



1889-2009

Winter 2009

ST. CATHERINE'S MILITARY ACADEMY

Honor, Leadership, and Success Since 1889

Esprit de Corps

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Jose Bauris

The Wise still seek Him...

Jorge Elizondo



Christmas blessings of joy and peace!
 ~Your St. Catherine's Family

Greetings from our Administrator/Principal Sister Johnellen Turner, OP

Dear Friends of St. Catherine's,

Christmas joy and peace in the New Year to each of you and your families!

God continues to bless us over and over again! I pray we are open to the wonderful surprises which surround our days.

As we begin a new year, it is very important to give some time for reflection. It is not so much a time to make new resolutions, but rather, space in which to ponder life and review our personal growth. This is a good opportunity to look at what guides our decisions each day...to look at the person I am, and who I want to become.

As I review 2009, I am overcome with gratitude for each of you who have blessed St. Catherine's with your friendship, your prayers, your presence and your support! We continue to grow as a gift for young men because of your goodness!

Our 120th Birthday held beautiful memories of the many, many years of dedicated staff, teachers, parents, students and the Dominican Sisters. In the name of our Sisters, I extend a promise of prayers as we daily renew our commitment to our wonderful St. Catherine's.

When I go to our Motherhouse for meetings, many of our Sisters stop me to ask "How is our St. Catherine's doing?" I assure them that we are alive and well and moving forward into our 121st year! It is because of each of you that our journey continues!

Visits from many of our alumni, "our boys," take place very often and we are so happy to welcome you home. If you have not been back to visit recently, I invite you to drop by soon.



Some of you are doctors, dentists, authors, public servants, priests and an Archbishop. We are so proud of you in whatever you have chosen as your service to our world because you bring the spirit of St. Catherine's with you!

Come and see all of the new additions to our Academy and share the Spirit!

May our good and gracious God surround you with the joy of Christmas throughout the 2010 year!

With a loving and grateful heart –
Your,

Sister Johnellen Turner, OP

Sister Johnellen Turner, OP
Administrator/Principal

SCMA Events Support Tuition Assistance

Thanks to everyone who has supported St. Catherine's events and has dedicated so much time in making them possible. SCMA relies on our annual events to raise funds for tuition assistance. Your support of these events makes the gift of a St. Catherine's education possible for so many deserving young men. Thank you!

The Silent Auction >



< The Fall Brunch

Save the Date!

The Military Ball will be held on February 13, 2010 at the Richard Nixon Library. Look for your invitation in January!

Tommy Lasorda Visits SCMA

Don't be surprised if you see Tommy Lasorda next time you visit St. Catherine's. The great former Dodger manager has become one of St. Catherine's newest friends.



Tommy first met Sister Johnellen (one of the world's biggest Dodger fans) at a Rotary Club meeting.

When the Dodgers made it to the playoffs, he stopped by St. Catherine's with tickets for S. Johnellen and S. JoAnn (another really big Dodger fan). On top of the tickets, Tommy treated the Sisters to lunch in the club house and a tour of Dodger Stadium.



Tommy stopped by campus again in November and gave a motivational speech to the cadets. "You can achieve anything you want if you work hard," he told them. After the speech, he posed for pictures and signed autographs.

Thanks for your friendship, Tommy!

Cadets Honor Veterans

In commemoration of Veterans Day, the cadets of St. Catherine's Military Academy honored veterans with a special Mass and luncheon. An annual tradition, this special day provides an opportunity for cadets to meet veterans and thank them for their service to our country.

The celebration began with a school Mass. Special songs, including *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* were sung in honor of the veterans and their service to our country.

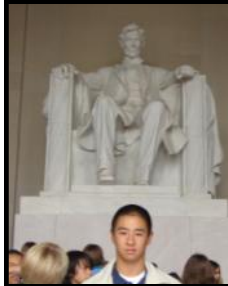
Following the Eucharist, veterans and guests were invited to join the Academy's cadets and military staff for a special ceremony to honor our fallen veterans- a new addition to the Veterans Day program. US Army Specialist John Hanpadungvongs, the Academy's assistant band director, played *Taps* while the flags were lowered to half-mast. Bagpiper Tucker Flemming then played *Amazing Grace*. After this emotional ceremony, veterans and guests joined the Academy's students for lunch in the cadet dining hall.

St. Catherine's cadets also participated in the City of Stanton Veterans Day Celebration. The Color and Honor Guards presented colors for this special event, and the Drill Team prepared a special demonstration.



Cadet Attends Leadership Conference in D.C.

Seventh grader Justin Wang attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC this fall. The program offers mature, high achieving middle school student leaders the opportunity to learn about leadership by studying leaders of the past and by focusing on social advocacy.



During the weeklong program, Justin and his peers participated in a series of leadership discussions and activities. They also toured museums, memorials, historical locations, and government buildings to better understand different forms of leadership throughout our nation's history.

Justin was nominated to attend this prestigious program by Mrs. Mallard, his sixth grade teacher. Justin's application was then approved by a panel.

Justin is the quarterback for the varsity football team and is the company commander for Delta company. Outside of school, he is an award-winning swimmer. When he grows up, Justin wants to be a doctor.

Motorcycle Drill Team Visits St. Catherine's

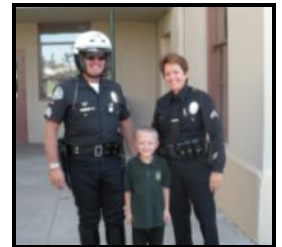
St. Catherine's Military Academy welcomed a special group of individuals onto its campus: the LAPD Motorcycle Drill Team.



Twenty highly trained and highly talented police officers visited the campus to meet the cadets, enjoy lunch, and give students a drill demonstration. The event was organized by Officer Mitch Windsor, whose son is in kindergarten at St. Catherine's. Officer Windsor is the captain of the team.



The drill demonstration was especially interesting to the Academy's cadets because of their practice and experience with drills and marching. Of course, St. Catherine's cadets drill on their feet rather than wheels.



Students Say No To Drugs

Between October 19th and October 23rd, the cadets of St. Catherine's Military Academy celebrated Red Ribbon Week, a national campaign to prevent drug use. The week's events varied from the informative to the entertaining to the delicious.

"Red Ribbon Week is a time for students to pledge to live a safe and drug-free life," said Patty Curry, a 7th grade teacher who helped plan the events of Red Ribbon Week. "We wanted to make this week memorable because it sends a message to the students about how important this pledge is."

Students kicked off the week with a presentation on the origins of Red Ribbon Week, including the story of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, the Imperial



Valley DEA agent whose tragic death was the catalyst for Red Ribbon Week.

On Tuesday, DEA agents based in Santa Ana arrived on campus via helicopter and unmarked police vehicles to talk to students about drug prevention and the work of the DEA. Anaheim police officer R.J. Young also brought his canine partner, Bruno, to campus for a demonstration.

On Thursday, kindergarteners performed a rendition of *Cool It Down* by New Edition, which expressed the importance of staying drug free and offered advice on how to deal with stressful situations that could lead to drug use. Later that day, classes attended grade-level presentations by the OC Sheriff's Office.

On Friday, students enjoyed red popsicles to celebrate a successful Red Ribbon Week and their personal pledges to stay drug free.





Cadets in Action



Month of the Rosary

During October, the Month of the Rosary, cadets began each morning by praying a decade of the rosary together at morning assembly. Other activities included student projects and the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

JV Jubilation

The JV football team celebrates after a win over Carden Academy. Both the Varsity and JV football teams enjoyed excellent seasons of fun and growth.



Artistic Spirit

Fourth grader Paul Kim created this picture for religion class. During a lesson on the virtue of faith, students were asked to create a banner with the theme, "I believe in God."



Dia De Los Muertos

Spanish teacher Mrs. Turrietta and cadets David Ike and Alvaro Diaz stand in front of the altar they made for Dia de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. The altar included food, pictures, and cards for students' loved ones who have passed away.



Sing A Song Unto the Lord

Second graders Jean-Karlo Navas and Noe Gomez follow along during choir practice. Each Thursday, Choir Director Antoinette Miraflor leads the cadet corps as they practice the songs they will sing for the following day's liturgy.



Calling All Alumni!

SCMA is Still Your Home So Stop By for a Visit!

St. Catherine's is thrilled to host our alumni back on campus.

- Tour campus, meet current cadets, join us for Mass and/or lunch.
- Find yourself in our Battalion Photos, dating back to 1925.
- See what's changed and what's stayed the same.
- Schedule a time or just drop in M-F, 8:30-4:30.



Louie David (class of 1994) writes a note to the cadet who currently inhabits his former bed in Bravo Dormitory.



Marco Ortega (class of 1990) and his wife tour campus. Marco lives in Mexico, but visits SCMA every two years.

Alumni Question of the Quarter

Q: What's your favorite St. Catherine's memory?

A: I have many favorites, but the one that first popped into my head was: *The power of the Sunday morning donut.* A donut was a great trading chip for some other item or service on campus. Example, a donut could get your shoes shined, or a couple of pats of peanut butter for weekday breakfasts. Ah...those were the days.- **Jim Erickson, Class of 1946**

A: Sister Walberga is one of my favorite memories. She was always there for the cadets. -**Ric Chilson, Class of 1951**

A: The Commandant's two cute daughters living behind our track field. Second favorite was winning the Drum Major trophy at the 1956 Christmas parade. -**Johnny DeHaseth, Class of 1957.**

A: Just enrolled, my first night boarding in 1972, age 9. I was one of the first to arrive, and the wonderful Sister Eugenia arranged for me to stay in one of two dormitories. As the only one in the room, I was frightened. I told Sister how I felt, and she moved me to the other dormitory and closer to her room so I would not be scared. -**Anthony Natale, Class of 1978**

A: Coach Fry: He let us play very cool games like "Battleball."- **Paul McCormack, Class of 1983**

A: Too many favorites! I very much enjoyed the many activities: Drill Team, Softball. Can't forget when the U.S.A. Soccer Team trained at SCMS. -**Eamon Mitchell, Class of 1984**

A: Those special nights when all the cadets would get together to watch "The Private War of Major Benson." -**Ron Hall, Class of 1985**

A: Commanding the drill team in the Armed Forces Day Parade. -**David Estrella, Class of 2006.**

A: Promotions: especially my first pair of ranks and when I became Sergeant First Class.- **Jose Luis Velázquez Orozco, Class of 2009**

Next Question of the Quarter:

What is the most important lesson you learned at SCMA?

Send responses to development@stcatherinesmilitaryacademy.org or SCMA ~ 215 N. Harbor Blvd. ~Anaheim, CA 92805 Attn: Advancement

Alumni Updates

Johnny DeHaseth (Class of 1957) retired from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles this past October and will see how well he handles it.

Eric Macksoud (Class of 1979, 1st grade) is the Air Reserve Component Volunteer Administrator and Unit Reserve Coordinator for the 30th Security Forces Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

Ryan Sepulveda, TSgt USAFR (Class of 1990) joined the Air Force with tours in South Korea, Iceland, Saudi Arabia and Qatar (Operations ONW, OSW, OEF, OIF, HOA) as well as throughout the United States. He continues to serve in the Air Force Reserves at March Air Reserve Base in Moreno Valley. Combined he has 14 years of military service. He currently works for Raytheon in Brea as a Senior Systems Engineer and has a 7 year old son named Joaquin.

Paul Song (Class of 2001) recently won his 2nd professional Mixed Martial Arts bout. "Not only is he a great athlete, but a fine young man with character," says Sergeant Tyr May.

Daniel Garcia (Class of 2002) will graduate from UC San Diego this spring with a pre-medical degree. He still plays guitar, a skill he first picked up at St. Catherine's.

Brandon Berg (Class of 2006) has been accepted to the Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Musical Theatre at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in LA and has been awarded a merit scholarship. In November, Brandon was the youngest member of Irvine Valley College's production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Send us updates about school, family, career, anything!

Email:

development@stcatherinesmilitaryacademy.org

Mail: SCMA: Advancement
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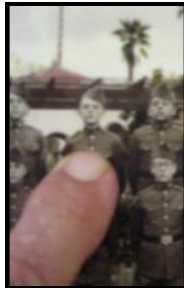
Alumni Involvement

Cadet Returns After 80 Years!

J. Vincent Morris, who attended St. Catherine's from 1929-1934, visited his old home along with his sons and grandchildren. Vince and his family enjoyed a "March Around" demonstration by the cadet corps, followed by lunch in the cadet dining hall and a tour of campus. Vince carried a 1934 photograph of himself and his brother, Richard, in their St. Catherine's uniforms.

After lunch, Captain Ramos presented Vince with a St. Catherine's t-shirt, dog tags, and the honorary rank of 1st Lieutenant. The Morris Family also had the opportunity to watch the ESL class complete the obstacle course- a new addition to campus since 1929!

Vince, now 85, attended St. Catherine's as a resident student between the ages of five and ten along with his younger brother Richard. He remembers much about his time at St. Catherine's, including the swimming pool,



Vince points to himself in a 1934 photo.

dormitories, and the Long Beach Earth Quake of 1933, which occurred while the cadets were playing in the school yard.

Vince went on to become a rescue swimmer in the Navy during WWII, earning a medal for his service during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. After his time in the service, Mr. Morris married and entered the Dallas Theological Seminary. He was the pastor of churches in Phoenix and Washington for many years before becoming a professor and dean at Biola University in La Mirada. Mr. Morris has lived out his lifelong passion for teaching the Bible through his careers and also as a Sunday school teacher, a position from which he retired just a few years ago.

Thanks so much to Vince Morris for his presence at SCMA. Come back anytime!



Mr. Morris poses with the ESL class following their obstacle course demonstration.

Alumnus Dedicates Memoir to St. Catherine's

Ralph G. Mendoza only attended St. Catherine's for nine months, but his cadet experience had a lasting impact.

From September of 1952 to June of 1953, Ralph was a fourth grader at St. Catherine's Military Academy. He came from East Los Angeles, and St. Catherine's was just one of 50 schools he attended between 1st grade and high school.



Ralph Mendoza greets Sister Mary Albert- his 4th grade teacher in 1952-53.

In *Life on a Roller Coaster*, Ralph tells his life story "from a child in turmoil to a man at peace." In the book, Ralph talks about the significance of St. Catherine's in his life. He says that the values of honor, integrity, and self-discipline remained with him and guided him throughout his life.

Ralph has provided a signed copy of the book to St. Catherine's to be kept on our alumni bookshelf. *Life on a Roller Coaster* is the third book in this special section of books written by former SCMA students.

Ralph, who now resides in Nevada, visited St. Catherine's while he was in Los Angeles doing research for his second book. He toured the school, met current students, and even reconnected with his fourth grade teacher- Sister Mary Albert.



Ralph shows Sister Johnellen the cover of his book, *Life on a Roller Coaster*, which will be published this month.

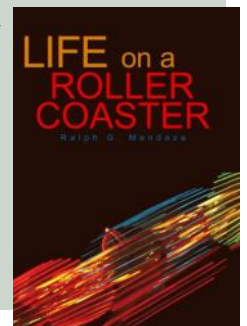
Check out the description on the back of *Life on a Roller Coaster*:

By Ralph Mendoza

"Some readers may be wondering how I managed to avoid some of the pitfalls that led two of my brothers to lead such difficult lives then die much too early. I've often wondered the same thing and I'm certain the answer is that I was exposed to some very good things along with all the ugliness I witnessed during my journey.

"St. Catherine's Military Academy was a fabulous start. We were required to shower each night and brush our teeth; we actually slept in pajamas, between two clean sheets and even ate three meals each day. We swam in our indoor swimming pool; played football, basketball and baseball; always supervised, and always by the rules. Each week-night, we all drifted into the rec room where we could read, watch TV, or play checkers or several other games; and before returning to our dorm, we always had a treat such as cookies or brownies, and always with a glass of milk or chocolate.

"I never knew children could live such a wonderful life...I could sleep in my dorm and not worry about what might happen to me that night."



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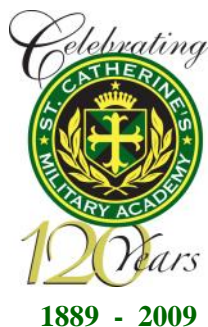
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*Honor, Leadership, and Success
since 1889*

Annual Campaign

Give from your heart

Thanks to everyone who has already made a contribution! Your support has truly made an impact on the lives of our young men.

We have currently received \$42,575 in gifts and pledges to the Annual Campaign. We need your support to reach our goal of \$100,000.

If we all give what we can, we can reach our goal!

Please remember, many students are in need of tuition assistance this year. *Your gift* will make it possible for a young man to be a part of St. Catherine's.

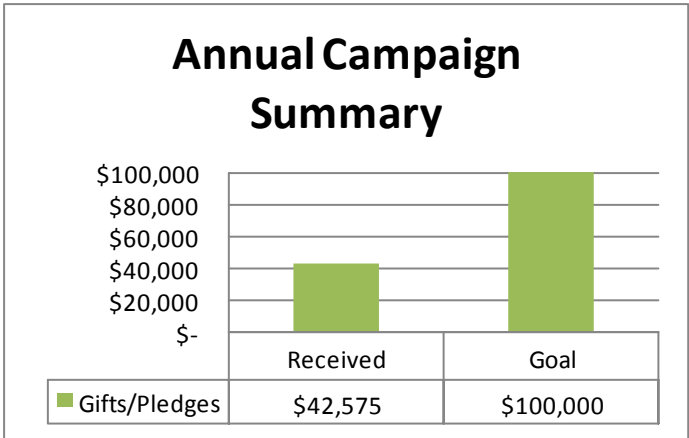
We're looking forward to receiving your gift and praying for you in the meantime!

With a loving and grateful heart-
Sister Johnellen, OP

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Send you gift in the enclosed envelope.



Catch the Spirit!

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