



ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS

FALL 2023 EDITION

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from St. Peter's School! I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and good spirits.

Since the publication of our last newsletter, our dear Sister Marian Rose Power has gone home to God. I am grateful to her, as she gave me the opportunity to be a part of St. Peter's School over 20 years ago, and has given me loving guidance as a teacher, administrator, and parent. Though we miss her, we still feel her positive spirit and energy around us.

That energy permeated the school as we began a new school year. At our opening faculty and staff retreat, we came together and welcomed new teachers to our faculty, eager to learn and become a part of the St. Peter's community. We continue with our weekly school Masses, helping our students to appreciate our faith as People of God. We were filled with joy to see our Sisters of Mercy and many other guests at our special Memorial Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, when we offered prayers together for alumni and friends who have gone before us. Our Student Council has already led the school in a successful first fundraiser, "Dimes from Heaven." Our middle school students are gaining new experiences in their elective classes—which include Ceramics, Rock Climbing, Drama, and Service—and we are thankful for the partnerships that make these elective classes possible for our students.

New partnerships are being forged on our Advisory Board while new

additions—St. Peter's Alumni—have enthusiastically joined our Board. Our doors are open to our partners, supporters, and benefactors to tour the school and see our students' growth and learning in real time! Plus, we've begun touring prospective families for the following school year, especially to those parents who have incoming Kindergarteners who may be part of our first Dual-Language Immersion class in 2024—a new venture for our students to learn academic content in both English and Spanish.

As a member of the St. Peter's family, you make so much possible through your prayers and contributions. You are a valuable part of our community as you help to ensure that St. Peter's School is thriving and growing in the years to come. Thank you for your support!

In Solidarity,

Sandra Jimenez, Principal

ALUMNI JOIN ST. PETER'S SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

St. Peter's welcomes **Gonzalina (Lina) Morales '76** and **Christian Elebiary '90** to the St. Peter's Advisory Board. We're so grateful for their insights and knowledge.



When Lina worked at SF's Department of Children, Youth and Families, she used her advocacy skills to establish Buena Vista Children's Center, our afterschool and summer programming provider, here at St. Peter's—the first DCYF program housed at a Catholic school.



Christian, now at LinkedIn, brings his business strategy and analysis skills to St. Peter's. "I am honored and humbled to be able to serve the St. Peter's community which did so much for me and my family."

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Ms. Roxy Cano (1st Grade) is a first-generation college graduate and a passionate educator who has taught in San Francisco's Mission and Bayview districts since 2013. She is thrilled to join St. Peter's teaching community, her family's parish school, where she will provide high-quality academic instruction with sensitivity to the developmental needs of young children.



Ms. LeeAnn Crisman (5th Grade) is a 3rd generation native San Franciscan. She holds a degree in Child Development from San Francisco State University, and recently graduated from the University of San Francisco's Urban Education and Social Justice teaching program. LeeAnn hopes to inspire each student who comes into her classroom and believes that teaching is a two-way learning process.



Ms. Karla DeCastro (6th Grade) is a highly qualified teacher who holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, majoring in Math, and a Master's in Mathematics education. Karla has gained valuable experience teaching in public and private schools, and her commitment to her students makes her an exceptional teacher.



Ms. Janet Rodriguez (7th Grade) is on a mission to create a supportive learning environment for her students. Her love for teaching began while working as a teaching assistant and tutor in K-12 schools. With a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences from Chico State, she is pursuing her Master's in Teaching and Single Subject Credential at USF.



Ms. Victoria Valencia (CYO P.E. Teacher) is a San Francisco native, an athlete, and a devoted teacher. With a degree in English and extensive experience in after-school programs, extracurricular enrichment, and summer programming, she is excited to apply her skills as a PE Instructor at St. Peter's, where she hopes to create a supportive and engaging learning environment.

IN THE CLASSROOM



In September, students showed love and mercy during our Dimes from Heaven fundraiser! Money was collected for Student Council events and victims of the Maui fires. As a school, we collected a total of \$2,506!



Our primary grade students love to read together and put their learning into action with exploratory projects. They completed a cross-curricular unit about apples, which included taste-testing different kinds of apples!



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES



Watching our middle school students take the time to help and inspire our younger students at St. Peter's School is truly heartwarming. It's amazing to see the positive influence they have on their peers!



As part of our middle school electives program, St. Peter's students bring smiles and company to abuelitas in Mission Neighborhood Center's Healthy Aging Intergenerational Activities Program.



ALUMNI & FRIENDS HONOR SR. MARIAN ROSE, SR. ROSANN, AND SR. MARY EDITH

MEMORIAL MASS



Top left: Advisory Board Member Miguel Guzman '87. Top middle: Vice Principal Ryan Suárez and Advisory Board Member Kristen McCarthy. Top right: Superintendent of Catholic Schools Pamela Lyons. Bottom left: Tony Erias, Archdiocese of San Francisco Music Director, and the St. Peter's School Choir

RECEPTION



Top left: Joe, Bernadette and Kate Hurley and George Caughman joined us in honor of the Hurley's aunt Sr. Mary Edith and father Joseph '42. Bottom left: Maquely Velasquez, Sandra Jimenez and Carlos Velasquez '07. Right: Kay Casey and June McCarthy

THE GIFT OF SISTER MARIAN ROSE POWER BY SANDRA JIMENEZ

When I think of Sister Marian Rose, I remember the many gifts she brought to St. Peter's School.

Faith: Sister Marian Rose offered loving reminders that God has a plan and that He will provide, and that our Blessed Mother is watching over us. Sister would take the time to pray with you anytime!

Fun: Sister Marian Rose was always game for a silly prank or joke to get in a laugh and lift someone's spirits... and then share the funny stories to

embarrass you and herself later! She was our "Energizer Bunny" always on the GO.

Courage: If something tough had to be done or said to help the school, a student, a teacher, or a family, Sister Marian Rose would speak up. Need funds or resources for the school? Sister gave her persuasive piece on why you should help. Need help on a special event? You can't say "no" to Sister. I can't imagine where St. Peter's School would be today without her bravery and conviction

to do and say what others may have shied away from.

Selflessness: Putting "all of the above" together, Sister Marian Rose always put God and others before herself. Truly a model of LOVE and compassion; a guardian angel here on Earth, and now in Heaven.

Sister Marian Rose—your spirit continues to live on at St. Peter's School, and you will always be in our hearts!



Top left: Srs. Richardine Blue, Ann Rooney, Martha Larsen and Janet Rozzano. Bottom left: Mercy Lou Zamora '64, Christine Diaz '82 and Mercy Zamora, Jr. '82.



Top right: Srs. Eileen Pazmino and Lucy Calvillo '56. Bottom right: Jeff, Dennis Ilog and Louis Romero '94.



FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS ON CAMPUS



THE GUARDSMEN MEET THEIR 2023-2024 SCHOLARS

The Guardsmen mobilize their talents and resources to provide student scholarships at St. Peter's and other schools, to "strengthen our entire community." Members Thomas de Alencar, Sandro Alioto, and Luis Bacalao were introduced to the 2023 Guardsmen Scholars in September. You can show your appreciation by buying your Christmas tree at their Holiday Tree Lot, between November 24 and December 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Fort Mason Center.

SISTER MARIAN ROSE POWER LEGACY SOCIETY

Sister Marian Rose touched countless lives with her smile, prayers, compassion, advocacy, and loving support. Sister will always be our guardian angel!

Over the years, Sister encouraged many alumni and friends to remember St. Peter's School with a bequest in their wills. These gifts have enabled the donor's values and beliefs to thrive through the academic and spiritual education children receive at St. Peter's. Please consider joining The Sister Marian Rose Power Legacy Society by remembering St. Peter's School in your will. For more details, contact Principal Sandra Jimenez at 415-647-8662.

PAT MURPHY '45 AND TOM MURPHY '48

Siblings, Pat Murphy and Tom Murphy (pictured here with Marilyn Hunt on the left) attended St. Peter's elementary and high schools. Following graduation, Pat studied nursing and enjoyed her career as a Public Health Nurse. Thomas entered the Navy, traveled, and then worked for Lockheed Martin.

Both were very proud of their Mission roots, their history at St. Peter's, and their many Sisters of Mercy friendships. To honor the memory of their two aunts Margaret Murphy Sears and Mary Dolores Murphy, and enable the School to continue to provide a financially-accessible Catholic education to families, Pat and Tom left bequests to St. Peter's when they passed away in 2018. We are forever grateful for their thoughtfulness.



THANK YOU OLYMPIC CLUB FOUNDATION

Olympic Club Foundation Executive Director John Ring and Club member Ron Arana visited St. Peter's to learn more about the School's Athletics Program from Principal Sandra Jimenez, VP Ryan Suárez, and SPS Athletic Director Raquel Rangel last August. Over the years, the Foundation has made special grants to the School for CYO team fees and sports equipment, in line with their "belief that participation in organized athletics enriches young lives and develops future community leaders."





ST. PETER'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1266 Florida St.
San Francisco, CA 94110

MISSION STATEMENT

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

St. Peter's Catholic School community nurtures the whole child to develop a lifelong passion for learning and to live out the Works of Mercy.

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**SEPTEMBER 24 TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS OF MERCY
THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY
BY RIA FRESNOZA, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS**

The Sisters of Mercy have shaped St. Peter's School into a community with Mercy at the core of its mission. This mission of equity, service, and social justice draws families and educators to St. Peter's, myself included.

The Sisters are leaders in the fields of health, housing, and education. Their fierce and radical love puts their "faith into motion." From leading trips to the US-Mexico border during the migrant crisis to sheltering victims of abuse, the Sisters are examples for all of us on how to act with courage and compassion.

We are blessed that Sisters of Mercy are so dedicated to our School – serving as teachers, administrators, librarians, board members, and donors and inspiring vocations among our

alumnae including Srs. Ana Maria Pineda, Lucy Calvillo, Pauline Borghello and many more.

To the sisters with us today, the Sisters of Mercy around the world, and the sisters who have passed, on behalf of the countless teachers, families, and children whose lives you've changed, you inspire us - to do more and love more each day. We thank you and honor you.



When you plan your holiday gift list, please include a donation to St. Peter's School. With your support, today's students will develop a lifelong passion for learning and a commitment to "faith in motion." Gifts can be sent in the enclosed envelope or online using this QR code.

