



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Class of 2017 Well Prepared for Future Challenges New Flock of Eagles Flies on to High School



The SJE School Class of 2017 poses proudly in Grill Hall as they prepare for their graduation. Just as proud of their accomplishments are the faculty and staff posing with them (left to right) - Mrs. Strom, Ms. Stula, Mrs. Reyes, Mrs. Danowitz, and Fr. Gérard.

It was with great optimism and hope that the students in the SJE Class of 2017 graduated this year. Their education has provided them exceptional tools they can use to forge a bright future. Prepared to be leaders in an ever changing world, they will be tasked with facing challenges and opportunities unheard of when their parents were young. May God continue to bless & guide you!

Right - Taking time to sign yearbooks and socialize at the Graduation Mass and Breakfast, our graduates celebrated their commencement toward growth in faith and knowledge as they prepare to move on to high school. **Below** - The Class of 2017 takes some time off to build memories and experience the glamor of Hollywood. But just as our Catholic faith is a "universal" faith, their trip to "Universal" Studios highlights the world-wide opportunities and responsibilities these students will have, particularly living in a world-class city with world-renown influences and world-shaping possibilities.



The Class of 2017: Gavin Aco, Angelique Altamira, Jeanette Andia, Skye Austin, Chase Call, Adrian Cienfuegos, Chelsea Cruz, Isabella Davalos, Maria Emilia Del Castillo, Kyle Fernandez, Karissa Garcia, Julia Godinez, Emily Hurtado, Kiana La Bella, Daniel Leiva, Isaac Lopez, Melanie Lopez, Xavier Lopez, Sophia Mena, Clare Menanno, Diego Angel Moreno, Daniel Myers, Sophie Navarro, Derryl Sean Quiamco, Alexander Ramirez, Kelvin Ramos, Aidan Reynolds, Fatima Ruiz, Ela Rybak, Ryan Sulka, Tyler Suttles, Erika Tagle, Adi Ure, Jeremiah Uyanga, Gabriela Vasquez, Jared Victor, Davin Villareal.

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Highlights:

- **Graduating Class Prepared for Leadership, High School, and Beyond**
- **SJE Students Take Honors Again at Film Festival; PSA "Just Wait" Delivers Poignant Message**
- **Unforgettable Teacher Receives Unforgettable Award**
- **Summer Carnival Is Mecca for Alumni; Can't Resist Fun & Excitement**
- **SJE Gets New Pastor; Fr. Lawrence Steps Up to Guide Church/School**
- **Farewell to You Fr. Gérard; Blessings on Your New Assignment**
- **St. Paula Montal School Opens in India; Help Still Needed**
- **Class of 2017 Bares Sole Over Fundraiser; Gives Legacy Gift Laced with Sign of Thanks**

Quick Beats . . .

The Daughters of the American Revolution have recently recognized Rachel Reimer (Gr. 6) and Mia Vargas (Gr. 7) as winners at their grade levels in the *American History Essay Contest*, in the Don Jose de Ortega Chapter. Mia's essay was also selected as a winner at the district level.

SJE alumni Xavier Lopez '17 and Ela Rybak '17 have been accepted into the Ronald Reagan Student Leadership Program, a summer program which cultivates high school

students, developing them into actively engaged citizens in their communities. After participating in the program, students have gone on to receive such accomplishments as scholarship awards, grant funding for their projects, recognition in school and local newspapers, and leadership roles in various clubs and organizations.

The Boy Scout Ad Altare Dei Medal was awarded to Marc Francis (Gr. 7) at the 91st Annual Religious Emblems Presentation Mass held in May at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the

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Mr. Danowitz, students and faculty assemble on stage at the Making Films That Matter Film Festival and display the Best Film Award at the Middle School Level presented to SJE for "Just Wait" produced by SJE 8th Graders about the dangers of texting while driving. Other SJE student films were also nominated for awards.



Congratulations to Ms. Catherine Stula on being named the 2017 recipient of the "Unforgettable Educator of the Year in Creative Arts". The award is presented annually to outstanding educators by the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce and Facey Medical Group. Bravo - well deserved Ms. Stula!

A Special "Thank You" to Our Special Supporters!

2016-17 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors - \$500 and More

Eugenia Guzman

Vica Weber

Supportive Donors - Up to \$499

Liz Carlin

2016-17 Annual Fund Campaign

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

SJE Filipino Ministry

Calasanz Council - \$500 to \$999

Elisabeth Star

Montal Council - \$250 to \$499

Janice & Gary Boudreau

John Chady

Eagle's Club - up to \$249

Julissa Coronado

Enrique & Veronica Enguero

Jonathan Hoh

Edward & Ann Marie Tinsley

Patti & Phil Wolff

We thank all those who donated during the last school year to help make our school program exceptional for our students and families. Your help is vital to the mission of our school to raise leaders with open hearts and open minds. Thank you for supporting the important cause of Catholic education!



SJE clergy got together to help with the Grand Prize Drawing at the Summer Carnival. But a few things have changed since then. **Deacon Eleuterio** (left) was ordained a priest at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad on July 13. **Fr. Eleuterio** will now be assigned to support vocation discernment in San Diego. **Fr. Lawrence** (center) was appointed SJE pastor and began his new position on July 1. **Fr. Gérard** (right) also began his new assignment on July 1 as pastor of St. James/St. Leo Parish in Solano Beach. We ask God's blessings for them as they begin these new phases of their ministries.



Rupert Tingzon '96 takes a break from the action at the SJE Summer Carnival to pose with his daughter and two sons. The carnival is a great opportunity for current students, alumni, families, and friends to get together and celebrate as an extended parish and school community. It's great to see our alumni and their families come back and join in all the fun at the carnival. Make sure to mark your calendar now for next year's Summer Carnival which will be held on Memorial Day Weekend - May 25-27. There's No Better Way to Start the Summer!



In a Lighter Vein . . .

It's summer now and the graduations that took place during the last couple months have come and gone. Many commencement speeches gave great advice on being successful. But in the end, there is only one real measure of success that is important . . . *When the time comes, what will God ask you about how you lived?*

God won't ask what kind of car you drove. *He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.*

God won't ask the square footage of your house. *He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.*

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet. *He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.*

God won't ask what your highest salary was. *He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.*

God won't ask what your job title was. *He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.*

God won't ask how many friends you had. *He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.*

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived. *He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.*

God won't ask about the color of your skin. *He'll ask about the content of your character.*

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek salvation. *He'll lovingly take you in His arms and ask you to go with Him into His mansion.*

We ask you to consider giving 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!

Congratulations to **Fr. Lawrence Goodwin, CJM**, who was recently appointed our pastor and started in his new position on July 1 (see picture on page 2). Fr. Lawrence is well acquainted with our parish, being ordained at St. John Eudes in 2012 and serving the last two years here as an associate pastor. And our best wishes to **Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM**, who has served the last 6 years as our pastor, but has now been called to serve as pastor at St. James/St. Leo Parish in Solano Beach (near San Diego). We thank Fr. Gérard for his caring service, a sentiment that was echoed by hundreds of people who joined in a Farewell Evening in Nugent Plaza which was dubbed *A Night in Paris* that was held to honor him before his departure.

In last October's *HeartBeat* former SJE principal, **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.**, wrote to us about the school the Sisters of the Pious Schools are establishing in India to help support the mission of St. Paula Montal. She recently wrote us this follow-up letter:

Dear SJE Alumni Families,

First I want to THANK you for your prayers and interest in the Sisters of the Pious Schools mission in India! It was a joy to hear from you & to know how you are living your faith and sharing your knowledge today.

SJE has always been mission-minded and your support last year helped us to launch the building of our first school in India, fittingly named ST. PAULA MONTAL SCHOOL.

With the daring spirit of Mother Paula, we have moved forward, trusting in the Lord to build the school if it will be for His honor and glory. Mother Paula's motto "I want to save families, teaching children the love of God" has helped



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



Read the latest tweets about the school on Twitter @**sje365_news!**



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram **SJE365!**

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
9225 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

us to overcome many obstacles and to work through the endless red-tape.

Even though the building is not yet complete, the school opened for the children in June - the Indian school year is from June to March. BUT we still need funds to complete the work and to supply the classrooms with the necessary teaching materials, athletic equipment, health sup-

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Congratulations to Miguel Davalos '85 who was honored at the annual St. John Eudes School Endowment Trustees' Dinner as the "2017 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year". Miguel was selected by a committee headed by Fr. Gérard and Mrs. Danowitz as an alumnus who is a wonderful example to our students of someone who has been a life-long learner in the spirit of St. Paula Montal, and who has applied the principles of "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy" since graduating from St. John Eudes School. The dinner was attended by the Endowment trustees, SJE School Board members and other invited guests.

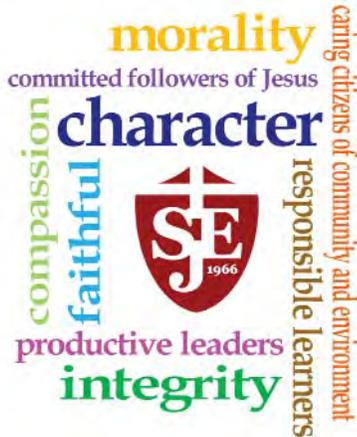
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Fr. Lawrence Goodwin, CJM
Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal



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Ernie Star, Director

Quick Beats . . .

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Angel. The purpose of the medal program is to help Catholic scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community and to grow in a spiritual experience in relationship to God and the Church.

Congratulations to Kaylee Koochoff (Gr. 7) and Lisette Cortez (Gr. 7) who are on the *West Coast Rush* cheerleading team which won 1st Place at the state level and 3rd Place at the national level in recent competitions.

The Class of 2017 collected over 1,400 pairs of shoes as part of a *Shoe Drive Fundraiser*. Supported by the participation of all school classes and families, the funds raised by the Shoe Drive will be used for the class legacy gift of an outdoor LED electronic message board for the school.

Shane's Inspiration is an organization that has provided playgrounds around the world, including

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plies, technology, library books, etc.

I invite YOU to be a partner with our Sisters in providing an integral Catholic education for the poor children in India. You may collaborate through your prayers and donations. Sr. Guadalupe is the bridge between SJE families and our mission in India.

Contributions can be sent to Sisters of the Pious Schools, 17601 Nordhoff St., Northridge 91325, attention Sr. Guadalupe. If you need more information, you can reach her at 818-885-6265 or contact me at RMB226@yahoo.in. If you visit India, please get in touch with me at 0478-287-7420 or Piarist Sisters, Eramalloor P.O.,



The construction of St. Paula Montal School in India is nearly complete and students are already registered. The school will accommodate approximately 1,000 students when finished, mostly from poorer local families in need of an education they could not receive elsewhere. While construction continues toward completion, there are still significant needs such as teaching materials, athletic equipment, health supplies, etc.

Cherthala, Kerala 688 537.

More about the school is available on the parish website at www.sjeparish.net/india. And if you would like to support the efforts of the Sisters by donating, you may also do so online at www.gofundme.com/st-paula-montal-school-india.

The Sisters thank you for your support!

one in Griffith Park, that allow children with disabilities to play along with typically-abled children. We are proud that **Emily Hurtado '17, Xavier Lopez '17 and Ela Rybak '17** have been selected as *Shane's Inspiration Teenage Ambassadors* to educate volunteers, help at special events, and publicize the efforts of the organization.

Volunteers at SJE were shown how much they are appreciated

at the recent *Volunteer Appreciation*. **Yolanda Ramierez**, the grandmother of **Jacob (Gr. 6), Jack (Gr. 3) and Jiada Ramirez (Gr. K)**, was recognized as the *2017 Volunteer of the Year*. A *Special Volunteer Recognition Award* was presented to **Maggie Sulka**, mother of **Ryan Sulka '17**, for her 9 years of volunteer service, particularly as Room Parent Coordinator.



An important part of the mission of St. John Eudes School is "to educate students . . . to live as committed followers of Jesus Christ as faithful members of the Catholic Church." An essential element of this mission is to prepare our students to receive the sacraments and become fully united in faith. **Above** - SJE 2nd Graders take part in a First Communion Retreat with hands-on projects that reinforce their understanding of the sacrament. **Below** - Filled with grace, students in the First Communion class reverently pose on the occasion of their First Communion (not exactly an easy thing for excited 2nd Graders to do!).

