in Hawaii but is now doing a six month tour of duty in Iraq. He is planning to return to Southern California later this year to settle down with his wife, Jennifer, who he married in 2003.

40th Anniversary Celebration

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school alumni and friends to join together and celebrate our SJE School community. All alumni, alumni parents and friends will be invited to celebrate at a Gala Dinner at SJE in Grill Hall on Saturday, February 3, 2007. A special alumni Mass, presided by Bishop Wilkerson, will also be celebrated before the dinner.

This will be a truly festive event and is being chaired by SJE alumni Dan Lien '74 and his wife, Kathy. It will be a great opportunity for alumni to meet with old friends, as well as current and former teachers and administrators. Invitations will be sent to alumni and alumni families later this year. But make sure to mark your calendars now!

Marcia Davalos '93 sent us this special message:

*Hello Alumni, Friends,
and Fellow Parishioners,*

My name is Marcia Davalos. I was once a St. John Eudes student and have been involved with our parish in every which way. On January 4th of this year, my life took a sudden turn. I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and have been undergoing treatment since. After I finished radiation, and started with chemotherapy, I felt like I needed to do something to get



I took this picture of me during chemotherapy

my mind off of feeling tired and bed-ridden, and back to my normal happy self. So I have decided to participate in the "2006 Honolulu Century Ride" (a 100-mile bike ride being held in Honolulu, Hawaii) for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. I have already been accused of being a bit crazy but I can honestly say that my training has been the best of medicines. Although I still have a long road ahead of me before I am in the clear, I have managed to keep great spirits and have been feeling simply fabulous.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is an organization that I have grown to love, appreciate, and cherish. They raise millions of dollars each year to achieve their mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

I got involved with *Team In Training* a couple of years ago simply because I wanted to help a worthy cause and feel good about myself. I have been a participant as well as a mentor in the cycling program and

prior to being diagnosed, loved every minute of it!

But things are a lot different now. It's personal. Call it irony or coincidence, but now more than ever, I, as well as many of you, have a personal stake in this, whether it be through me or another loved one. So now I'm asking you, to make a contribution to my cause, as well as the cause of thousands of other people that have had any type of cancer affect them.

Please, feel free to either cheer me on, or tell me that chemo has made me go officially nuts. I'll entertain every thought. I keep telling everyone that I have the best support-system in the world, because I have soo many people that, although I have not talked to them in awhile, have kept me in their constant thoughts and prayers. I appreciate and love every single one of them! Truth is, I'm "Kickin' Cancer" and loving every minute of it!

*With lots of love
and warmest wishes,
Marcia Davalos*



There are two easy ways to make a tax deductible donation:

1. Write a check payable to "The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society" and mail the donation to:
Marcia Davalos
10601 Hillview Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
2. Visit my online donation page at <http://www.active.com/donate/tntgla/tntglaMDavalos>

If you have questions please contact me at marciadavalos@yahoo.com or (818) 626-6355.

St. John Eudes School

9925 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 341-1454
Fax: (818) 341-3093

www.school.stjohneudes.org

Msgr. Peter Nugent
Pastor

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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Development Office

Ernie Star, Director

Contributing Writers:

Ellen Abbene

Ron Allington

Molly Gaines

Eva Star

Spring Sports Program Bloomed with Championship Teams

The SJE Girls "B" Softball team learned to play the game and had a good time doing it under the fine leadership of Coleen Olivas. They played some very tough teams on their way to a 2-3 season. The Boys "B" Volleyball team enjoyed another smashing year of volleyball. This year under the direction of Danielle Messiha they finished with an outstanding 5-1 record. The Girls "A" Softball team was a big hit at school this year led by Coaches Tom Croell and Kathy Stewart. They finished with an excellent record of 9-1 and were the Division Champions. The Boys "A" Volleyball team served up another superior effort under Coach Allington and recorded

The Heart of the School: Teachers & Staff Speak God's Blanket of Education

Picture a patchwork quilt composed of a multitude of colors and textures, yet with a pattern that is unifying, intricate and compelling. Now, replace each piece of the quilt with one teacher or staff member of St. John Eudes School, and you will get a vision of the educational fabric of SJE woven together by the priests, administrators, teachers, and aides as well as the office, accounting, library, extended care, and maintenance staff.

Some of the "crew" has been here since (almost) the beginning of the school, others for only a single school year. They are from different backgrounds, in different age groups, and have different personalities and educational experiences, and bring to their students unique and varied approaches to learning.

What are the strongest aspects of being at SJE for this variety of educators?

"I love the fact that we can speak about the goodness of God freely."

When they speak about St. John Eudes School, teachers and staff use these words: "community", "commitment", "caring", "helpful", "supportive", "peaceful".

"The willingness of . . . staff and parents to support the educational activities utilized at SJE . . ."

". . . being able to teach students about Jesus."

When they speak about St. John Eudes School, teachers and staff use these words: "community",

"commitment", "caring", "helpful", "supportive", "peaceful". These are the borders that bind SJE, while the pattern of the school quilt becomes evident if we listen to what they say of their goals:

". . . to help each student develop mentally, physically, emotionally and socially. I try to model Christian behavior and pray that the students enjoy their educational experience . . ." – Mr. Ron Allington (Science, P.E. - 37 yrs.)

"Through the gifts and talents God has given me, my goal is to example the love of Christ Jesus." – Mrs. Teri Renty (EDC, Health - 3 yrs.)

". . . to use a variety of teaching strategies in order to meet the needs of my students . . . creating students who love to learn." – Mrs. Erin Plowman (1st Grade - 3 yrs.)

"Complete organization." – Terese Crow (Business Office - 3 yrs.)

St. John Eudes School is not a blanket to hide under, rather it is a venue of God's nurturing way, even as He hopes and expects that all of His children will use and improve the talents He gave them. It is, indeed, a heavenly quilt!

Ellen Abbene

[This is the third in a series of articles Ellen is writing in salute of SJE's 40th Anniversary year. The previous articles (in our January and April issues) focused on Parents and Students, and their experiences at SJE School.. The next article will highlight the comments and thoughts of Alumni — Editor]