



The HeartBeat

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

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A Class of Peacemakers: The SJE Class of 2012 Going Forward – but Invited to Come Back



The Class of 2012 poses for the traditional graduation picture in Nugent Plaza with Mrs. Gunter, Ms. Stula, Mrs. Danowitz and Fr. Lecomte. With their vision of hope as “Peacemakers”, the class is strengthened by faith in their mission.

Their faces sparkled with anticipation. If fatigued, they didn’t show it, regardless of the busy week filled with graduation activities, and even longer years of preparation, leading up to this evening. The 8th Grade *Peacemakers* of St. John Eudes School processed forward for their last moments together, ready to listen to encouraging words, wistful blessings, and to celebrate the culmination of their elementary accomplishments.

“Go forward, and - *come back!*” pastor Fr. Gérard

Lecomte told the Class of 2012. Calling the twenty-seven graduates, “a vision of hope,” he suggested they meet the challenge, “to live, discovering new things, teachers, friends, following what you learned at SJE. You are strong enough to work toward new realities,” said Fr. Gérard, reminding the students, “. . . you *CAN* come back. I am all ready to be invited to share a pizza; to gather and share.”

Principal Mrs. Barbara Danowitz noted the students had much practice in sharing, “It’s

not usual that first graders go through what you did, when you lost precious Angela.” She continued, “The love and support . . . becoming a tight family . . . demonstrated what it is to be followers of Christ.” A graduation photo of their departed classmate, Angela Abbene (who

was lost in a car accident), framed and signed by each student, was presented to the Abbene Family.

Charitee Boyd, class valedictorian, thanked the teachers and staff and invoked her

classmates, “. . . never forget the wonderful times, blessed with joy, so that we may bless [the world] . . . we can do all things with faith.”

Aubree Aguinaga, one of the two recipients of the *Luke Gaines Memorial Scholarship*, had used the SJE acronym: “See Jesus Everywhere”, in her winning essay, and presenter Mrs. Molly Gaines remarked the idea speaks to the faithful essence of the class. Jesse Baza noted heartfelt memories of his time at SJE

The love and support . . . becoming a tight family . . . demonstrated what it is to be followers of Christ.

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Highlights:

- **Class of 2012 Carries Hope of Peace; Strong in Faith**
- **Special Supporters Help Maintain Educational Excellence, Aid to Families**
- **SJE School Welcomes New Parish Business Manager**
- **Alumna Heads to Peru with Peace Corps; Hopes to Become Brain Surgeon**
- **Sr. Encarnación Retires After 30 Years at SJE; We’ll Miss You Sr. E!**
- **Brothers Make Student Leadership a Family Affair**
- **Respect and Responsibility Key to Moral Education**
- **Students, Alumni, Friends Make Summer Carnival Successful, Fun**

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Class of 2012

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in presenting a memorial scholarship in honor of brother, Diego Baza, to Spencer Niehaus.

After the presentation of additional honors, the exuberant graduates received diplomas, moved tassels from left to right, and strutted forward into the ever hopeful future, held together fondly, openly armed with faith, and purely appreciating the time spent together, with their class motto of remembrance resonating: "You will be with me like a handprint on my heart." Congratulations graduates! Surely the handprint of the SJE Class of 2012 will remain with all who had the privilege of knowing you. Godspeed!

Additional scholarship and award recipients were: Cristina Medina - *Sr. Rosemary Scholarship*, Freddy Cantarine - *Sr. Laura Scholarship*, Maeve Martinez - *PTSO/Room Parents, Future Leader of Chaminade, President's Award for Excellence*, Spencer Niehaus - *PTSO/Room Parents, Notre Dame HS Leadership*, Madeline Multer - *PTSO/Room Parents*, Charitee Boyd - *Knights of Columbus, Future Leader of Chaminade, President's Award for Excellence*, Aubrey Aquinaga - *Knights of Columbus*, Justin Koochof - *Knights of Columbus*, Angela Neglio - *Knights of Columbus*, Alexis Vitar - *Future Leader of Chaminade*, Serina Garcia - *St. Genevieve HS Spirit Award*, Amaris Vasquez - *Luke Gaines Memorial Scholarship*, *St. Genevieve HS Spirit Award*, Jeremiah Lyn Susas - *Principal's Recognition Award*.

SJE honors at graduation and/or high school honors at entrance were awarded to: Charitee Boyd, Maeve Martinez and Alexis Vitar (Chaminade), Nicholas Motola (Crespi), Spencer Niehaus and Jeremiah Lyn Susas (salutatorian).

The members of the graduating class are: Aubree Aguinaga*, Charitee Boyd*, Frederick Cantarine*, Serina Garcia, Michael Herington*, Justin Koochof*, Nolan Pascal Loza, Paolo Manlucu*, Maeve Martinez*, Cristina Medina*, Anthony Mena, Kathryn Mendoza*, Nicholas Motola*, Madeline Multer*, Angela Neglio, Spencer Niehaus*, Matthew Rueda, Peyton Shaffer, Jonah Simon, Jeremiah Lyn Susas, Timothy Tagle, Amy Thompson*, Alec Ure, Amaris Vasquez, Alexis Vitar*, Katherine Wagner, Andrew Zazueta, Angela Abbene+.

(*9 year, K-8, member of the class)

A Special Thanks to Our Special Supporters

For over almost fifty years, St. John Eudes School has been building character and self-esteem in students through respect for individual differences and our common beliefs. We have also strongly supported family and community values through the teaching of Christian standards and morality. This approach, along with an exceptional academic program, assures that we are providing a quality Catholic education to our children. We are very appreciative of those alumni and friends who have donated to our school to help us achieve these goals. Their support is vital to allowing us to continue our Christ centered mission.

In recognition of the support we receive from our donors, we would like to acknowledge those alumni and friends who have contributed to the SJE School Annual Fund Campaign and the Adopt-A-Student Program during the 2011-2012 school year. These special donors have made the continued excellence of our school program possible and have provided the means for us to provide a Catholic education to children of families that would be otherwise unable to afford it. We are blessed to have these donors as members of our extended school community.

2011-12 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors - \$500 and More

Carl & Imelda Boyd
Kevin & Gabrielle Breard
Chad & Becky Rach
Angelle Roussel
Elisabeth Star
Richard Zeisel
in Memory of June Zeisel

2011-12 Annual Fund Campaign

(Campus Safety Improvement Campaign)

PlatinumHeart Circle - \$5,000 and More

Chad & Becky Rach

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

The William H. Hannon Foundation

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

Michael Halloran
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hynes
Gabriel & Phyllis Kalenian
Union Bank of California
Matching Gift Courtesy of Carl & Imelda Boyd
C. Dennis & A. Winslow Loomis
Weber Family

Calasanz Council - \$500 to \$999

Gary & Jan Boudreau
Carl & Imelda Boyd
Rick & Christine Crandall
Elisabeth Star

Montal Council - \$250 to \$499

Robert & Florence Guest
Teresa Petach

Eagle's Club - up to \$249

Victor & Ellen Abbene
Beverly Banks
Claudio & Jingmel Capra
Pierangela Castaneda
John Chady
William & Gail Cody
Steven Csiszar
Il D'Auria
Dolores DiCecco
Arle DuBois-Javellana
Carmen Frasca
Gail Glasser
John Hoh
Sam Homseih
Leila Iler
Virginia Keeling
Ronald & Susan Lukas
Donald & Suzanne Martin
William & Nancy McSweeney
Maria Menjivar
Debra M Merrit
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Milazzo
Mike & Jennifer Prince
Brian Reilly
L. Relatos
Michael Rueda
Elva Sahugun
Michael & Juanita Saso
Jose Schnaider
Mr. & Mrs. Seniyon
Mr. & Mrs. Mel Spratley
Julie Corcoran Stranges
Virgilio & Consorcia Suizo
Brent & Maralinda Thorell
Edward & Ann Marie Tinsley
Susan Zambetti-Ruda



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Erin O'Neill '94 attended Portola Middle School and was enrolled in the Highly Gifted Magnet Program. She then attended the Highly Gifted Magnet Program at Hollywood High School. She participated in the *People to People Organization* where she was a student ambassador for the United States and travelled to various countries. After high school, she attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she majored in Business. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she worked for Washington Mutual Bank, Countrywide, and Bank of America – where she is now a Vice President of Investor Relations. During her working career, she also earned her MBA from the Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles. She enjoys traveling and hiking, and is a member of the Sierra Club.

Giaconda Zoller '04 attended Chaminade College Preparatory and was active in the Life Teen Program. Her involvement while at Chaminade earned her the Chaminade *Spirit Award* and she graduated in 2008. She then attended Regis University at Denver, Colorado, and majored in Neuroscience (being allowed to directly observe brain surgery as a student). As the team manager, she also enjoyed traveling around the country with the Regis Lacrosse Team. She graduated from Regis in 2012 with a B.S. degree in Neuroscience and

is currently working at a summer job in Malibu, but she will be joining the Peace Corps in September. Her Peace Corps duties will involve teaching health sciences in Peru for two years. Her goal is to eventually become a neurosurgeon.

We welcome **Jordi Combs** as the new Business Manager of St. John Eudes Parish. Mr. Combs stepped in on a temporary basis to help Fr. Gérard when SJE Pastoral Administrator Deacon Bob Seidler accepted the position of assistant to Auxiliary



Jordi Combs

Bishop Gerald Wilkerson last January. Upon the advice of the Parish Finance Council, Fr. Gérard appointed him officially to the position effective July 1. As Business Manager, Mr. Combs will be working closely with Mrs. Danowitz and the Parish School Board to coordinate parish and school finances, activities, projects, maintenance, and a number of other important matters. We welcome Mr. Combs to our school and parish community!



Sr. Encarnación welcomes visitors to her classroom during Open House. Many alumni will remember the California mission model they built while in her 4th Grade class. As Sr. "E" retires from teaching at SJE, she plans on spending some time in Spain during the summer before beginning her post SJE School ministry.

Sr. Encarnación Alvarez, Sch. P., is retiring from teaching after 52 years as an educator, with 30 years of service to the students and families at St. John Eudes School. She has dedicated her life to the Sisters of the Pious Schools – teaching children the love of God. Her impact at SJE School has been tremendous. Provid-

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In a Lighter Vein . . .

Teacher: What does your father do for a living?

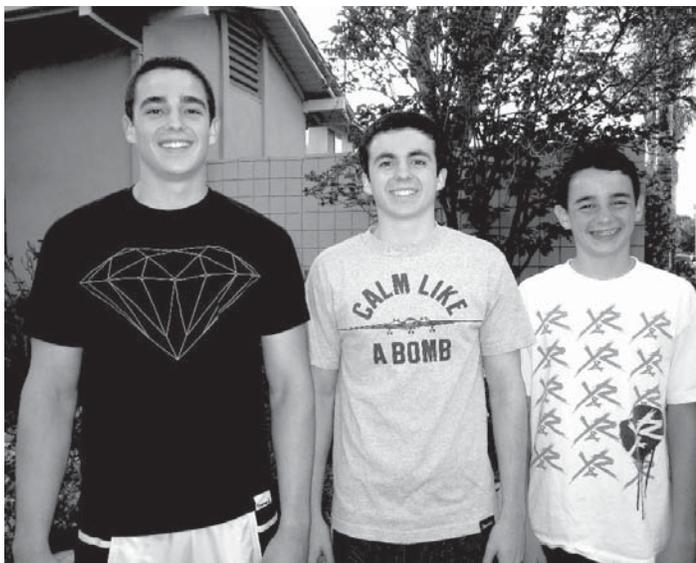
Jimmy: He is a magician. He cuts people in two.

Teacher: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Jimmy: Yes, one half-brother and one half-sister.

Do your own magic by making a donation appear for 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!

You just have to wonder if politics runs in families because these three Niehaus Family brothers were each SJE Student Council President when they were in 8th Grade! Taylor '07 (left) graduated from Notre Dame HS in 2011 and is now attending Sonoma State University. Austin '09 (center) is now a senior at Notre Dame HS. Spencer '12 is continuing the family tradition and will enter NDHS in the fall. Participation in the Student Council allows students to get involved with special projects and to develop leadership skills that will aid them in high school, college, and into adulthood.



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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.*



1966-2011
Celebrating 45 Years
of Excellence in
Catholic Education

The HeartBeat

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The Pulse

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ing students with a strong spiritual and educational foundation, Sr. Encarnación has instilled excellent work habits in her students, and developed students' organizational skills. We will miss her very much. We pray for her as she continues to do God's work as He calls her to new endeavors here or in Spain. And wish her much happiness as she begins the next phase of her ministry!

A special thanks to **Mrs. Tiffany Pascali**, who will be leaving the school after six years of service. We wish her success and blessings in her future endeavors. We also wish to thank and congratulate our school secretary, **Mrs. Lauren Dottore** who has obtained her Master's Degree and is leaving to begin a new career in counseling. Best wishes also to **Fr. Kenneth Chukwu** who was in residence at SJE for the last 7 years and recently moved to our Our Lady of Peace Parish in North Hills.

Teaching the Values of Respect and Responsibility

An integral component of a Catholic school is moral education. Teachers and administrators need to project a clear sense of their moral authority - their right and duty to teach students respect and responsibility and to hold them accountable to those standards of behavior.

A moral education approach to discipline uses discipline as a tool for teaching the values of respect and responsibility. This approach holds that the ultimate goal of discipline is self-discipline - the kind of self control that underlies voluntary compliance with just rules and laws, that is a mark of mature character, and that a civilized society expects of its citizens.

Parents play a vital role in the moral discipline of the school by supporting the school and its teachers and being moral mentors themselves in the teaching of right and wrong. Parents need to reinforce at home what is being taught in school. Most importantly, parent must trust in their child's teacher's sense of fairness and values (Educating for Character).

Rule setting or norms is an ongoing effort to develop a good moral community in the school.

It establishes and enforces consequences in an educational way that help students appreciate a rule's

purpose, make amends for wrongdoing, and take responsibility for improving their behavior.

Catholic schools seek to develop the Christ-like person. Part of being Christ-like requires people to accept responsibility for their actions and to respect others. The rules established in Catholic schools foster growth in the value of self-responsibility.

Catholic school students are taught to recognize the presence of Christ in themselves and others. This reverence for people permeates all aspects of school life. They seek to be "Christ-centered Zones." These attitudes hopefully will carry over into adult life so that the homes of Catholic school graduates will be "Christ-centered Homes." (AmericanCatholic.org) May God continue to help us guide our children daily along the right path.

Barbara Danowitz

Stand Up for Religious Freedom

A ruling by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services that requires religious organizations to offer health plans that include contraceptives and abortifacient drugs violates our faith and will gravely and adversely impact Catholic schools. Contact your U.S. senators and congressional representative now to stop this mandate. More information is available on our parish website at www.stjohnneudes.org.



Thanks to all our students, families, alumni and friends who helped make our SJE 2012 Summer Carnival such a success! Thousands of visitors enjoyed the great rides, games, food, bingo, entertainment, and dancing. And lucky winners won \$8,000 cash in the Grand Prize Drawing. The carnival was held on Memorial Day / Pentecost Weekend and culminated with the Multi-Cultural Mass and Festival which celebrated the wonderful cultural diversity in our parish. Visit www.sjecarnival.org to get more information about the carnival and see pictures of all the fun!