

The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

U.S. Bishops: Catholic Schools Are Vital to Church's Mission Catholic Schools to be Celebrated During Week of Jan. 25-31

National Catholic Schools Week 2015 will be observed in dioceses around the country January 25-31. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," focuses on the important academic, faith-building and societal contributions provided by a Catholic education.

"Catholic schools are a vital aspect of the Church's mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and so an important aspect of our own teaching mission," said Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, chairman of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Education. "Pope Francis has reminded us that the New Evangelization is not precisely about what we do and what programs we adopt; rather, it is about what God is doing, the graces we are being blessed with, and the Spirit that is always being poured-out over our ministry."

About 2.1 million students are currently educated in nearly 6,600 Catholic schools in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities around the country. Students receive an education that prepares them for the challenges of higher education and a competitive work environment. An estimated 99 percent of students graduate from high school and 85 percent of Catholic school graduates attend college.

Archbishop Lucas also stressed the importance of reaching out to under served populations. "In these days of economic turmoil for so many families, a good education remains the single best way out of poverty for young people," Archbishop Lucas said. "At the same time, we cannot forget, through the education and faith formation of children and youth, our Catholic schools are part of a solution to support families and to build productive lives for future generations."



The observance of Catholic Schools Week began in 1974. Schools and parishes around the country will hold activities such as Masses, open houses, and other activities to celebrate the communities they represent.

(From the USCCB Website)

The Catholic Schools Week celebration at St. John Eudes School begins with an Open House on Jan. 25 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The celebration then continues during the week focusing each day on a special element of the theme. Activities include a reception for parishioners, a Grand Parents/Visitors Day and a Teacher Appreciation Day, among a number of other events.

All our alumni and friends are invited to come to our Open House to see all the great work our students have been doing! Check the school website at www.sjeschool.net for more information.

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Highlights:

- **Catholic Schools Week to Begin with Open House**
- **Students Draw and Dance Their Way to Artistic Recognition**
- **Sr. Rosemary Makes Surprise Visit; Meets Old & New Friends**
- **Minions Appear at Jog-A-Thon**
- **Class of 1995 Plans 20th Reunion in 2015**

St. John Eudes School

Open House

morality

committed followers of Jesus

character

bringing citizens of community and environment



responsible learners




compassion

faithful

productive leaders

college & career ready

integrity



Sunday
Jan. 25

10 am - 1 pm

www.sjeschool.net

Alumni & Friends Are Invited to the *Open Heart Gala!*

As everyone knows, February 14 is Valentine's Day – and this year it's also the day of the Annual Spring Fund-raiser! With the theme of the day in mind, what better way to celebrate than to title the event *The Open Heart Gala*.

The fun begins at 6:00 pm at Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills. It'll be a great evening of fun, good food, fellowship and entertainment. And best of all,



proceeds will help maintain the excellence of the educational program at St. John Eudes School, as well as assure that a Catholic education remains possible for all our families.

The event is sponsored by the St. John Eudes Parent-Teacher Support Organization. And if you have any donation you can make for prizes that can be used for the Silent Auction, they'd like to hear from you. Visit www.sjeschool.net for details and how to get your tickets or donate to this really special event.

Opening the hearts and minds of our children

Quick Beats . . .

The artistic talents of our students have received special recognition as Christmas card designers. The Catholic Education Foundation awarded **Xavier Lopez (Gr. 6)** top honors in the middle school division of its *Christmas Card Contest* and his artwork appeared on the Los Angeles Archdiocese's 2014 Christmas cards. The design featured the Holy Family presented in a colorful stained-glass motif. He was only one of 3 students so honored (the others being in the Gr. K-3 and Gr. 9-12 divisions) and he was featured in a special two page article in the Nov. 7 edition of *The*

Tidings. Locally, the artwork of **Natalia Campos (Gr. 8)** was chosen to appear on the cover of the parish Christmas cards. Her artwork focused on the Light of Christmas and made a wonderful presentation on the parish cards.

SJE students were featured in a production at the Madrid Theatre in Canoga Park. The theater put on *The Nutcracker* ballet and chose **6th Graders Isabella Davalos, Emily Hurtado and Sophie Navarro** to be in the production. Isabella's dancing talents were particularly showcased as she was chosen to be the lead in the production and performed as lead in three of the

six performances presented. The *Nutcracker* is a particularly difficult ballet and we are proud of our students' accomplishment in this area of the fine arts!

Many of our students and families participate in the SJE parish sponsored Girl Scout troop which supports many worthwhile programs at our parish and in the community. The troop recently held a *Coat and Blanket Collection* to gather coats, blankets and donations to help the homeless. The event netted about 200 coats, 50 blankets, and over \$50 in cash donations which were donated to our local St. Vincent de Paul Society. The donations will help the over 91,000 homeless in our area (almost 20% of these families are with children). A special thanks to all those who donated to this important effort!



Save the Date!
Memorial Day Weekend
May 22-24, 2015



The St. John Eudes School Open House begins our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Visitors get a great opportunity to visit with the teachers and staff, as well as view all the wonderful work our students are doing.



Grandparents/Visitors Day is a special event held during Catholic Schools Week. Students have a one-on-one opportunity to give their visitors an in-depth explanation of their academic achievements. Grandparents/visitors have been known to be extremely impressed with their student's accomplishments!



In a Lighter Vein . . .

In last year's April HeartBeat we gave you some words of wisdom that a 90+ year old grandmother wanted to leave for her children. We couldn't get them all in last year, so here are some more now . . .

It's OK to let your children see you cry.

Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry, God never blinks.

Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.

Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.

When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.

Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear your fancy clothes. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.

Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age.

No one is in charge of your happiness but you.

Frame every so-called disaster with these words "In five years, will this matter?"

Forgive.

Time heals almost everything. Give time time.

Believe in miracles.

Your children get only one childhood.

No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

And it's also wonderful to know that you can give a great gift when you 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!

Cathy Miller (Hart) '75 recently wrote us this email she would like to share:

*I just want to let alumni and friends know that my dad, John B. Miller, Jr., passed away in August. My brother, **John B. Miller III '76**, and sister, **Marie Miller (Katz) '80**, graduated from SJE. In addition, many long time parishioners will remember my dad from the early years of the parish as a member of the church choir.*

As for myself, I have recently been promoted to Region Director of Local Public Affairs for Southern California Edison's 25,000 square-mile Northern Region. I manage a large team that works directly with local governments and the communities on behalf of the utility from Santa Barbara, Ventura and Northern Los Angeles counties to the San Joaquin Valley and also covering the Eastern Sierra region up to Mammoth Lakes. My office is in Ventura although I still reside in the Antelope Valley. My husband, John, and I celebrated 32 years of marriage in December. Two of our



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

SJE Students go on to do wonderful things and we'd like to hear what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School (or if you're a parent, now's your chance to brag a little!). Send us a note via e-mail to theheartbeat@sjeschool.net or mail it to:

Attn: The Heartbeat
St. John Eudes School
Chatsworth, CA 91311

three children are married, and happily we have two grandchildren, ages 7 and 8.

I enjoy reading *The HeartBeat*, especially about the Sisters of the Pious Schools – Srs. Georgina and Guadalupe and the updates on Rosemary in India.

I am so glad to see the school doing so well year after year.

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Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P., SJE School principal emerita, made a surprise impromptu visit to the school before the holidays. After being principal for 28 years, Sr. Rosemary had accepted an assignment in India teaching the local sisters and novices. Since it's been awhile since Sr. Rosemary had seen her family in the good ol' United States, her provincial director suggested she take a little time off and come back home to visit. She first flew to Idaho where some of her family lives and then on to So. California to visit others. She happened to be driving by the school with a friend and they thought it would be great to stop by and say hello. It happened to be a parent-teacher conference day and school was out early. But Sr. Rosemary did get a chance to visit with some old friends including **Fr. Gérard, Molly Gaines**, school parent, (above) and **Ms. Stula** (below). She also had the opportunity to meet new faces on campus, including Associate Pastor, **Fr. Carlos Valencia**, and several of the parish staff members. Sr. Rosemary returned to India before the holidays to continue her work at the convent of the sisters in Kerala. She has been encouraged by the vocations in India and asks that you pray for their continued success.



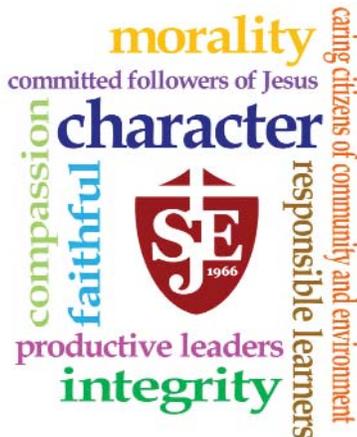
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Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal



The HeartBeat

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Ernie Star, Director

The Pulse

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Sarah Yap '95 was the salutatorian of her SJE class and attended Chaminade College Preparatory after graduating. She was active during high school with a number of activities including being on the Life Team, the basketball team and being on the student council. After high school she attend the University of California, Irvine, and graduated with double majors – a B.S. Degree in Chemistry and a B.A. Degree in Psychology. During college she joined *Kababayan*, a Filipino cultural group, for which she served as an officer, and was a member of the Tau Theta Pi sorority. Sarah then went on to achieve a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Northridge, and also a Master's Degree in Gerontology from the University of Southern California – both of which she received in 2008. Currently she is working as a case manager supervisor for the North Los Angeles Regional Center which helps adults and children with developmental disabilities. She also donates her time each month to an outreach program and is an advocator to Filipino parents who have children with developmental issues. She was married in 2012 to her husband, Vijay Cruz, whom she met at

UCI and they currently live in Chatsworth. The 20th Reunion of the SJE Class of 1995 is a project of hers and if you were in that class (or know of someone who was) she asks that you contact her at yapstar@gmail.com.

Richard Arguenta '06 has enjoyed playing soccer since he was 4 years old. While at Notre Dame High School he continued developing his soccer skills on the school's soccer team and playing for the Real Soccer Academy – which won the national championships while Richard was on the team. When he graduated from NDHS in 2010, he was offered a scholarship at Regis College in Massachusetts where he continued his soccer career. He graduated from Regis in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, with an Economics minor. He obtained an internship at ADP Payroll Services and was recently hired to a full-time position. He plans to continue developing his interest in the business world, and is also now playing in an adult soccer league.

Ian Barbosa '14, who a few months ago graduated from the Los Angeles Police Department Cadet Program, was recently awarded the "Most Inspirational" award by the program. Congratulations Ian! (See the Pulse article in the July HeartBeat for more about Ian's participation in the LAPD program).

"Thank you" to everyone who submitted nominations for this year's 2015 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year.

The selection committee, headed by Fr. Gérard and Mrs. Danowitz, will be announcing it's decision during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 25-31) which will be posted on the school website and published in the church bulletin. The award will be presented at the School Endowment Trustees Dinner on Apr. 18.



The Jog-A-Thon is an annual tradition at St. John Eudes School which gets all our students jogging to raise funds to help support the school. But, as many alumni know, it's more than just fundraising, it's "spiritraining" and brings all the classes together to show their school spirit as they jog around the field. Yet, there is a special class level pride and each grade selects a theme for their team, such as "Ms. Bergstrom's Many Minions" (Gr. 1 - pictured above), "Mrs. Moreno's Little Angels" (Gr. 2), Ms. Casillas's Kindergarten Super Heros", or "Mrs. Rigney's Runners" (Gr. 3). But the Jog-A-Thon involves not only the students, but a whole group of parents, teachers and staff as well. Teachers and staff take part as joggers along with the students, and more than a few parents (actually a whole bunch!) help coordinate and organize the event. And then there are also the Jog-A-Thon drawing and special Jog-A-Thon lunch that make the event even more special. Thanks to all our sponsors and donors who supported the Job-A-Thon and helped make it such a success again this year!

