

SS. SIMON & JUDE



CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

ALIVE WITH THE SPIRIT

NEWS FOR ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

www.simonjudeschool.org

SUMMER 2022

STATE OF THE SCHOOL 2021-2022

Celebrating Sr. Raphael's Half Century of Leadership and Compassion

The 2021-2022 school year brought an extraordinary milestone for our esteemed Principal, Sr. Raphael Quinn. The celebration of 50 years as the Principal of SS. Simon & Jude School! A milestone as significant as this was cause for celebration. Though a bit problematic with Covid as part of our daily lives, we managed to enjoy the school year to its fullest.

We began the year with Sister Raphael's favorite people – her students (all wearing their special “50 Years with Sr. Raphael” tees) – and a Mass of the Holy Spirit with Bishop Olmsted on August 25 in our school gymnasium. It was a socially-distanced, livestreamed Mass with all of us wearing masks, but nonetheless we were pleased to be together to celebrate the impressive leadership of Sr. Raphael. It was a very celebratory day with treats for all the students, plus a gift for each student delivered personally by Sr. Raphael to the classrooms. The Catholic Sun wrote a lovely article about Sister Raphael, and the year was off to a beautiful start.

September 29 was Sr. Raphael's Feast Day, and we had our Annual Giving Day on her feast day this year. Alumni parents, Chris and Susan Snodgrass, graciously provided \$50,000 in the way of a match for this special Giving Day, and what a day it was for our community. Our alums and their parents along with our school families stepped up to make sure we were able to double our goal and WE DID IT! It was a miraculous day for us, and we were overwhelmed by the success of the day. The entire \$100,000 was used to make a principal reduction on our loan for the Mary Ward Center. We are now at 70% repayment of the loan with just \$700,000 remaining until we are debt-free. It is Sr. Raphael's hope to have the loan repaid within the next 5 years, so she is extremely thankful to the hundreds of families who have helped us throughout this very long journey to make our school campus one of the most beautiful in the Diocese. Our 68-year-old school is now well positioned to reach the century mark thanks to the generosity of so many of you.

In October, after a two-year absence, our Fall Festival, under the leadership of school parents Mark and Lori Gonzales, returned with great energy as well as great attendance. The spirit on that day was one of warmth and hospitality and the welcoming feeling was felt throughout our campus. Also, after a very long absence, our Alumni Mass returned which was extremely special. We're already looking forward to next year!

Advent is a beautiful time here at the school with our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our 8th graders along with many other class programs and celebrations, as well as our annual St. Nick's Workshop. Though still plagued with the restrictions that come with Covid, we did our best to make the season special for our students.

Another colorful Jog-a-Thon was held on November 12 and we had beautiful weather and a fantastic time helping to raise money for the school. Tuition alone does not cover the cost to educate each student, so we supplement with various fundraisers throughout the year. Kinder through 8th grade students all ran on our baseball fields while listening to their favorite songs, courtesy of boys PE teacher Adam Kennedy (a/k/a “DJ AK”). It was a fun event for all, and we were pleased to have successfully met our fundraising goal!

On February 4th our students attended a special Mass with Fr. John Nahrgang where they each received a miraculous medal at the end of Mass from their teacher with the special blessing “I entrust you to Jesus through the loving hands of Mary.” Our students understand how Mary is ready to pray for us, assist us and protect us, and they proudly wore their miraculous medals throughout the remainder of the school year.

We made the decision to move our auction out one month from Feb. 26th to March 26th which was a wise decision, especially since it was Sr. Raphael's birthday. With 300 in attendance we raised over \$110,000 in trying times – an incredible feat that would not have been possible without our “Pink Ladies” - Nikki Calhoun, Jeni Garcia and Alisa

(Continued on page 4)




A Message from the Office of Advancement

Greetings from SSJ! Hopefully this finds all of you enjoying the more relaxed pace of summer and that you've had a bit of rest and relaxation. As I write this message I'm happy to report that Sr. Raphael is enjoying some much needed time off in the Emerald Isle.

The past school year was a wonderful celebration of Sr. Raphael's 50th year as Principal. It is amazing that she has devoted her ENTIRE adult life to our school! What a tremendous blessing for all of us who know and love her. If you missed her big celebration in April, but want to support her 50th anniversary as Principal there is still time and we would welcome your support.

When we started having conversations about Sister Raphael's 50th anniversary as Principal and what an extraordinary milestone this was, writing a book about her 50 year journey popped into my mind. I thought that a book might be a nice way for people whose lives she has touched to have a keepsake documenting her journey here at SSJ. Having this book illustrated by Benny Aguilar from the Class of 2017 was absolutely "the frosting on the cake" and his illustrations truly bring this children's book to life! If you would like to purchase a copy of "A Girl Named Eilish" please stop by the school or call us at 602-242-1299.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be directed to the NEW Sister Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship. This was established by the Pidgeon and Collins families on April 9th and our goal is for it to become a fully endowed scholarship. Endowed scholarships last forever and we would like Sister's scholarship to last forever! We are trying to raise an additional \$50,000 over the next year for this to be fully funded.

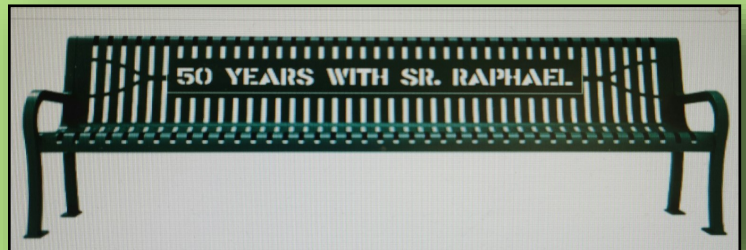
Thank you to all of you who have made this last year so special for Sister Raphael. She has remarked often on how many of you have reached out with congratulatory wishes. She certainly deserves every bit of the love she has received. May God continue to bless her ... and all our Loreto Sisters. Cheers to 50 years! 

Mary Jo Wahlers

3 ways You can help Celebrate Sr. Raphael's 50th Anniversary as Principal

1. Donate to the Sister Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship! This scholarship was established by the Pidgeon and Collins families on April 9, 2022. The goal is to make this an endowed scholarship. What does that mean? It means that not just for a few years, but EACH and EVERY year there will be a Sister Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship. Very fitting for this woman who has devoted her entire life to our school. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 over the next year – if we reach our goal, this will become a fully funded endowed scholarship.

2. Join others who have donated to an 8 ft. "Central Park" style hunter green bench personally engraved for Sister's 50th Anniversary. The bench will be delivered this summer and your family's name can be added to this bench! Join the growing number of families who have contributed to this keepsake bench which will sit proudly outside Sr. Raphael's office for years to come.



3. Purchase the just written children's book about Sr. Raphael's life entitled "A Girl Named Eilish" – this children's book details Sister's life and supports the recently established scholarship in Sister's name – the Sister Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship. This is a great keepsake for any alum, parent, or friend of SS. Simon & Jude. This book can be purchased through SSJ or online at www.simonjudeschool.org.



For donations/purchases for any of these 3 items, just visit our school website at www.simonjudeschool.org and then click online giving.

Sister Raphael's Celebration Luncheon - April 9, 2022



Sister Raphael pictured with alumni parent Kathy Pidgeon. Kathy announced the establishment of the NEW Sr. Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship.



A few of our junior high students singing a special song for Sister's celebration (top photo) and our teachers and staff taking their turn with a fun song and dance routine.



Sister Raphael pictured with Benny Aguilar '17. Benny is the illustrator of the recently written book *A Girl Named Elish*.



Forever in our Hearts Sr. Augustine Dempsey, I.B.V.M.

Sister Augustine Dempsey IBVM (Mary Patricia) died peacefully on Saturday, April 30, 2022 surrounded by her Loreto Sisters at Ss. Simon and Jude Convent.

In Ireland, after her Religious Profession, Sister Augustine taught in Loreto High Schools in County Cork for 37 years. When she first came to the U.S. she was missioned in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was one of the founding members of St. Benilde School in New Orleans, serving as a teacher, and thereafter as principal, before coming to Flagstaff, Arizona, where she gave service in varied ministries, including: hospital chaplaincy, Holy Communion to residents at care facilities and to the homebound, ministry of prayer at funerals and graveside services, spiritual mentoring and service with prayer groups and with The Guadalupanas, service with St. Vincent de Paul Society, and assistance at the Family Food Center.

Upon retiring from all her apostolates in Flagstaff, Sister Augustine came to live with her Loreto Sisters at our convent here at SS. Simon & Jude but she did continue to give service by tutoring individual students from our school, and, for a time, serving as Spiritual Advisor with the parish-based St. Vincent de Paul group. She was also involved with the Potter's Field Ministry – the burial of the indigent poor with dignity and prayer.

Sister Augustine held an M.A. degree in Education, as well as a Guidance Counselor Certificate. She taught, guided, and mentored students, not just in their formative years, but in the advancing stages of their lives when they sought her advice and counseling. As one former student put it: "She has been my guardian angel, my teacher, my advisor, and my dear friend."

Donations in Sr. Augustine's memory may be made to the **Loreto Sisters Retirement Fund**
c/o SS. Simon & Jude School, 6351 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017

STATE OF THE SCHOOL *(continued)*

Randall – leading the way. A 50's themed event was an enormous success and helped us not only reach but exceed our fundraising goal for the year.

Just three weeks later we continued our 50th anniversary celebration of Sr. Raphael with a weekend of festivities. On Friday we held our 2nd annual Shamrock Scramble at GCU Golf Course. Nearly 100 golfers enjoyed an afternoon of fresh air, sunshine, and some great golf! The following afternoon we had a packed house for a delicious luncheon and program for a grand celebration for our beloved Principal. Fr. Camou was our emcee for the afternoon and treated us to a fun Irish sing-along song. We also had a performance from our junior high students, a teacher/staff dance routine, and a beautiful video that was prepared by alum Wayne Dickmann featuring Sister's reflections on the past 50 years. At the luncheon, alumni parent Kathy Pidgeon announced the establishment of the Sister Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship. The Pidgeon and Collins families, two longtime SSJ families, are providing the initial deposits for this scholarship which we hope will be matched over the next year. The goal is to raise an additional \$50,000 so that the scholarship will become endowed. Endowed scholarships continue in perpetuity, meaning that this scholarship will be in existence FOREVER.



The end of the year is always bittersweet as we say farewell to our 8th graders. Our 49 graduates are off to local area high schools after an unusual couple of years. They will be missed, but never forgotten, and we hope they will continue to stay in touch with us in the years ahead. (see article on the accomplishments of this year's graduates on page 5.)

We hope your summer has been pleasant and that you are enjoying time with your families. We are working on getting ready for our new school year which begins on August 10th! We will see you then! 🍀

ALUMS! Stop by the Alumni booth for your ribbon!

Save the Date

OCT
23
2022

11 AM - Alumni Mass
in the Cathedral.

Fall Festival is from
Noon until 6 PM



Farewells

It's not easy to say good-bye to our friends, but we wish all of these wonderful people the best in the days ahead. They all are shining examples of why our school is such a special place, and we will remember them fondly.



Mrs. Bailey



Mrs. McCarthy



Mrs. Woods



Mrs. Cookman



Mr. Webb



Mrs. Tanner



2021-22 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SSJ GRADS



Sr. Raphael Quinn Principal's Scholarship:

Tiana Escobar

Knights of Columbus Scholarship:

Gabriella Flores

Estfan Family Memorial Scholarship:

Tiana Escobar

Monica Heaney Nackard Memorial Scholarship:

Isabelle Miranda

Reese Siordian

Xavier Catholic Merit Scholarship:

Adriana Lauterborn

Kennedy Williamson

St. Mary's Merit Scholarship:

James Weisse

Henry Hacker

Xavier Catholic Scholar Scholarship:

Kylie Weisheit

Natalia Ramos

Isabella Ady

Nicole Ojeda

Cooper Hidalgo

Brianna Acevedo

Loreto Sisters Mary Ward Scholarship:

Kennedy Williamson

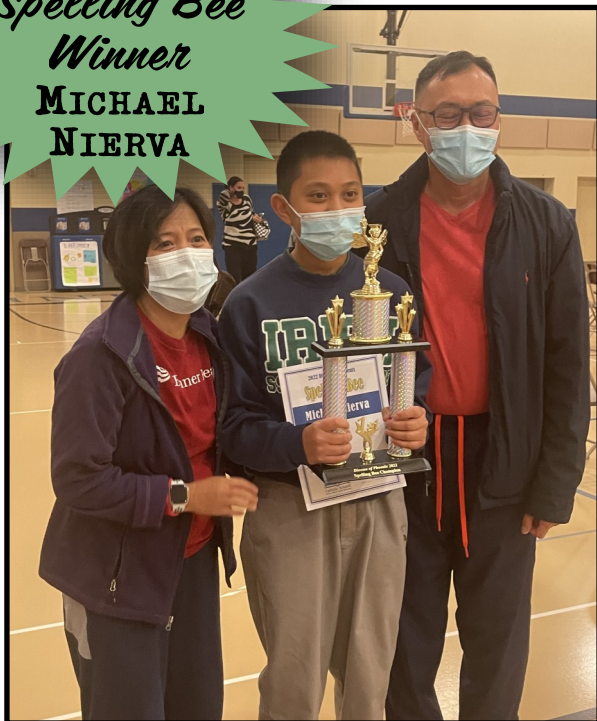
Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship:

Cooper Hidalgo

Sebastian Juarez Hurtado

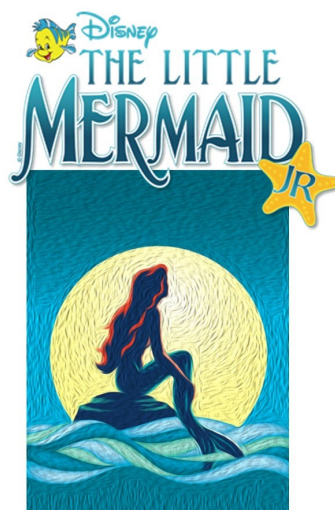


Regional Spelling Bee Winner MICHAEL NIERVA



Michael is pictured here with his Mom & Dad, Raymond & Cheryl.

After 7th Grader Michael Nierva won our school spelling bee, he went on to compete (and WIN!) the Diocesan Spelling Bee. As if that wasn't enough of an accomplishment, he then competed at the **Regional Spelling Bee** and won again! We are so proud of you Michael.



Sister Raphael pictured with the winners! Kevin, Casey and George Markham





AUCTION 2022
A BIG SUCCESS!



SS. Simon & Jude 2022-2023 Calendar: Important Dates

August 2, 2022	Back to School Uniform Sale	8:00 -10:00 a.m. & 5:00 - 7:00 pm
August 7, 2022	Meet the Teacher	10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
August 10, 2022	First Day of School	7:45 to noon
September 5, 2022	Labor Day Holiday	No School
October 7, 2022	Diocesan Teacher In-Service	No School
October 10, 2022	School Holiday	No School
November 23 - 25, 2022	Thanksgiving Holiday	No School
December 19 - January 2	Christmas Holiday	No School
January 3, 2023	School Resumes	7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
January 16, 2023	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	No School
February 20, 2023	President's Day Holiday	No School
March 11, 2023	Diocesan Teacher In-Service	No School

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2331
PHOENIX, AZ

ALIVE WITH THE SPIRIT

Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral School
6351 North 27th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Parents of Alumni: If this publication is addressed to your daughter or son who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Advancement Office at alumni@simonjude.org so we can update our records with new contact information.



GIVING DAY 9.29.2022

SEPTEMBER 29TH IS SR. RAPHAEL'S FEAST DAY AND OUR 6TH ANNUAL SSJ GIVING DAY!

THIS WILL BE THE DAY FOR EVERY ALUMNI, PARENT (PAST AND PRESENT), FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIEND OF SSJ TO COME TOGETHER IN THE "SPIRIT OF THE IRISH" TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SCHOOL IN ONE 24-HOUR PERIOD.

CONSIDER A GIFT OF **\$50** TO CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION OF SR. RAPHAEL'S 50TH YEAR AS PRINCIPAL OF SS. SIMON & JUDE, **\$68** TO CELEBRATE OUR SCHOOL'S ANNIVERSARY, **OR** GIVE A GIFT OF YOUR CHOOSING.

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN HELP US AND THEN LOG ONTO WWW.SIMONJUDESCHOOL.ORG & CLICK **ONLINE GIVING** TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION. IF YOU PREFER, YOU CAN ALSO USE **TEXT-TO-GIVE** - JUST TEXT **833-580-1470** WITH THE AMOUNT YOU WANT TO GIVE AND PRESS SEND.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM OUR SSJ GIVING DAY WILL BE DIRECTED TO OUR MARY WARD CENTER SCHOOL BUILDING LOAN AND WILL BE **MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR** UP TO THE FIRST \$30,000.00. YOUR GIFT WILL HAVE DOUBLE THE IMPACT FOR OUR SCHOOL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONOR.



Follow us on Facebook at [Saints Simon and Jude School](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsSimonandJudeSchool) or Instagram [@ssjirish](https://www.instagram.com/ssjirish) throughout the day for updates!