



# The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net)

## Alumni & Friends Invited to Celebrate the Spirit at St. John Eudes! Parish Summer Carnival Set for Pentecost Weekend



May 21~22~23

**Free Admission!**  
**Free Entertainment!**  
**Free Parking!**  
**Rides • Food • Games!**  
**Lots of Fun!**

Visit [www.sjecarnival.org](http://www.sjecarnival.org)  
for complete details!

As the weather starts warming up you gotta know that summer's not far behind. And we're getting ready to celebrate a really fun season with the St. John Eudes Summer Carnival!

All of our alumni, friends, and their families are invited to join us in this really fun event. There'll be really great food, exciting rides, top-notch entertainment, our refreshing Beer & Margarita Garden, and thrilling carnival games. We're also celebrating our cultural heritages with a special Pentecost mass at 10:45 pm on

May 23 that will end with a procession and ethnic entertainment in the tent.

And don't forget the fabulous Grand Prize Drawing where you can win \$5,000 in Cash, a 52" Sony LCD Hi-Def TV, or an HP Windows 7 Netbook Computer! Grand Prize Drawing tickets are available in the parish plaza after weekend masses - where you can also get pre-sale ride tickets at a special 50% discount!

You can have even more fun by volunteering for the carnival to help in our food, ticket, or game booths. And volunteers get a chance to purchase special unlimited ride wristbands (which will only be sold to volunteers - visit our website at [www.sjecarnival.org](http://www.sjecarnival.org) for complete details).

So why travel all that way to those expensive theme parks. Enjoy the Summer Carnival right here in your own backyard. See you at the Carnival!



Carnival visitors enjoy a wild variety of rides and exciting carnival games. After taking in the excitement, guests can relax, enjoy food and goodies, and take in the great entertainment on the Main Stage under our huge Entertainment Tent.

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### Highlights:

- **Parish Spirit to be on Display at Carnival; Alumni & Friends Guaranteed Fun**
- **SJE Students Act Out in Cathedral; Recognized in Tidings**
- **Teacher Builds Successful Philosophy on Trust, Love**
- **Former Pastor Receives Papal Honor; Gets Award from Local Temple**
- **Alumna Lands TV Roll with Royal Connection**
- **SJE Student Holds World Math Ranking; Calculates How to Stay on Top**
- **SJE Students Pass Hats for Haiti Earthquake Relief**
- **Beanie Baby Collection Aids Peace Effort; Builds Good Will**
- **50th Jubilees Highlight Personal Milestones; St. Paula's Mission Alive at SJE**
- **Golf Tournament Scores with School; Leader Board Traded for Smart Boards**

## St. John Eudes Children's Choir Performs with L.A. Opera Company Choir Featured in Tidings Article

The SJE Children's Choir, which includes many school students, performed along with the Adult Choir and the L.A. Opera Company in the *Festival Play of Daniel*. The performance took place at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles on Feb. 27. The Choir was featured in a Tidings article in the Mar. 26 issue..

Richard Medrano, SJE Music Ministry Director, worked with L.A. Opera's Music Director, James Conlon, to stage the performance. The production also included several other choirs from the Los Angeles area and is part of the outreach program of the L.A. Opera to include community groups in productions of this caliber.

The SJE Choirs have previously worked with the L.A. Opera in productions of *Noye's Fludde* and hope to continue the relationship. The full text of The Tidings article can be found on their website at [www.the-tidings.com](http://www.the-tidings.com).



Mr. Medrano (left) and the SJE Children's Choir pose with Maestro James Conlon (right), Musical Director of the L.A. Opera Co. Mr. Conlon directed "The Festival Play of Daniel" at the Cathedral which included the SJE Children and Adult Choirs - several of their members also playing key acting rolls in the production.

## Focus on the Faculty: Sr. Guadalupe - The Philosophy of Trust From Spain ~ to Cuba ~ to Chatsworth with Love

**"I love God."** When she was five or six years old, Guadalupe Gonzalez, of the small Spanish town, *El Arenal* (in Avila) knew one thing for sure: she wanted to be a saint. Soon enough she also knew that in order to strive toward this goal, she would "have to become a religious". Her parents were farmers, relying on providence as much as hard work, tilling their own and others' land. But never was work more important than Sunday mass or praying the rosary, where each afternoon she held the middle spot among five sisters and two brothers.

When her mother had a long illness, and another brother died young, they trusted and prayed harder. When Guadalupe was old enough to begin her vocation, at age fifteen, she entered the order of the Sisters of the Pious Schools, influenced by a local priest, Fr. Santos, Escolapias.

In 1955, the novice sister followed her love to Cuba, and finally vowed complete faithfulness to God in 1960. A year later, Cuba fell to communism, bringing the Pious Sisters to the U.S. and California. "She helped to prepare the fertile soil of Chatsworth for the spirit of Mother Paula

Montal as she quietly cared for the Sisters in the ranch house on Lassen Street. Humility, hard work, simplicity, friendliness, joy marked her first years at SJE," recalls Sr. Rosemary, Sch.P., former principal.

**"I love the children."** Every morning she is in position: station #1 of the car drop-off line, as the students arrive – tall, small, drowsy, perky, grimacing, grinning – and are deposited into another day of educational calisthenics. This perfunctory ritual is her morning act of love, as Sr. Guadalupe accepts each one with a smile and a brief accounting of what they need - a helpful tug out of the car, a little hug, a simple word of welcome. Parents drive into their daily grind with ethereal receipts: a hopeful "Have a great day,"

loving nod, and quick wave of a faithful hand. Justly appraised by current principal, Barbara Danowitz, "It is so wonderful to see Sr. Guadalupe on the car line as the first staff member to greet the students each morning."

**"I trust God to help me with everything."** Community cook, school secretary, college graduate, teacher, catechist, coordinator of Hispanic ministries,

Eucharistic minister, Vice-Provincial, Mother Superior: Sr. Guadalupe has relied on God no matter what her duties.

By trusting God, she is free to concentrate on loving everyone she meets. Sr. Georgina Gutierrez, SJE religion coordinator and longtime friend, shares, "She is very generous [and] gives herself to the people through her work. She has a happy nature. When I am grumbling, worried about something, she tells me to relax because it will be OK."

This year, as aide to the "wonderful" Mrs. Rice in 2nd Grade, Sr. Guadalupe helps the students in all subjects and especially to prepare for their First Eucharist. That is her "day job". In the evening she is a driving force of the Spanish Ministry; with 270 children total, and about 100 of them planning to receive the Eucharist this year.

**"I want to be happy."** Sr. Guadalupe recalls when each year the 7th Graders creatively planned and presented the farewell mass for the graduating 8th Graders. One year she convinced Mark Hollingsworth to play his guitar as the music accompanist. "He really didn't want to do it. But I told him he should. And it turned out beautiful." Another year the Valyermo dancers taught students a dance of the "Our Father". As she remembers, a fond smile appears, along with a quiet chuckle, a sparkle of appreciation in her eyes. It's quite simple, Sr. Guadalupe's philosophy for happiness: *Children, Trust, God!*





Congratulations to former St. John Eudes Pastor, **Fr. Robert McNamara**. Fr. McNamara was recently accorded the papal honor of Chaplain of His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI. The honor carries the title of Monsignor. Msgr. McNamara is currently the pastor of St. Bernadine of Sienna Church in Woodland Hills. He is also being honored at a special dinner on May 16 by Temple Aliyah as recipient of the *Koach Award*.

**Marianna Orsini '98** attended Chatsworth High School where she participated on the girl's softball and volleyball teams. She then earned an A.A. Degree at Pierce College and transferred to California State University, Northridge, to major in Child Development. She is planning to graduate CSUN this spring. She has been working her way through college as a waitress and is also a special education assistant at Melvin Elementary

### In a Lighter Vein . . .

Three boys are in the school yard talking about their uncles. The first boy says, "My uncle's a poet - he scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My uncle writes songs - he scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My uncle's a priest - he scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

*Please consider scribbling a donation on a check and sending it to St. John Eudes School. Donations are tax deductible and help the worthy cause of providing a quality Catholic education to deserving children. Your donation to the Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student Program, Endowment, or other general or specific gifts is greatly appreciated. To donate please contact the School Office (818) 341-1451 or visit our website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!*

School in Reseda. She plans to continue her studies and obtain a Master's Degree in Education in the near future. In her free time she enjoys travelling.

**Tiffany Kurpuweit (Susan) '00** - (Update / HeartBeat April, 2009) has been chosen to be 1 of 3 girl mechanics on a new reality TV show called *Well Oiled*. The show will tape in Hollywood and will also star Emma Parker Bowles (yes, the one who's the niece of Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall and wife of Prince Charles). Tiffany says she went through a maze of auditions (ala *American Idol*), but was finally chosen for the show. Congratulations Tiffany!

### SJE Student Ranking Among Top in International Math Competition

Congratulations to **John Francis**, current SJE 5th Grader. John is presently rated **4th in the world** in the *First in Math* international math competition! *First in Math* is an on-line competition which includes students and schools from the United States and other countries. For more information on the contest visit [www.firstinmath.com](http://www.firstinmath.com).

### Quick News . . .

**The Annual Mardi Gras/Casino Night Fundraiser**, sponsored by the PTSO, raised \$50,000 which will be applied to the family fundraising commitment so that tuition can stay affordable for many school families. Thanks to all our alumni and friends who supported the event. And thanks also to all the volunteers who worked so hard.

**Capt. Steve Ruda, of the Los Angeles Fire Dept.** and an alumni parent, gave an inspiring presentation during Catholic Schools Week. He stressed the importance of receiving the dividends from a Catholic education – faith, knowledge, discipline, and morals.



*St. John Eudes students raised nearly \$800 through the "Hats for Haiti" campaign for earthquake victims of the Haiti Earthquake. Overall, children in the Los Angeles Archdiocese raised over \$291,000 to help those affected by the quake.*

**SJE Families and Students Collected Beanie Babies for Operation Gratitude** that will be sent to our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The soldiers will be able to distribute them to local children to help build good will.

**SJE 8th Graders Served as Ambassadors/Greeters** at the recent Archdiocesan Deacons Meeting called by Cardinal Mahoney and hosted by St. John Eudes on Mar. 7.

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*(Continued on page 4)*



*Bryan Suttles (right), an SJE alumnus and chairperson of the "2009 SJE Golf Classic", presented a check for \$11,000 to Fred Perez (PTSO Officer), Msgr. Nugent, and Mrs. Danowitz. The money was used to help purchase "Smart Boards" for the school classrooms. Bryan is also a member of the Parish School Board.*

## St. John Eudes School

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Pastor*

*Mrs. Barbara Danowitz  
Principal*

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



### The HeartBeat

A publication of the  
St. John Eudes School  
Development Office

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### Quick News . . .

*(Continued from page 3)*

provements. Thank you to all our alumni and friends who donated to the collection and continue to support our *Endowment, Annual Fund* and *Adopt-a-Student* programs.

**The SJE365.com Facebook Page has Grown to 55 Members** and we hope that you will join us too (if you haven't yet already). *SJE365.com* is a great place to share your pictures and stories about SJE sporting events, concerts, and other school activities - and we'd like to hear about the "good old days" if you're an alumnus or alumnus parent! If you haven't visited our site lately, we hope you'll go there soon. There are already some great pictures of our kids and school events posted. And if you have some pictures you'd like to share, please e-mail them in today!

## A Special Message from the Principal St. Paula Montal's Mission Is Alive Today at SJE

Earlier this year, on February 26, we celebrated the feast day of St. Paula Montal, who is the patron saint of the family and education, and the founder of the Sisters of the Pious Schools.

St. Paula's mission was the education of young women and their role in society. St. Paula worked to establish a wide range of educational programs for girls that were meant to counteract the existing legislative discrimination of girls in the nineteenth century in Spain. Her teaching paradigm was to create a civilization of love and service through the education of our youth, producing future leaders of tomorrow. Presently, her educational work continues through the education of almost 30,000 boys and girls in 20 nations on four continents.

**"Her teaching paradigm was to create a civilization of love and service through the education of our youth, producing future leaders of tomorrow."**

St. John Eudes School embraces the mission of St. Paula Montal, teaching and inspiring our students to be life-long learners who live their faith and grow in their personal, moral, social, spiritual, and intellectual development. This paradigm is very evident here at SJE; we believe our School-Wide Learning Expectations (SLEs) help our boys and girls become life-long learners and leaders in their chosen fields, while embracing the school's mission.

One of our own teachers, Sr. Encarnación Alvarez, recently celebrated her 50th/ Golden Jubilee as a Sister of the Pious Schools. She entered the convent as a young teenager and has devoted most of her life to working here at St. John Eudes. We congratulate her on this milestone in

her ministry and thank her for the dedication to her vocation and the love she has shown to our students and families. She truly has been an example to us the spirit of St. Paula Montal.

*Barbara Danowitz*



**Top** - Sr. Encarnación (center) is joined by Sr. Josefa Epifana (left) and Msgr. Peter Nugent (right) during the celebration of her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of the Pious Schools. Sr. Josefa also celebrated her Golden Jubilee that day. The celebration was held at the Northridge house of the Sisters and was attended by a large group of fellow Sisters, as well as invited friends and guests. Msgr. Nugent concelebrated a mass, followed by an outdoor reception which featured Cuban food and desserts (Cuba is where the Sisters came from prior to coming to Los Angeles).



**Bottom** - Joining in the celebration (left to right) were former SJE School Secretary, Maria Margolis, and current teachers, Mrs. Dona Thies, Sr. Guadalupe, Ms. Cathy Stula, and Sr. Georgina. Mrs. Danowitz, and many other friends of SJE School, also attended. Sr. Encarnación and Sr. Josefa each received a proclamation from Pope Benedict XVI in recognition of their Jubilees.