



The HeartBeat

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

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The SJE Class of 2010 Shining as the "Light of the World"



Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Thies, Mrs. Danowitz, and Ms. Stula, present the SJE Class of 2010 as they prepare to bring the light of their education to a world needy of their enthusiasm. All were admitted to the high school of their first choice.

On June 11, 2010, as their graduation theme proclaimed them "*The Light of the World*", the thirty-ninth graduating class of St. John Eudes School, thirty-three members strong, processed the church's center aisle as a group for the last time. Excitement, uncertainty, appreciation, relief – the usual spectrum of emotions was palpable among the graduates, parents, teachers, staff, and gathered friends.

Valedictorians Jill Gaines and Jessica Washington shared the podium to deliver the address to the class; Danielle Riley was Salutatorian. SJE Scholarships/Awards were presented to Jill Gaines (*Diego Baza Memorial*), Pearce Blankenship (*Luke Gaines Memorial*), Amanda Zazueta (*Sr. Rosemary*), Ariana Rivera (*Sr. Laura Memorial*), Matthew Allegretti (*PTSO/Room Parent*), Nasim Herrington and Jessica Washington (*Knights of Columbus*). Receiving high school scholarships and/or honors at entrance were Matthew Allegretti, Pearce Blankenship and Nasim Herrington (Notre Dame), Jill Gaines, Hope Holtum, Brittny Martinez, Jessica Washington and Amanda

Zazueta (Louisville), Darren Kriz (Chaminade), Thomas Wall (Crespi), Jordan Zavatto (Bishop Alemany).

Looking at this class, it's worth to remember how much the world has changed since they

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2010 Summer Carnival "Celebrates the Spirit" at St. John Eudes

This year the *St. John Eudes Summer Carnival*, coinciding with Pentecost weekend (May 21-23), was an appropriate celebration of the Spirit at SJE, not to mention the wonderful celebration of summer (which was set to "unofficially" start on the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend).

Organizers estimate attendance was up about 20% over last year's carnival. Many SJE alumni, friends, and school families attended and helped staff the game and food booths, as well as provide entertainment.

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Highlights:

- **Class of 2010 Sees Times Change; Aspires to Bring Light Into the World**
- **Summer Carnival Celebrates Spirit of Parish; Multicultural Mass Highlight of Celebration**
- **Scholarship Expresses Thanks for SJE Education; Established to Help Needy Students**
- **Alumni Celebrate High School Graduation Together; Maintain Ties to Friends from SJE**
- **Alumna Heads Drive to Honor Special Friend; Donations Needed for Memorial Wall Plaque**
- **SJE 5th Graders Sweep Earth Day Science Fair; Worm Project Wins Lockheed Lauds**
- **Classroom Technology Expands with "Smartboards"; New iMacs Slated for Computer Lab**
- **Students Get Dressed-Up to Raise Funds; School in Oaxaca Benefits from SJE Fashion Prowness**

Summer Carnival

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Molly Gaines, current SJE parent (right) and Kurt Star, SJE alumnus (center) join other carnival goers in a light-hearted "Silly String" battle. The carnival had a number of activities for young and old, including games, rides, and shows.



The Multicultural Pentecost Mass, held on the last day of the carnival, included a parade of nations with representatives carrying in flags of numerous nationalities. Many wore their native dress and the Prayer of the Faithful was presented in multiple languages. Many alumni and school families participated in the Mass.



At the end of Mass, a procession of flags was led by the American representatives to the main carnival entertainment tent. The procession included a mariachi band, as well as drummers from India. Carnival goers were then treated to dancers and entertainment from many cultural backgrounds.

Seeing the significance of the theme of Pentecost in relation to the diversity of cultures and ethnicities represented in the school and parish, Fr. Bill McLean, SJE senior priest, planned a special Mass that highlighted the unity of faith of the many different ethnic groups at SJE. Bishop Alex Salazar, Director of Ethnic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, presided at the Mass.

Citing the wonderful excitement the carnival and Multicultural Mass created in the parish, Rick Crandall, Steering Committee Chairperson said, "We are very happy with the support and enthusiasm the carnival has generated in the parish. We can really feel the parish coming together, and if we raise some money to help the parish, that's good too." And indeed, despite the current economic environment, the carnival did raise over \$20,000 that will be used to benefit the school and parish. More information about the carnival, including the names of the Grand Prize Drawing winners, and photographs of the carnival and Mass, are available at sjecarnival.org.

Lynch Family Foundation Establishes Scholarship for SJE Students

The Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation, of Raleigh, North Carolina, has established *The Donna O. Lynch Memorial Scholarship* to assist St. John Eudes School students who are in need of financial tuition assistance. The \$5,170 scholarship may be used to assist from one to three students based on financial need and several other criteria.

Mrs. Danowitz, who announced the gift at a recent Parish School Board meeting, was delighted with the scholarship saying, "This is a wonderful expression of support for our school and students. We are extremely thankful that the Lynch Family Foundation has given our students this very special and generous gift." She further explained that the children of Mr. & Mrs. Lynch attended St. John Eudes School a number of years ago and that the family was very thankful that the children received an outstanding education based on Catholic principles and values.

The scholarship is renewable on a yearly basis based on application and reporting requirements established by the donor. More information is available on the school website at sjeschool.net.



Bishop Alex Salazar, Director of Ethnic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, presided at the Multicultural Pentecost Mass. Bishop Salazar joined the procession to the carnival to "Celebrate the Spirit" in our parish and meet some of the younger performers.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Many alumni and friends are sure to remember a special friend of SJE School, **Trina Lang**, who passed away a little over 2 years ago. Trina gave so much of herself every day teaching others to dance, giving lessons on how to live, and reaching out to those who needed it the most.

Trina's home became a dance studio to all that wanted to learn. For more than 20 years she practiced with many, occupying many nights a week of her time. She never asked for anything in return except for participating in her shows. She

entertained thousands at St. John Eudes, Nevada Street School, Germain Street School, The Motion Picture Hospital, The Italian Club, and probably places we don't even know.

Trina was a caretaker. She helped those



Trina Lang helped many at SJE experience the limelight of the stage in her wonderful dancing and musical show productions.

who didn't have family around and if you were sick, she was there to lend a helping hand any way that she could. Trina loved and genuinely cared about everyone. Trina loved her family, her friends, dancing, music and the St. John Eudes school and parish community. Trina would have been 80 years old this August.

To commemorate all the wonderful things Trina did for the parish and school, **Jenny Crandall '89** and her mother, **Chris Crandall**, are chairing a drive to raise the \$5,000 needed to place

Trina's name on the St. John Eudes Memorial Wall. They ask that if Trina Lang ever touched your heart, that you take this chance to give back to her.

If you would like to donate, make your check payable to *St. John Eudes Church* and send it to:

Chris Crandall
20525 Mayall St.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

As soon as the money is raised, the plaque will be ordered – hopefully in time for Trina's 80th birthday on Aug. 11. They will inform everyone of the date they plan on having the dedication ceremony.

One of the obstacles in making this happen is getting in touch with everyone who

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Quick Beats . . .

An Additional 5 Smartboards Have Been Installed in Classrooms to allow a truly interactive experience for student learning. The boards allow the use of computer technology to advance classroom learning and greatly enhance student involvement. The latest installation of Smartboards was sponsored by the SJE Golf Tournament and Mr. & Mrs. Piekunka (SJE alumni family).

St. John Eudes 5th Graders Sweep St. Cyril's Earth Day Science Fair taking all three top awards, plus an honorable mention! The winners of the Science Fair were John Francis, First Place; Zach Multer and Nick Stewart, Second Place; Celine Levesque and Kaetlyn Zavatto, Third Place; and Hannah Banks, Honorable Mention.

Congratulations to SJE 5th Grade Student, John Francis, for Winning 1st Place at the Environmental Science Fair sponsored by Lockheed at the College of the Canyons with his *worm project*. John is also ranked 4th among all students internationally in the "First in Math" program.

Students Raise \$3,083 to Help School in Oaxaca, Mexico, through the popular "Put It On Day". The school, *La Escuela de Sta. Paula Montal*, is a school located in an extremely impoverished area of Mexico. It is maintained and staffed by the Sisters of the Pious Schools.

20 New iMac Computers Are Being Installed in the Computer

Lab in the Fall. They will replace the current PCs that are being distributed to the lower grades. The iMacs will be leased and were chosen to give SJE students experience using iMacs as well as PCs.

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Color has a lot of meanings - we can feel "blue", or be "in the pink". It also tells how you can help support our important educational goals. Please consider giving a little "green" and make a donation 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. Thank you!



Patricia De La Riva ('74) (standing, 2nd from right) received recognition as the 2010 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year. The presentation was made in April at the yearly Endowment Trustees' Dinner by Msgr. Peter Nugent, Sr. Georgina Gutierrez and Sr. Guadalupe Gonzales. She was joined by her family who were proud that she received the honor.

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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Ernie Star, Director

*Contributing Writers:
Ellen Abbene
Eva Star*

Graduates

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first came through the school doors. It was in the late summer of 2001, when members of St. John Eudes' Kindergarten class skipped into their classroom, and a couple of weeks later, the world changed. 9/11: the World Trade Center Twin Towers fell and the Pentagon was attacked, "terrorism" became a daily entry in our American vocabulary, numbers of U.S. patriot soldiers going to serve in battle soon multiplied exponentially. That very day, when the world seemed to begin unraveling, the new group of sweet-faced, five year-old "Eaglets" met their 8th Grade "glow buddies" for the first time. The next years unrolled a spiritual and academic path that was at times steep, with progress sometimes slow, but also accompanied by friends, activities, and just plain fun.

With the completion of the 2009-2010 school year, we'd like to thank and acknowledge those Alumni and Friends who have contributed to the Annual Fund Campaign and the Adopt-A-Student Program:

2009-2010 Annual Fund Campaign

PlatinumHeart Circle - \$5,000 and More

St. John Eudes 2009 Golf Classic

GoldenHeart Circle - \$2,500 to \$4,999

Michael J. Halloran
Hannon Foundation
Chad & Becky Rach

SilverHeart Circle - \$1,000 to \$2,499

Robert & Florence Guest

Calasanz Council - \$500 to \$999

Rick & Chris Crandall
Fred & Tere Perez
Angelle Roussel
Carolyn & Richard Rybak
Ernie & Eva Star

Eagle's Club - up to \$249

Beverly Banks
John Chady
Jenny M. Crandall
Dolores Di Cecco
David & Kimberly Endaya
Shirley & Joel Feinblatt
Casimir & Anne Filck

John & Rhodericka Francis
Mark & Molly Gaines
John Hoh
Gary & Anne Martinez
Jim & Judy McKay
Mike & Jennifer Prince
Carlos & Virginia Ramierez
Walter & Patricia Sembauer
Bryan & Sheralyn Suttles
Albert & Donna Valerio
Gail Vitar
Richard Zeisel
in Memory of June Zeisel

2009-2010 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors - \$500 and More

Chad & Becky Rach
Angelle Roussel
Richard Zeisel
St. John Eudes Swim Team

Supportive Donors - Up to \$499

Beverly Banks
Dolores Di Cecco
Ulrik & Vinjet Singontiko
John & Ma. Teresita Yuhico

The legacy of this class is faceted: the last Kindergarten class under Principal Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, the first Kindergarten class with Msgr. Peter Nugent as pastor, the first SJE Kindergarten class of the new millennium. They began 7th Grade and the world skidded again, this time with economic turbulence, that still hangs and causes us to observe again that the world has changed.

But on their graduation day, these students were focused on their accomplishments and the journey that lay before them. Soon enough, with speeches finished and diplomas delivered, it was time for the graduates to embark. Without doubt, this more serious, more embattled, earth has laid its impression upon them; likewise, their time at SJE has helped to build in them a foundation of perseverance and love. In soul, mind, and body, the "lights" of the SJE Class of 2010 go into the world, well equipped to build up the world. ***Congratulations, Eagles! Let your light shine before all!***

The members of the SJE Graduation Class of 2010 are: Matthew Allegretti, Pearce Blankenship, Serena Boutin, Bradley Carr, Kaitlyn Del Valle, Hazel Dizon, Jill Gaines, Michael Gharapetian, Angela Gianni, Nasim Herrington, Hope Holtum, Darren

Kriz, Dominique Lien, Patricia Manlucu, Brittney Martinez, Nicholas Mena, Kaelyn Molle, Eduardo Montaño, Christian Moore, Neil Orillosa, Anthony Perez, Jiselle Prospero, Danielle Riley, Ariana Rivera, Ryan Salim, Aidan Sullivan, Kayla Tucker, Michael Visokey, Thomas Wall, Jessica Washington, Zoe Webb, Jordan Zavatto, Amanda Zazueta.

The Pulse

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was touched by Trina. There's no complete address list of all those alumni and parishioners who were in her shows – so if you know someone that was in one of her shows, please let them know of this drive and how they can donate.



Ethan Pascual, Cassie Angel, Ricardo Argueta, and Lauren Broussard, of the SJE Class of 2006, celebrate together upon their graduation from Notre Dame High School. Many SJE alumni maintain the relationships they developed at SJE well through high school, college, and beyond as part of the extended St. John Eudes School alumni community.