

The Perpetual Light

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



Principal's Perspective By Corrine Muscat

What inspires me the most about being in Catholic education is the power we all have, as a community, to effect change. We are able to do this in large part because we work together as a family. As a family we grow together. We change together. We are truly dedicated to one another. This family atmosphere permeates our school. It is what sets us apart. It is what makes us OLPH.

Catholic school teachers are amongst the most selfless people I have had the pleasure to know. They are at the heart of our OLPH family. The remarkable men and women who serve our OLPH students make a personal commitment to not only prepare their students for the academic needs of the 21st century, but also to support and enrich their spiritual and psychological growth. Because as Catholic educators, we teach the whole child; spiritually, socially, academically, psychologically and physically. As a result we are able to better see the impact we are making on the children we service and their families. Furthermore, these Catholic educators know that the value of what they do reaches far beyond the four walls of their classroom. It extends to the parents, the community, and OLPH School as a whole. As a result, our faculty supports all fundraising activities with their personal resources, attends evening and weekend school functions, dedicates their time to offer free after school clubs to enrich the students, and serves on various school committees. Their love for OLPH School knows no bounds.

I am blessed to serve among those who give their personal time, energy and resources to ensure the success of the entire OLPH family both past and present. The mission of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School's founding Sisters of Saint Joseph was: to establish school unity and spirit, acceptance of self and others, and promote school activities and involvement. Throughout the years administrators, teachers and staff have ensured that the Sisters' mission continues on today. I know that the founding Sisters, and those staff who have gone before us, would be proud of the work we are doing.

ALUMNI FUNDRAISER ~ "GAME ON!" ~ SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT By Corrine Muscat

When alumni come back to visit Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, they are quick to share their fondest memories which almost exclusively center around a member of the OLPH faculty who helped to shape their elementary school experience and made a lasting impact on them. The teachers of OLPH are exceptional educators. But being in Catholic education is about much more than strengthening the academic development of the young men and women at our school. It is about developing a sense of community. It is about being a spiritual guide. It is about modeling the Catholic principles we advocate. Being a Catholic school educator is a call to be of service. Those called give of themselves selflessly. One of these extraordinary educators here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School is now celebrating her 25th year as a member of our faculty, Mrs. Sheila Ortega.

Mrs. Sheila Ortega began her career at OLPH as a grade 2 teacher. Her greatest joy in teaching the second graders was the opportunity to prepare them for the Holy Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. After 4 years as a grade 2 teacher, Sheila moved to 7th grade and also began working as the Vice Principal of OLPH alongside principal James Costello. Mrs. Ortega's passion for teaching centers around her love of children and her ability to make lasting connections with her students. Her kind, caring demeanor and leadership skills are unparalleled.

Over the years Mrs. Ortega has made numerous contributions to OLPH School. Donating her personal time to write grants, she has secured funding to introduce and consistently update the technology program, provide much needed scholarship money for families in need, and assist in the ongoing school plant repairs. In addition she volunteers her time to serve on the Development Committee sharing her wisdom of years past and planning for the future success of the school. Sheila also chaired the annual alumni event last year and will do so again this year. As if that weren't enough, Sheila runs the school's Student Council program, choreographs the school play and has carried on the tradition of the student dramatization of the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.

Mrs. Sheila Ortega, we at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School thank you for your 25 years of service. Your generosity knows no bounds.

DALY CITY GIVES PRAISE TO ST. MAXIMUS AND OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

In 1925 Archbishop Edward Hanna directed that the newly established parish in Daly City be named “St. Maximus”, with Fr. James Donohoe as its first pastor. Donohoe faced an enormous task in those early years, however, recognizing that his parishioners, predominantly truck farmers and laborers, faced severe financial challenges of their own. Most families were young, and wasting no time he developed numerous ongoing fundraisers that would be effective but not be overly burdensome to his parishioners - whist parties, bingo games, yearly parish festivals, religious articles sales, bake sales and Christmas boutiques, for example. This would enable the new parish to not only pay back to the Archdiocese the loan secured for the building of the new church but also, Donohoe desperately hoped, to make the parish solvent once and for all. Regrettably, he apparently was only slightly successful in both repaying the loan and maintaining solvency.

One method that Donohoe chose for achieving solvency was to arrange for a week-long parish mission – a kind of Catholic revival – in 1927, to be conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers of Oakland. From the foundation of their Order several centuries earlier, even to the present time, the Redemptorists have fostered among Catholics a worldwide devotion to Mary under the title “Our Lady of Perpetual Help”, and were well known for their charismatic preaching skills at parish missions. The response to that first mission was enthusiastic in every respect. Donohoe, therefore, invited the Redemptorists for the following year, and he noticed in that reprise that the fruits of the missions were more abundant than anything he had hoped for: he had hit upon a spiritual and financial jump start. Each year’s mission was hugely successful, and gradually a revolutionary, yet appealing, idea occurred to Donohoe and to many parishioners. Why not petition Archbishop Hanna for the name of the parish to be changed officially to “Our Lady of Perpetual Help”? Hanna was eventually receptive, and after correspondence between the Vatican and Hanna’s office - permission from the Vatican is required for changes of this kind - the process was successfully completed. On December 8th, 1929, the name of Daly City’s first Catholic church was changed from St. Maximus to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

In the rare instances of a parish name change, according to Vatican directives, some visible sign of the previous patron must remain permanently in place after the change. In the case of OLPH, that remnant can be found in the cornerstone which bears the name of St. Maximus, “Ecclesia Sancti Maximi, MCMXXV”. For many years, however, there was a second remnant, and it hung over the main altar from 1929 until 1969, when the interior of the church was substantially remodeled and took on the appearance that it had until the second renovation in 2012. The OLPH architect, Creston Jensen of San Francisco, called for eight paintings to be placed symmetrically in the nave and sanctuary, instead of the more customary statues. He designed shallow niches, recessed about two inches and of various sizes, and wood frames were to be assembled to match the size and shape of each niche, with canvases then tacked tightly to the frames, allowing enough room for the taut canvases to later snugly fit into the niches. On each canvas there was to be an oil painting of some religious figure. Father Luigi Sciocchetti, by that time assigned to OLPH, was a well known artist with unique talents in oil paintings and friezes that are still seen in numerous churches in the San Francisco Bay Area, and was the logical choice to do the pieces in OLPH church. The sanctuary walls into which the eight of the niches were originally recessed were removed in the 1969 remodeling/enlargement of the church and sanctuary, making it possible to only imagine Father Sciocchetti’s work. Perhaps a reader at this moment knows of photographs in his or her family archives – likely taken at weddings, confirmations, first communions and graduations? - and fond memories will spring forth from those dusty albums. Family photos taken by my dad at my own graduation from OLPH in 1959 make for a wonderful memory aid right now! Sciocchetti did not complete his paintings of the Sacred Heart, Mary, St. Joseph and St. Anthony of Padua in time for the dedication of the church, however, and these were later placed in pairs on both sides of the sanctuary, just inside the altar rail (also removed in 1969). The four evangelists were eventually ensconced in round niches in the lateral walls of the sanctuary. Sciocchetti did complete his masterpiece, however, in time for the dedication – his ninth painting - and it was placed in the rear wall of the sanctuary over the altar: a large fourteen feet by six feet painting of St. Maximus standing in front of his Bishop’s throne. The name change in 1929, however, obviously would require some kind of major alteration, and Sciocchetti and Donohoe decided that a blank piece of canvas would be cut to match the exact shape of the standing figure of Maximus – nothing more - that would conceal only his figure and none of the background. It was then glued onto the original painting, and the familiar centuries-old icon of Our Lady of Perpetual was painted by Fr. Sciocchetti on the canvas “patch”, exquisitely matching every detail of the original. Maintaining everything that was placed in the background of the Maximus figure, Sciocchetti positioned the icon as if it were “sitting” on Maximus’ throne. Although that original rear wall of the sanctuary is still in place, all of the paintings have disappeared, and sadly, Father John Mullen, pastor at the time of the 1969 remodeling, is now deceased, allowing us to only speculate as to the mysterious whereabouts of the missing paintings. Once again, perhaps a family album can supply the details and the memories of what have sadly disappeared. So, you can see that OLPH Church does indeed possess the required remnant from the church’s first patron, its cornerstone. But for many years, it also could claim, although hidden from view, a second remnant of its time as St. Maximus Church. Yes, the original Catholic church in Daly City rightly gives praise to both St. Maximus and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Joseph A. Gordon, *OLPH School Class of 1959*



Game On!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School cordially invites you to join us for an evening of dining, socializing, silent auction, and BINGO! This year, following dinner, we will be honoring the OLPH Classes of 1957 and 1967.

2017 OLPH Dinner/Auction *Saturday, March 11, 2017*

- 6:30 – Silent Auction with hors d’oeuvres and no-host bar
- 7:30 – Esposto’s Catering: spinach & strawberry salad, your choice of chicken toscano or chef carved roast beef, vegetables and pasta, white and red wine on tables, followed by coffee and dessert bar.
- 8:00 – Classes of 1957 and 1967 Diplomas
- 8:15 – Bingo

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

Cash raffle prizes will be announced before Bingo. Need not be present to win!

Name: _____

For alumni only...Please indicate Graduation Year _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Number in Party _____ x \$65 = Amount enclosed: _____

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

1 / We will be donating _____ for the auction.

Please make checks payable to: "OLPH Development"

Checks must be received no later than February 27, 2017

Tickets will be reserved under your name at the door. Please complete this form and mail it to:

*OLPH Dinner
80 Wellington Avenue
Daly City, CA 94014*

For questions or information contact:

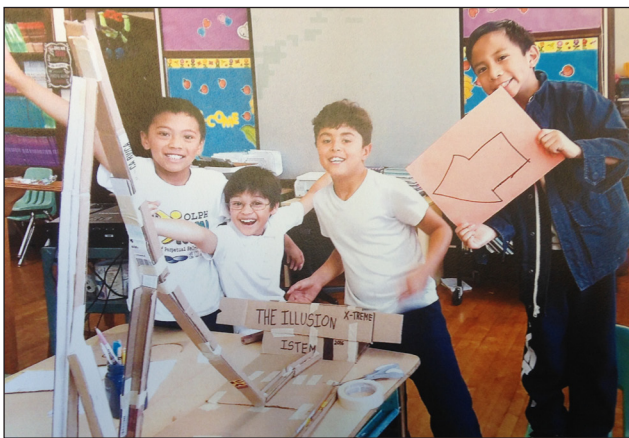
Corrine Muscat (mrs.muscat@olphdc.org) or call OLPH School at (650) 755-4438

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW...

MISSION STATEMENT

At Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, we aspire to educate the whole child spiritually, intellectually, socially, psychologically and physically, in light of Catholic/Christian principles and service. We are committed to providing our students with a quality education, which will prepare them for their roles in society.

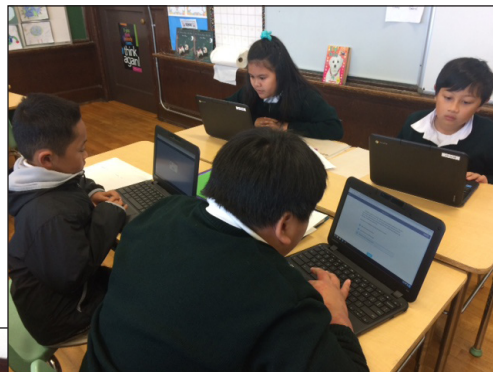
Free After School Clubs OLPH introduced after school clubs to our school community in the fall of 2015 free of charge. Each teacher chose an area of interest to explore after school. Some teachers offer assistance with homework to support our families who may be working long hours, while other teachers chose to offer fitness classes for our middle school students to ensure healthy living is prioritized in our school community. These teachers give so selflessly of their time and talents in large part due to the love they have for the children here at OLPH School. This year's after school clubs include: Running Club, Technology Club, Homework Club, Drama Club, iStem Club and Music Club. These clubs provide additional opportunities for students to explore their God given talents.



iStem After School Club



Music After School Club



Technology After School Club



Homework After School Club



Transitional Kindergarten Our Lady of Perpetual Help School now offers Transitional Kindergarten! This new program offers 4 year old children a full day Kindergarten preparedness program. These transitional Kindergarten students have shown tremendous growth this year.

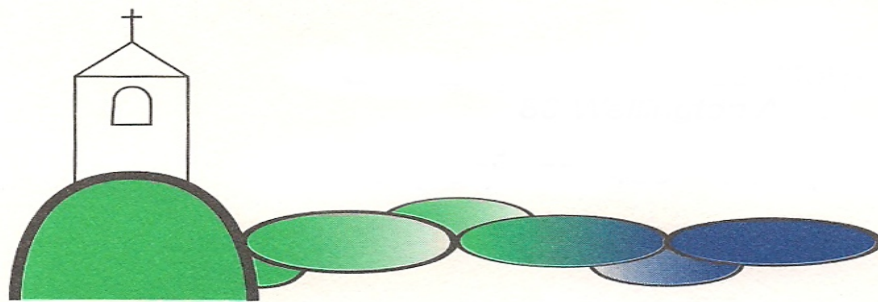
TOGETHER WE HAVE....

The updating of our technology program has been a top priority over the last 3 years here at OLPH School. In order to service the needs of our students, it is vital that we provide education around the ever growing field of technology. In the 2015-2016 school year we acquired 30 new Chromebooks and 10 new iPads. Due to the generous donation of an OLPH alumni, funding from current families and successful grant writing efforts, we have invested another \$60,000 to enhance our technology program! With this enhanced budget, we have been able to acquire 60 Chromebooks with carts, upgrade our wifi system and hire a new technology teacher for grades 5-8. The new technology teacher, Mary Grace Cabangal, is a graduate of OLPH class of 2006. We are blessed that so many members of the OLPH family continually respond to our call for help.



TOGETHER WE WILL...

Although our building stands majestically on the “Top of the Hill” its growing age requires constant repairs and maintenance. One area identified as needing attention is the flooring in Alumni Hall. Unfortunately, the flooring has become warped in certain areas due to the flooding that occurred before the windows and roof were replaced. The estimate for this project is \$60,000. Our current Parent Club has already begun fundraising for this renovation and I am confident that together we will accomplish this goal.



JOIN US AT THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS!

Annual Alumni Event – Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Saint Patrick’s Day Mass – Friday, March 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM

International Food Festival – Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Stations of the Cross performed by our 8th grade class – Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Where Are They Now...

The Class of 2006 held their 10 year reunion at Buri Buri Park in South San Francisco in the summer of 2016.

In attendance were (from left to right) Adrienne Carmona, Nicole Seastres, Nicole Avestilla, Justin Pascual, Kristine Casipe, Alexis Ingco, Melanie Nonog, Michelle Dizon, Mary Grace Cabangal. Not pictured but also attended: Tracy Chau



2006 Kristine Casipe is working at Immaculate Conception Academy('10) in the Student Recruitment and Work Program. She visited OLPH to speak to the 7th and 8th graders about attending ICA.

2006 Mary Grace Cabangal was hired as Our Lady of Perpetual Help School's Technology and Religion teacher for grades 5-8.



2000 Jessica Dela Merced is currently a director in the Disney ABC directing program. Last year, she was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film and is a NYFF Artist Academy fellow. She holds an MFA from the NYU Grad Film Program where she received the 2012 Spike Lee Fellowship as well as the Lorraine Hansberry Arts, Performance, and Media Award. In 2011, she was selected for a unique writing internship created by Chris Rock at Comedy Central. Her award winning thesis film "HYPEBEASTS," written under the mentorship of Spike Lee, aired on PBS.

2000 Lauren Sanchez graduated from Saint Ignatius High School, and went on to UCLA and received her MD. She did her Pediatric Residency training at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is now at UCSF completing a fellowship in Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. Recently engaged, she is excited to be back in the Bay Area.



IN MEMORIAM

Sister Annette Bachand CSJ, passed away July 6, 2016 at the mother house in Orange, CA. She taught at OLPH in the 1980's and also served as Vice-Principal. She was much loved and admired by all.