

# The Perpetual Light

Presented to graduates, friends and supporters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



## *Principal's Perspective* By Katie Franco

Every year, as principal, I chose a theme for the school year that we can carry through our work, day in and day out. This year our theme is “Do small things with great love”. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School has very quickly become my second home, and this community a second family. Just like in a home or a family, it’s the small things that make the big things great. As a Catholic school, the witness that we exhibit is very important to our parents and students, and extends to all of you, our beloved alumni community. In the inner workings of the day, we might miss the “small things” that make a significant impact, but when I have the chance to step back and reflect, I find that is in the “small things” that we find make the biggest differences. One example of “small things done with great love,” came before the school year even started. I asked the parent community to come back, mid-August, to help put Alumni Hall back into working order, after our flooring project. I was moved when I had parents, teachers, and students show up to work. And, although they individually worked on small tasks, the end product turned out beautifully. (See article inside for hall project information)

In 2019, I am dedicating myself to “small acts” and will work to do all that I can to make a difference for one person- a student, a parent, a staff member, an alum, or a stranger, every day. I challenge you to do the same. Take the burden off the big things, and enjoy the small things. We thank all of you for what you have done to chip in to make our work great. Our school, and its extending community would not be possible without the “great love” of each and every one of you.

I hope to see all of you on March 9, 2019 for our “Hit the Jackpot” Alumni Auction! May God bless all of you in all that you bring to our world everyday!

## ALUMNI FUNDRAISER ~ SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019 “HIT THE JACKPOT”



## *IN MEMORY OF SISTER PHILOMENE GOLONKA, RSM*

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Sr. Philomene Golonka. Sister Philomene (aka Sr. Phil) began teaching 3rd grade at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, in 1981. Her classroom was her second home and her students her family. She was loved by parents, students, fellow staff members, and parishoners. Her devotion to the school earned her the James Costello Service to Student Award in 2005, and the Father Petilla Community Service Award in 2015. During her time at OLPH, she served under the leadership of Sr. Madaleva Williams, Sr. Mary Patricia Clancy, Mr. James Costello, Mr. William Kovacich and Mrs. Corrine Muscat. Upon her retirement, the Sisters of Mercy, in Auburn, cared for her with much love. We thank them for their devotion to her care. Her Memorial Mass will be held February 9, 2019 at 11:00am, OLPH Church.



# ALUMNI HALL GETS A MAKEOVER

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School's "cafeteria" serves the community in a variety of ways. It serves as a lunchroom, a meeting hall, a classroom, and a central place where students, family members and parishioners gather. Under the guidance of Mr. William Kovacich and Mr. Edward Mahoney ('61), graduation class composite photos were framed and hung along the walls. The cafeteria was officially named "Alumni Hall". To date, 83 class composites hang in Alumni Hall. However, due to recent problems with the lower level flooring, especially in the hall, replacing the floor became a priority for Ms. Franco and Father Villote. Funds for this project were generated from parents, alumni, previous auction events, grants and parishioners. The makeover included replacing and retiling the floor, repainting the walls, refinishing the stage, and mounting a new OLPH welcome sign. The project, which took the entire summer, cost \$89,000. We believe this large investment, to such a central and important space, not only displays our past in a special way, but also, allows us a promise for a successful and beautiful future. We look forward to showing it off to you at the Alumni Auction.



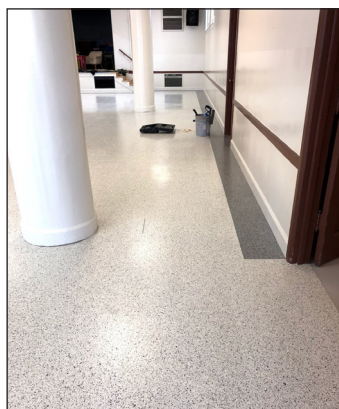
Inspired by this year's school theme, the 8th grade parents, alongside their teacher, Mr. Marquez, contributed their time, talent and treasure to update our current Extended Care room. Working together they were able to complete the project in a short time span. The room will be number 2019, in remembrance of their gift.



*Alumni Hall*



*Extended Care Room  
Updated by  
the Class of 2019*



*New flooring*





# “HIT THE JACKPOT!”

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help School cordially invites you to join us for an evening of dining, socializing, auction, and fun! This year following dinner, we will be honoring the OLPH Classes of ‘49, ‘59, ‘69, ‘79, ‘89!*

## 2019 OLPH Dinner/Auction

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

*\$65 per person ~ Tables of 10 and 6 may be reserved.*

**6:30 - Silent Auction with finger food and no-host bar**

**7:30 - Dinner by Esposto’s catering: Spinach and Strawberry Salad, Chef Carved Roast Beef, Herb Roasted Chicken, Vegetable Lasagna, Sauteed Vegetables and Dessert**

**8:00 - Anniversary Diplomas awarded**

**8:15 - Fundraiser, Trivia Fun and Jackpot Raffle**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

FOR ALUMNI ONLY Please indicate Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65 = Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I/We are unable to attend. Please accept a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will be donating \_\_\_\_\_ for the auction

*(Donations for auction items greatly appreciated - gift cards, certificates wine/spirits, sports memorabilia, housewares, jewelry)*

Make check payable to: “OLPH Development”

Checks must be received no later than March 1, 2019.

Tickets will be reserved under your name at the door.

Please complete this form and mail to:

OLPH Dinner  
80 Wellington Avenue  
Daly City, CA 94014

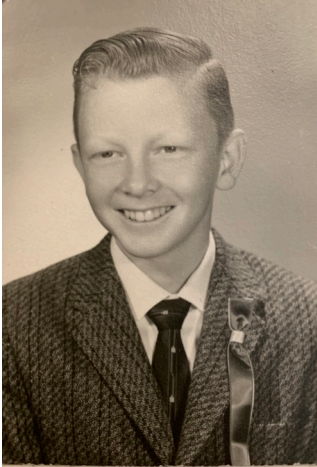
For questions or information contact:

Sheila Ortega (mrs.ortega@olphdc.org) or call OLPH School at 650/755-4438

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# THE 9ER'S



JOSEPH GORDON

This year, at our Alumni Auction event, we will be celebrating milestones for graduates from the classes that end with the number 9-1949, 1959, 1969, and 1979.

Ten years ago, the class of 1959, gathered together to celebrate their 50th graduation anniversary and received their “golden” diploma to commemorate the milestone. This year, they will join us again, to receive their 60th anniversary certificate.

The class of 1959, or as they call themselves, the 59ers, have remained in contact with each other, and gather at least twice a year to celebrate their friendship. One 59er, in particular, Father Joseph Gordon, has been instrumental in seeking out current addresses of his former classmates. Spending time combing through old OLPH attendance registers and using pure detective work, Father Joe has been able to assemble a wealth of information.

But Father Joe’s work does not stop there. Writing historical articles relating to Daly City, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in particular, has allowed us to share OLPH’s history in past editions of the Perpetual Light.

Listening to his stories about the “old school days”, brings a great joy to all who listen. Living on Niantic Street, he recalls riding his bicycle to school with his classmate, John Day. Walking across the yard, telling me about the line that went down the middle, separating the boys and girls for recess time, brings a smile to his face. He remembers hearing the bell rung, from the extended hand of a Sister, outside the lower floor-landing window, signaling play time was over. Inside the building, he remembers the trash chutes, the actual black chalkboards, the beautiful wood floors and railings, and the secret doors that Sisters walked through, but as a student didn’t know was behind. But, as he tells me, it was his teachers and his classmates that he remembers and treasures the most.

We thank Father Joe, for all that he has done for the OLPH Development Department, over the years. We wish him, and all the 9er graduates, many blessings in the years to come.

59ers who have passed, but not forgotten by their classmates, include: John Day, Josephine Devlin, Kathleen (Carroll) Nibbi, Francine Thiebaut, Evelyn (Coleman) Bjorn, Priscilla Gruenwald, Victor Ernesto Quezada, Valerie Sereni, Paul Bacigalupi, Dennis Kelly and John Holtz

Father Joe is still looking for current information for his fellow classmates:

Dolores Garcia, Anna Silacci, Cheryl Fistolera, Katherine Sallade, Judith Cruz,  
Joe Cava, Gregory Mills, Catherine Maloney, Jim Fair and Don Kasich.

If you know how to reach any of the missing ‘59ers, please share the information with Father Joe Gordon at [revjaag@aol.com](mailto:revjaag@aol.com).

***PLEASE HELP US GET THE WORD OUT  
TO THE CLASSES OF 1949, 1969, 1979,  
that we would love to honor their special milestone at the Alumni Auction event, March 9.***

—Written by Sheila Ortega

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## OLPH JOINS CSJ NETWORK



*Sr. Madaleva Williams*

This school year, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School joined The CSJ Educational Network. “The CSJ Educational Network strives to extend and foster Catholic education ministry in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange by nurturing and supporting relationships that influence Catholic education.” Our principal, Katie Franco, had the pleasure of meeting former principal Sr. Madaleva Williams (1971-1981) during her visit to Orange. Sr. Madaleva shared with Ms. Franco her memories of the time she spent at OLPH. Sr. Madaleva, an artist, has generously donated an autographed copy of her book, Art For The Soul, for our Alumni Auction.

*Photo courtesy of Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



### JOREN MORENO, OLPH CLASS OF 2010

Joren graduated from University of California, Berkeley on December 15, 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Mathematics and Minor in Cal Teach Science and Math Education. Joren hopes to have a career in data science or statistics. While in OLPH, Joren served as Student Council President. He continues to show his passion for leadership by volunteering as a teacher’s aide, at a local high school, guiding students towards a successful education. Good luck Joren!

## THE FATHER PETILLA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Richard Stack, Trustee for the Hugh and Hazel Darling Foundation, was this year’s recipient of the Fr. Petilla Community Service Award. Mr. Stack travelled from Los Angeles to OLPH to receive his award. The Darling Foundation has been fulfilling our grant requests annually, enabling us to update our technology program, repair our facility, and enrich our classrooms. We are blessed to have the support of Mr. Stack.



## The Perpetual Light

Father Augusto Villote  
OLPH Pastor

Katie Franco  
Principal

Sheila Ortega  
Vice Principal



Falcon Associates, Inc.  
Graphics & Design



Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
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80 Wellington Avenue  
Daly City, CA 94014

650-755-4438

*Thank you for supporting this year's  
Jackpot Raffle and Alumni Auction Event.*



*The summer edition of The Perpetual  
Light is online at [www.olphdc.org](http://www.olphdc.org)*

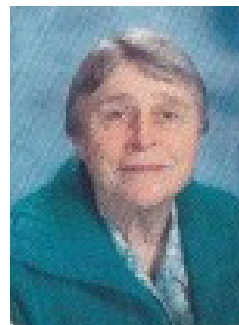
## Our Lady of Perpetual Help School



### IN MEMORIAM



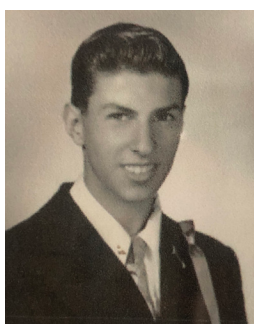
*Msgr. Pernia - Pastor*



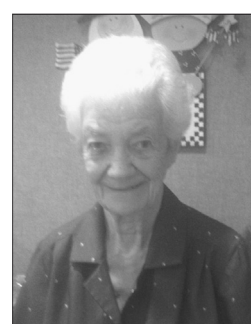
*Sr. Philomene Golonka - Teacher*



*Janet (Schreiber) Cereghino '48*



*Gilbert Fontana '51*



*Sr. Rita Marie Kropp- Principal*