

The Perpetual Light

Presented to graduates, friends and supporters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



Principal's Perspective By: Katie Franco

Happy 2020 OLPH alumni family! This year, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School celebrates its 87th year of prideful existence in Daly City. What an accomplishment! I am grateful to play a small part in the long standing history of OLPH School and to contribute to the work we are doing for our current students and their families. I am blessed to work alongside the amazing team of dedicated and talented teachers and staff who contribute to our daily success.

Our school theme this year is “Walking in the Ways of Jesus”. Following this theme, each month, a virtue of our faith is highlighted. We have been intentional with conversations and reflections with our students. I am proud to see the virtues in the hearts and actions of our children here at OLPH. It is important to develop faith virtues in our students, knowing that they are the pillars on which we will build our future.

We appreciate our alumni community for the ever giving support that allows us to continue our work here everyday. I am also proud of each OLPH alum, near and far, who continue to build on their virtuous foundations started during their OLPH years. Thank you for all you bring to our world everyday!

I can't wait to “Rock Around the Clock” with all of you at our Alumni Event on March 7, 2020. We are transforming this historical event to a fun night for ALL alumni and their families as we honor the “decade classes” of ‘50, ‘60, ‘70, ‘80, 90 and 00. We hope you will consider joining us again. Information about this event can be found in this newsletter.



OLPH ALUMNI EVENT 2020

**ALUMNI FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020**

As Our Lady of Perpetual Help School inches closer to its 90th decade, we are reflecting on both the growth and continuity of our wonderful little school on the hill. OLPH continues to strive for excellence and progress, most recently adding our Transitional Kindergarten. As always though, it is the people – the staff, the students, the parents, the families – that made, and continue to make OLPH special.

Looking at past graduates’ photos hanging along Alumni Hall walls, it is remarkable how many multi-generational families have been affiliated with the school for more than a few decades. One of our current families has now spanned 3 decades! Arlene Castillo and her husband John, enrolled their oldest child Christina, in 1987. Their other children, Melissa (’99), John (’02) and Anthony(’08) also graduated from OLPH. After their youngest graduated, Arlene Castillo stayed on as our school secretary, a position she still holds today. She was the recipient of the James Costello Service to Student Award in 2011 to honor all that she does for OLPH. Over the decades, the Castillo family have been major benefactors to the school, including supporting the Alumni Event. As parents, they inspired their daughter Melissa to be a major donor to our “window replacement campaign”. And now another decade has begun for them. Their grandson Julian, son of Christina, is now enrolled in our TK program. We are blessed to have them, as well as all the past “decade” families, as part of the OLPH family. —By: Sheila Ortega



"WHAT'S IN A NAME?" (SHAKESPEARE) PART I

WRITTEN BY: REV. JOSEPH A. GORDON '59

Here are four names in the history of our school and church that deserve a look back, in spite of Romeo's and Juliet's claim that names really did not matter.

The first and second of the four names to consider are the parish's two names. OLPH was established in 1925 as "St. Maximus" Parish, with Father James Donohoe as first pastor. When Donohoe arrived, however, he was immediately faced with monumental challenges, and hoping to revive the vigor of earlier years when the parish was a mission of neighboring Holy Angels he arranged in 1927 to hold a week-long parish mission. It would be conducted by the Redemptorist Priests in Oakland, whose Order, from its foundation several centuries earlier, had fostered a worldwide devotion to Mary under the title "Our Lady of Perpetual Help", and who had developed widely popular parish "missions", similar to "revivals". The response to that mission and to the three annual missions after that was hugely enthusiastic, and by early 1929 it seemed logical to Donohoe and to hundreds of parishioners that a petition be sent to Archbishop Hanna to change the name of the new parish to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Eventually, the Vatican gave that required permission, and on December 8th, 1929 Archbishop Hanna issued a formal proclamation that the name of Daly City's first Catholic church would henceforth be "Our Lady of Perpetual Help".

In those rare instances of changing the name of a church, it is required that some visible sign of the previous patron remain permanently in place after the change. In the case of OLPH, that tangible remnant of the past can be found in the cornerstone which bears the name of St. Maximus, easily visible to anyone walking past the entrance to the church on Wellington Avenue. It reads, "Ecclesia Sancti Maximi, MCMXXV" (Church of St. Maximus, 1925). For many years, however, there was a second reminder of the original name. It had been permanently affixed to the rear sanctuary wall from 1926 until 1969, when the church was substantially remodeled. For unknown reasons the architect's 1925 plans called for paintings to be placed symmetrically on the sanctuary walls, instead of installing customary statues. He sketched nine shallow niches into the nave and sanctuary, recessed about one inch and of various sizes (all were at least eight square feet in area). Wood frames were to be assembled matching the size and shape of each niche, and canvases would then be tacked tightly to the frames allowing enough room for the canvassed frames to later snugly fit into the niches. On each canvas an artist would paint the image of a religious figure, and the first assistant pastor of OLPH, Father Luigi Sciocchetti, a well-known local artist, was commissioned for the project in OLPH. Unfortunately, though, the sanctuary walls were removed in the 1969 remodeling, making it impossible to recall Father Sciocchetti's work. All but one of his paintings were still works in progress on the day of the dedication in April 1926, but his masterpiece did grace the church for that grand event: a fourteen-by-six feet painting of the bishop St. Maximus standing in front of his bishop's throne. The painting was placed in the niche on the rear wall of the sanctuary where, when it was a painting, it remained until 1969.

After the name change, a piece of blank canvas was cut to match the exact shape of the standing figure of Maximus and then glued onto the original canvas, concealing only the figure of the saint. With the piece of blank canvas in place, Sciocchetti then painted a replica of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help "sitting" on the original throne of Maximus, to appear as a shrine for the icon. While most of the building was remodeled in 1969, the rear wall of the sanctuary is still in place, but unfortunately all of the paintings vanished during that makeover. Father John Mullen, pastor at the time, is now deceased, leaving us to only speculate as to the whereabouts of the missing paintings.

TO BE CONTINUED...



OLPH ALUMNI EVENT 2020

2020 OLPH Dinner/Auction

Saturday, March 7, 2020

\$65 per person ~ Tables of 10 and 6 may be reserved.

6:30 - Silent Auction — No-host bar

7:30 - Dinner by Esposito's catering: Cranberry Salad, Italian Braised Beef, Grilled Salmon, Polenta Lasagna, Rice Pilaf, Grilled Seasonal Vegetables and Dessert, Coffee

8:00 - Anniversary Diplomas awarded

8:15 - Fundraiser, Trivia Fun and Jackpot Raffle

Name _____

FOR ALUMNI ONLY Please indicate Graduation Year _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Number in Party _____ x \$65 = Amount Enclosed _____

I/We are unable to attend. Please accept a donation of \$ _____

I/We will be donating _____ for the auction

(Donations for auction items greatly appreciated - gift cards, certificates wine/spirits, sports memorabilia, housewares, jewelry)

Make check payable to: "OLPH Development"

Checks must be received no later than March 2, 2020.

Tickets will be reserved under your name at the door.

Please complete this form and mail to:

OLPH Dinner
80 Wellington Avenue
Daly City, CA 94014

For questions or information contact:

Sheila Ortega (mrs.ortega@olphdc.org) or call OLPH School at (650) 755-4438

ALUMNI EVENT

The 2019 Alumni Event “Hit the Jackpot” was a great success. Over 50 alum attended the event and all had a good time. Graduates from the Class of 1959 returned to receive their Golden Certificates and graduates from the Class of 1969 received their Diamond Diplomas.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIVIA WINNERS

The Kovacich/Pisani table

RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1st Prize \$1,000: Julia Dwyer, *OLPH Bookkeeper*
- 2nd Prize \$500: Felicia Alexander, *Friend of OLPH*
- 3rd Prize \$250: Roy Mendoza, *Friend of OLPH*
- 4th Prize Winner \$100: Bella Graziani, *Friend of OLPH*
- 5th Prize \$50 Richard Rogers, *Alumni*

MAJOR SPONSORS OF THIS YEAR’S EVENT

- Duggan’s Serra Mortuary
- Lucky Chances
- Pat (Ricci ‘56) Casey
- Lois (Lagamarsino ‘56) Erasmy
- Gracian and Nadine (Mignault ‘63) Goyhenetche
- Thomas Ryan (’51) & Michael Ryan (’53)
- Bill and Roxanne Kovacich
- Mary Tunnell
- Jaime Stella
- Tony Spiteri, *World’s Finest Chocolate*
- Molly Meyer
- The OLPH School Parents

Thank you to all who donated items, participated in the auction and purchased raffle tickets for this great event!

GRADUATES FROM 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 WILL BE HONORED AT THIS YEAR’S EVENT. IF YOU HAVE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GRADUATES OF THESE YEARS PLEASE LET US KNOW.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS YEAR’S EVENT, MARCH 7, 2020!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RESILIENT CLASS OF 2019



CLASS OF 2019



Giada Leggero
THE BUD DUGGAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR KINDNESS AWARD is awarded to the student who generously and unselfishly treated others with kindness and charity.

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- Special awards were received by the following students:*
- SAINT AWARD — Cadence Lopez, Dominic Reyes
 - HIGH ACADEMIC AWARD — Dominic Reyes
 - ACCEPTED INTO ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING PROGRAM — Diego Murillo
 - EFFORT AND DEPARTMENT — Trisha Climaco, Aaron Franco
 - ACCEPTED WITH DISTINCTION INTO THE WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MERCY HIGH SCHOOL SAN FRANCISCO — Sofia Tocchini
 - CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP — Brandon Guardado
 - SPIRIT AWARD — Yasmin Vali

The 2019 Recipient of the James Costello Service to Students Award is Sindy Guardado.



Sindy Guardado enrolled her son, Brandon, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, nine years ago. Since the beginning, she embraced OLPH school's philosophy which states that education is a "shared responsibility between school and parent."

Each year she served as a member of the parent club, was instrumental in raising funds for the school, acted as the lead organizer for many of the school functions, and supported all community outreach drives. She consistently took personal time off work to coordinate ice cream socials, run the Christmas Boutique, coordinate bake sales, host the Christmas luncheon, and support the alumni auction. She promoted our school by acting as interpreter to incoming new families, organizing the Open

House and Back To School Events. Her commitment to extracurricular activities such as the Junior High school play, allowed them to flourish and could not be done this year specifically, without her.

When asked why she continually gave so much, she always responded, "it's for the kids.". It wasn't just her child she wanted to help, it was all students.

She personifies what an OLPH Saint is - giving, caring and self-sacrificing — all for the greater good of others. Congratulations to Sindy Guardado.

The Perpetual Light

Father Augusto Villote

OLPH Pastor

Katie Franco

Principal

Sheila Ortega

Vice Principal



Our Lady of Perpetual Help
School

80 Wellington Avenue
Daly City, CA 94014

650-755-4438

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A message from Sr. Adele Marie Korhummel, CSJ '45

My name is Sister Adele Marie Korhummel – formerly Betty Ann Korhummel. I attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School from 1st grade (1937) to 8th grade and graduated in 1945. My teachers were: 1st – Sr. Stanislaus, 2nd – Sr. Mary James, 3rd to 4th – Sr. Anita, 6th, 7th, and 8th – Sr. Clara (Virginia). Sr. Leo Banks was our Principal. The sisters were gracious and kind to all of us but could also be strict disciplinarians. I received an excellent education. I remember my years at OLPH as wonderful years of growth and having many loyal friends. Special memories include: shopping at the candy store by the 4th grade classroom, attending the yearly bazaar in the old school building, praying daily for the removal of the hill behind us, lunches at the Sisters' convent, getting under benches for "air raids", and attending the May Crowning Mass and Tuesday night Novenas.

I decided, during my high school years, which were at Notre Dame (16th and Dolores), to become a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange. Sisters Mary James, Clara and Jacqueline were my mentors. I have been an elementary school teacher for forty-four years, teaching up and down the coast of California. From 1996 – 2002, I had the wonderful ministry of visiting the homebound elderly. Since 2002 to the present day, I have been the Archivist for our community in Orange, California. I have always kept up with the Perpetual Light publication and have learned about some of my former friends and classmates. I am happy to hear that OLPH has become a member of the CSJ Educational Network.

It would be great if other graduates around my time could also write and let us know where they are now. I just celebrated my 70th Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange and a proud graduate of OLPH, 1945.



Photo courtesy of The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange



RICHELLE DATLAG '07

I am currently working full time as a Kindergarten Lead Teacher at Sunnyside Elementary School, San Francisco. I am also the dance instructor for K-5th grade and the after school enrichment program for Sunnyside. I hope to continue in this profession for many more years to come and thank all of the OLPH teachers for their inspiration.