



# ICA UPDATE

## In this issue:

Cristo Rey Announcement ..... p. 1, 6

Class of 2008 Graduates ..... p.2

Previous Gates Millennium Scholars ..... p. 3

Big Sister Meets Little Sister ..... p. 4

Development Corner ..... p. 5

Letter from the President ... p. 7

Catholic SF Insert..... p. 8

ICA's Open House Flyer..... p. 9

Liturgy of Thanksgiving Tear Out ..... p.10

Raffle Tickets and Envelope ..... p. 11

Old and New ASB Officers ..... p. 12

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer ..... p. 13

New Faculty & Staff ... p. 14-15

Alumnae News ..... p. 16-17

2007-2008 Sports ..... p. 18

Senior Breakfast ..... p.19

In Memory of Norma (McPhee) Walsh '28 ..... p. 20

## Coming in the next issue:

- Family Mass & Picnic
- Junior Ring Ceremony
- 2008 Walkathon
- Gala Dinner
- Liturgy of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Cathedral

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## ICA Goes Cristo Rey!

After 125 years, ICA isn't "going" anywhere except *forward* to continue its Mission of providing a quality, Catholic, college-preparatory education in faith for high school girls in San Francisco. But "ICA Goes Cristo Rey" has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? At least that was the feeling of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, sponsors of ICA, their founding school, the Faculty / Staff, and ICA's Board of Directors as word reached our school community this summer that Immaculate Conception Academy had been accepted as an Associate Member of the Cristo Rey Network of Schools!

"This is a proud day for ICA and the Dominican Sisters!" exclaimed Sister Gloria Marie Jones, O.P., Congregational Prioress. "We believe all that the Cristo Rey Network stands for strongly resonates with our Dominican commitment to Catholic education. We are confident that our participation will benefit our students and



*Stephen Lancot, partner at Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP, and Beverly Sackrider, ICA student. Lancot's firm looks forward to participating in the Cristo Rey Corporate Internship Program*

their families, the City of San Francisco as well as the Network itself."

*continued on page 6*



*S. Mary Ybarra, O.P., S. Lisa Ann Martinez, O.P., S. Janice Therese Wellington, O.P., and S. Mary Virginia Leach, O.P., '68. Dominican Sisters' presence strengthens ICA students' connections to Dominican tradition.*

# ICA Goes Cristo Rey!

*continued from page 1*

A Cristo Rey high school provides students with a unique Work Study Program by which businesses employ the young adults in entry-level positions and, in turn, the salary becomes a substantial portion of the student's tuition. Participants attend classes four days a week (a somewhat lengthened school day and year) and work five days a month. Through this partnership between school and corporations, ICA's young women will benefit from acquiring valuable job skills, growing in self-confidence, and realizing the real-world application of their learning while completing a rigorous course of college-preparatory studies.

This is a first for San Francisco! There are currently 19 Catholic high schools throughout the USA operating in this model that claims as its by-line: *"Transforming Urban America — One Student at a Time!"* Following a year-long feasibility study that affirmed the value of moving in this direction, the current 2008-2009 academic year will be one of transition with certain benchmarks ICA will need to complete in readiness for full incorporation into the Cristo Rey Network slated to begin in Fall, 2009. California has two Cristo Rey campuses in operation: Verbum Dei High School in Los Angeles and Cristo Rey Sacramento High School in our state's capital. ICA holds the unique distinction of being the first all-girls' school in the Network!

According to Sister Mary Virginia Leach, O.P., a graduate of ICA, '68, and newly named President of the Academy, "One benefit of becoming a Cristo Rey School is the value of being part of a supportive network that shares our mission — to provide a quality, college-prep high school experience for young women who otherwise

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*"The establishment of the unique work-study program will provide our students with invaluable experiences and life lessons that will heighten their sense of self confidence."*

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might not have the option of a Catholic education. This was the vision of our foundress, Mother Maria Pia Backes, first principal, who opened the doors of ICA in 1883. Partnering with the corporate world to make a difference for the future is exciting!"

Alumna and member of ICA's Board of Directors, Sally Mahoney '57 gave leadership to the feasibility study for membership in the Cristo Rey Network. She commented, "Families we talked with were quick to see the educational opportunity of work site learning carefully integrated with their academic courses. They saw for their daughters an expanded perspective about the varieties of work made possible by education, heightened aspiration caused by the interest of business professionals in their progress, and sharpened focus on the importance of the school work at hand. Parents were also excited and appreciative about an enriched Catholic college preparatory experience they might be able to afford."

Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICA, Stephen Lanctot, stated, "Participation in the Cristo Rey Network will enhance and strengthen ICA by aligning us with a broad network of affiliated schools with their respective talents and resources. The establishment of the unique work-study program will provide our students with invaluable experiences and life lessons that will heighten their sense of self confidence."

Jeff Thielman, Vice President for New Initiatives of the Cristo Rey Network, said recently, "We are ecstatic that the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose and Immaculate Conception Academy will be joining our Cristo Rey Network next year! We have been looking for a school in the San Francisco Bay Area, and we're excited that it is ICA!" Truly, good things are ahead as "ICA Goes Cristo Rey," bringing the best we are and have been to something new that will enhance our already-strong program. *Forward! ;Adelante!*