



Generating Lasting Returns

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope
2011 Report to Our Friends



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Thank you for helping to generate lasting returns.

Dear Friends,

A few short months ago, proud graduates with wide smiles walked across the stage, shook hands and received their hard-earned diplomas. Some graduated from high school and some from college, but in each case, it was a tremendous moment to celebrate a great accomplishment.

Among those graduates were young men and women who have been encouraged and educated in a *Vision of Hope* school. Bright and hard-working, these young people are ready to face the next phase of their lives with confidence. But **none of this would have been possible without you!**

Because of the care and selfless giving of our many friends, lives have been changed and opportunities have been created. Because you have invested in the lives of our children, Catholic values and quality education have been instilled providing hope and a promising future.

At a time when investing is a risky undertaking, the return on your investment in *Vision of Hope* is immeasurable! Whether your investment has been in the form of a financial gift or volunteering time, be assured that both are making tremendous impacts in the lives of inner-city children.

In this year's Annual Report, we'll share with you some of the success stories that you have made possible. You'll see that your investment is paying huge dividends!

Just think of the future dividends that will come our way as you continue to give of your time, talent and treasure! Each gift, regardless of size, is so very much appreciated.

On behalf of "our kids" and their families, thank you for your great generosity. God bless you!

Your very grateful,



Loretta Holstein

Loretta Holstein
Chair



Sister John Martin

Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P.
Executive Director

On the cover: Sister Georgette Coulombe enjoys sharing time in the classroom with students. A 2011 Golden Jubilarian, Sister Georgette, outgoing principal, has served in Vision of Hope schools as a principal for 25 years.



St. Elizabeth Distinguished Graduate 'preaches' by life of service

"Rafael Palacios is a remarkably giving and humble man. That he is one of our graduates is a cause for celebration!"

Sister Julie Distel, O.P.
Development Director, Saint Elizabeth Elementary School

So many ways to preach – so many ways to serve. For Rafael Palacios, this is a statement that describes his life. Since his graduation from Saint Elizabeth Elementary School in 1973 his accomplishments are varied and many. His faithfulness to the Church and to his school is such that this June, the school honored him as the Distinguished Alum of the Year. Everything he has done is a reflection of the values taught at Saint Elizabeth.

Currently working as an instructor at San Francisco City College, Rafael is part of a program called "City Build." The adult students in this program are struggling through various life challenges. The program officially teaches basic construction skills,

but as his wife Jackie says, "Rafael gives them so much more than that." In fact, his school director, because of the separation of Church and State asked him to put his crucifix on a chain inside his shirt. Her comment to him was, "You don't have to wear it on the outside of your shirt for us to see Him in you."

Rafael is transparent in the best way possible. He and Jackie have been involved with the Cursillo movement. This year, he is Assistant Lay Director. In his spare time, the family gathers jackets, coats and warm soup to offer to the men who wait on the sidewalks each morning to find work as day laborers.

Rafael's life preaches much more loudly than words, yet he had a speech prepared for the presentation and acceptance of his Distinguished Graduate Award. However, his comments in an email said it all: "I was ready to give my speech until Father spoke about using our talents for God; then, we sang *I Say Yes My Lord*. I was trying to hold back my tears because it is an honor to be a part of Saint Elizabeth and talking to the young students is a gift given to me."

Besides his major accomplishments, Rafael has some very fascinating side projects. For example, how many alums have a family band, which includes his

children and his brothers who perform for school events? Among their engagements was the recent retirement party for 40-year veteran teacher Jim Chaky. The band consists of only a few of his siblings. If all were included, it would be a large band; he is the fourth oldest of fourteen who not only attended the elementary school, but Saint Elizabeth High School as well. Rafael's four children have kept the family tradition alive – they also attended Saint Elizabeth.

He is truly a remarkable man and Saint Elizabeth is proud to have him as an alum. Jackie says it best: "What a wonderful man the Lord has given me to walk this journey with." Rafael's parents made an investment in Catholic education for their 14 children. By the honorable way he lives, Rafael has truly made their investment life-giving.

"What a wonderful man the Lord has given me to walk this journey with."



With son Ben to his right and daughter Vanessa and wife Jackie to his left, Rafael displays his Distinguished Alumni Award.

2010-2011 Enrollment: 335 • Tuition: \$5,750 • Cost Per Student: \$6,640 • % Students on Tuition Assistance: 91%
Sister Rose Marie Hennessy, O.P., Principal • Sister Julie Distel, O.P., Development Director

Two friends return to their roots to give back what they received

“The dream of any principal is to have one of their students return to teach. Cynthia Caputo fulfills that dream.”

Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez, O.P.
Principal, Saint James School

Two little girls began their educational journey never dreaming that they would find, as T.S. Eliot did, that “in my end is my beginning.” Cynthia Caputo was a wide-eyed kindergartener at Saint James in 1990 while Melissa Nave began her school experience in 1991 at Immaculate Conception Elementary School. Little did they know then that their paths would cross in the fall of 2001 at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. From there each would start the journey back to their respective schools, where the foundation to become teachers and life-long learners was laid.

UC San Diego grad shares memories, values at Saint James

Cynthia Caputo was one of three sisters and several cousins who attended Saint James School from kindergarten to eighth grade.

Early memories for Cynthia included playing in the kinder playhouse, the Christmas activities, Halloween carnival, and participation in Faith Families. Events and involvement are major memories for Cynthia’s time as a Saint James student.

Junior high was new and exciting with switching rooms for different classes, sixth grade Science Camp was a big event, and she took on the task of reviving the cheerleading squad. During her 6th and 7th grades she was on the yearbook committee. She served on the Student Council in 7th and 8th grade. Her dancing ability was showcased from 3rd grade through 8th grade at the annual talent show.

An altar server her last three years, she felt it was important to be

involved in Church services and even returned to be a lector while a freshman at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep.

Cynthia honed her skills as a team player by playing basketball and volleyball from 3rd through 8th grades. She also remembers “playing school” and “always had to be the teacher.”

Her call to service started at Saint James when she became involved in the annual food and toy drives. Service to her community continued into high school as she volunteered to tutor at the YMCA. While at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, she was a student council representative all four years and student body president in her senior year.

She headed to Southern California after high school and graduated from UC San Diego with a Master’s in Education and teaching credential. After returning to San Francisco, she applied to Saint James School for the kindergarten teaching position because:

- she missed being in a Catholic environment with the emphasis on moral development
- it presented an opportunity to develop a deeper meaning in relationship to God
- she thought it would be “so cool” to come back to where so many good memories were created
- she wanted to “give back” to the school community that provided such a good learning experience and put students on a solid moral path for a successful future.

To sum up her feelings about her first year at Saint James, Cynthia “loves teaching”!



USF graduate values role models – now is one at SAIC!

Melissa Nave followed in her older sister's footsteps and started at Immaculate Conception Elementary. Her earliest recollection was the daily Kindergarten Mickey Mouse workout. Her 3rd grade teacher made an impression with her words of wisdom: "Use common sense." She remembers the merger between ICE and Saint Anthony schools and said it was not as scary as it could have been, because the 5th graders at ICE became pen pals to the 5th graders at Saint Anthony's. The two 5th grades also shared some activities together and got to know each other before they became classmates. Catholic Schools Week was a very important and activity-filled event each year.

Melissa had a love of art and remembers as a second grader making stick and yarn crosses to bring to a local convalescent hospital. Service opportunities included being an altar server in 5th and 6th grades, serving at the monthly ICE community Spaghetti Lunches, and tutoring classmates while in the 8th grade.

Some of her role models included Sister Jennifer, who was a "very disciplined and compassionate" teacher, and Sister Karen Elizabeth who was "down to earth." "Both had warm spirits and made each student feel that he or she was special." At Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep she continued her service to the community as a tutor at the 7-Tee Pee's program for at-risk youth, sorting clothes at Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and serving food



"Melissa Nave has returned to SAIC to teach the next generation in the Dominican charism. A better teacher and role model for our kinder students and parents would be difficult to find."

Dennis Ruggiero
Principal, Saint Anthony~Immaculate Conception

at Saint Anthony's Dining Room. Art was also a big part of her high school experience, where she designed sets for the school's productions.

Thinking ahead, Melissa felt teaching and service were in her future, while medical school was another option. She enrolled at the University of San Francisco as a science major and changed to a dual degree program with an undergraduate degree in Sociology, a Master's degree in Education and a teaching credential. She had a great service opportunity while at USF when she went to Belize and taught kindergarten and 2nd graders for a project called "Teach Belize." It was clear that teaching was her calling.

She decided to come to SAIC when she saw the posting at the San Francisco Archdiocese Department of Catholic Schools and "it felt right"! She said she wanted to teach at a Catholic school and it would be amazing to come back to SAIC to once again share in:

- Catholic traditions: Seder meals, Lenten and Advent preparations, family Masses and faith family activities
- building the moral foundation and character of the children
- the sense of community
- the involvement among parents, teachers, and administration.

This first year at SAIC has been a great teaching experience as well as a learning process and "validates my decision to be a teacher"!

These two friends have much in common and "giving back" is on top of the list!



Santa Teresita student to Sacred Heart teacher

“To teach, to challenge, to give of her total self, to be creative, to bring out the best in everyone, to think outside the box, to be present and live in the moment is what Rosemarie is about as she lives each day to its fullest.”

Sister Maria Elena Gutierrez, O.P.
Principal, Sacred Heart School

It all began with a decision which when made, could have had many outcomes. As a young child, Rosemarie Pinal was growing up three doors away from her neighborhood public school. Nevertheless, her parents made the decision to send her to Santa Teresita.

Although it was a stretch for them financially, this decision was going to be “an investment for life.” The Pinal family enrolled as parishioners at Santa Teresita Church and Rosemarie entered 1st grade. Through the years, the family became active members of both communities.

The importance of education was ingrained in Rosemarie and her younger brother at an early age. “Mom would supervise as we sat at the table studying and doing our homework.” Mr. and Mrs. Pinal also instilled the value of service and its importance in Rosemarie’s daily life. Her parents led by example.

Rosemarie has a passion for music and dance. She joined the children’s choir in the 5th grade with Mrs. Thompson and Sister Theodora. Mrs. Thompson gave Rosemarie her love of folk music. Still playing a variety of instruments and singing in the choir, Rosemarie is the music director for the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Santa Teresita Church.

After graduating from Santa Teresita Elementary School, Rosemarie continued her education at Sacred Heart of Jesus High School. While attending college, she worked as volleyball coach and P.E. teacher at Santa Teresita. Although only earning \$2.00 per hour, Rosemarie was able to save enough money to pay for her books and tuition. In 1980 she was hired as the full-time 2nd grade teacher.



In 1988 Rosemarie began her long relationship with Sacred Heart Elementary School when then principal, Sister Sharon Dempsey, hired her as a long-term substitute teacher for the 7th grade class.

She is presently the 8th grade teacher and loves watching her students mature into young men and women who are contributing members of society. She and her students appreciate the opportunity and support provided by *Vision of Hope*. For Rosemarie, this is “priceless.”

Throughout her years at Sacred Heart, Rosemarie has recognized the need for retreats and reflection time for her students. She coordinates retreats for junior high, graduation, and First Communion and provides music for the school’s liturgies, including the monthly Family Mass. Rosemarie established a children’s choir and helps to organize the annual Christmas program. She is the Student Council Moderator and is head coach for the Archdiocesan Junior High Academic Decathlon Team.

Teaching is not work for Rosemarie. She often jokes with her friends about how poor she is, and reminds them that she works for a Catholic school. “Money has never been a priority in my life.” When money appears a little tight and she has no idea how to make ends meet, she remembers Mother Pia and prays, “Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust You will take care of my debt.” She doesn’t worry; she just places it all in God’s hands!

We often hear the phrase, “A Catholic education is an advantage for life,” but being a Dominican graduate can *set the world on fire!*

Little yellow school bus transforms playground

Grateful parents gift school with creative service

“Rarely have I met parents like Clara and Angel Ramirez who demonstrate so much gratitude for the Catholic education of their children! In quiet, consistent, generous and creative ways they give of themselves to beautify, clean, or repair Santa Teresita School which is like another home to them and their children.”

Sister Mary Catherine Antczak, O.P.
Principal, Santa Teresita School

In anticipation of the 60th anniversary of Santa Teresita School last summer, a very grateful family donated countless hours to transform the school’s playground. Under the summer sun, Angel and Clara Ramirez, with their children—Leslie, Angel and Kevin—outdid themselves by sharing their skills and talents and giving Santa Teresita a renovated school yard.

Assisted by Clara and his children, Angel replaced the wood on forty benches and neatly painted all of them a bright royal blue—the school’s color. Then a wonderful surprise—a 60th anniversary gift—began to take shape. Angel painted what was a drab gray storage container a bright yellow, the color of a school bus. With the careful turn of his sketching pencil, Angel added bus windows, headlights and tires to the “bus,” and finally passengers. These included children sitting next to the windows and Sister Mary Catherine Antczak, the school’s principal, standing near the bus driver, leading the children at the front of the bus. On the side of the new “bus” was written “Santa Teresita School, Sixtieth Anniversary.”

While Angel and Clara Ramirez have a very limited income, they feel rich in terms of the Catholic education their children are receiving. In response, the Ramirez family actively participates in the parish and supports all events at Santa Teresita School. Angel and Clara cannot do enough to express their gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to send their children to Santa Teresita School. Born in Mexico, Angel and Clara did not have the opportunity to fully pursue their own education. Now they see Santa Teresita School providing the gift of learning for their children, and their gratitude overflows in their service to the school and to the many friends of Santa Teresita School and *Vision of Hope* who provide the tuition assistance that make it possible for their children to attend.

The Ramirez children are totally at home at “their school.” Leslie graduated from the 8th grade in June,

2011, and will continue her education at a public high school. Angel will enter 7th grade and has already served on the Student Council. Kevin will be a 6th grader in the fall. Both Angel and Kevin have made their parents proud by participating in academic contests at the school during the past year. All the Ramirez children have been on the school’s sports teams and are altar servers.

The gift of the “little yellow school bus” by the Ramirez family last summer transformed the school yard. But the greater transformation is the promising future for the Ramirez family made possible by the Catholic education offered at Santa Teresita School. It is watching the growth of their children that motivates Angel and Clara to help Santa Teresita School so creatively and generously.



The Ramirez Family and the Santa Teresita Bus: (Left to right) Clara, Leslie, Angel and Kevin

2010-2011 Enrollment: 235 • Tuition: \$2,900 • Cost Per Student: \$3,491 • % Students on Tuition Assistance: 72%
Sister Mary Catherine Antczak, O.P., Principal • Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Development Director

Graduate comes full circle at Saint Ignatius

“From the start, Ileana was special to her students because it was obvious she cared about their welfare and was a real source of help when counseling was needed. She was, and is, loved by all and couldn’t help being who she is because she graduated from Saint Ignatius—a real jewel!”

Sister Mary Menegatti, O.P.
Former Principal, Saint Ignatius School

“Paying it forward” is the mantra of Ileana Wade, currently the 8th grade teacher at Saint Ignatius of Loyola School. Having grown up in Highland Park, she began her Catholic education at Saint Ignatius. By the time she was in 8th grade, she was already volunteering to give back to her parish/school community in their musical ministry. Playing guitar and participating in the choir combined with her love of music and children gave birth to a ministry that has continued throughout her entire life.

Ileana is one of those extraordinary people who doesn’t just teach her classes religion—she lives her religious commitment in the way she lives her daily life. Her devotion to her family, her church, her friends and community is inspiring.

There is never a time when asked to do something that Ileana is not available. She is the Student Council coordinator, takes care of the school liturgy, directs the student choir and Christmas and spring shows, performs with a Christian Band and raises a family. All this and Ileana still volunteers to do whatever is needed to make Saint Ignatius a school of which every student, parent and alumni can be proud. She is very grateful to *Vision of Hope* for all it does to help our inner-city children acquire a Catholic education. Ileana says, “Teaching at ‘home’ is a way for me to give back to the community that is so dear to my heart.”

Upon graduation from Saint Ignatius, Ileana continued her Catholic education at Holy Family High School. She returned every Sunday to serve in the music ministry at Saint Ignatius Parish. While completing her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at

Loyola Marymount University, Ileana returned to Saint Ignatius whenever possible to serve.

Ileana’s teaching career began at Saint Dominic’s School in Eagle Rock. Moving to Lancaster, CA, Ileana taught 5th grade at Sacred Heart Elementary. While teaching there she was also starting her family with husband, Kevin; they now have three daughters, the two older girls have already graduated from Saint Ignatius, and the third one is still attending.

After one year at Sacred Heart (Lancaster) she was asked to take a position teaching 8th grade at Saint

Charles Borromeo, where she was already the Director of the Saint Charles’ Adult Contemporary Choir, which served the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass.

Several years later, Sister Mary Menegatti, who was principal at the time, and knew Ileana, called her saying she needed an 8th grade teacher. The rest is history! Ileana has been at Saint Ignatius ever since and, as she says, “back home!”

Sister Georgette Coulombe, current principal, stated, “Ileana is an asset to our school! She is a true ‘Falcon in spirit!’ As a Saint Ignatius Falcon, she believes that she is called to be a

“Preacher of the Gospel, a Caretaker of Creation, a Seeker of Truth, and a Person of Celebration.” She calls her students to “soar to the heights” and models this attitude for all to see!

“Teaching at ‘home’ is a way for me to give back to the community...”





Cabrini parents, donors create future for children

“As parents, the Villarreals’ investment in their childrens’ education resulted in honor roll students, a president of the student council, performers in school talent shows and, most importantly, children grounded in Christian values. They are a very special family.”

Carmen Hart
Principal, Saint Frances X. Cabrini School

When Irma and Armando Villarreal were asked why they chose Saint Frances X. Cabrini School they replied, “We really think Catholic schools offer a superior learning environment. Our children are able to learn and grow in the Catholic faith. We also believe they receive more attention and help from the teachers. The school and parent relationship really focuses on the success of the child.”

The Villarreal sisters are Griselda, Araceli and Diana. All three girls began their educational journey in kindergarten at SFXC school. They are amazing students and have much to say about their educational opportunities, advancement and achievements.

Griselda just completed her first year of college at Mount Saint Mary’s College in Brentwood, CA. “I saw the great sacrifice my Dad made so that I could go to Catholic school. I did not want his sacrifice to be in vain, so I was determined to make the most of the opportunity I had been given at Cabrini. My mother constantly reminded me what a privilege it was to attend a private school. Catholic school taught me to respect myself and others. This has helped me in my encounters with people and helped me be a good role model for my sisters, brother and others.”

This past June, Araceli completed her courses at SFXC school. She will be attending high school at Junipero Serra Catholic in Gardena this fall. The proud recipient of the *Vision of Hope* Veritas Award, Araceli also received the Excellence in Education Scholarship Award from Serra.

When asked about her Cabrini school experience, Araceli replied, “I like the way we are able to learn about our faith. I also like the friendly staff and how parents are always welcomed and involved in all our school activities and events. It builds the school community and makes us feel like a big family.”

Diana will be entering 4th grade this fall, “I like my school a lot because it feels like the best school. I learn all my subjects and can see how religion can help me be better in the world. I want to be smart like my big sisters and get the same awards they have received.”

Both parents and children agree that none of this could have been possible without the assistance of *Vision of Hope* and its supporters. Mr. and Mrs. Villarreal believe, “Receiving tuition assistance from *Vision of Hope* has enabled us to send our children to Catholic school.” Griselda agrees, “Receiving tuition assistance meant everything to me. It gave me hope and the belief that I could be anything I want in the future.”

Because of the generosity of donors, many students have the opportunity to attend a life-changing school. These partners in education believe in the potential of so many students who want to excel in life and achieve their goals.



Irma Villarreal with her daughters, Araceli, Griselda, and Diana.

2010-2011 Enrollment: 168 • Tuition: \$3,400 • Cost Per Student: \$4,067 • % Students on Tuition Assistance: 100%
Carmen Hart, Principal • Jackie Metzgen, Development Director

Winning equation

Sacrifice + investment = success, gratitude

“A good leader inspires a shared vision and enables people to act on that vision. Helen was my leader in training. She was everyone’s friend and involved other students in various service projects.”

Sister Georgette Coulombe, O.P.
Principal, Saint Ignatius School

It began when Helen returned to Saint Michael to attend an alumni meeting. This event not only re-connected her to the past but made her look to the future. Helen was filled with gratitude for the investment made in her by so many people. She understood that their investment in her education was, in fact, an investment in her life. Her success was the concrete return on that investment.

Coming back to Saint Michael was the opportunity for Helen to become an investor in someone else’s future.

Helen Barriere graduated from Saint Michael in 1999. Her dad, Luis Barriere, is from El Salvador, and her mother, Lucrecia Lopez, is from Ecuador. Mr. Barriere left El Salvador with his family to escape the civil war and Miss Lopez left her country seeking a better economic future. Most of Helen’s paternal family is here in Los Angeles, while her maternal relatives still remain in Ecuador.

Helen’s parents met in Los Angeles and struggled to make ends meet for many years. They sacrificed much for the good of the family and, at one point, Mr. Barriere held three jobs while Mrs. Barriere managed the bills. They have always worked together to support themselves. Both came from very strong Catholic backgrounds.

Helen grew up with two siblings in South Central Los Angeles. Her parents believed in the importance of a Catholic education and enrolled all three of their children at Saint Michael after attending one year at Saint Thomas Elementary School. Helen is the middle child; she and her two siblings attended Catholic schools from kinder to 12th grade. While many of her father’s family members are religious, they did not understand why the parents would make such financial sacrifices to send their children to Catholic school.

The three children have made good on the investment and sacrifices made by their parents. Helen’s brother, Luis Barriere, Jr., is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from UC Riverside and is currently working in that field. Her sister, Ingrid Mira, is a teacher. Helen works for a non-profit organization that promotes careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“What I learned at Saint Michael laid the foundation for my later academic success. I remember almost every teacher that I had in class: Ms. Cayetano for math, Sister Margaret Anne for social studies, Sister Georgette, principal, and many other teachers who fostered my curiosity for learning and encouraged me to pursue my dreams.”

Apparently her Saint Michael teachers succeeded! Helen graduated second in her class from high school and was accepted at UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, CSU Los Angeles, and UC Santa Barbara. She recently finished a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology at California State University Northridge and plans to pursue a Master’s degree in the near future.

Helen has recently renewed her contact with Saint Michael Elementary School to see how she can “pay back” the investment made in her by her parents and the school’s faculty and administrators. She hopes to do her part by devoting herself to the school that made such a difference in her life.

“I gained so much in my years at Saint Michael. Hopefully, I, too, can make a difference in the life of a student at Saint Michael now and in the future.”



Sister Georgette stands proudly with Helen, recipient of the Principal’s Award (1999).

Vision of Hope expands its team

As a member of the *Vision of Hope* Board of Directors for two years, Bill Masterson saw first-hand how *Vision of Hope* schools were creating opportunities for hundreds of students and their families. This experience touched him deeply and connected with his own passion to do more. “I wanted to be part of an organization with a big dream and the ability to make a real difference in peoples' lives. *Vision of Hope* is that organization.”



In May he concluded a prayerful discernment process and, thanks to a generous donor, assumed the newly-created position of Associate Director for Planning and Development. In this capacity he will work primarily with the eight *Vision of Hope* schools and on an as-needed basis with the other 13 Dominican sponsored and affiliated schools in California. Bill will help bolster the Sisters' mission to ensure the continued health and vitality of the schools.

Under the supervision of Sister John Martin, Executive Director, Bill will offer “capacity-building” services in the areas of strategic planning, fund development, marketing, and communications. These services are particularly needed because of the challenges faced by *Vision of Hope* schools to increase enrollments, expand and diversify local funding support, and create greater awareness of the schools among current and prospective supporters and other stakeholders.

Interested in volunteering at a *Vision of Hope* school or office?

To find out how, visit our website at:
www.visionofhope.org
click on Support Our Future
select Volunteer Opportunities

The expanded *Vision of Hope* team will also include retiring principal, Sister Georgette Coulombe and advisory board member, Carrie Swenson. Both are based in Southern California and will broaden our capacity to provide on-site services, particularly in the areas of fundraising, marketing and communications. Sister Georgette and Carrie have generously offered their services on a volunteer basis.

Sister Georgette brings over 40 years of experience as an educator and has served as principal in two *Vision of Hope* schools, Saint Michael and Saint Ignatius in Los Angeles.

Carrie Swenson is a long-time member of the *Vision of Hope* Southern California Advisory Board. With over 40 years experience in government and higher education and bachelor's and master's degrees in organizational management from the University of La Verne, Carrie will share her expertise in marketing and communications.

At a time when Catholic schools around the country are closing, *Vision of Hope* is not only committed to keeping the schools open but helping them to thrive and grow.



Founding co-chair honored

Rob Smith receives national recognition for service to Catholic education

One of the most prestigious awards in Catholic Education, the National Catholic Educational Association's Seton Award, was recently bestowed on *Vision of Hope's* own Advisory Board member, Robert R. Smith III.

Created to honor individuals who have had a significant impact on Catholic schooling, the Seton Award was named after Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), the first native-born American saint, in recognition of her lifelong dedication to teaching.

Nominated by Roger Cardinal Mahoney, Robert "Rob" Smith received the award with four other honorees at a ceremony and dinner at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., attended by over 600 guests. Sister Mary Peter Traviss, O.P., a past recipient of the honor herself, represented *Vision of Hope* at the gala affair.

As president of the Catholic Education Foundation, Rob supervised a 36-member board of trustees that disbursed \$11.5 million in tuition awards to 9,000 students attending Catholic primary and secondary schools in the archdiocese of Los Angeles. Rob is the



Rob and Joanne Smith: Pioneer Advisory Board Chairs

president of the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation, overseeing a \$130-million fund which gives to many Catholic causes. Rob serves as a trustee of Loyola High School; he is a trustee of Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission Parish in East Los Angeles and for more than 12 years headed the Jesuit Charities Golf Tournament, which raises tuition funds for students at Dolores Mission Elementary School.

For 15 years Rob taught religion classes at Saint Bede the Venerable parish and over the years has worked with the Catholic Worker soup kitchen and on Cursillo weekends. He is actively involved in Detention Ministry.

His wife Joanne and he were the founding co-chairs of the *Vision of Hope* Advisory Board in October 1997 and continue to serve as enthusiastic members.

A film recognizing his extensive involvement in Catholic education was shown before Rob received the beautiful bronze-colored medallion with an image of Mother Seton in profile. A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded a Catholic school student from Los Angeles, Keven (sic) Pena, in Rob's honor.

Vision of Hope is exceedingly proud of Rob and Joanne and offer them our loving congratulations!

"I'm one of those Catholic priests raised in the legacy of the Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. Saint John Neumann was convinced that a Catholic school in every parish should be the norm. It was the only way to preserve the Faith."

Rev. James Garcia, Pastor
Saint Anthony Parish, San Francisco



Vision of Hope bequest to benefit “kids like me”

When 63 year-old Elizabeth Beaudine, mother of two, was 14 year-old Elizabeth Estrada, high school freshman, she saw Sister Stanislaus Daze’s summer reading list for the first time.

“I thought I was going to die,” she said. “I never had to read with such discipline and responsibility before.”

She not only survived; she picked up a life-long love of reading! That was one gift of many she attributes to her four years at all-girls Sacred Heart High School in Los Angeles.

“The Dominican Sisters gave me my foundation,” she said. Elizabeth Beaudine, who describes herself as “an inner-city kid,” was raised in largely Mexican-American Cypress Park across the train tracks from Dodger Stadium.

“That’s why I have a deep love for *Vision of Hope*,” she said. “They serve kids like me.” A couple of years ago, she redid her will and included a cash bequest to *Vision of Hope*, hoping it will help children from modest economic backgrounds learn the skills and values the Dominican Sisters gave her.

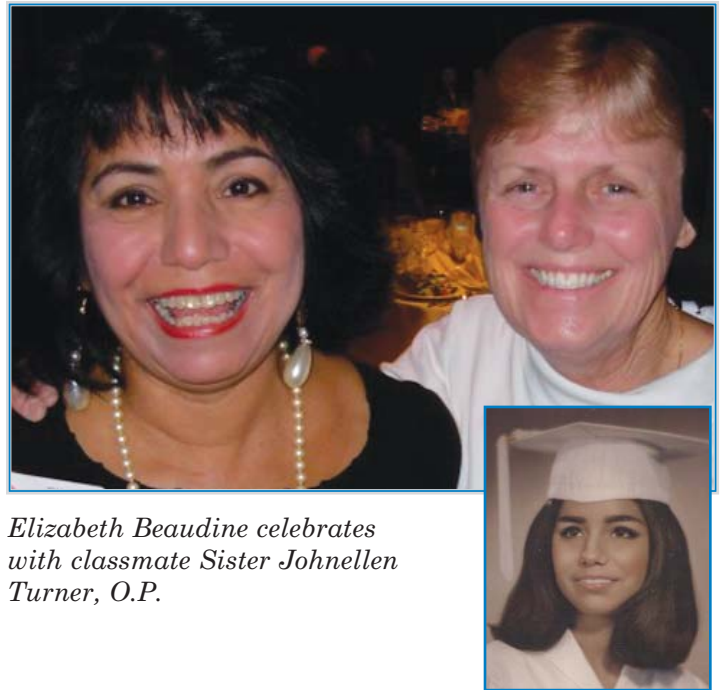
Though the woman’s movement was not in full bloom in the early ‘60s of her high school years, she got the message at Sacred Heart that women could be what they wanted to be. “We were told we could be leaders,” she said. “I know that several of my classmates experienced the same success I have.”

Elizabeth’s college years were interrupted by marriage and children. When she entered UCLA years later to complete her degree, she found that the skills she had learned from Sister Stanislaus and others came right back.

After graduation, she took a paralegal position that she has held for 30 years. When an evening position teaching legal secretaries opened up a few years ago, she drew on her Dominican-taught skills to land it. “I love it,” she said. “I had no teaching credential, but I had the skills. I didn’t know that I could teach, and I didn’t know that I would love it.” She plans to continue teaching after she retires.

She feels her *Vision of Hope* bequest is proof that just about anyone can remember good causes in their estate plans. “The amount isn’t important. I’m an average working person with two children and two grandchildren,” she said. “When I told my son about the bequest, he said, ‘It’s your money, Mom. You earned it’.”

(For more information on the *Vision of Hope* Legacy Circle, contact the Office of School Development, at 510-533-5768 or osd@msjdominicans.org.)



Elizabeth Beaudine celebrates with classmate Sister Johnnellen Turner, O.P.

The *Vision of Hope* Legacy Circle honors those who have included *Vision of Hope* in their estate plans through a charitable bequest, charitable trust or other means. God bless our Legacy Circle members:

Elizabeth Beaudine
Betsy Bliss
Eric Choi
Toni and Mike Gillespie
Ann Hirsch

Jack Hitchcock
Holy Family Scholarship
Rev. Stephen Howell
John Kutcher†
George Jackson

Helene Mahboub
Robin Oranski
Todd Traina
Jill Wondries
Jennie Yanez

New award established to honor loved teacher, leader

Sister Renilde Cade Memorial Scholarship



The Sister Renilde Cade Memorial Scholarship has been established to honor a Dominican Sister of Mission San Jose known for her compassionate trust and courage. While she served in Congregational leadership for 22 years, Sister Renilde identified herself first and foremost as a teacher of students and then of English! Ever drawn to the poor and the vulnerable, she touched others deeply through her loving, compassionate trust in their goodness. At the time of her sudden death in 2008, she was memorialized by a young adult with these words: "You always remembered my name. I will never forget yours."

We are grateful to her family and friends for perpetuating Sister's legacy to recommended eighth graders in our *Vision of Hope* Schools; the first awards will be announced in the spring of 2012.

Frances and Robert Bridenbecker
Dominican Sisters
Lenore and Frank Heffernan



Erei Reyes
Saint Frances X. Cabrini

Congratulations,
Veritas Scholars
2010-2011



Lorena Ortega-Guerrero
Saint Elizabeth Elementary

Sister Mary Dominic~Sister Mary Thomas Veritas Scholarship

Through this tribute, two students are selected annually to receive this award for Courageous and Compassionate Leadership.



Christine De Leon
Andrea Finerty
Patty and Jim Grass
Sister Patricia Layman, O.P.
Hermine Lees
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Munoz
Stan Pawlowski
Sacred Heart Community
Alice G. Salazar

Robert M. Holstein, Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Each year, a \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to two incoming eighth grade students from each of the eight Vision of Hope Schools who exemplify Bob's characteristics of being "A Person for Others."

Rosemary Catton
Steve Catton
Joanne and James Hawkins
Loretta A. Hawkins
Loretta Holstein
Patricia Keller

Dympna Nurre
Rita Pauli
Maureen Sheehy
Angela J. Stanfel
Irma Straub
Jill Wondries



Kathleen E. Fixa Memorial Scholarship

Zalka Ancely
Linda C. Applegate
Don Casper
Jan and Jim Cooper
Dominican Sister
Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
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Kristin Hite
John F. Kelleher

Josephine Kozloski
Arleen T. Osuna
Elaine Payne
Michael and Charlotte Rosenberg
Jeanine and David Smith
Angela J. Stanfel
Dolores and Jerry Wagner

Vision of Hope Endowment

Generating Lasting Returns

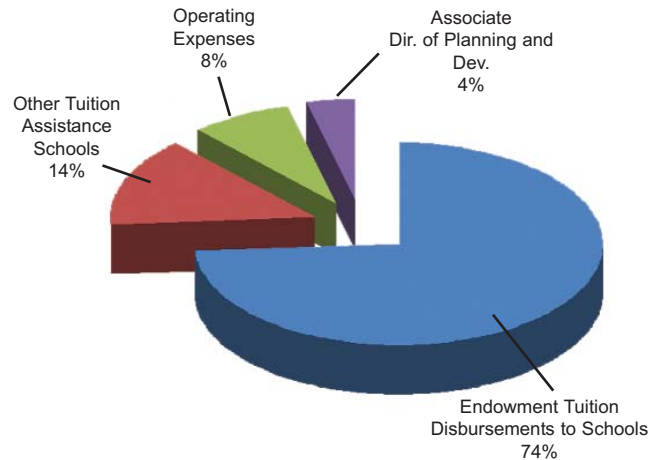
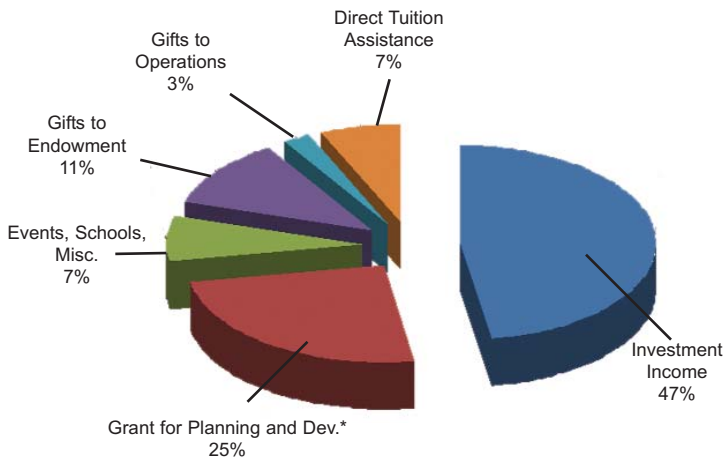
Financial Highlights of the Year
August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011

Revenue and Support

Investment Income	\$856,615
Grant for Planning and Dev.*	450,000
Events, Schools, Misc.	133,504
Gifts to Endowment	204,080
Gifts to Operations	44,995
Direct Tuition Assistance	<u>118,150</u>
	<u>\$1,807,344</u>

Expenses

Endowment Disbursements	
to Schools	\$ 464,000
Other Tuition Assistance	
to Schools	86,050
Operating Expenses	50,849
Associate Dir. of Planning and Dev.	<u>25,711</u>
	<u>\$626,610</u>



*Vision of Hope received this three-year grant in support of Planning and Development.

Revenue and Support

In the fiscal year ending July 31, 2011, *Vision of Hope* distributed \$464,000 in endowment grants and \$86,050 in direct tuition assistance. In addition, the value of the endowment stood at \$8,448,978 which represented an increase of \$896,578 over the same period last year. The Endowment value as of July 31, 2011 is net of grants to be paid in Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

We are most grateful to our many friends and benefactors who have supported *Vision of Hope* – especially in these difficult and challenging economic times. Because of your generosity, we are able to provide much-needed technical assistance and financial support to our schools. Your investment is making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children and their families.

Unaudited Financial Statements—Audit available in November.



Gifts were made honoring...

Robert

Starlette Gobert

Jose Alicastro

Harv and Beverly Passanisi

Sister Ramona Bascom, O.P.

Allyson Simpson

Teresa Brusher ~ Birthday

Jean and Kelly Brusher

Larry Brusher ~ Birthday

Jean and Kelly Brusher

Sister Evelyn Casper, O.P. ~ 60th Jubilee

Angela J. Stanfel

Eric Choi

Jennifer Fix

Cliff Cooper

Toni and Mike Gillespie

Sister Georgette Coulombe, O.P. ~ 50th Jubilee

Elizabeth and Richard Montes
San Gabriel Mission Elementary
School

Sister Barbara Darby, O.P.

Enrico Hernandez

Sister Jean Marie Des Jardin, O.P.

Katherine Hammond

Marie Driscoll ~ New Grandmother

Vision of Hope Family

Mary Lou Duffy - Caregiver

Dominican Sisters

Sister Frances Clare Fischer, O.P.

My beloved niece

Gerald Smith

Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P.

Kathleen and Paul Gasta
Connie and Steve Lovette
Sue Ann and Robert W. Smith

Sister Maria de Fatima Foelker, O.P. ~ 60th Jubilee

St. Edward Community

Sister Mary La Salette Fuselier, O.P. ~ 50th Jubilee

St. Edward Community

Tom and Leah Gill ~ 50th Anniversary

The Johnsons, Gregersons, Santiagos

Joanne Hawkins ~ 80th Birthday

Vision of Hope Family

Joan Healy ~ Thanksgiving for Healing

Vision of Hope Family

Richard Hickson

Dominican Sisters

Ann Hirsch ~ 80th Birthday

Dominican Sisters
Marie J. Driscoll
Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
Angela J. Stanfel
Vision of Hope Family

Gloria and Homer Hudelson ~ 50th Anniversary

Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
Vision of Hope Family

Dominican Sisters who have served in Portland, Oregon

Elaine Payne

Jim and Jane Klosterman ~ 40th Anniversary

Elizabeth and Richard Montes

Thomas Kubani

Toni and Mike Gillespie

Sister Rose Martin, O.P. ~ 60th Jubilee

St. Edward Community

Karison Michal Bem Miller ~ Birth

Dominican Sisters
Vision of Hope Family

David Monahan

The Capital Group Companies

Donald Osuna

Jeanine and David Smith

Bill and Eva Price ~ Christmas

Peter Rasic

Sister Suzanne Marie Prows, O.P. ~ 60th Birthday

Susan and Albert Alioto
Deline Davis-Easterday
Immaculate Conception Priory

Nick J. Rasic

Marie McGlashan

Susana and Steve Real

Judith Mears

Sheila and John Reynolds ~ Parents of the Groom

Estate of Kathleen E. Fixa

Margie Romano ~ 60th Birthday

Bishop Joseph Sartoris

St. Joseph School ~ 50th Anniversary

Office of School Development

Santa Teresita School Community ~ 60th Anniversary

Office of School Development
Vision of Hope Family

Sister Mary Stephen Sartoris, O.P.

Sacred Heart Community

Father Tom Seagrave

Nina Gaetos

Mr. and Mrs. Hoberto Serrano

Dominican Sister

The "O" Set Jubilee

Frances and Robert Bridenbecker

Ann Shea

David Pyle

Sandra Silverman ~ Birthday

Judith Tumin

Robert A. Smith ~ Seton Award

Dominican Sisters
Vision of Hope Family

LaVerne Stanfel ~ 90th Birthday

Dominican Sisters

Jean Stenson

Susan and Albert Alioto

Norma Tonegato ~ Birthday

Susan and Albert Alioto

Catherine Walters ~ Birth

Vision of Hope Family

Ed Willers ~ Strength & Healing

Lisa Anthony
School of the Madeleine Faculty

Catherine Zanotti

Claudia and John Zanotti



Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose 2011 Jubilarians

75 Years

Sister Marcellina Gatschene
Sister Ignatia May
Sister Mary Bertha Rehers
Sister Emilia Techtman

70 Years

Sister Regina Marie Novacek
Sister John Dominic Samaha

60 Years

Sister Evelyn Casper
Sister Maria DeFatima Foelker
Sister Imelda Marie Dibble
Sister Julian Dion
Sister Rose Martin
Sister Ellen Kelly

50 Years

Sister Deborah Marie Butcher
Sister Georgette Coulombe
Sister Katherine Jean Cowan
Sister Mary LaSalette Fuselier
Sister Marietta Mitre
Hna. Myriam Escoto Morales
Sister Imelda Pellettieri

25 Years

Hna. Maria Elena Nila Lunar

These Sisters were honored by:

Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
Saint Edward Community

Memorials to honor our loved ones...

*Please join us in prayer for the deceased loved ones
of our families and friends*

Ruth

Starlette Gobert

Aspen ~ 1 Year Anniversary

Jennie Yanez

Giuseppe Jose Alicastro

Linda and Jeff Abbett
Bill and Carla Alessini
Oberti Alessini, Inc.
Vanda Alicastro
Frank and Gerry Antonini
Maxine Bennett
Rita Cremolini and Family
Dominican Sisters
Aldon and Irene Ellington
Katherine Ford
W. Jack Friesen
"Grand Jury Poker Group"
Ava and Sam Guerrera
Lenore and Frank Heffernan
Ruth Anne and William Hosken
Elena and Joseph Malta and Family
William and Brenda Molineux
Nyla Puccinelli Moore
Marcella Oberti
Philip and Klina Oberti
June Paoli
Harv and Beverly Passanisi
Gloria Pease
Henry Pietropaoli
Theresa and Henry Puccinelli
Sharam and Michelle Sharei
Vision of Hope Family
Ethel Walsh

Bruce Beal

Dominican Sisters
Vision of Hope Family

Eve Beehner

Elza Mobers

Patricia Bowers

Dominican Sisters

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Annelly and John Kelleher

Jonah Free Brown

Betsy Bliss

Teresa Brusher

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Peter Byczkowski

Dominican Sister

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Marie J. Driscoll

Anna Carlin

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John and Pearl Carlson

Jill Wondries

Fred Carroll

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Don Casper

John Cassidy

Rita Pauli

Tony Cava

Marie J. Driscoll

Natale Ciarasso

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Vision of Hope Family

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Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
Vision of Hope Family

Kathy Cresci

Dominican Sisters
Vision of Hope Family

Toby Crowley

Vision of Hope Family

James Culp

Pat Coyne
Vision of Hope Family

Rabbi Cynthia Culpeper ~ Birth month

Mary Ann Culpeper

Patrick John Cunningham

Loving Sister

Father Declan Deane

Fr. Carl Seewald

Jeanne Derner-McBride

Jennie Yanez

Sister Benilda Desmond, O.P.

June Tarsha

James Diamantine

Jean Diamantine

Rita Ferguson

Dominican Sisters
Kathleen E. Fixa Trust

Consolacion Ferrell-Sacuito

Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
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Loving Daughter

Kathleen and John Fixa

Dominican Sister

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Eleanor Fox

Cristin Garcia

Marie J. Driscoll
St. Anthony~Immaculate Conception

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Marie J. Driscoll

Maria Elena Gutierrez

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Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
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Dominican Sisters
Vision of Hope Family

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Marjorie Illig

Edward M. Illig
Dolores and Harvey A. Marsh
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Sacred Heart Elementary School
Development Board
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Elementary School
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Vision of Hope Family

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Elizabeth and Richard Montes

Sister Clarissa Marie Koscielski, O.P.

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Franz Losch

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Jacquelyn M. Unitt

Gifts in memory - continued

Catherine "Cathie" Lutticken

Annelly and John F. Kelleher

John Dino Macchello

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Jan Maderious

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Julie Lyons

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Mack Pong

Mary and Frank Portman Memorial

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Dolores Lojo Romano

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Laura C. Collins

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Loretta A. Hawkins

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Barbara Wixson-Cuvelier

Carmen and Val Yanez

Jennie Yanez



In-Kind Donors

Many friends volunteer time and talent in various ways to support our Vision of Hope program. We couldn't do it without you!

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Katie and Todd Traina
Alexis and Trevor Dow Traina
Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez, O.P.

"I find the time that I contribute to Vision of Hope to be exceptionally rewarding. It is nice to work with others who are smart, efficient and clear on goals. And it is wonderful seeing results in the faces of the beautiful children."

Laura McCabe-Edgar
Vision of Hope and SAIC Board Member



Book of Dreams Donors

Thanks to all who helped make "wishes" come true! In its third year of publication, our Book of Dreams received an enthusiastic response from 86 donors totaling \$60,373. The majority of gifts enabled children to continue with tuition assistance, which is especially critical at this time.

Carol and Henry Alfaro
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Direct Donors to Vision of Hope Schools

The following lists recognize gifts of \$500 or more given directly to, and reported by, the individual schools. If your name is missing, please contact the school gifted. We are grateful for all gifts – no matter the size – of time, talent and prayers.*

**Direct Donor Gifts of less than \$500 will be reported in school newsletters.*

Sacred Heart School

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 Joanne and Robert Smith
 Vision of Hope Emergency Tuition Fund
 Vision of Hope Endowment Fund
 Vision of Hope Veritas Scholarship

Saint Ignatius School

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 Vision of Hope Endowment Fund
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Saint James School

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“With the hard work of the Sisters and others, Vision of Hope has helped so many families with food, clothing and tuition. Most of all the love, hope, pride and self-esteem Vision of Hope has given back to so many children and parents is wonderful. God bless all of our angels!”

Yvonne Navarro
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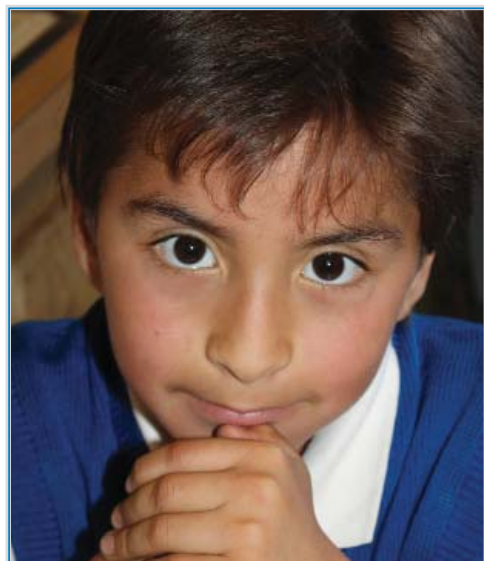
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Get ready for Day at the Races 2012

Southern California is planning to maiden their first Day at the Races at Santa Anita! We are betting on a date in February, watch for more news soon.

Northern California's 5th Day at the Races will be on Saturday, May 19, 2012, mark your calendars now!



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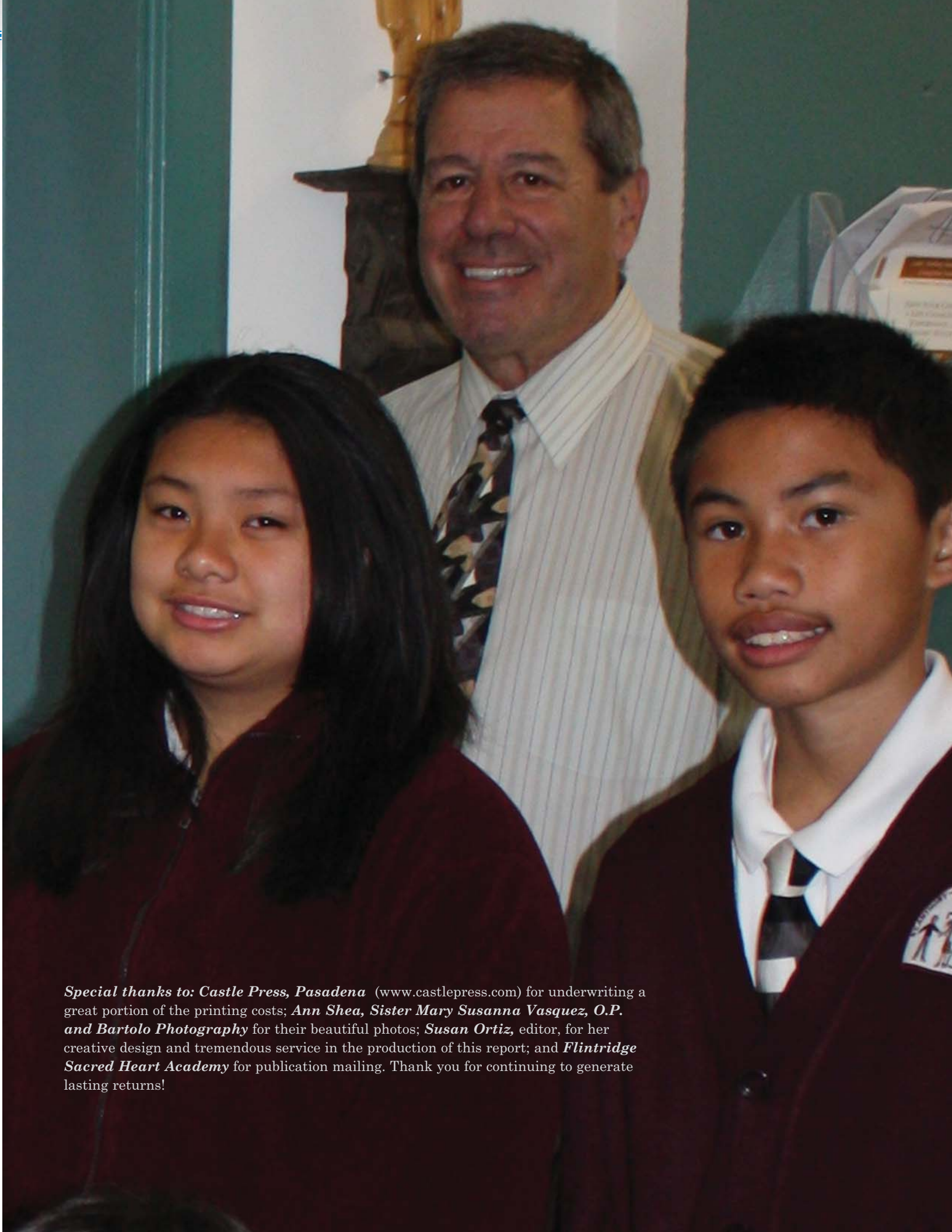
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For information about gifting securities to Vision of Hope, or, if you have any questions, please contact S. Donna Johnson, O.P. at 510-534-9636, or donna@msjdominicans.org.

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For more information, please visit our website, www.visionofhope.org. The website has recently been updated with a fresh, new look and more information regarding Vision of Hope and the schools we assist.

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Special thanks to: Castle Press, Pasadena (www.castlepress.com) for underwriting a great portion of the printing costs; *Ann Shea, Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez, O.P. and Bartolo Photography* for their beautiful photos; *Susan Ortiz*, editor, for her creative design and tremendous service in the production of this report; and *Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy* for publication mailing. Thank you for continuing to generate lasting returns!

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