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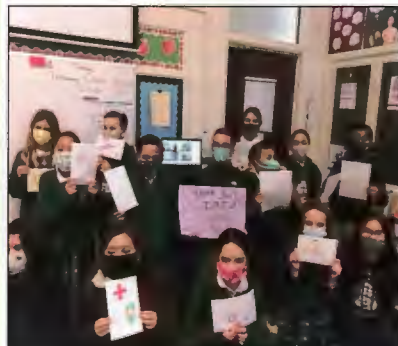
Father John C. Silva Education Foundation

August 2021

**A Publication for Alumni, Alumni Parents, Friends ,and the Current
Parents of St. Stanislaus Catholic School.**

Dear Fr Silva Foundation members and friends,

The 2020-21 school year has brought with it a plethora of challenges and hurdles. It has been an unprecedented year for all of us and there was much to figure out from the start in order to be ready for student learning. It was March 13, 2020 when we sent home students for distance learning. In August of 2020, we filed a waiver with the county and were able to welcome students back to in-person learning in September of 2020 - far earlier than most schools in our area. St. Stanislaus has remained in-person for the entire school year; additionally, we were able to accommodate families who wanted to keep their children learning remotely. Despite what appeared to be insurmountable challenges, there have also been unforeseen blessings for and from the St. Stanislaus community.



With the help of the Fr. Silva Foundation, we were able to retrofit our school with touchless equipment, acquire PPE supplies and add necessary technology upgrades to make in-person and distance learning possible for our students. Initially, we welcomed back over 70% of our students into the classroom and provided a safe environment for students and staff. As the school year progressed, more of our students returned to in-person learning. Additionally, the Foundation's tuition assistance was made available to our families who encountered financial difficulties due to the COVID restrictions and changes.

As we look ahead to 2021-22, we know we are prepared for what may come because we have already accomplished the near impossible. We will continue to follow the guidelines, assess our facility needs and make the necessary adjustments so that we can be ready for the Fall start. We are deeply grateful for the immense financial support of the Father Silva Education Foundation and ask that you continue to offer your support and prayers for a successful 2021-22 school year.

On behalf of the parents, students, faculty, and staff of St. Stanislaus Catholic School, I thank the Fr. Silva Foundation's board members and all the supporters of the Fr. Silva Foundation.

In His service,

Mercedes Hollcraft,
Principal



S.T.E.A.M. Classroom Dedication



One of the highlights of 2020-21 school year was the dedication and opening of our S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) classroom. The classroom was dedicated in January of 2021 in memory of long-time, first grade teacher, Ms. Kathi Azevedo. With the help of many donors, including the Fr. Silva Foundation, we were able to set

up this amazing space of learning for our students; it includes new iPads, MAC desktops, a Promethean interactive panel and a variety of hands-on activities and group activities. Staff and students are excited to begin using this space to problem solve, collaborate and think outside the box in a critical way. This was made possible by your generosity!

In Blessed Remembrance of Bonnie Galas



You do not hear the name Bonnie everyday; much less "Grandma Bonnie", but my sister Suzanne, brothers Dominic and Matthew and I knew that name very well. We lost our beloved Grandma Bonnie on February 2, 2021, exactly one month after losing Grandpa Stan. She radiated beauty inside & out. She was kind, compassionate, generous and ever loving. She had a timeless natural beauty. Beautiful hair, skin and her nails, always manicured. She had an absolute love of family and friends. She opened her home and her heart to all. I'm proud to say I carry on her gene of never meeting a stranger as well as a love for shopping. She was better though at finding the best deal or bargain. I am still working on that part (as she would always remind me), but Matthew actually has it down pretty well! Her laugh was contagious, especially when she laughed so hard, you wouldn't be able to get a word in. Both Grandma and Grandpa supported and cheered on every aspect of our lives, from childhood, high school and college, games and sporting events, weddings and finally, taking on their role of great grandparents to Rosie, Kate and Gracie. Boy would they have loved to meet Jake, (who was born this past March).

As grandchildren, some of our fondest memories were sleepovers at Grandma and Grandpa's. Every morning without fail, she would walk into the room, open the door and quietly sing-"Guess what time it is? It's Howdy Doody time!" Whenever the opportunity presented itself (and before I was allowed to wear makeup), I would

sneak into her bathroom and rifle through and apply to my heart's content her large collection of Mary Kay and Avon products. A quick spritz of the Aqua Net as I left the bathroom was the tell tale sign that "Mary T" had made her mark...that smell traveled for miles. Our favorite dinner hands down was fish sticks, Kraft Mac & cheese, peas, cottage cheese and peaches. A crazy combination it was, but it will forever remain our favorite.

Every so often, we would help Grandma and Grandpa "work" behind the register at the Sundial. Many people remember the Sundial as a Modesto staple, but we remember it as our personal playground, going up and down the stairs, in and out of the kitchen and most importantly to the bar for a "Shirley Temple with lots of extra cherries". Our regular morning orders were cream of wheat with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and cheese omelets. Most Fall weekends, you would find Grandma and Grandpa with one or two of us in tow at a Cal game. (All four Galas kids would have been a bit overwhelming!) It was tradition to have lunch at the University Faculty Club and then head to their usual spots to watch the game. Grandma always made sure to pack plastic baggies of peanuts, yogurt covered pretzels, chocolate raisins and other candies to enjoy. Probably the most memorable trip was our family vacation to Disneyworld in Florida. It was also our first time on a plane! We all traveled together and were outfitted head to toe in Mickey and Minnie each day. It would have been a perfect trip had Suzanne not mistakenly used Grandma's can of mace as hairspray on Grandma. Needless to say, we headed back to the hotel early that day, but Grandma still got a good laugh out of it. After that trip, every room in their house always had some aspect of Disney or Mickey Mouse in it.

Grandma was beautiful, kind, brave and strong until her very last breath. Both she and Grandpa were fighters. They worked so hard in every aspect of life and we are proud to be their grandchildren. Their lives and their legacies will live on. I can hear Grandpa so clearly saying "Come on Mom...let's go home." We miss you so much Grandma. We promise to carry on your legacy and your love on this Earth everyday of our lives.

Love,

Mary Terese, Suzanne, Dominic and Matthew

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR

During the past year life has been changed for everyone. At St. Stanislaus we have experienced an incredible number of changes, ranging from Mass schedules, indoor vs. outdoor Masses, reduced Parish Office hours, personnel changes, and many more. But the spiritual and sacramental life of St. Stanislaus Parish and School has not stopped for a second and, slowly but surely, we continue working on bringing some sense of normalcy into the day-to-day activities of the Church; we are celebrating Sunday Masses at the Church on Maze Blvd. while observing all the guidelines to keep our parishioners and Parish personnel safe. Visit us at ststanscc.org for Mass schedules and more.



The reconstruction project for our Church on Maze Blvd is also in progress. Water service has been restored and the architectural design of the reconstruction is underway. Contract documents are being designed and will be drafted soon so we can start looking for a General Contractor to oversee the project. We are also looking to hire a Project Manager to manage the project and be the liaison between the Parish and the Contractor. Once the General Contractor is hired, we will develop a project timeline and will communicate it to the entire community.

Finally, a challenge was given to our community at the Easter Vigil, to become a missionary community where each parishioner and school parent is a missionary disciple that prays, serves and gives. Are you up to the challenge?

Blessings.

Deacon José

Fr. Silva Foundation Gives Back!

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Father Silva Foundation provided over \$41,000 in financial assistance to St. Stanislaus Catholic School, including the following:

- ◆ Over \$17,000 in pandemic reopening assistance
- ◆ Over \$7,000 in classroom electronics
- ◆ Over \$10,000 in general facility repairs
- ◆ Over \$7,500 in direct student tuition assistance

The Foundation is proud of the overwhelming support from our community and friends for their help in making Catholic Education safe, achievable, and affordable. Thank you all!

TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: MRS. AMANDA MIRANDA



Hello! My name is Amanda Miranda and I currently teach 5th grade at St. Stanislaus Catholic School. Some of my favorite years of teaching have been the six years that I have spent at St. Stanislaus because of the beautiful community that I get to work with each day. My three year old will be starting preschool this next school year,

and I can't wait to see what amazing things he will learn! This past year was challenging for us all, but with the support of the wonderful families of St. Stans, we didn't skip a beat. May the Lord continue to bless this community, and may He bless me with many more years as both a parent and teacher at St. Stanislaus Catholic School."

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The support we provide to our school community is only possible through your generous and continued support. Please take some time to visit our website and read about our foundation. You will learn how you can get involved, donate, purchase tickets for fundraising events, and stay up to date with the foundation. We are always excited to communicate with our school families, parishioners, and supporters!

Visit our website at:

WWW.FRILVAFUNDATION.ORG



Fr. John C. Silva
Education Foundation

Father John C. Silva Education Foundation
P.O. Box 4304
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