



Dominican Sisters
VISION OF **HOPE**

School Matters



Winter 2024



St. Ignatius of Loyola students spending quality time with Sister Wanda Szymanko, O.P.

Vision of Hope Schools and students embrace Catholic Schools Week!

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, the festivities ran from January 28–February 3 with the theme “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” Our schools observed the week with Masses and activities based on daily themes that engaged students, families, faculty, staff, parishioners, and community members. The focus was on the value Catholic education provides to young people as well as the impact on our church, communities, and nation.

Our schools and students honored their commitment to Catholic education and showcased their creative skills as they celebrated the week. Schools kicked off the week with Family Mass on Sunday. St. Elizabeth School filled the church with devout families, while St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School offered a pancake brunch following Mass. Vision of Hope’s Sister Georgette Coulombe, O.P. visited St. Michael’s School via video conference, leading their morning “Gospel Monday” as students participated in their pajamas for Pajama Day. Santa Teresita School hosted police officers and local fire departments on campus to thank them for their hard work. In celebration of vocations, St. Frances X. Cabrini School students were assigned “Elijah’s Cup,” a decade of the rosary, as a prayer of petition for vocations. St. James School opened its doors to the community with Family Mass, refreshments, a raffle, and tours. Sacred Heart School students came to class dressed in red, white, and blue to honor our nation. St. Ignatius of Loyola School’s classes visited neighborhood businesses and shops to celebrate their community.

Catholic Schools Week Daily Themes

- Sunday: Celebrating Your Parish
- Monday: Celebrating Your Community
- Tuesday: Celebrating Your Students
- Wednesday: Celebrating the Nation
- Thursday: Celebrating Vocations
- Friday: Celebrating Faculty, Staff and Volunteers
- Saturday: Celebrating Families

Catholic Schools Week
January 29-February 2, 2024

- 1/29: Community Service Day- Jeans for Jesus**
Wear jeans and a Sacred Heart t-shirt or sweatshirt. Donate \$2 Towards Casa Milagrosa.
- 1/30: Let's Honor our Nation**
Students may dress in red, white or blue attire.
- 1/31: Student Appreciation Day**
Students wear their class sever colors with jeans.
- 2/1: VOCATION DAY**
Students may dress in their chosen career attire or come dressed in high school or college attire.
- 2/2: "101 Dominicans"**
Dress in black and white, like our Dominican Sisters, to celebrate 101st day of school.

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Mass & Open House
Catholic Schools Week

St. Ignatius of Loyola Los Angeles
WE ARE A PROUD CATHOLIC SCHOOL
We are a proud Catholic school because we are united in faith and community.

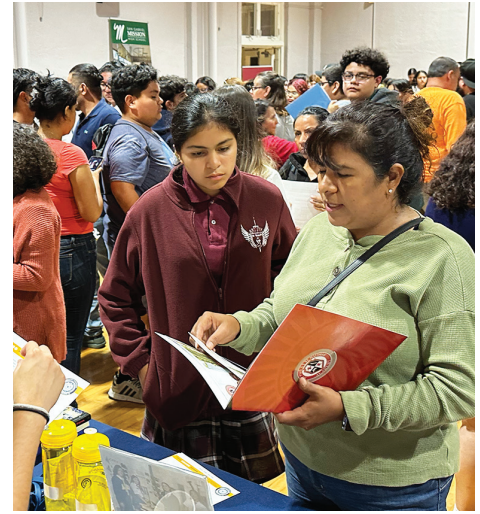
St. Ignatius Celebrates Catholic Schools Week: January 28 through February 1, 2024

- Sun.** Family Mass and Open House: Students participate in Mass; Open House follows immediately after Mass.
- Mon.** Sharing faith and community in Highland Park: Classes visit shops and businesses on Fig.
- Tues.** Celebrating our STUDENTS: Students get free dress and extra play time: Student made film will premiere.
- Wed.** Celebrating vocations: Students attend Mass followed by Career Day.
- Thurs.** Celebrating our faculty and Staff: Faculty and Staff enjoy a special lunch and extra break time.
- Friday** No school for students!

St. James Catholic School
Sunday, January 28, 2024
Mass & Open House
Catholic Schools Week

Now Enrolling Kindergarten - 8th Grade
Catholic Schools Week Mass & Open House
Mass: 10:00 AM
Open House: 11AM-12:30PM
Join us for family mass, refreshments, 90/50 raffle, & tours

JOIN US
321 Fair Oaks
San Francisco, CA 94110
admissions@sjpsf.net | 415.647.8972
Proudly celebrating



Vision of Hope hosts two Catholic High School Fairs

The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose and Vision of Hope are committed to ensuring a vibrant future for our eight schools and the communities they serve. Through the Parents in Action Program, we honor this commitment by creating opportunities for change and sharing resources to empower all caregivers to advocate for their children's personal, spiritual, and academic success. The impact is often felt beyond our schools.

With support from the local Catholic high schools, Vision of Hope hosts two Annual Catholic High School Fairs at St. Michael's School and Sacred Heart School. These events act as a fork in the road for middle schoolers, inspiring them to think beyond 8th grade, giving purpose, and fueling dreams by promoting education beyond middle school. It bridges a communication gap that often limits students from continuing their Catholic

"It was a privilege to share our mission and vision with new families... we are seeing an increase in activities and applications from the schools represented as a direct result."

Tiffanie Tolsma
Director of Marketing & Community Outreach
Bishop Montgomery High School

education at the high school level. By hosting two fairs in strategic areas, our efforts reach a broader audience and serve the South LA, East LA, and surrounding communities. Last fall, 16 Catholic high schools across Los Angeles County and their student ambassadors engaged over 125 spirited families from the more than 20 Catholic primary schools represented. These fairs are becoming a tradition and celebration of faith and community.

Alumni Spotlight: Denise Sanchez



"My Catholic faith inspires my actions every day. It reminds me of the values I hold dear – kindness, compassion, and a sense of community."

–Denise Sanchez

Denise Sanchez, a daughter of Mexican immigrants, attended Santa Teresita in Boyle Heights, spending most of her weekday afternoons completing her homework at her family's furniture shop. Her hard work paid off, earning her academic awards and a scholarship to attend Sacred Heart High School. The first in her family to attend a 4-year college, Denise is now studying Cognitive Science and User Experience Design at the University of Southern California.

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Outreach and Faith Formation

As we conclude the third year of empowering families through the Parents in Action Program, it brings great joy to see how the program has become a staple of our Vision of Hope schools and united families in faith and community. Leading these efforts is a remarkable group of Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose whose devotion and commitment to the most vulnerable has strengthened the relationship between the schools and parishes and become a source of spiritual nurturing and growth for all. This team of Sisters engages families in a deeper spiritual life with planned faith formation activities for each school to encourage caregivers to cultivate a personal relationship with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Celebration of Advent, Preparing for Lent, and other topics of reflection. Parents are growing their confidence as leaders and inspired by our Sisters' presence and bountiful love—fostering more rewarding relationships and a fulfilling life.



Sister Cecilia Canales, O.P. of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Outreach Team, engages families at St. Ignatius of Loyola School in Los Angeles.



Sister Dulce Rodriguez, O.P. and Sister Diane Aruda, O.P. lead the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Bay Area Outreach Team at St. James School.

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Outreach Team (Los Angeles)

1. Sister Georgette Coulombe, O.P. (St. Michael's)
2. Sister Elizabeth O'Donnell, O.P. (St. Michael's)
 - a. An Evening of Reflection with the Dominican Sisters
 - b. Exploring Prayer with Mary
 - c. You are the salt of the Earth, you carry the 'Flavor of God' within you"
 - d. Advent and our Blessed Mother
3. Sister Laurence Marie Diaz, O.P. (Sacred Heart, Santa Teresita)
 - a. Preparing for the Celebration of Advent
 - b. Lent Reflection
4. Sister Jane Rudolph, O.P. (2021 through 2022 at Santa Teresita & St. Ignatius until reassigned to the Motherhouse)
5. Sister Wanda Szymanko, O.P. (St. Ignatius)
 - a. Nurturing A Personal Relationship with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - b. First Communion Preparation
6. Sister Cecilia Canales, O.P. (St. Ignatius)
7. Sister Johnellen Turner, O.P. (St. Frances X. Cabrini)
8. Sister Celeste Marie Botello, O.P. (2021 through 2022 at SFXC until elected Congregational Prioress)
 - a. Meet & Greet with the Dominican Sisters
 - b. Preparing for the Celebration of Advent
 - c. Preparing for Lent will set you up for a grace-filled journey to Easter
 - d. A Reflection with the Dominican Sisters

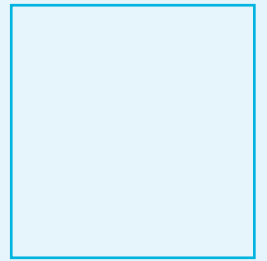
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Outreach Team (Bay Area), 2023

1. Sister Karen Elizabeth Zavitz, O.P. (SAIC)
 - a. Exploring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - b. Waiting in Silence for the Coming of Jesus—Focused on Advent
2. Sister Dulce Rodriguez, O.P. (St. James)
3. Sister Diane Aruda, O.P. (St. James)
 - a. Introduction to Spirituality
 - b. Spirituality and Introduction to Lectio Divina
4. Sister Rose Marie Hennessy, O.P. (St. Elizabeth)
5. Sister Jane Rudolph, (St. Elizabeth) O.P.
 - a. Introduction to Spirituality
 - b. Our Lady of Guadalupe—Stories and How She Is Celebrated



Dominican Sisters
VISION OF **HOPE**

1555 34th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94601



Day at the Races

May 18, 2024

ONLINE AUCTION

Opens Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Giving Matters

Vision of Hope held its “Giving Matters” Fall Luncheon November 15, 2023, at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. It was a joyful afternoon filled with prayer, music, gratitude, and hope. Through the generosity of our many friends, nearly \$100,000 was raised in support of our Vision of Hope schools and students.

Keynote speaker Dr. Antonio Felix encouraged everyone to be “spiritual giants” by serving others and honoring those who came before us. This sentiment perfectly matches our shared vision and mission of continuing to support Catholic education in underserved communities.



Sister Laurence Marie Diaz, O.P., Antonio Felix, Ed.D., Sister Maria Elena Gutierrez, O.P. and Sister Maria Reina Perea, O.P. at the Jonathan Club, Los Angeles.



Scan the QR code or visit www.visionofhope.org to make a gift to support Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope! Thank You!