



# The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net)

## Class of 2019 Ready to Make a Difference in the World Well Prepared Academically, Spiritually, and Morally



The Class of 2019 poses for its graduation picture, ready to go beyond the St. John Eudes campus to affect the world in a positive and meaningful way. But first they had the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments at several special events including the 8th Grade Prayer Service, Dinner Dance, Farewell Mass, and a number of other events.

It's hard to believe that our 8th Grade Class of 2019 has now graduated and are beginning a new chapter in their educational journey. And as they begin this journey we need to ask how prepared are they?

Academically, they are very prepared. When looking at the STAR scores, our 8th Graders have met and excelled the benchmarks set by the Archdiocese. There were 23 Acceptances with Honors from Catholic high schools and eight of our students have been offered leadership scholarships.



Left - Mrs. Danowitz and Msgr. Nugent, SJE pastor emeritus, presided at the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019. They presented each student with their diploma and a photo opportunity for their memory books. Right - After graduation, students posed together for group photos to commemorate this really special occasion.

Spiritually, they have been formed in their faith. The Assessment of Religious Education results of our 8th Grad-

(Continued on page 2)



### Inside This Issue:

<b>Quick Beats</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A Special "Thank You" to Our Special Supporters</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni &amp; Friends</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>In a Lighter Vein</b>	<b>3</b>

### Highlights:

- **Class of 2019 Celebrates with Families, Classmates, Special Events**
- **School Preparing for WCEA/WASC Accreditation Visit; Teachers, Staff Completing Self-Study**
- **Donors Help Maintain Excellence of School Program, Important Cause of Catholic Education**
- **New Priests Assigned to SJE; Welcome Fr. Ethan and Fr. Ayotte!**
- **Msgr. McNamara and Fr. Bill Celebrate 50th Anniversaries; Cite Special Relationships with SJE As Important to Their Ministries**
- **Alumna Draws on Education to Help Children Through Art Therapy**
- **Students Act Up in Grill Hall; Applauded for Performance**
- **Chess Team Champs Again**

## Quick Beats . . .

**Our teachers and staff are busy preparing for an upcoming visit by the WCEA/WASC Accreditation Visiting Team** which will take place on Feb. 18-20, 2020. A self-study is being followed by our school leadership team to assure our educational program meets accreditation requirements. At the end of the visit, the accreditation team will write a report and recommend a specific term of accreditation.

**Congratulations to Kayley Lufrano (Gr. 8) on being selected as Student Council president** for the 2019-20 school year. Kayley is the daughter of alumna **Casey Crandall (Lufrano)**.



2nd Graders processed from their classroom to the church to receive their First Holy Communion in May. In addition to their classroom lessons, they also participated in a number of events that helped them prepare to receive the Blessed Sacrament, including a special retreat designed to be a meaningful experience for the communicants and their parents. A special "Thank You" to Sr. Guadalupe, Sr. Georgina, and all the volunteers and parents who helped make the retreat such a wonderful event!

no) '93. Her aunt, **Jenny Crandall '89**, is also involved in school leadership as a member of the SJE School Board.

**The SJE National Junior Honor Society sponsored a school supply drive** for the benefit of St. Paula Montal School in India. The NJHS col-

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Above - SJE students showed their devotion to the Blessed Mother at the annual May crowning, held during the month dedicated to our spiritual mother, Mary. Below - This year's spring musical, "Return to the Hidden Fortress", written and composed by our own Dr. Howell, was brought to life by our talented 5th thru 8th Grade students who showed their performing arts abilities on stage in Grill Hall.*



## A Special "Thank You" to Our Special Supporters!

### 2018-19 Adopt-A-Student Program

**Adoptive Donors - \$500 and More**

Joel & Shirley Feinblatt

Florence Guest

Eugenia Guzman

Jerry & Marion Neglio

Nathan Neglio

Jenny Zoller-Guerreiro

### 2018-19 Annual Fund Campaign

**Calasanz Council - \$500 to \$999**

Janice Boudreau

Vica Weber

**Montal Council - \$250 to \$499**

Donald & Delores Sabino

**Eagle's Club - up to \$249**

John Chady

Dolores Di Cecco

Edward & Ann Marie Tinsley

Philip & Patti 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!*

## Graduation *(Continued from page 1)*

ers show that they demonstrated Advanced Proficiency in the eight domains of Faith Knowledge; their very positive responses in the Affective Statements are evidence that they feel connected to the parish and school community.

Morally, we have witnessed them aspire to reach the *Six Pillars of Character* as they

have developed into leaders "with open hearts and open minds".

We are proud of our students' achievements and our school's accomplishments in producing educated and prepared individuals who will experience success in their high school years and beyond and will contribute their God-given talents to our world in a positive and meaningful way.

*Barbara Danowitz*



*Families of the graduates were as excited as the graduates themselves and joined together to celebrate their graduate's achievements.*



*Above - The amazing SJE Chess Team continued its successful winning streak finishing First Place at the recent "ChessMates All Schools Chess Tournament". Congratulations to our chess champions! Left - School students and families had a great time at this year's Summer Carnival by either volunteering or just coming to have fun. School students in our parish's "Heaven's Grace" choir also entertained the audience and displayed marvelous musical talent with their performance. A special "Thank You" to all our alumni and friends who supported the Summer Carnival this year and made it so successful!*



## In a Lighter Vein . . .

A boat docked in a tiny Mexican village. An American tourist on summer vacation complimented a fisherman there on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

“Not very long,” answered the fisherman.

“But then, why didn’t you stay out longer and catch more?” asked the tourist.

The fisherman explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family and said, “With the rest of my time I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, spend time with my wife. In the evenings I go into the village to see my friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. I have a full life.”

The tourist said, “I have an MBA. from Stanford and I can help you. You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish, buy a bigger boat, and then a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet. You can then open your own processing plant and move to Mexico City or Los Angeles from where you can direct your huge enterprise, sell stock and make millions!”

“How long would that take?” asked the fisherman.

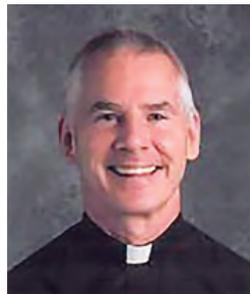
The tourist replied, “Only about twenty to twenty-five years, but after that you’ll have a great life. You’ll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, spend time with your wife, and spend your evenings having a few drinks and playing the guitar with your friends!”

*You don’t need to fish around for a reason to 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 at (818) 341-1451 or visit our website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!*

We welcome **Fr. Ethan Southard** to our school and parish community as our new parish administrator. Coming from a devoutly Catholic family, Fr. Ethan moved to Los Angeles from Delaware a number of years ago and after some encouragement from his cousin who was living here, began helping out at a nearby soup kitchen in Hollywood. Through that experience he felt a call to become a priest, attended St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, and was ordained by Archbishop Gomez in 2016. He was then assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Santa Clarita where he has been serving as an associate pastor. He began his service at our parish on July 1.



We also welcome **Fr. David Ayotte** as our new associate priest. Fr. Dave was ordained in 1992 for Los Angeles serving



for 13 years in parish ministries and later as director of the *Mission Office* for the Archdiocese. That work involved training lay families to serve in international missions. He then served 14 years with the Jesuits teaching in universities in Rome and Nairobi, mainly in the formation of lay leaders and priests. He holds a Master’s Degree in Applied Spiritual Theology and Religious Studies, and also a Doctorate in Systematic Theology (STD). Both in the U.S. and later in Africa, Fr. Dave was extensively involved in fundraising for church related organizations. Recently he served as associate pastor at St. Ignatius Parish in Sacramento where he co-founded the *Center for Ignatian Spirituality*, noted especially for its program in training spiritual directors. Fr. Dave enjoys hiking, exercise, and reading sci-fi books.

Our special thanks to **Msgr. Emigdio Herrera** who stepped in to serve as our parish administrator during the last year. A special farewell dinner was held for Msgr.



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](mailto:theheartbeat@sjeschool.net) or mail it to:*

*Attn: The Heartbeat  
St. John Eudes School  
9225 Mason Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

Our condolences to the family of **Philip McManama**, especially to his wife **Ana**, and children **Lori (’99)** and **Philip (’03)**. Phil was a friend to many and actively participated in numerous events and ministries at St. John Eudes. He passed away earlier this year and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Herrera and he thanked SJE parishioners for their support and prayers while he was serving our parish and school. We wish him well as he continues in his priestly ministry.

Congratulations to **Msgr. Robert McNamara**, former SJE pastor, who celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination early in June. In an open email inviting SJE parishioners to a Mass celebrating his anniversary, Msgr. McNamara wrote, “*My time at SJE was a very important and significant time in my life. So the Mass on June 2nd will be a Mass of gratitude when I will thank the Lord for you and all who helped me in my priesthood.*” Many SJE parishioners and



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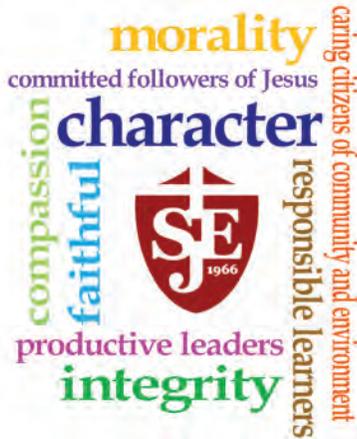
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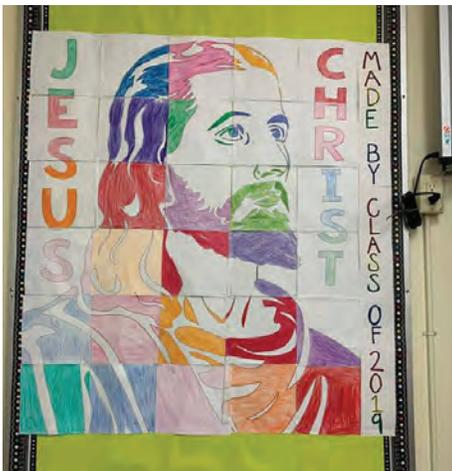
Ernie Star, Director

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## Quick Beats . . . .

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lected pencils, markers, erasers, notebooks, glue, folders, and a variety of other school supplies for the students and classes.



Look closely. This is a collaborative poster created by the Class of 2019. Each student was responsible for a square that, when pieced together, created this beautiful image of Jesus.

## The Pulse

(Continued from page 3)

school families were in attendance at the Mass to give thanksgiving for all the great work Msgr. McNamara had done for our parish, particularly for his guidance during the rebuilding of the parish after the Northridge Earthquake in 1994.

Congratulations also to **Fr. Bill McLean** who also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination in June. Fr. Bill returned to St. John Eudes to celebrate the occasion and a special dinner was hosted by the parish in Grill Hall filled with many there in thanks for the service he has provided us through his ministry.

Congratulations to **Kristina Star (Kaprielian) '00** who recently received her Master of Arts Degree in Psychology from Phillips Graduate University. After interning at Marvel Comics and graduating from California State University, Northridge, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art, she worked several years as a website artist for Nickelodeon. She however decided to pursue a career helping children with psychological problems through art therapy. With her advanced degree she will be able to continue towards her goal of obtaining her state required credentials and license. Kristina also remains active in the parish particularly helping with the annual SJE Summer Carnival.



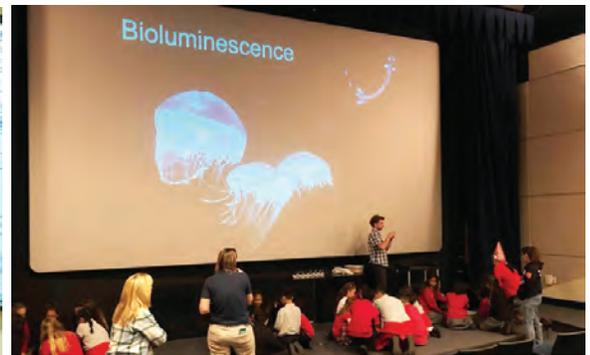
Fr. Bill poses with some of his friends from St. John Eudes who attended the dinner in Grill Hall held in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of his ordination. It was great to have Fr. Bill with us again. May God continue to bless him in his ministry!



Kristina Star (Kaprielian) '00 poses proudly with her husband George (left) and her parents Eva and Ernie Star at her graduation where she received her Master of Psychology Degree.



Above Left - SJE students recently had a chance to spend the day with their favorite teachers assisting them with their classes. They learned to appreciate all the hard work their teachers do for them! Above



Right - Our Middle School curricular field trips support students with their learning and help them to develop an understanding of the wider world. Below Right - Our student athletes celebrated their accomplishments at the Sports Awards Dinner at which students were awarded recognition for their athletic prowess.