

# The Perpetual Light

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



## *Principal's Perspective* By: Katie Franco

I want to start off by sharing some exciting news. 2023 marks the 90th anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School! What an accomplishment! Since 1933, OLPH School has provided a quality Catholic education to MANY children of Daly City, and we are so pleased to be continuing our legacy today. This year our school theme is "Disciples in Christ". We were inspired by the impact that our school has had on this community and welcome the joy of working together-teachers, parents and students-to recognize the importance of serving as Disciples of Christ through our work and deeds.

This is also an important year for our school as we are in the final preparation stages for our WCEA/WASC Accreditation visit. This visit, which takes place every six years, seeks to validate the good work that the school is doing and then creates a framework for setting goals to take us through the next six years. Our goals are wide-reaching and aim to support our work around faith formation, student programs, teacher professional development, and the creation of a Strategic Plan. We will prioritize the school's needs and then work to plan financially to make sure we can accomplish these goals. As always, we are grateful for the support of our Alumni community to help us as these special projects come up. We also ask for prayers and well wishes for a successful visit this March 1st through the 3rd.

One major project that is in the planning phase is an update of our restrooms on either side of Alumni Hall. Although the bathrooms have been painted and new stalls installed in both bathrooms the tile work, faucet, toilets and plumbing need to be addressed. This is no small project since most of the work remains the same since the building was erected in 1947, but we are confident we can get this done with your help. Please consider attending our Alumni Event, participating in the raffle or donating to this major project to support our school as we update these facilities for our current students. We are aiming to complete this project over the summer.

I hope that you can join us on March 25th, for our special 90th Anniversary Alumni event. We are excited to hold the event again in person! You will notice that we will be moving the event from a dinner to a luncheon. At the event, we will be honoring the classes of '43, '53, '63, '73, '83, '93, '03, '13 AND any alumni who may have missed their graduation anniversary since we were not able to celebrate in person 2021-2022. I truly hope to see you all in person once again.

As you read through this edition of The Perpetual Light, I hope that you glean from it that OLPH is proud of our rich history, the importance of the role the dedicated principals have had on its success, the staff and community members who continue to help us on our mission, the Alumni who hold us in their hearts and support our projects, the positive reputation we retain, and the humbleness to know that OLPH School has been blessed because of all those who have come through her halls. It is not just a majestic building sitting on top of a hill, but instead a school, still thriving today, because of each and every one of you.

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## ***ALUMNI AUCTION EVENT RETURNS***

March 7, 2020 was the last time we were able to hold our Alumni Auction Event. Days after the event, the country went into lockdown, due to the pandemic. In lieu of the "in person" event, we held our annual raffle. OLPH alumni played a major role in its success. Despite the difficult challenges that we faced, together we persevered.

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our Alumni Auction in person again. We invite you to attend the event, Saturday, March 25, 2023, 12:00-3:00, for a catered luncheon, and silent auction. At the luncheon we will honor Alumni who are celebrating their milestone years since graduation. Proceeds from this special "fundraiser" will go towards meeting our renovation goal. A flyer with the details and RSVP card is enclosed in this newsletter.

We hope you will come and celebrate our 90th Anniversary!

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## Our Lady of Perpetual Help School — *A brief 90 year history*

In 1933, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (OLPH), located in Daly City, opened as a four-classroom building with two grades in each room serving students in 1st-6th Grades. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange served as administrators, teachers, and staff when the school opened. The present school building was built in 1947 under the direction of Pastor James Bergin, with each grade having its own classroom. In 1972, the school adopted the British Open Plan. In 1981, OLPH returned to self-contained, age-leveled classrooms. A full-time kindergarten was added in 1983. In 1984 a lay administrator was hired. In June 1987, the Sisters of Saint Joseph returned to Orange, California, leaving OLPH.

A Sister of Mercy, Sr. Philomene Golonka, who was hired as a teacher in 1987, remained on staff until her retirement in 2015. The school continues to follow the mission of both the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange: establishing school unity and spirit, acceptance of self and others, and social justice and reconciliation. A relationship with the Sisters of Mercy continues today. In 2018, OLPH joined the CSJ Educational Network (a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange) to build upon the mission of our founding Sisters.

An extended care program, before and after school, was added in 1997. The junior high classes (6th-8th Grades) began using a departmentalized program in September 2000 and Transitional Kindergarten was added in 2014. The technology program, which began with Macintosh computers, funded in large part by the Gellert Foundation, continues to improve each year and the 'library' has been converted into a media center. With a huge effort by Development Director, Edward Mahoney ('61) The school cafeteria was named Alumni Hall and now displays each graduating class. The Ferrari Family, in memory of Mary Louise Ferrari, donated beautiful display cases where trophies and awards are available for viewing.

The present staff is composed of ten classroom teachers, two of whom also serve as vice principals. Our staff is diverse, and the languages spoken include Spanish, English, and Tagalog. The school has the services of two instructional aides, a full-time computer teacher, a music teacher, a physical education teacher, and a Spanish teacher. Support staff includes an administrative assistant and extended care director, and bookkeeper. Five staff members have served OLPH for over 15 years.

Over 2,700 students have graduated from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. The school remains dedicated to its mission: "At Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, we aspire to educate the whole child spiritually, intellectually, socially, psychologically, and physically, in light of Catholic/Christian principles and service. We are committed to providing our students with a quality education, which will prepare them for their roles in society".

For over 90 years the school continues to thrive, in large part, due to the dedicated principals who served the OLPH community and were responsible for the efforts listed above and so much more.

### PRINCIPALS OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL

1933-1934 Sr. Thomas Hallicy  
1934-1936 Sr. Mary Agnes Fredette  
1936-1939 Sr. Thomas Aquinas  
1939-1945 Sr. M. Leo Banks  
1945-1951 Sr. M. Clarice Doyle  
1951-1957 Sr. M. Regina Beauregard  
1957-1960 Sr. Anne Bugenig  
1960-1966 Sr. Rita Marie Kropp  
1966-1971 Sr. Adrienne Marie Pinard  
1971-1981 Sr. M. Madeleva Williams  
1981-1984 Sr. Mary Patricia Clancy  
1984-2003 Mr. James Costello  
2003-2014 Mr. William Kovacich  
2014-2017 Mrs. Corrine Muscat  
2017-Present Ms. Katie Franco



*A special thank you to those who share their memories and history of OLPH, especially Father Joseph Gordon ('59), who continually contributes to the Perpetual Light.*

# THE COMEBACK CLASS OF 2022!

The graduating class of 2022 gave themselves an apt name- “The Comeback Class”. Spending their 6th and 7th grade year in distance learning, the graduates were able to reunite, in person, and complete their 8th-grade year, back in the building, amongst their fellow classmates and families. We congratulate the class for their endurance and tenacity.



*Rose Baik, James Barrion, Nathan Barrion, John Rhenz Cabrera, Jude Cada, Justine David, Aljon Garcia, Zorion Garcia, Emmanuel Gepigon, Brenda Gonzalez, Chanel Green, Aldrin Guzman, Calvin Guzman, Julian Jose, Elijah Lacap-Yambao, Azaiah Navarro, Nichol Orais, Matt Pabalate, Gabriel Pacis, Casey Redosendo, Isaiah Sanchez, Giana Tocchini*

## Recipients of Special Awards:

- **S.A.I.N.T AWARD** — Nathan Barrion
- **THE BUD DUGGAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR KINDNESS AWARD** — Azaiah Navarro
- **EFFORT AND DEPORTMENT AWARD**— Elijah Lacap Yambao
- **CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP** — Rick Emmanuel Gepigon
- **SPIRIT AWARD** — Nichol Orais



*Dan Duggan presented the Duggan’s Scholarship award*

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## OLPH SCHOOL RECOGNIZES THE DEDICATION OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTED IN 2022

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*Chrissy Leggero*

**The Father Petilla Community Service award**, named after a former pastor, is given every year to honor individuals who contribute to the success of the overall Our Lady of Perpetual Help School community. Mrs. Chrissy Leggero was the recipient of this award in June of 2022. Her willingness to serve and can-do spirit proved invaluable to the community over the years. She worked tirelessly as the kindergarten aide, snack and hot lunch program coordinator, yard duty supervisor, and substitute teacher when needed. Determined to raise funds to financially help support the families who were sending their children to Outdoor Education, she volunteered to host a Pasta Bingo night. She worked tirelessly before and during this event to make it a success. This fundraiser continues today, in her spirit. She was a favorite amongst the staff because of her kindness, generosity, and volunteerism. She not only asked if she could help but, more importantly, saw a need and took it upon herself to fix it. The OLPH

community has been enriched by her dedication and efforts.

**The James Costello Service to Students award** is presented to individuals who commit themselves to the students' success at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. This year's recipient, Jean Sanchez, has served in a variety of capacities to make OLPH School the best it can be. She has been involved in helping the school since the day she decided to send her children to OLPH. She stated that she chose to send her children to OLPH because "OLPH School feels like a family. We have felt welcomed ever since we first came to visit." Jean has made it her personal mission to continue to make every current and potential family and student of OLPH School feel like they are welcome and part of the family. Her role in the OLPH Parent Club is a huge part of OLPH's success with fundraising. Additionally, she is often found "leading the charge" to help with activities in the school. She donates much of her own time and financial resources to make whatever she is doing that much better. For many years, she served as a coach for both our volleyball and basketball programs. Jean has championed OLPH School at every opportunity presented to her. She is personally responsible for recruiting many of our current OLPH families from her own network. She also works to get the community involved in the service of our students. She has recruited local businesses to spread the word about OLPH and solicited companies for donations. In May 2020, our recipient suffered a medical emergency that scared us all. Her resilience and strength to overcome so much is something that all of us can bear witness to. I know she relies heavily on her faith, to help her get through the hard times. She is an example for us all at OLPH showing us what the power of faith, determination, and strength looks like.



*Jean Sanchez*

### OLPH STUDENTS SERVE OTHERS



An important part of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School mission is to teach our students to serve others. Every year, each class chooses an organization to help. Examples include, writing letters to seniors, entertaining residents at the Pomeroy Center, serving at the SF Food Bank, participating in a beach clean-up, or donating items to the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. Having recently gone through severe weather storms and flooding in the Bay Area, the Student Council leaders organized a clothing donation drive. The entire school came together and donated clothing to give to children and teens in shelters. The clothing was given to the Samaritan House in San Mateo. The volunteers were grateful for our help explaining that teens in shelters are often forgotten.

*The graduating class of 2017 donated an awning that hung above the doors out to the yard. This awning prevented rain and wind from coming into the building. Unfortunately, it did not survive the recent storms. We are hoping to raise funds for its replacement.*

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## ***WE ARE BLESSED***

In order to continue to meet the financial needs of a school it is essential that Administrators look beyond their current parent families, who are, in many cases, already struggling to pay tuition, to generate funds for the students for a safe building facility, the latest in technology and curriculum, as well as financial assistance, thus creating stability for the future.

One avenue that OLPH has pursued is the application to foundations that provide grants for those who qualify. The earliest and longest foundation that has been helping us meet our needs is the Carl and Celia Gellert Foundation. For over 35 years, we have maintained a close partnership with the Gellert Foundation, and they have provided us, each year, with assistance to upgrade our technology program and our tuition program, and to the upgrading of our curricular projects. In April 2022, we received notification that the Gellert Foundation would be discontinuing its distribution of funds to schools. However, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School had been selected to become the recipient of one of their final Sunset Grants. We were informed that the Trustees would arrive, in person, to hand us the grant check. Sharing this great news with staff members and students, we prepared a special thank you presentation for their arrival. On the day they arrived, they announced that not only would be receiving the amount they had told us, but an additional \$50,000 because they believed, “that OLPH is the exact school that Carl and Celia Gellert had in mind to help when they began their foundation.” Imagine the joy and tears of the school community, when they made this announcement. The Trustees were so impressed by the heartfelt gratitude of students and staff they later gifted us additional money. We have been blessed by the Carl and Celia Foundation and will continue on in the spirit of their mission.

Other foundations that have helped us over the years include The O’Dell Fund, The Hugh and Hazel Darling Foundation, The Raskob Foundation, The Olympic Club Foundation, and The Wilsey Foundation.

Not only are we blessed by foundations who help us achieve our goals, we are also blessed by our alum and friends who help us achieve stability for our future.

- John Madden (‘50) before his passing, established the John Madden Scholarship program to help financially struggling families with tuition and previously provided us with auction items. This year the Madden Family donated to the Alumni Auction, in his memory.
- The Mahoney Family Scholarship foundation begun by Edward Mahoney (‘61), former OLPH Development Director and John Mahoney (‘56) which is still supported today by John, other family members, and alum.
- Those who choose OLPH School to be recipient of their corporate donation matching program, including the Lipana Family (ATT), John Castillo (‘02) (Intuit), Parinas Family (PG&E) and Mary Franco (Google). For those who are interested in helping in this way, our EIN is 94-1225385
- The alum who write letters letting us know how grateful they are to have passed through the OLPH halls. Al Stanley class of 1963 wrote to let us know that he and his brothers Michael (‘58), Brian (‘65), and Steven (‘67) all attended OLPH, and his granddaughter is now a teacher. He ended by saying “God Bless Teachers and Long Live OLPH”. Frank Cirimele (‘51) wrote, “OLPH played a major role in my faith journey, and I will always support the school”. George Ambrosio (‘56) wrote a beautiful letter to help us identify the kids in the baseball picture, played the role as Santa Claus for many years, and donated to our current sports program.
- Those that make yearly donations to our Alumni Event, attend the event in person, participate in our raffle, offer us words of encouragement or keep us in their prayers.

- Graduates who enroll their children in our school or who come back to visit, sharing their love of OLPH.
- The OLPH staff, both present and past, who donate their time and/or treasures to the success of OLPH and all its fundraising events.

We who work at OLPH today, are extremely blessed. We sometimes get lost in our day-to-day operations and struggles, and then something miraculous happens to let us know we are not alone on our journey.



*The Gellert Foundation Trustee Presentation*

# RAFFLE WINNERS 2022

\$1000 Christina Castillo ('96)  
\$500 Raymond Wille ('54)  
\$250 Albhy Ilano ( Current Parent)  
\$100 Angelo Marquez (8th Grade Teacher/Vice-Principal)  
\$50 Doris DeAndre ('50)

A special note: A heartfelt letter was sent to OLPH School by Nadine (Mignault) Goyhenetche ('63). She donated her 30 tickets with instructions to place the name of each teacher on them to thank them for all the work they do. Angelo Marquez (8th Grade Teacher and Vice-Principal) was a much-deserved recipient of such a generous gift. Mr. Marquez used his winnings to purchase items for his 8th grade science class.

**MAJOR  
DONORS**

Lucky Chances  
The Duggan's Serra Family Mortuary  
Nadine Mignault Goyhenetche ('63)  
Patricia Ricci Casey ('56)  
Michelle Smethurst ('74)  
Mike Ryan ('53)

Tom Ryan ('51)  
Carol Boers ('52)  
Barabara (Senkir) Hall ('64)  
Bob Gross ('47)  
Lois (Lagomarsino) Erasmy ('56)

Thank you to all for entering the 2022 raffle. Thank you also to those were able to give beyond the ticket amount. Although we were not able to hold it in person, and not all can win, the proceeds from it helped us greatly.

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

### The Perpetual Light

*Father Augusto Villote*  
OLPH Pastor

*Katie Franco*  
Principal

*Angelo Marquez*  
Vice Principal

*Sheila Ortega*  
Vice Principal



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

650-755-4438  
www.olphdc.org



*Congratulations to OLPH alumni on their graduation from high school.  
In this picture graduates from Archbishop Riordan High School 2022,  
Antonio Nunez, Max Lara, Jamm Magaling*

# OLPH 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI EVENT - 2023

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help School cordially invites  
you to join us to celebrate our 90th Anniversary.*

**Saturday, March 25, 2023 ~ 12:00 - 3:00pm**

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

**12:00 - Silent Auction**

**1:00 - Lunch provided by Esposto's Catering:**

*Menu: Green Salad, Chicken Toscano, Italian Braised Beef,  
Polenta Lasagna with Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, Grilled Seasonal Vegetables*

**2:00 - Anniversary diplomas awarded & raffle winners announced**

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*

Make check payable to: "OLPH Development"

Checks must be received no later than March 20, 2023.

Tickets will be reserved under your name at the door.

Please complete this form and mail to:

OLPH  
80 Wellington Avenue  
Daly City, CA 94014

For questions or information contact:  
info@olphdc.org or call OLPH School at (650) 755-4438