

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

The day the Lord created hope was probably the day he created Spring. -Bern Williams



Gratitude Corner

St. Joseph School is incredibly blessed with the outpouring of support and generosity from our families throughout the year. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who have volunteered for fundraisers, lunch supervision, traffic duty, school events, campus cleaning and grounds maintenance projects, tearing pages out of workbooks, and countless other tasks. We truly could not do this without YOU!

G.A.L.A. was a wonderful SUCCESS! Thanks again to all who supported this annual fundraiser. The event brought in a revenue of \$111,684.20. After crediting obligation and paying expenses, the net revenue was \$35,292.99. A special thanks to the event Chairperson, Sophia Robles, and all those who volunteered their time. We are also extremely grateful for all the sponsorships, donations, and support from our families and community.

A special thanks to all the parent volunteers for supporting Mr. B and the track athletes!



Thank you to Mrs. Galvan and all our Spell-a-thon volunteers. What a fun and educational way to raise money for the school!

The office would be lost without Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Morand! In honor of Administrative Professionals' Day next week, we say THANK YOU to the world's BEST Office Manager and Business Manager!

Our 7th and 8th grade students from the second trimester Music/Drama class amazed us with their beautiful interpretation of the Stations of the Cross. Thank you to Ms. Brown and Sr. Mary for helping our students tell the story of the Paschal mystery with love.

Thank you to our 5th grade families for the delicious faculty luncheon last Friday, April 13th.

Spreading Joy and Love

Pope Francis recently shared his *Guadete Et Exsultate* on the Call to Holiness in Today's World. The document beautifully points out that we are all "called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." He invites us to look at the lives of saints to encourage us on our journey towards sainthood. He reminds us if we study the lives of the saints, we see their humanity and imperfections. The totality of their lives is what matters. Pope Francis points out, "Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes." I have always thought the Beatitudes are some of the most beautiful verses written in the Gospels. So many of us are inspired by the saints' great love for the Lord, and the risks they took to live and proclaim their faith especially when it was difficult to do. They strived to live the Beatitudes in their daily lives. Their examples show us how each act of kindness is a step towards holiness. Pope Francis goes on to say, "Far from being timid, morose, acerbic or melancholy, or putting on a dreary face, the saints are joyful and full of good humour. Though completely realistic, they radiate a positive and hopeful spirit." It is easy to forget the ordinary moments the saints must have shared amongst friends, such as telling stories and having a good belly laugh. They ultimately spread joy and love to those around them.



The story of Nano Nagle's life serves as a wonderful example of how to live a life of holiness. Her compassion and service to others, especially those persecuted in her community was inspirational. Her love of the poor and downtrodden was evident as she walked through the streets of Cork with lantern in hand helping the less fortunate. Like the saints, Nano did her work with a smile on her face. She loved God and all who came in contact with her daily. As we celebrate Nano's 300th birthday, we observe the same spirit of compassion in our students. Nano not only gave of her treasures, but her whole life to the poor of Cork. In her schools and on the street, she gave what she had. She founded the Presentation Sisters in 1775 to continue her work throughout the world. To her everyone in need was Christ asking for her help. Her spirit continues at our school as students happily embrace the call to be Jesus to others.

At the time I began to write this newsletter, Mrs. Bowen shared a beautiful story of how our 4th graders spread joy and hope before Easter break. A few months back, she had arranged for Phil Volker to visit her classroom to share his story of creating a Camino in his backyard, modeled after El Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile pilgrimage in Spain. Her class had made cards for Phil and his wife and he had received them around Easter. He was so touched and moved by the gesture that he blogged about the joy it brought him on a day he truly needed it. Phil is living with stage IV cancer and chooses to live life "vibrantly in the face of adversity" which was part of his message to the students. Someone thought to place a can along Phil's Camino to raise money for an end of the year class party as a way to reciprocate the thoughtfulness with our 4th graders. Just last week he blogged again to share they had raised \$166 for Mrs. Bowen's class. WOW! Now the class is thinking of ways to use part of the money to spread more happiness in the world. This also inspired the theme for their current writing assignment- how to bring heaven to earth through daily acts of kindness. If this doesn't demonstrate steps towards holiness, then I don't know what is.



There are countless examples like this one that are carried out throughout the school year that do not get told on social media, or make it to the feel-good section of the evening news. Students and families regularly give of their blessings to His Hands and the Missions. Various classes decide on annual service learning projects to demonstrate their

Thank you to Mr. Llamas and Mrs. Barroso for frequently saying “yes” when asked to help with lunch supervision. Your regular presence is greatly appreciated.

Prayer

The Hope of Spring

God, thank You for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days. Thank You for the coming of growth and life and birth. Thank You for the things that are coming awake in the world.

Your word says that we will have provision, and hope, and joy, and health and loving relationships here and now in this life. We ask that what belongs in this season would become actual in our practical lives. We hope in You and in Your promises.

We hope in Your gift of spring.
-Source: Unknown

STAR Student News

During last week’s Flag assembly, several of our students were recognized for their poetry entries to The Catholic Daughters of the Americas poetry contest. It was the first time all the recipients of the awards were from St. Joseph School!

Our 8th graders performed very well on all of the high school placement exams. We received positive feedback regarding the high quality of essay writing, scholarships awarded, and overall test scores. We are VERY proud of our students’ hard work and academic successes.



Got ROBOTICS? Our middle school students have nothing but

programming and robots on the brain. On Monday, a team of 7th grade girls took FIRST PLACE in the Roboreka Challenge at Cal Poly Pomona. We are proud of all our students who represented the school at his event. A special thanks to all the instructors from STEM Center USA.

commitment to being active contributing members of their Church and society. Our 8th graders have taken on service learning projects that truly make a difference in the lives of individuals. Last month a group hosted the prayer group from St. Joseph Parish for breakfast at Brandon’s Diner. It was an opportunity for our students to listen to the wisdom and stories of our parishioners that are taking their own steps towards holiness through daily prayer for our community. It was amazing to see how different generations came together to share stories, listen, and yes, SING in the middle of a restaurant. The tears of joy that gently crept into my eyes were just a sign of how overwhelming it was to witness the light of Christ present in that diner.



students have nurtured over the last 9 years, but also reinforce the importance of service and care for others in their community.

Last Saturday, students volunteered at the Special Olympics hosted at Azusa Pacific College. I received a message from the organizers of the event expressing their gratitude for the time, respect, and help our 8th graders gave to support the athletes. Experiences like these not only create memories and deepen the friendships these

Living each day with purpose, integrity, love, and joy is not easy. Life poses challenges we must overcome. The lives of the saints illustrate for us how our faith in God and perseverance will move us toward a deeper relationship with Christ and a life of holiness. I close with the last few lines from Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God’s greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us.” I pray St. Joseph School continues to be a place where we encourage and help form the saints of the future.

Many blessings,
Mrs. Alamo-Ng

Mark Your Calendars...

Monday, April 23rd- Tuesday, May 8th - STAR Testing

Wednesday, April 25th- Monday, April 30th – 6th Grade Food Drive for His Hands Food Pantry **GIVE WHAT YOU “CAN”**

Friday, April 27th

- 8:30am All School Mass in honor of Nano Nagle’s 300th birthday
- 1-3pm- Talent Show

Sunday, April 29th 9am- All School Mass in honor of St. Joseph the Worker’s Feast Day on May 1st.

Monday, April 30-Friday, May 4th- **PENNY WARS** to help students from [Sampa Catholic Mission School in Ghana](#). **Great opportunity to HELP OTHERS!**

Thursday, May 3rd

- 8:10am- All School Rosary outside by the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 6pm- School Board Meeting

Friday, May 4th

- 8:30am May Crowning Mass
- Flag
- Noon Dismissal

Saturday, May 5th 10am- First Holy Communion Mass



We wish our robotics team coached by Mr. Cortes, Dominic Cortes, and Aidan Salazar the best of luck at tomorrow's Damien High School Robotics Competition.

PTG Fundraisers

Thank you to all the families that participated in the Vince's Spaghetti fundraiser!



Join us at Chuck E Cheese's on 5/8 from 3-9pm! Look for a familiar face during dismissal.

FIRST ANNUAL NANO NAGLE WALK-A-THON!

This year 75% of the money you raise through pledges will go towards your obligation and 25% will help support our beloved Presentation Sisters. We hope you will also come out and walk with us. Kona Ice will be there. Will you? More information to follow.

NCEA Parent News

This month's National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Parent News newsletter is titled "Avoiding the Summer Spiritual Slide." Please take time to read the additional attachment for ideas on how to maintain regular routines for spiritual growth during summer months. Our goal is always for students to see prayer and faith as an important part of their lives outside of school.

Monday, May 7th- Friday, May 11th – Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 9th 8am- PTG Meeting

Thursday, May 10th

- Kinder and 8th Grade Panoramic Picture
- 6pm- New Parent Orientation Meeting

Saturday, May 12th- St. Margaret Mary Track Meet at Damien High School

Tuesday, May 15th- Last Tuition DUE

Wednesday, May 16th- The Solar Dome Presentation for all classes

Registration Dates and Times

- Thursday, May 17th 9am-12pm & 3-7pm
- Friday, May 18th 2-7pm
- Saturday, May 19th 7-10am

Friday, May 18th- Day Away for 8th Grade

Wednesday, May 23rd- Sports Awards Assembly

Friday, May 25th

- Nano Nagle Walk-a-thon
- Noon Dismissal
- 5-9pm- 8th Grade Dance

Don't forget to check our website for current events and updated school information at www.stjosephupland.org.