

# Spirit

Volume II, Spring/Summer 2005

Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic School

Huntington Beach, California



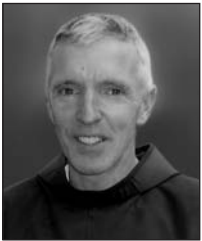
Founded on the Franciscan faith...  
Preserved with parent pride...  
Sustained by staff and student spirit...



Fr. Michael Harvey, O.F.M.



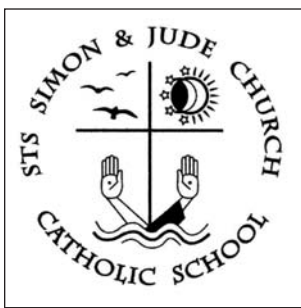
Fr. Christian Mondor, O.F.M.



Fr. Dan Lackie, O.F.M.



Sr. Maureen Sheehan, B.V.M.



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## A letter from our Principal

Every once in a while I am privy to conversations where parents are discussing the "sacrifices" they make in order to send their children to Catholic schools, and whether or not what's being forfeited (bigger homes, fancier cars, more extravagant vacations, etc.) is worth it. It's a valid question, and the answer depends solely on what parents want most for their children.



When I was growing up, my parents instilled in me the belief that a good education was one of the most important gifts parents could give their children. My parents worked hard to give their children that gift. Accordingly, my brother and I attended Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Years later, when I became a parent, the decision to send my children to a Catholic school was never a question. To me, there was no other alternative; my children would receive a Catholic education, no matter what. I viewed Catholic schools as providing a holistic education, which I felt was extremely important. Having been educated in the system, I knew that the special character of the Catholic school, and the underlying reason for its existence, was the quality of the religious education that was integrated into the overall curriculum of the students it served.

It wasn't that I believed the public schools to be deficient in any way; it was more that in addition to language arts, math, social studies and science, I also wanted my children to learn about their faith, and to have their spirituality nurtured by the people who shared it. I was never disappointed in that decision. In fact, I was quite relieved to have my children in an environment that was a sign of stability in a society that was often in chaos and flux. I wanted them to be consistently counseled so that they would evolve, accept challenge, and dare to expand their horizons to more fully

realize their potential. I wanted them to know discipline and forgiveness when they made wrong choices. I also wanted them to know that "diversity" was not a concept to be learned, but a reality to be lived. In the process, they learned the real meanings of compassion and acceptance. And because they were in a Catholic school, they learned about the world through a lens filtered by charity, the greatest virtue of all. They learned every day that, to a certain extent, they were indeed their brothers' keepers. These were precious lessons that could not be found between the pages of any textbook, but rather, experienced on the playground and in a multitude of Christian service projects.

I would be the first to say that some sacrifices have to be made to send a child to Catholic school, but I know that it's worth every penny. As a Catholic school administrator, I am extremely grateful to the families who support Catholic education. Many parents sacrifice consumer goods, vacations, and other pleasures enjoyed by their friends and neighbors in order to provide their children with what is a joyful and healthy experience. These parents can take special comfort in the realization that today's Catholic schools remain the family's true complement and firm support. Undaunted by the powerful effects of television and society's secular messages, the local Catholic school uniquely celebrates the reality of Jesus, and provides a setting that emphasizes God's truth, love and beauty in our world. In this special setting, values are shared and sacraments celebrated; through special liturgies, children learn at a young age that the Eucharist plays an integral part in their growth and development.

Our Catholic schools are effective witnesses to the presence of God among us. It becomes the responsibility of all of us to see that our school matches perfectly its description as a learning community of faith and love. Simply stated, it means that our school must be academically excellent and authentically Catholic.

The legacy given to those nurtured in the Catholic school has distinct consequences. The data shows that Catholics who have attended Catholic school are more apt to hold Christian attitudes and values as adults, and are twice as likely to receive

Communion every week and belong to parish organizations. Clearly, our children are the principal beneficiaries of the vision we hold about Catholic education. In an atmosphere enlivened by the Gospel spirit of charity, freedom and responsibility, Catholic education helps to develop the personality and form the spirit—a process that enables our children to mature in that new creation they became in Baptism.

My children are 25 and 23 now, young adults who are making their way in an often difficult world. It warms my heart to see signs of all that they learned in Catholic schools still with them, in the decisions they make and the values they hold. There is no trade-off for that. Given a choice to give them the same opportunity again, I would...in a heart-beat.

May God continue to bless you in the most important ministry of all—parenting! And may your children's futures be marked with the tremendous gifts of the Spirit.

In prayer and support,

Crystal A. Smith  
Principal

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## Three Decades: A Legacy of Catholic Education

My husband and I are honored to share our feelings about the importance of a Catholic school education. Many things have changed since we held our oldest daughter's hand and entered the pre-kindergarten classroom thirty years ago. We were well aware that, as parents, we were the primary religious educators of our children. It is important to emphasize though, that their attendance at a Catholic school that supports and encourages our ideals and values is priceless. Attendance at weekly Masses, beginning each day in prayer, an annual school retreat, and the lessons in stewardship taught by involvement in service projects are just a few of



Nakamura siblings - beneficiaries of Catholic education

the advantages. These are the hopes that we sow and see come to fruition as our children mature. Our prayer has been for the graces of wisdom and knowledge to nurture and tend these “seedlings and starter plants” entrusted to our “gardening.” It certainly made this task easier having the extra help and reinforcement provided by Catholic schools. If the Gospel message can be taught and lived by just one more witness, it is not too much or too many times for developing ears, eyes, and minds to hear, see, and integrate.

We are filled with gratitude as our youngest son (and seventh child) graduates from eighth grade and completes our time at Sts. Simon & Jude School. We feel blessed by the privilege of being able to provide this partnership in faith—a gift which we will always appreciate.

When Katie, our disabled daughter, died from cancer almost three years ago, I felt that she would want me to start a Rosary group for the school children in our Sts. Simon & Jude community. We began the group on her first birthday after she died, which was a Monday. We now meet on Mondays, and pray each week for our administration, faculty, staff, students, their families, and for those who are sick or whose faith is being challenged in various ways. Two circumstances which seemed to confirm our commitment was the availabil-

ity of the church on Monday afternoons (a great way to start the week) and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the second Monday of each month. It seemed also the perfect opportunity to incorporate the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at approximately the hour of great mercy when Jesus died on the cross. In this way too, we remember Pope John Paul II's request that the faithful honor our Lord's mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of His Blessed Mother Mary.

A healthy, holy, and happy self-esteem can be fostered in children when they observe their parents in prayer, and when they observe the people most important to them live with compassion, dedicated to Christ's teachings. Compassion must be taught, modeled, and caught. How fortunate that the community with whom we celebrate Eucharist makes peace, justice, and the integrity of creation a priority. We thank God for the blessings we have shared at Sts. Simon & Jude School, and the Franciscan spirituality of our parish. Take time to hold the future Catholic Church, our precious children, close to your hearts. Pray to the Spirit for guidance and enlightenment. Prayer and parochial schools are a good combination, and a treasure which benefits responsible Catholic parenthood.

Molly Nakamura

# Jane Jubak - *She's "Cool!"*

Many of us who have had daughters or sons spend the better part of the past two decades attending Sts. Simon & Jude School know that one of the most compelling reasons that SSJ enrollment is kept at record levels is its faculty. In this fine assemblage of faculty members, as in any school, there are those teachers that tend leave a lasting impression long after your children have graduated from the learned halls of academia. These are the teachers that, upon reflection, come to represent what the SSJ experience was and is all about. If there were ever an advertisement poster to publicize the school, these select teachers' faces would be pictured on this poster.

On a recent spring afternoon, Phil Chenier, SSJ parent and former School Board President, had the pleasure of a brief interview with this particular type of teacher. Her name is Mrs. Jane Jubak. After a long day of teaching and inspiring her charges she was gracious enough to answer a few questions about her profession, family, hobbies and herself.

For those readers that have not had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Jubak, I will have to explain that, amongst the many fine qualities that she has as a teacher, is her ability to maintain a highly refined sense of humor. So after a few humorous pleasantries over the telephone, we finally settled into our brief interview:

**Phil Chenier:** How long have you been a teacher?

**Mrs. Jubak:** Since 1968.

**Phil Chenier:** How long have you taught at SSJ?

**Mrs. Jubak:** I have been a combination parent/aide/part-time instructor at SSJ since 1985. I officially started as a part-time teacher in 1991. I became a full-time teacher at SSJ in 1994.

**Phil Chenier:** What are some of your hobbies?

**Mrs. Jubak:** I enjoy playing the game of darts, reading, bicycling and working on my computer.

**Phil Chenier:** I remember my sons telling me that you enjoy a good dart game. Do you still play?

**Mrs. Jubak:** Well, it just so happens that I have recently returned from a week-long competition at the National Darts Association in Las Vegas. I am on a Level 2 women's team that took first place!

**Phil Chenier:** (Attempting to be humorous) Well, it sounds as though ESPN should have been there to cover this story.

**Mrs. Jubak:** They were actually there! They filmed and covered the Level I darts competition!

**Phil Chenier:** What is the thing that you like most about teaching?

**Mrs. Jubak:** I really like the junior high students. I feel that they have great senses of humor and I really enjoy that. Whenever I am teaching, not one day is boring. I believe that at the end of the day, if it has been boring, then I have not done my job.

**Phil Chenier:** Over the years that you have been a teacher, what is the biggest change that you have seen in education?

**Mrs. Jubak:** The biggest change that I have seen is the expectations of junior high to high school students. There just seems to be a loss of time for kids to be kids because of all of the expectations put upon them. It seems that as extracurricular activities increase, "kid time" decreases. I also feel that there is an increased demand upon these students as far as what is to be learned.

**Phil Chenier:** If you would not have been a teacher, what career path do you think you would

have followed?

**Mrs. Jubak:** I would like to have been a private detective. That would have been an interesting profession. I think that I would have liked the investigations and solving the different puzzles of various cases.

**Phil Chenier:** When your teaching career is finished, how would you most liked to be remembered?

**Mrs. Jubak:** I would like to be remembered as someone who made learning fun, and because of that, I made a difference with kids. I really enjoy when the kids come back to visit me. I also enjoy the letters I receive from past students.

**Phil Chenier:** In conclusion to this interview, was there anything else that you wanted people to know about you?

**Mrs. Jubak:** Yes, that I have been married for 34 years. We have two boys and one dog. I have had a wonderful teaching experience at SSJ. My principal and the staff have been very supportive. You know, there is just something about starting the day with prayer that kind of puts everything else into focus.

Mr. Chenier asked his three sons, two whom have since graduated, and one who is preparing for graduation, for their recollections, past and present, of Mrs. Jubak. Mrs. Jubak will be happy to know that in their predictably eloquent fashion they all responded with a short two-word sentence, "She's cool!"



Mrs. Jubak and 2005 SSJ graduate, Olivia Domenici



## Outstanding Service

On May 16, 2005, thirteen enthusiastic eighth grade girls from Troop 1092 at Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic School received their Girl Scout Silver Award. The Silver Award is the second highest honor a young lady can receive in Girl Scouting.

Katherine Biadasz, Samantha Bullat, Samantha Clarke, Theresa Flanagan, Rachel Garlington, Kelsey Hildebrandt, Kaitlin Hogan, Rebecca Lew, Bailey Martin, Hannah Poploskie, Beth Rafferty, Jenna Shively and Kelly Wigmore have been Girl Scouts since the first grade at SSJ under the leadership of Mrs. Liz Wigmore. The girls have worked every parish fall festival since they were young Brownies in first grade, and have donated many hours helping the less fortunate in the community of Huntington Beach.

One of the most rewarding and heartfelt service projects the girls participated in was the one they chose for their Silver Award. It consisted of spending 50 volunteer hours on the project, earning three interest patches at the Cadette level, and acquiring fifteen or more house-in-leadership roles. Troop 1092

achieved this prestigious award by participating in a service project, Suitcases for Kids, which benefits foster children.

The international nonprofit organization, Suitcases for Kids, was founded in 1996 by Aubyn Burnside, a ten year old Catholic girl in North Carolina. The group is now active and successful throughout all of our fifty states, Canada, and the Soviet Union. Aubyn, much like the girls of Troop 1092, felt badly for foster children who traveled from home to home an average of three to four times a year and, by providing this service, she hoped and prayed that she might just make a difference in their lives.

All of these SSJ Scouts set to work making blankets. Kelly Wigmore and Rachel Garlington went to the Huntington Beach Service Unit meeting where they presented their proposal for the service project to the Unit and requested a donation of suitcases. Kelsey Hildebrandt called on Walmart, Jenna Shively wrote a letter to Mervyn's, Katherine Biadasz called upon her mother's workplace and Sammi Bullat donated her sister's suit-

case. All the cadettes called on private businesses requesting additional suitcases, and gratefully accepted their donations. Each blanket they made would be placed in a suitcase along with a stuffed animal and a sincere letter of encouragement.

After two years of hard work, the girls were successful in implementing this laborious task. Troop 1092 filled over thirty suitcases and brought them to Orangewood Children's Foundation. Orangewood was overwhelmed by the generosity of the girls. The

girls had not only achieved their Silver Award, but had shown their love and dedication to scouting and others.

In 2004, this same group of girls volunteered to assist in a "bridging" ceremony held in San Francisco. Troop 1092 Cadettes escorted 4,100 Junior Girl Scouts from one side of the Golden Gate Bridge to the other as they "bridged" from Junior Girl Scouts to Cadettes.

The girls are looking forward to high school in the fall. Mrs. Wigmore knows for certain that these girls will always remember their years of service, leadership, and camaraderie at Sts. Simon and Jude School.

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## Sixth Grade Heads Outdoors

At the end of April, our sixth grade students had the opportunity to attend the Orange County Outdoor Science School. This trip is made possible each year by the generous financial support of our Parent-Faculty Association (PFA).

During this year's trip, the students and their teachers spent three nights and four days at the Cedar Crest Camp near Running Springs, CA. This camp is conducted just like a regular school setting, complete with a principal, vice principals, a site nurse, and several teachers. This year, our students shared the camp experience with the fifth grade students from Huntington Seacliff School.

The focus of this "outdoor experience" is to have the students study science in a field



setting. The students spend a great deal of time in the San Bernardino National Forest while participating in three specific hikes that center attention on geology, ecology, and wild life. In addition to these daytime hikes, the week also includes many other activities: night hikes for the study of astronomy, a hoe-down dance, opportunities to play in the snow, and "skit night." Incredulously, the students are kept so busy during the day that they have no trouble with lights out at 9:00 P.M.!



## Seventh Grader Visits Washington, D.C.



Hogan Hiatt, a seventh grade student in Mr. Amelotte's class, recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. Hogan joined 200 other middle school students from across the nation in attending the Junior National Young Leaders Conference.

The conference introduces young people to the rich tradition of leadership in American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills. Hogan participated in educational activities and presentations, and rubbed elbows with elected officials and key Congressional staff members on Capitol Hill. He visited many historic national landmarks, including our nations Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Women's and Korean War Memorials and the Washington Monument. Hogan also visited the American History Museum and the International Spy Museum. Being a car buff, Hogan stated, "The best part of the Spy Museum was seeing James Bond's Aston Martin!"

Hogan spent a week in D.C. participating in three different groups. With one of the groups, he toured the capital. With the second group, he attended leadership seminars. In the last group, he researched the Cold War and put on a presentation of his findings to the entire conference of fellow attendees. "I learned so many facts about the history of our country and how government works," says Hogan. "I only hope I can remember everything so that it comes in handy on a test!"



## Chili Cook-off, What a Gas!



Everyone who attended the SSJ Chili Cook-off on Saturday, April 23, 2005, had a raucous good time! Ten gallon hats, cowboy boots, and bales of hay filled Colman Hall as the festivities got underway. The "aroma" of cooked chili could be smelled for miles around! Tensions were high as the judges moved from contestant to contestant to judge which chili would be deemed the "all time best" at SSJ. This proved to be a truly difficult task given the thirteen varying and delicious chilis. Chili fixings, hot dogs, and

ice cream rounded out the culinary treats, and beer and soda were available to help wash it all down. Each of the booths was creatively decorated to add to the ambiance of the evening. Children and adults alike enjoyed learning how to line and square dance from Bill "Tex" Gipson, a certified square dance caller.

The PFA-sponsored event included a raffle that allowed parents an opportunity to contribute to their fundraising commitment, plus win prizes that included a weekend away from the kids, a waiver for a full year of service hours commitment, and one month of paid tuition donated by the SSJ Men's Club.

Challenges have already gone out for next year, so dust off that chili recipe and get ready for some "chill-in" in 2006.

Hogan says he enjoyed meeting like-minded students from across the United States, and getting to know his roommates who were from Tennessee, Florida and Louisiana. When asked about his favorite part of the trip, Hogan replied, "My visit to the Lincoln Memorial. I liked it because it has President Lincoln's two most well known speeches engraved on the walls, The Gettysburg Address and his second Inaugural Address. I also liked the pictures of men as slaves, and then as free men, depicting President Lincoln's accomplishment of abolishing slavery."

On his next trip to Washington, Hogan hopes to visit the Arlington Nation Cemetery and the Library of Congress.

After a week of touring that included Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia and spending the night in the National Science Museum in Baltimore, Hogan was ready to come back to school to share all he had experienced with his classmates and Mr. Amelotte

## Athletic Legacy

The SSJ Athletic Department has a long storied history of excellence. SSJ is well known throughout Southern California for producing competitive teams that exude good sportsmanship and solid fundamental play. The display cases located just outside the school office are filled to the brim with trophies representing decades of league

dominance by SSJ teams. During SSJ Athletic Director Russ Smith's tenure, he could not remember any SSJ squad finishing lower than 4th place in the 52-team Parochial Athletic League (PAL). The many years of success enjoyed by the SSJ Athletic Program can be attributed to at least four constants: a committed faculty, committed volunteer coaches, committed student athletes, and committed parents.

"The foundation of our athletic program is to instill Catholic attitudes of sportsmanship, honesty, team work, team spirit, and respect," offered Mr. Smith. SSJ athletics fields "A" (7th and 8th graders) and "B" (5th and 6th graders) teams in seven different sports during the school year. In the fall, students compete in Girls Volleyball and Boys Flag Football. In the winter, students compete in Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball. In the spring, teams compete in Girls Softball and Boys Volleyball. The end of the school year brings the annual PAL Track and Field Meet. There are approximately 180 students who participate in SSJ athletics each year.

Mr. Smith's role as Athletic Director is to administer the athletic program. He hires coaches, manages the schedule, represents SSJ School interests on the PAL Board (of which he is the president), and does just about anything else it takes to make SSJ athletics successful. Mr. Smith is ably assisted by someone whom he referred to as the "backbone" of SSJ athletics, Ms. Karen Foster. For two decades, Ms. Foster has had an active role in SSJ athletics. Whether

as a coach, athletic director, or fan, Ms. Foster's passion for SSJ athletics is evident. "We care about our kids. Our coaches create an environment that allows kids to learn and have fun, but academics always come first," expressed Ms. Foster. The hard work and commitment of Mr. Smith and Ms. Foster help in keeping the athletics program strong.

Almost everyone agrees that the true unsung heroes of the school's athletics program are the volunteer coaches. Most of the coaches are parents who volunteer their time, and often their resources, to teach the students the basic fundamentals, the concept of teamwork, and how to have respect for themselves and their opponents. "Because of the hard work of our coaches, most of our teams can practice four days a week. Most PAL schools are lucky to practice more than one day a week," said Boys Volleyball Coach, Laura Hughes. Long-time SSJ Basketball Coach Tom Ferraro quipped, "Coaching at SSJ has been a great experience for me over the years. I have coached many outstanding student athletes at SSJ that have gone on to great success at the high school level. I think I learn more from the kids than they learn from me." SSJ athletes are highly sought after by area high schools. The high school coaches know that SSJ's student athletes have been well groomed, and have been part of an athletic program that is dedicated to producing athletes that perform in the classroom as well as on the field. "One of our goals is to prepare kids for whatever high school sports they might play," said Mr. Smith. The coaches at SSJ truly exemplify Catholic values with their unselfishness and commitment to the SSJ community.

Parents of SSJ athletes also assist in ensuring the success of the athletic program. The involvement of parents in the program does not simply begin and end with attending a few games over the course of a school year. Being involved in SSJ athletics is a life-altering event. Parents are asked to wear many hats, including but not limited to, taxi driver, scorekeeper, groundskeeper, and cheerleader to name just a few. But most parents understand the value proposition for their children. "There is nothing better than being able to walk out of an SSJ classroom and onto a field or court where your



2005 SSJ Boys A Volleyball Team. 10-0 Season, Coastal League Champs/PAL Diocesan Champions

child is going to be coached by a fellow SSJ parent that shares the same Catholic values you do, and has a genuine passion for what they do," contributed SSJ parent, Mary Zant. SSJ athletics benefits and prospers through the continued support of its parents—past, present, and future.

The next time you stop by the school office, take a moment to look at the trophies in the display case. Notice some of the engravings that read 1992 PAL 1st Place Boys "A" Basketball or 1987 PAL Champs Girls "B" Volleyball. SSJ athletics has an illustrious history of success, but Ms. Foster put everything in perspective when she shared, "The long-term growth and success of our student athletes is paramount to winning any game or league title." That very definition of success is being nurtured and carried forward for future generations by the faculty, volunteer coaches, and parents of SSJ.

## SSJ Endowment Committee: Serving the Future

I've recently accepted the position of leading the SSJ's endowment fund committee. Our endowment fund is 10 years old and currently has \$925,525 in assets. Annually, 5% of the fund's assets are paid to the school to assist in covering day-to-day needs, or to fund a special school project. Our original endowment fund goal was to reach \$1 million in assets. We are very close, and at the top of my agenda is to see that this goal is achieved as soon as possible. Beyond that, it's in the school's long-term interest to have a significantly larger fund to help finance endeavors that will benefit both current students and SSJ students in the decades to come.

The endowment committee has openings for parents that would like to help. We are in the process of formulating plans and ideas, and we will be introducing them at the beginning of the school year. If you would like to get involved, please give me a call at my office, 714-641-3579. I'm looking forward to an active year.

Sincerely,

Steve Check  
Father of Thomas  
and Brianna Check



## God in Me

Dear Parents, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students,

It is an honor to be pastor and share with Mrs. Smith the pastoral leadership of Sts. Simon & Jude Parish and School. I am privileged to do so on behalf of the Most Reverend Bishop Tod D. Brown, D.D, Bishop of Orange.

Part of the challenge of pastoral ministry, especially when things are busy, is to remember some of the day-to-day basics of Catholic spirituality. Last week at the May Crowning, Father Dan proclaimed the Gospel of the Annunciation - one of the basics - the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary. "Hail, O highly favored daughter, the Lord is with you," said the angel. Luke writes that Mary was "troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be."

I recall being at St. Boniface Church in San Francisco shortly after the death of Mother Theresa. I saw one of Mother's sisters put her hands together and bow

slightly to a homeless man she was greeting. I was intrigued by this gesture and wondered what its meaning might be.

After a bit of research, I found that this practice of bowing - often accompanied by the Hindi greeting "Namaste," (pronounced nah-mah-stay) - means (approximately) the God in me, acknowledges the God in you. Another translation of "Namaste" is: I honor the place in you where the entire universe resides. I honor the place in you of love, of light, of truth, of peace. I honor the place within you where if you are in that place in you and I am in that place in me, there is only one of us.

In the Hindu religion, "Namaste" is used as a spiritual practice. It is said both in greeting and farewell, with a slight bow and hands folded in prayer position. It serves to remind Hindus and Mother Theresa's followers that we are all one and are the vessels of God. Perhaps that is why it was never a problem for Mother Theresa to lift the dying from the streets of Calcutta and love them to their death.

I don't know about you, but I so easily get caught up in my self-centered individuality and separateness. I, me, mine are

often far more important words to me than we, us or ours.

"Namaste" recognizes the we, us, ours. One doesn't even have to use the Hindi word Namaste or the Hindu practice of bowing slightly when encountering another. In fact, Clare of Assisi, a close companion of St. Francis, put it this way: "Is it not clear that the soul of the faithful person is greater than heaven itself? For the heavens cannot contain their Creator; only the faithful soul is His dwelling place and His throne." (Third Letter to Blessed Agnes of Prague, c. 1237)

By greeting each person we meet with the awareness that that person is the temple of the Lord, where our God resides, we just might be able to begin to break down some of the barriers which keep us locked in the separateness of I, me, mine. Mary's mission began with such a greeting; a community of love was being born.

So, to each of you I now bow and say Namaste.

Reverend Michael L. Harvey, OFM  
Pastor  
Sts. Simon & Jude Church

*SAVE THE DATE*  
*SSJ ANNUAL AUCTION - NOVEMBER 5, 2005*

**DATES TO REMEMBER.....**

August 31, 2005	School begins
September 2, 2005	Back-to-School Mass
September 22, 2005	Back-to-School Night
September 30, 2005	SSJ Fall Festival begins
November 5, 2005	SSJ Annual Auction
December 15, 2005	SSJ Christmas Program

***DID YOU KNOW...***

...the first parish school at SSJ opened in 1967 and was named Saint Francis?

...Saint Francis Parish School was renamed Sts. Simon & Jude in 1973?

...The Stay Care facility opened in 1982?

Do you have any interesting facts about SSJ?  
Please go to our website [www.ssj.org/school/](http://www.ssj.org/school/)  
Click on the alumni association and complete the Alumni Questionnaire so that others may hear about your experience at SSJ.

Saints Simon & Jude Catholic School  
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