



The HeartBeat

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

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School Families, Alumni & Friends Get Ready to Celebrate Parish 50th Anniversary Month of May to be Highlight of Celebration

St. John Eudes Parish was founded on May 14, 1963, by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to serve the needs of the growing Roman Catholic community in the northwest San Fernando Valley. And this year we'll be celebrating 50 years of dedication to continuing the mission of Christ with *Burning Hearts Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*. A 50th Jubilee Dinner will be held on May 11 to mark the occasion and all school families, alumni and friends are invited to celebrate.



The 50th Anniversary celebration then continues with the *SJE Summer Carnival* on Memorial Day Weekend. There'll be a fabulous silent auction, top-notch entertainment, fantastic food & goodies, fun arts & crafts for the kids, exciting bingo games, a refreshing beer & margarita garden, exhilarating carnival games & rides, the Multi-Cultural Mass & Festival, and the incredible Grand Prize Drawing that'll give away \$8,000 in cash prizes, and much more! *There's No Better Way to Start the Summer!*

Tickets for the Jubilee Dinner, as well as discounted presale carnival ride tickets and tickets for the Grand Prize Drawing will be available in Nugent Plaza after all weekend Masses or in the Parish Office during the week. Don't miss these great once-in-a-lifetime Jubilee events! Complete details are available at stjohneudes.org and sjecarnival.org. Come celebrate the Golden Jubilee!



Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce Selects SJE PTSO President as "PTA President of the Year"



We congratulate Nancy Hoffmeister, SJE's Parent-Teacher Support Organization president, on being selected by the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce as *PTA President of the Year*. She was recognized with the award at the CoC's recent *13th Annual Unforgettable Educator Award Dinner*. Mrs. Hoffmeister (left) recently posed with principal Barbara Danowitz at the PTSO's spring fundraiser *Parisian Nights* which raised over \$44,000 to help support our school program. The Chamber's recognition attests to the wonderful involvement and support given by our parents to the school program.

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Highlights:

- *Parish's 50th Jubilee Golden Reason to Celebrate*
- *PTSO President Recognized by Chamber of Commerce*
- *Summer Carnival to Feature Fun & More*
- *Alumnus of the Year Award to Recognize Roseville Councilwoman*
- *SJE Students Endeavor to Learn About Space*
- *Day of Horse Contest Winners Lasso Prizes*
- *Congratulations Sr. Georgina; Celebrates Golden Jubilee*
- *Msgr. Nugent Goes to Rome for Conclave; Comes Back Celebrity*
- *Student Athletes Outscore 4 Other Schools at KoC Track Meet*
- *Clifford the Big Red Dog Visits During Open House; Makes No Bones About Reading*

Quick Beats . . .

Congratulations to John Francis (Gr. 8) who was on a team that won a \$500 scholarship at the Student Leadership Day sponsored by Archbishop Jose Gomez. John also recently won 1st Place in Santa Clarita's College of the Canyons Environmental Education Consortium. His sister and brother, **Sarah** (Gr. K) and **Marc** (Gr. 3), also SJE students, won 2nd Place in their respective divisions.

City National Bank has awarded SJE School a grant to help stu-



(Above) SJE students did a great job on their posters for the Chatsworth Day of the Horse poster contest, with 8th Grader Reno Benedetti taking the Overall Honors, and many more winning in their category or receiving honorable mentions! Mrs. Danowitz (far left) and Ms. Stula (far right) pose with some of the happy winners. Visit our Facebook page at SJE365.com for a link to more information about the contest and a complete list of winners.

(Below) A trip to the California Science Center gave SJE students the opportunity to get close to the space shuttle Endeavor. Considering Endeavor flew nearly 123 million miles during its 25 missions, it looked in pretty good shape and inspired students to think about where they may fly someday and the adventures that await them in the 21st century.



dents master literacy skills based on a grant submittal by middle school literature teacher Nicole Sheppers to the *Reading is the Way Up* program.

Brendan Strom (Gr. 2) did a great job competing in gymnastics at the state level and qualified for the regional USA Gymnastics men's competition in Reno, Nevada.

Congratulations to our 8th Graders who were *all* accepted to their first choice of Catholic high schools! It's a great testimony to the academic strength of our students.

The Mars Student Imaging Project has received the national Science Prize for Inquiry Based Instruction and SJE 6th Graders are participating in the program under the guidance of science teacher Sneha Tharayil.

The new campus security fence has nearly been completed and the SJE School Board is currently assisting in the completion of the project by facilitating installation of L.A. Fire Department approved locks and safety procedures. *A special "Thank You!" to all who donated to this important project!*



Clifford the Dog, along with hundreds of other visitors, came to the recent SJE School Open House which was held during Catholic Schools Week. The "Big Red Dog" attended to emphasize the importance of literature and reading to SJE students and help celebrate the parish's 50th Anniversary.

Parish's 50th Anniversary: Thankful Alumni Reflect on Blessings

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our parish community, we asked a number of alumni to provide their thoughts on the profound affect St. John Eudes School has had on them over the years. Below are a few special testimonials from some grateful alumni:

Patricia De La Riva, MD ('74): "When we relocated from Los Angeles to the San Fernando Valley in 1969, my widowed mother of two years looked for a home near a Catholic Church and local school(s) within walking distance. St John Eudes was the perfect Church and school setting for our family. I welcomed the daily prayers that started each morning. . . . [T]he discipline and order of a Catholic education made me feel safe during that critical time in my life. I have fond memories of both lay teachers and the Sisters of the Pious Schools. We were always so thrilled when Father Grill (Mgrsr) would come visit because we looked forward to his blessing before he left. . . . The academics were challenging and fun, I embraced the sports program, and enjoyed the school choir and Christmas plays. . . . As I look back, not much has changed. The love and compassion of the Sisters, teachers, administration, and School Spirit are ever so present. When I returned to Chatsworth in 1999 with my family, there was no doubt they would attend St John Eudes for their Catholic Education. St John Eudes is home."

Daniela Arancibia '88: "I joined St. John Eudes in the beginning of the 7th grade. My parents had bought a new home, and I had to leave my old School, St. Catherine of Sienna. I was sad to leave my close friends. I was very nervous to start a new school where I didn't know anyone. The first person I met befriended me very quickly. . . . I could honestly say the two years I was at St John Eudes were the most memorable School Days. From school

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The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

A committee, headed by Fr. Gérard and Mrs. Danowitz, has selected **Bonnie Mertus (Gore) '80**

as the 2013 *St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year*. Bonnie is a graduate of Santa Clara University, having earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management. After college she moved to Roseville, California, where her professional objectives helped her develop local public policy and business experience, and as a



member of the business community she manages government and community relations for a local Roseville healthcare and

hospital system. She previously served as a District Representative for a local State Senator and has managed numerous projects which required forging effective working partnerships with community and business organizations, schools, and local government officials throughout the region. She has been extensively involved with the Roseville Chamber of Commerce and in 2010 received the Chamber's prestigious "Athena Award" which honors women in South Placer County who make

significant, positive impacts in the community. Bonnie volunteers her time with Big Brothers Big Sisters and was the founding chair of the Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center. She was elected to the Roseville City Council in November, 2012. Additionally, she is a Trustee for William Jessup University. She and her husband, Rob, have a 16 year-old son, Jacob. The Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Bonnie at the April dinner meeting of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Fund Trustees.

Our best wishes to **Sr. Georgina Gutierrez, Sch. P.**, who recently celebrated her *50th Jubilee* with the Sisters of the Pious Schools. Many of our students, families, alumni and friends know Sr. Georgina for her over 40 years of selfless work at our school. Sr. Georgina has been called to wear many hats such as a teacher of Spanish, Religion, Science, and as coach (volleyball, basketball and softball). She has certainly been a blessing to our students and families. We



Sr. Georgina poses at a recent SJE Summer Carnival as she holds the flag from her native Cuba which she carried during the Multi-Cultural Mass & Festival.

pray that our Lord continues to bless her in her ministry. We thank Sr. Georgina for all she's done and continues to do. She is certainly a wonderful example to us of the spirit of St. Paula Montal! *You're invited to visit our Facebook page at SJE365.com and post your own special congratulatory message to Sr. Georgina.*

Msgr. Peter Nugent, St. John Eudes pastor emeritus, was in Rome, Italy, during the recent conclave and election of Pope Francis. He is a classmate of three of the cardinal electors and had a special insight into the conclave events. While in Rome, Msgr. Nugent issued his "Vatican Report"

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In a Lighter Vein . . .

Sr. Margaret, a baseball enthusiast, was walking through her neighborhood one day and stopped to watch a Little League baseball game that was being played in a nearby park. As she sat down behind the bench on the first base line, she asked one of the boys what the score was.

"We're behind 14 to nothing," he answered with a smile.

"Really," said Sr. Margaret. "I have to say you don't look very discouraged."

"Discouraged?", the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face. "Why should we be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet!"

We're hoping you'll come up to bat and hit a homer for us by making 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!



*St. John Eudes Cub Scout Pack 466 recently held its annual celebration of scouting at its "Blue & Gold Dinner". The dinner is a tradition that focuses on the values of scouting and the achievements of its members. A number of SJE students participate in the program, as well as their parents, including SJE alumnus **Bryan Suttles** (standing, back row, fourth from left) and his wife Sheralyn (standing, back row, far right). Congratulations to Pack 466 on the great job it does in building community spirit and continuing the ideals of scouting!*

St. John Eudes School

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

www.school.stjohneudes.org

Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM
Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

*Guiding Children with Knowledge
and the Love of God to Empower
Them with Christian Morality,
Character, Compassion & Integrity*



The HeartBeat

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Ernie Star, Director

Contributing Writers:
Alvin Castro, Eva Star

The Pulse

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which provided periodic accounts of his visit and the happenings at the Vatican. The report was posted on the St. John Eudes Parish website and detailed his impressions of the events surrounding the election. While in Rome, Msgr. Nugent was also featured in a number of local and international interviews, including interviews

Alumni Reflect

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activities to sports, it was a great experience. Sister Georgina was a huge influence in my life, from her Spanish classes to her Volleyball classes. I will always have fond memories of her at SJE. I have gone to Catholic Schools my whole life, and will continue the tradition with my children."

Micheal Huff

'95: "Going to St. John Eudes was a wonderful experience. Nothing beats Catholic education. I made some life-long friends from my eight years at the school. It was great having some of the "legends" like Ms. Stula, Mr. Allington, and Mrs. Theis. Although I lived through the Northridge earthquake and the tent Church, it was great having the church as a symbol of the Catholic Church, and the mission of SJE. I will cherish my memories there always."

Kristen Knight

'96: "SJE created some of the most memorable memories that I will cherish forever. My friends throughout my SJE years are still my closest friends today."

"As I look back, not much has changed. The love and compassion of the Sisters, teachers, administration, and School Spirit are ever so present."

No matter how much time has gone by without seeing or talking to each other we pick up where we left off. Catholic education created morals and values to help mold me as a person. I am able to teach these morals to my children."

Jaclyn Beardsley '02: "I think that the biggest impact that St. John Eudes

had on my life is that I learned the value of always having God present in my daily activities. SJE gave me a very firm foundation in morality, ethics, and overall Catholicism . . . I wouldn't be teaching at

a faith-based school (especially where I attended!) if I didn't trust that it could offer students a strong education as to who God is and how he can change our lives and our world through us."



Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at **SJE365.com** and like us!



The spring sports season has shown a lot of promise for our student athletes and Coach Castro thanks and congratulates all the student athletes who participated in the 2012-2013 Basketball Season and the recent 42nd Annual Knights of Columbus Track and Field Meet, as well as all the coaches, parents, teachers, and supporters who came out to the games and the track meet to show their school spirit and pride.

The Girls A Basketball Team made the playoffs, but fell short against St. Genevieve in the attempt to advance in the second round of playoffs. The Boys A Team started the season slowly, but finished it on a great note by winning their last two games. The Boys and Girls B Teams once again had an amazing season by outscoring every opponent and finishing with an undefeated record.

The KoC Track and Field Meet was held at Taft High School in Woodland Hills. Our school came in a solid 2nd place out of 6 schools in the tournament. We are very proud of all the students who competed and we appreciate their participation this year!

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 and make your voice heard to stop this mandate.** More information is available on our parish website at www.stjohneudes.org.