

2011 Night of Hope “GUARDIAN OF HOPE” AWARDS FOR TWO OF SS. SIMON & JUDE’S FINEST

Friends and supporters of the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools held the fourth annual Night of Hope fundraising dinner event on October 29th with nearly 1000 people in attendance. In addition to raising funds for the Catholic Schools Endowment and Tuition Assistance Fund, the evening provided an opportunity to honor two very special people in our SS. Simon & Jude community - Sr. Raphael Quinn, I.B.V.M. and Kelly McKone '74.

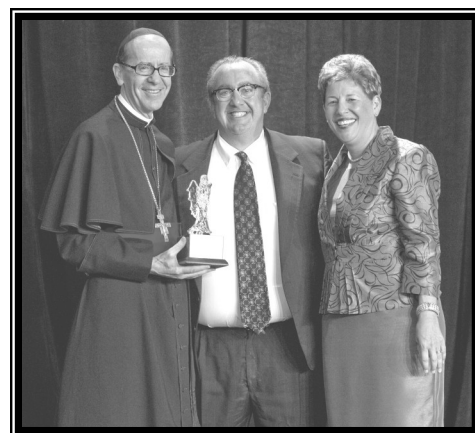
Sister Raphael was recognized for her faith filled dedication to SS. Simon & Jude School for nearly 50 years, affecting the lives of thousands of students and their families. Kelly McKone, '74, was also honored the same evening for his many volunteer efforts throughout the Catholic community, especially to SSJ.

Just one example of their extraordinary efforts to our school was the leadership they provided to the school's Proud of Our Past – Committed to Our Future capital campaign. Because of their devotion to the project, the school proudly opened Our Lady of Loreto Center in September, 2010.

Over one hundred SSJ supporters attended the Night of Hope event and as Sister and Kelly were presented with their awards, the ballroom burst into thunderous applause and gave them both a lengthy standing ovation which they richly deserved.



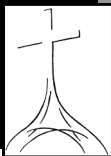
Sister Raphael and Bishop Olmsted



Bishop Olmsted, Kelly McKone and MaryBeth Mueller

What's Inside?

- Remembering Sister Esther Reyes, I.B.V.M.
- Catholic Education Arizona
- Welcome Pre-K to SSJ



A Message from Sister Raphael



Nollaig Shona!

In this the season of Christ's birth, my wish to all of you is a simple one: I wish you peace, joy and happiness and I hope that this blessed season finds you spending time with the ones you love. Perhaps you are celebrating by using an Advent Wreath in your home to remind you of God's eternal nature and the light Christ brings into our lives. Or . . . maybe you are counting down the days to Christmas with an Advent Calendar to keep your family's focus on the coming of Christ.

As you can see from the photo on Pg. 6 we have added a Pre-K class this year at our school. These 19 students, led by Mrs. Cathy Chrisman, are a wonderful addition to our school. Also very exciting are our newly remodeled classrooms. We certainly feel blessed to be able to enjoy new windows, carpet, paint, dual pane windows, state of the art LED lighting (the first school in the Diocese!) and voice enhancement systems for all the teachers.

On Pg. 5 you will find a contribution form for the newly re-named Catholic Education Arizona (formerly known as CTODP). We were not able to help as many families as we'd hoped for this school year, so I am hopeful that you will check Line 25 on your Arizona state income tax return and see if you can help us this year. Any amount up to \$500 (individuals) or \$1000 (married couples) can be redirected to help provide tuition assistance to the neediest of our students. Please call Mary Jo in our Development Office at 602-242-1299 if you need further information.

On behalf of all our teachers and the entire staff at SSJ, we wish each of you a very blessed holiday season. Please know that wherever you go and whatever road you may travel, you will always have a home at Ss. Simon & Jude.

May God bless each and every one of you. Merry Christmas or as they say in Gaelic, Nollaig Shona!

Sister Raphael Quinn

What's Happening At SS. Simon & Jude School??



Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, December 13 @ 7 p.m.
In Our Lady of Loreto Center

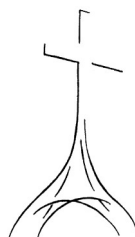
Grandparents' Mass

Friday, December 16 @ 8:30 a.m.



12th Annual Sunnyslope Christmas Drive

From December 7th through the 14th, the faculty, staff and students of SSJ participated in their annual charitable project. The SSJ School community participates by supplying toiletries and other basic needs for the families in need in the Sunnyslope community. The hope is to instill in our students a sense of sharing and caring during this holy Advent season.



Open House Sunday

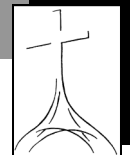
For prospective families interested in sending their children to Ss. Simon & Jude School, please join us on Sunday, January 22nd for 9:00 a.m. Mass, and then an Open House at 10:00 a.m.



13th Annual Auction/Dinner - Beach Ball Bash!!

Cowabunga Dudes!! Mark your calendars now for our 13th Annual Auction Dinner, on Saturday, February 11th. The "Beach Ball Bash" promises to be totally wowza - and we hope to see all of you surfers and surfettes there chillaxing and enjoying the party wave!





In loving memory
Sister Esther A. Reyes, O.B.V.M.

Born Into Life: August 10, 1944

Entered Religious Life: September 8, 1973

Born Into Eternal Life: December 5, 2011

*This is what Yahweh asks of you; only this,
 to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.*
- Micah 6:8

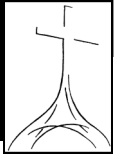
Sister Esther Ann Reyes IBVM, died peacefully on Monday, December 5th. Sister Esther will be greatly missed by her Religious Sisters and friends, and, especially, by her immediate family. Sister Esther's passion was education. She demonstrated deep adherence to Catholic principles, great organization and thoroughness in her teaching ministry at Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic School, and also strong leadership when she served as principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Prescott. Her leadership skills were also put to use in the years she ably handled the Hispanic Ministries in Ss. Simon and Jude Parish. In the last 10 years she has provided English (ESL) night classes for Spanish-speaking adults at Ss. Simon and Jude Campus, thus broadening the scope for jobs and advancement for all those who attended her classes. Sister has been in all things a faithful servant of the Lord!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ss. Simon and Jude Help-A-Student Fund or to Loreto Sisters' Retirement Fund, c/o Ss. Simon & Jude School, 6351 North 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85017.



In Memoriam...

Leslie Ryan Tuengel, SSJ graduate, Class of '78, passed away on September 29, 2011. Leslie Ryan Tuengel lived her life caring for people. As a teenager, Leslie was a Camp Fire Counselor. In college, she studied hard because she wanted to give excellent nursing care as a Registered Nurse. She was a mom to Tyler, daughter to John and Phyllis Ryan, and sister to Lisa Ryan. In memory of Leslie, hug your friends and family and tell them you love them, as she always did.



59th Annual Fall Festival!

The 59th Annual Fall Festival was on October 30th this year, and as always, a great time was had by all!! Congratulations on a job VERY WELL DONE to our Fall Festival chair couples

Tom and Michelle Reed
and
Greg and Rosie ('85) Hacker

The tradition of alumni pick-up games in the new gym continued this year and it's becoming quite the popular place to be!! When alumni stopped by the Alumni Booth to sign in and get their alumni ribbons, they were given the opportunity to sign up to play basketball or volleyball in the new gym from 3 p.m. 'til 5 p.m. Teams were formed and each played for 15 minutes at a time. It was AWESOME!! Alumni, young and not-so-young had a blast - and we plan to continue this TRADITION at Fall Festivals to come!!



The Barr Family enjoys a break in the day with Fr. Lankeit



Cooks extraordinaire!!

THANK YOU to everyone who signed in at the Alumni Booth...we had over 150 alumni sign in!! If you missed the Fall Festival this year, be sure to come next year! It's a GREAT time to reconnect with old friends, and make NEW memories!!



Coach Keebler and her little cutie pie Cole



Joggers ready to JOG!!

Jog-A-Thon 2011 a SUCCESS!

Our annual Jog-A-Thon was on November 11th this year, and a big thanks to everyone who participated! We brought in over \$22,000!! A special thank you to our Jog-A-Thon chairs, Tricia Nagaki, Susanna Tanner, and Beatrice Quinn for a job wonderfully well done!!

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Ss. Simon & Jude
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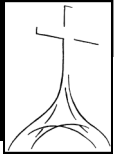
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Max Tax Credit: \$1,000 (married) / \$500 (single)

We are a 501(c)(3) organization and have never accepted gifts designated for individuals. A school tuition organization cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of donor recommendation. A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer's own dependent.

SF7

CONTRIBUTION FORM



Author Conrad Storad Visits SSJ

Our SS. Simon & Jude Catholic School Library hosted award-winning children's author *Conrad Storad* on November 21, 2011. Conrad Storad's awards include Arizona Children's Author of the Year, and the Governor's Book Choice Award, among many other Arizona awards. Recently he was awarded "Best Children's Nonfiction Book" by the National Federation of Press Women for his book entitled *Mars*, and his latest book, *Arizona Way Out West & Wacky* is the "Official Centennial Book for Arizona." SS&J Students even had the opportunity to purchase an autographed book during his visit to the school.

Mr. Storad presented his "fun nonfiction" (informational fiction) to kindergarten through fourth grade in support with the school's language arts curriculum. The children really enjoyed Mr. Storad's reading of his stories, and sharing what happens when he writes. Then he answered students' questions, like second grader, Megan McNair's "How old were you when you wrote your first book?" Mr. Storad replied he was in his 30's, but that he's been writing since 4th grade!

With the 5th through 8th grades, Mr. Storad shared his nonfiction writings about tarantulas and scorpions, and what he found out about them through researching their lifestyles and habits. The students were really engaged in his presentation due to his enthusiasm about his book topics, and also because of all the "gross" spider and scorpion pictures" that accompanied his talk. They especially enjoyed the surprise ending of his presentation that wrapped up his lecture!

Every child and teacher came away with a new appreciation for writing and authors, especially Conrad Storad.



Author Conrad Storad and "a friend" speak to the SSJ students

Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic School

A Roman Catholic School for Grades Pre-K through 8th grade

Fully accredited by the North Central Association & Western Catholic Education Association

Sister Raphael Quinn, I.B.V.M. - Principal v 6351 N. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85017



OPEN HOUSE

For Prospective New Families

Sunday, January 22, 2012

9:00 a.m. 'til Noon

Here's the schedule:

- Mass in the Cathedral - 9:00 am
- Curriculum information session immediately following Mass
- Campus tours until Noon
- Parents and students will be available to answer any of your questions.

No Reservations Required

- Indoor Gymnasium/Auditorium
- Pre-K Program
- "State of the Art" Science Lab
- SMART Board Technology
- Bus Transportation
- Full-time Registered Nurse
- Before and After School Care
- Daily Hot Lunch Program
- School tours offered at your convenience by calling 602-242-1300 x125

CATHOLIC EDUCATION ARIZONA (see reverse)

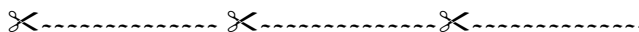
PRIVATE TUITION TAX CREDIT – This dollar for dollar tax credit is available to ALL Arizona taxpayers who file a state income tax return. Not sure if this applies to you? Check Line 25 on your state income tax return! That's the line that shows you the amount of taxes that you owe. Any amount of Line 25 can be redirected to SS. Simon & Jude School (up to \$1,000 for married couples and \$500 for individuals) for tuition assistance to our neediest of families. Use the form in this newsletter to make your contribution or you may contribute online at www.catholiceducationarizona.org. If you have never participated before, please call Mary Jo in the school Development Office at 602-242-1299, extension 149 and she can answer any questions you have. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for your 2011 contribution is April 15, 2012, but you may wish to make your contribution by December 31st to take advantage of any federal deductions for 2011 as well.



Order yours today!!

If you have any questions regarding "The Littlest Angel" please contact us at alumni@simonjude.org.

Proceeds to benefit the "Proud of Our Past - Committed to Our Future" Capital Campaign



Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail this order form along with your check payable to SSJ to:
SS. Simon & Jude School * 6351 N. 27th Avenue * Phoenix, AZ 85017

Welcome Pre-K!



Presenting the Ss. Simon & Jude Class of 2021

We are very excited this year to have added a Pre-K program to our school! Our Pre-K is a full day program, and there are currently 20 students enrolled. Pre-K students must be at least 4 years old by July 31st the year they are to begin Pre-K. It has been a wonderful addition to our campus, adding lots of energy, creativity, and CUTENESS!!

The Pre-K class has P. E., Music, and Library, they have active hands-on learning time, and they attend Mass regularly. Our Pre-K teacher is Mrs. Cathy Chrisman, and she presently has two part-time aides, Mrs. Leslie Cirzan and Mrs. Crystal Aguilar. Mrs. Chrisman feels "like I was called to be here. I feel very blessed that the parents are sharing their precious children with us. This little class is going to be SO well prepared for Kindergarten. They are our future leaders."

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Christmas Mass Schedule

Masses on Christmas Eve...

4 p.m. English in the Cathedral and Smith Hall
6 p.m. English in the Cathedral
8 p.m. Espanol in the Cathedral
11 p.m. Pontifical Mass of Midnight - bilingue
(Broadcast live on AZ TV7, Cable 13,
Immaculate Heart Radio 1310 AM, KTAR 92.3 FM, and
online at www.simonjude.org)

Masses on Christmas Day...

7 a.m. English in the Cathedral
9 a.m. English Solemn Mass of Christmas Day
11 a.m. Espanol Misa Solemne de la Natividad



Have a beautiful and blessed Christmas!