



The HeartBeat

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

Save the Date!

Alumni & Friends of SJE School Invited to 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner - February 3, 2007

'06-'07 School Year Marks SJE School 40th Anniversary - It was 40 years ago this year that St. John Eudes School opened its doors for the first time. There were a lot more orange groves and fields in the West Valley at that time, but the new school was already needed to help support the education of the children of a growing and vibrant parish that had been established just a number of years earlier.

Fr. Grill opened the school in 1966 with four grades (1st thru 4th) that served 170 students. And each year another class level was added as the oldest class progressed, until all eight grades were established.

The school was fortunate to have the Sisters of the Pious Schools available to staff the classrooms. They guided the school based on the principles of their foundress, St. Paula Montal (whose birthday is celebrated this month on Oct. 11) with the goal to educate students and their families to *Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy.*

Over the years our school has seen many changes, has experienced great challenges and opportunities, and has grown to meet the needs of students in the 21st Century. We are thankful to former pastors Msgr. Grill, and Fr. McNamara, and to former principal, Sr. Rosemary, for their many years of service and guidance to the school. We are also thankful to our current pastor, Msgr. Nugent, and our current principal, Mrs. Danowitz, for their leadership and dedication to our school community today.



Over the years alumni & friends of SJE have gathered together to celebrate a number of special occasions. This year's celebration of our 40th Anniversary will bring our school community together again to mark a very special milestone in the life of our school.

Bishop Wilkerson to Preside at Special Anniversary Mass - To celebrate the occasion of our 40th Anniversary, Bishop Wilkerson will be the presiding celebrant at a special Mass on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007, at 5:30 pm in the church. Immediately following the Mass, the *SJE School 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner* will be held in Fr. Grill Hall. All alumni & friends of St. John Eudes School are invited to attend the dinner. The dinner is being chaired by Dan Lien '74 and his wife, Kathy, and being helped by current SJE school parents.

Gala Dinner to Include Special Guest Speakers, Student Presentations - The dinner is being held at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week and will feature displays of SJE student work. Other special presentations will be made by SJE students, and guest speakers will include Bishop Wilkerson, Fr. McNamara, Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, and former teachers and alumni, including SJE alumna,

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Highlights:

- ♦ **40th Anniversary Gala Dinner to Feature Nationally Known Alumna Guest Speaker**
- ♦ **Swim Team Works Towards 1st Place Finish; Boys "A" Football Team Looks to Repeat Championship Season**
- ♦ **Endowment, Capital Campaign Help Fund Technology Improvements**
- ♦ **Alumni & Friends to Nominate Alumnus of the Year; Presentation to be Made at Anniversary Gala Dinner**
- ♦ **SJE Alumnus Recalls School in 1966; Remembers Sr. Laura**
- ♦ **Hallowe'en Festivities Celebrate Blessings, Heroes of Faith**
- ♦ **Alumni Seen as "Patron Saints" of SJE School**

40th Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

Paige (Huff) Hemmis '86, who is currently appearing on the design team for *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* on ABC, Sundays at 8:00 pm.

Cost for the dinner is \$35 per person and invitations will be mailed soon to



SJE alumna, **Paige (Huff) Hemmis '86**, who is on the design team for ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" will be a guest speaker at the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

those on our mailing list. So mark your calendar now! Seating is limited, so when you get your invitation, make sure to respond as soon as possible - tickets will be on a first come basis.

Note: Since alcoholic beverages will be served at the dinner, you must be at least 21 to attend.

Classrooms Get New Monitors

Funding from the SJE School Endowment, Capital Campaign, SJE Golf Tournament, and various parent fundraisers has provided for the installation of flat-screen video monitors in the classrooms. Teachers can display images from their computers, allowing classroom viewing of educational internet resources, as well as homework assignments and other information.



SJE Fall Sports Teams Ready for New Season

Here we are ready to compete on the athletic fields and courts again this year!

We had 31 girls show up for our Girls "B" Volleyball Team. With the help of some very generous parents we were able to set-up two "B" teams. Our 5th Grade team is being coached by Mrs. Mary Tucker (with her husband's support) and our 6th Grade team is directed by Mr. Alex Washington with the help of Mrs. Mary Larez. Both teams have begun playing games and the players seem to be learning the game and having a lot of fun.

Our Girls "A" Volleyball Team, with Coach Danielle Messiha at the helm, has started play and looked real strong in winning their first match. They are entered in the La Reina High School Volleyball Tournament later this month and they should be a strong contender with many players returning from last year's team.

Our Boys "B" Flag-Football Team with its 20 energetic 5th and 6th Grade boys are lead by Mr. Nick Montano with the help of Mr. Peter Guerriero. They are definitely getting in shape and are ready to start the new season.

The Boys "A" Flag-Football team is coming off its Championship season of last year with many returning players and some good 7th Graders. The team of 14 is looking forward to another great season. They will be coached this season by Mr. Allington.

Our Swim Team, with Mrs. Molly Gaines as coach, is doing an outstanding job again this year, building on last year's great performance. They have been 2nd and 3rd so far this season and are very close to that 1st place finish.

Please continue to pray for the success of all of our SJE teams and athletes!



SJE students participate in the yearly Jog-A-Thon to help raise funds for the school, which was held this year at the end of September to take advantage of the better early fall weather.

SJE School to Recognize Alumnus of the Year

The use of examples is a very powerful teaching technique. Examples set by those who come before us can inspire and encourage our spirit.

After 40 years of sending students into the world to apply the lessons learned at SJE School, there are many alumni that can be an example of the spirit and essence of SJE for our students.

As part of this year's special 40th Anniversary Celebration, SJE School will choose the first annual *Alumnus of the Year*. The award will be based on how well the alumna/alumnus has applied the principles of to *Live*, to *Love*, to *Learn*, and to *Leave a Legacy* since attending SJE School.

Nomination forms will be sent next month to all alumni and friends on our mailing list and will also be available in the school office. The recipient of the award will be chosen by a committee headed by Msgr. Nugent and Mrs. Danowitz. The recipient will be announced at the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner on Feb. 3.



The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

After **Erik Faraldo '82** earned his Master's Degree in Political Science he joined the Army in 1989. He attended flight school and learned to be a helicopter pilot. He served in Desert Storm and has completed his service in Iraq. He is currently a captain and is stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. His family is honored by the service he has performed for his country and is also thankful that God has brought him home safely.

Yvette Andrizzi '97 attended Chaminade College Preparatory and graduated in 2001. She then attended California State University, Northridge, where she was a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Honor Society. She graduated in 2004 with a degree in Psychology. She is currently attending California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks and will be receiving her Master's Degree in December. She plans to continue on for her Ph.D. She hopes someday to open her own practice in Psychology.

Deacon Chet & Jeanne Holly, retired last month after many years of service to the parish and school. We are very grateful for all they have done and hope they enjoy their new home (on a golf course!) in Virginia. We welcome **Deacon Bob Seidler** who will serve as our new Pastoral Administrator. Deacon Bob is a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, and of St. John's Seminary College. He also served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He worked for 35 years in the entertainment industry, and managed his own business for a number of years. He is married, has 2 adult daughters, and 3 wonderful grandchildren. Deacon Bob looks forward to working in the parish and supporting the important mission of St. John Eudes School.

Angelina Faraldo-Corden, a school alumni parent, is the mother of three SJE graduates. Her family has been part of the SJE School community since 1969. Angelina told us that she lost her husband, Henry Corden, last year. She says, however, that the time together with their extended family at SJE was a great joy, and she will greatly miss her husband who will always be in her heart. She is thankful to God for her beautiful life, and continues to be surrounded by love from family and friends.

Bill von Grep (SJE 3rd Grade Class of 1966-67) was one of the first students at SJE 40 years ago and wrote us about his school memories:

My brother Thomas and I attended St. John Eudes School the very first year it opened. We had been going to Our Lady of Lourdes, but our mom insisted we go to the new local Catholic school (at that time we lived near Plummer and Winnetka). The first year at St. John Eudes there were only four grades being taught at the school - which were Grades 1-4. There was no electronic school bell - instead the school secretary would stand outside the office and ring an actual hand held bell.

Each school room had a great view north to the Santa Susanna Mountains. It was a great view to get a kid daydreaming. Just when you were deep in a daydream there would be a sonic boom coming from the Rocketdyne testing going on a few miles away. Daydream over!

When recess came, all we had was a big blacktop parking lot to play on. We were required to wear dress shoes and we slipped and fell on the blacktop often because the shoes had no traction like tennis shoes. Many of us kids would arrive early in the morning and we wanted to play kick ball, so we had to go the convent to wake up the sisters and get a ball. The convent was way out in the far corner of the school and often times in the morning they were all praying and couldn't get us a ball. On those days we had running races or played tag.

In 1966 I was in 3rd Grade and was being taught by Sr. Laura. To this day I remember what she would say when a kid would do something wrong, "Ayyyy, the people. Ayyyy, the people!" I was a fidgety youngster and I heard more than my fair share of "Ayyyy the people's" from Sr. Laura directed right at me. Frankly,

she helped me to become a better person.

Another thing I remember is that St. John Eudes Parish initially started celebrating Mass at the Rancho San Antonio Boy's Home while the church was being built. There was an auditorium/gymnasium at the Boy's Home where they would set up chairs and we would go to Mass right there. The kneeling part was hard because we had to kneel on a hard floor (hey, I was only 8!). I remember seeing a famous TV star attend those Masses - his name was Victor Buono, and my brothers and I knew him as "King Tut" on the *Batman* TV series. It was weird too because the stage was

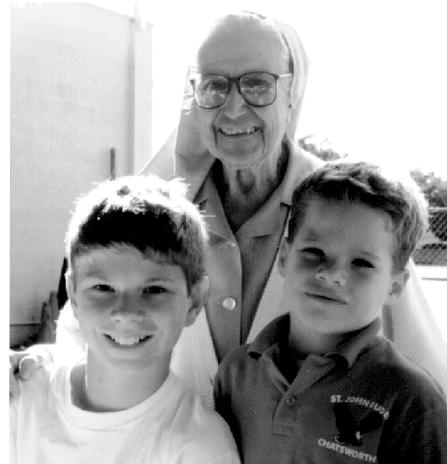
up high and it kind of felt like the priest was so far from the people. This only went on for a few months, but I do remember being at the Boy's Home for several Masses and a baptism.

My brother Tom was picked to be in the very first group of altar boys for SJE and he has a picture of himself in the robes entering the side door of the church for an early Mass being said by Father Grill. One day I'll have to get him to send the picture to you.

All in all, with only 4 grades at St. John Eudes in 1966, there was not much there as you can probably imagine. But it was all new and full of life, and I am glad it is still there and thriving.

SJE students and families 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. You can e-mail us at "theheartbeat@social.rr.com" or send us a note to:

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Sr. Laura and friends (1995)

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



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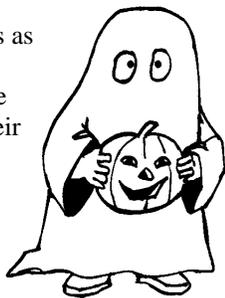
Eva Star

SJE Fall Traditions Celebrate Harvest of Blessings, Heroes of Faith

It's that time of year again. The days are getting shorter, the leaves are changing color, and the traditions of Fall are soon to unfold. It's a time of ghosts, goblins, and giggles for the kids.

The excitement abounds as they choose their Halloween costumes, carve pumpkins, and make their homes look "haunted". For families, it's a great time to celebrate the harvest of blessings that we have shared throughout the year.

For the St John Eudes Parish Family, there are many opportunities to do just that.



Alumni Needed to Teach Us About the School

In February, many of you will come back to celebrate the passage of time that is now earmarked as SJE's fourth decade. Some of you have kept in touch with classmates, some are parents of present students, some have cherished memories, and some have not even thought about the school since graduation. No matter which of these describes you best, there is certainly something that you took with you from your days of being an SJE Eagle.

The purpose of the HeartBeat is to reach you and, more importantly, to bind together those of you who once were its students with those who now are making their way through the classrooms at the corner of Mason and Lassen. That sharing of experience, though it may be different for each person, will hopefully foster in our community a spirit of remembrance and renewal as St. John Eudes School continues on its journey of educating young people.

Our parish saint, St. John Eudes, was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our school saint, St. Paula Montal, was devoted to saving families by teaching children the love of God. These patrons were simple people teaching lessons about love. They empowered those around them during their lives and they continue to teach us who are here now, through their life stories and writings. You alumni are also patrons of St. John Eudes School and you also can teach about love. In the past several issues of the HeartBeat we have told you how parents, teachers,

and students have felt about the school. And now we'd like to hear from alumni - and here's what we're curious about:

How has being part of St. John Eudes School influenced your life?

If you're an alumni tell us your answer. We'd like to publish your answers in the next issue of The HeartBeat in January. Tell us. Teach us.

Please e-mail Ellen Abbene at ellena@socal.rr.com or send a note to *Attn: The Heartbeat/Alumni* to the school office.

We'd really love to hear from you!

Alumni & Friends Asked to Pray for End to Epidemic in India

Last July Sr. Rosemary left to teach and work in Kerala, India. The area where Sr. Rosemary is living has been stricken with *Chikungunya Fever*, a viral disease that is spread by mosquitoes. The disease has spread over several states in India and is continuing to widen. Over 100,000 people in Kerala alone have been infected and over 90 have died, according to *DailyIndia.com*. Fr. Paul Kottackal, SJE Associate Pastor (and also Pastor of the *Blessed Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Mission, Los Angeles*), who is from Kerala, asks for our prayers for Sr. Rosemary, the people of Kerala, and for an end to the epidemic.

The fall festivities in the school and parish offer something for everyone every year. We begin with a whole community celebration of saints and heroes at the SJE PTSO sponsored *Annual Hallowe'en Hop* family costume party, with live music, a chili cook-off, games, and prizes for kids of all ages. Then on Saturday evening (usually the closest one to Hallowe'en) we celebrate the long standing tradition of the Harvest Mass (*aka Pumpkin Mass*) and Trunk-or-Treat returns. Kids are asked to come to the 5:30 pm Children's Mass dressed as saints and bible heroes. After Mass, the kids will be collecting candy through the south parking lot and participating in bible games in the Old Parish Hall. This is always a great night at SJE, as many alumni bring

their own children back to relive fond memories and renew old friendships.

On Hallowe'en Day, the school will host a Pumpkin Patch for the K-2nd graders and a pumpkin carving gallery for all of the students. And finally, the Fall festivities will culminate in the celebration of All Saints Day on Nov. 1. The SJE Parish Community, led by the 6th Grade Class, will gather at the 8:30 am Mass to recognize the heroes of faith who have gone before us.

May their example of courage, hope, and charity inspire us in our own journey to sainthood. And may the traditions of Fall bring the SJE Family together to celebrate the spirit of community which keep us going strong.