



ST. MICHAEL'S TURNS 150 — CELEBRATES IN STYLE

ST. MICHAEL'S REACHED A MILESTONE anniversary this fall: the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of our founding. In October of 1859, four Brothers from France set up classrooms in an adobe hut next to the San Miguel Mission, welcoming boarders and day students alike to pursue education in the Lasallian Catholic Tradition. On October 9–11, 2009, alumni from 1940 through 2004, from SMHS as well as Loretto Academy, reconnected at **St. Michael's Homecoming Bash and 150th Birthday Party**, which was held at Buffalo Thunder, a Hilton Resort Casino, in Pojoaque. The event was a fundraising success thanks to the many guests who purchased tickets and made generous donations.



Dick Knipping (above, left), anchor of KRQE Channel 13 nightly news, served as master of ceremonies for the gala evening. As a strong supporter of Catholic education, he was honored to be part of such an historic event. The invocation was given by Br. David Sinitiere, FSC, and Monsignor Jerome Martinez y Alire ('68) (above) gave a celebratory toast. The evening's benediction was given by Father Adam Lee Orteguy y Ortiz ('83).



The 150th Birthday Party featured a silent auction, gourmet dinner, and dancing to local favorite Tobias Rene ('93) and his band. The weekend also featured a Welcome Reception, on Friday, Oct. 9, for all birthday party attendees to kick off the celebration.

ABOVE: Manuel Lujan Jr. ('46), Bobbie Gallegos (L'54), Bernadette Valdes (L'60) and her husband Joe Valdes ('48), and Angie Delgado (L'56) caught up at the Welcome Reception.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CORRIE

LEFT:
 Loretto Academy alumnae Irene Padilla ('51), Pat Gonzales ('58) and Martha Stump ('53) at the Welcome Reception.

Warm greetings were in abundance as alumni reunited after many years.



RIGHT:
 Eddie Baca ('68), Joe Baca ('66), J.J. Gonzales ('65) and Fred Apodaca ('65)



LEFT: Dianne and Martin Campbell ('59)



ABOVE : Br. Benedict Westrick, FSC, former principal, Jim Varela ('68), Lala Martinez (LHC'60) and Ellen Marie Varela



The honorary chair of the gala was Brother Paul Walsh, fsc, past principal of St. Mike's. He accepted the honor on behalf of the Christian Brothers, who were given a standing ovation during the ceremony.

ABOVE: President and CEO Sandra Johnson Austin presents Br. Paul with an honorary high school diploma from St. Michael's class of 2010.



Many of the gala attendees were business people and community leaders whose connection to St. Mike's stems from their belief in the value of a Lasallian Catholic education and their faith in the Christian Brothers. Many community supporters generously supported the event and the school with private and corporate sponsorships.

ABOVE : Br. Paul Walsh, fsc, and former SMHS parents Barbara and Eric Serna at the Welcome Reception.



ABOVE : Debbie Aranda ('78), Lynette Montoya ('78), SMHS Development Director, Laticia Gonzalez McClosky ('78) and Stephanie Gallegos ('78).



St. Mike's band members performed in ensembles during the cocktail reception and silent auction. During the dinner presentation, students Jamie Torrez ('10) and Luis Valdez ('11) gave moving speeches about the necessity of supporting tuition assistance. The Cheer Team helped inspire the partygoers' philanthropy.

ABOVE : Mariah Romero ('11), Miquela Ortega ('11), Taylor Readyhough ('12) and Alyssa Robinson ('12).

Dear Alumni & Friends,

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of St. Michael's, we are reviving the alumni newsletter! I hope you enjoy the pictures from the celebration in October as well as the profiles on Manuel Lopez ('72), owner of La Unica, Loretto Academy alumna Candy Johnson ('40), and former parent David Blackman, who is involved in the restoration of the San Miguel Mission on Old Santa Fe Trail.

Last month's **Homecoming Bash & 150th Birthday Party** was an enormous success. From the Brothers' humble beginnings in that mud hut next to the Mission, our community has grown into the warm, generations-rich tableau of faces you'll see represented in this newsletter, as well as thousands of people around New Mexico, the U.S. and the world that were reared here at St. Mike's in the Lasallian Catholic Tradition.

The party was a successful fundraiser for the school, but more than that it was a time to honor our founders and all the Brothers who gave so selflessly over the years in support of the youth of Santa Fe. It was a time to celebrate all that the Brothers and the dedicated lay people who joined them have accomplished, including the legacy they created and to which they still contribute. It was a time to celebrate the character and culture of St. Mike's, which makes all of us Horsemen, forever.

As a community, we have great momentum. I believe that in the coming months and years we will see a flourishing St. Mike's, where traditions are alive and students have every opportunity to engage in a bright future.

Sincerely,

David Gonzales, MD

President, St. Michael's High School Foundation



Sunday's Birthday Mass and Coffee Reception was the final event of the festive weekend. The mass was attended by gala attendees and many parents and families from St. Michael's High School. ABOVE, left to right: Br. David Sinitiere, Br. Paul Walsh ('10), Br. Jerry Vincent, Br. Benedict Westrick, Br. Steve Armenta, Br. Joseph Haras, Br. Vincent Thompson and Br. Martin Swonke.



Many alumni come from families with multiple St. Mike's and Loretto graduates, and intergenerational connection was a theme of the weekend as grads from six decades mingled with students, donors, staff and faculty.

ABOVE : The Armijo and Adelo family: Bill Armijo ('84), principal, and his wife, Samia Armijo ('84), pose for a photo with Sam Adelo ('40) (far right), one of the earliest graduates to attend the party, along with Laretta Adelo and Frank "Pancho" Adelo ('86).



The weekend also featured a VIP Reception for major donors and sponsors.

ABOVE : Dr. David Gonzales ('82) (right), President of the St. Michael's High School Foundation, enjoys a conversation with former classmate and board member Jerry Coppler ('82) at the VIP Reception.



St. Mike's encourages close friendships, and many alumni have kept in touch over the years, especially those who remained in Santa Fe. Suzy Measeen, who attended St. Mike's as an exchange student in 1978, traveled all the way from Germany to reconnect with her high school friends.

LEFT: Arturo Jaramillo ('67), former SMHS parent Frank Mathew, J.J. Nash Garcia ('53) and Art Bonal ('64) at the reception.



ST. MICHAEL'S PROFILES

LORETTO ALUMNA

CANDY JOHNSON ('40)

MY FATHER AND MY GRANDFATHER went to St. Mike's, all my brothers, my husband too, all my sons, four of my grandchildren. And all the girls went to Loretto. My mother and me and all my sisters—there were six of us girls. And then my daughter went to Loretto.”

A member of a vast legacy family of Catholic school students, Candelaria Johnson (née Lujan), graduated from Loretto Academy in 1940, “about a hundred years ago,” she laughs as she looks over old issues of the Loretto *Echoes*. She points out her senior picture and that of her friend Bambi Ellis, whom she still goes to Mass with on Sundays, and Lucille C De Baca, their friend and the editor of the school paper. Until a few years ago when Lucille moved to Scottsdale (and subsequently passed away), the three friends were still meeting regularly for lunches and dinners.

Candy smiles fondly when recalling some of her favorite teachers at Loretto. Sister Thelma was the beloved drama teacher—Candy was in many plays as a teen—and Sister Jerome, the geometry teacher, became a close friend of over 40 years.

Candy married her high school sweetheart, Robert Johnson ('42), after World War II, when he returned from the service. Candy spent World War II as a secretary in the Office of Price Administration in Washington D.C. She secured the appointment through connections of her father's, Manuel Lujan Sr. ('11), while she was going to business college and working in his downtown Santa Fe insurance office after class.

“I was on the train, on my way to Washington, on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor,” Candy remembers. “I got to DC and then on Monday I saw President Roosevelt say we were at war.” About the experience of living in DC in the '40s after spending her childhood in Santa Fe, she says “It was country come to town, I'll tell you.”

After the war, Candy and Robert spent a couple of years in Moraga, CA, while Robert attended St. Mary's College, a

Lasallian school, on the GI Bill. During this time, St. Michael's College opened in Santa Fe, on the grounds of the abandoned Bruns Army Hospital, so the young couple moved home. Robert graduated from St. Michael's College in 1950, with the first graduating class, which also included Candy's brother.

Candy and Robert raised four children, sending all of their sons to St. Mike's and their daughter to Loretto as a matter of course. Candy spent 25 years in state government, as a secretary for the Legislative Finance Committee. Robert passed away in 2002, after a long battle with cancer. A silver plaque in Candy's dining room commemorates the Mass held at St. Francis Cathedral in honor of their 50-year anniversary. Throughout the years, they remained close with the Christian Brothers and the Loretto Sisters.

“We were real good friends. Some people have funny thoughts about nuns. They are very strict—of course they are!” Candy laughs. “But these nuns were absolutely wonderful and we just loved them. I have a lot of fond memories.”

ST. MICHAEL'S ALUMNUS

MANUEL LOPEZ ('72)

MANUEL LOPEZ, a three-letterman in football, basketball and track, married Jolene Schutz ('72), the homecoming queen, though they weren't high school sweethearts.

“After graduation, she took off to California, went to school there and started working, and I took off for New Mexico State,” Manuel says. “And then we kind of reunited.”

They married in 1979, and Manuel began managing his family's dry-cleaning business, La Unica, which he runs today with his brother, Jorge. Their father opened La Unica in 1969, two years after the family moved to Santa Fe; they immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1960.

Manuel attended DeVargas Junior High for one year before following in his older brother Hector's footsteps and enrolling at St. Michael's, where Hector had been a boarder in the 1940s. Manuel was a freshman in 1969, the same year the school first admitted female students.

As a young man, fresh out of college, Manuel was active with the Jaycees as well as the St. Michael's alumni association. He helped with the gate at games and attended Bingo on Monday nights. Eventually he left the Jaycees to dedicate more time to St. Mike's, ultimately serving as association president and officer. “To this day I'm an officer,” he says, “sergeant-at-arms. I make sure we follow Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.”

Historically, the alumni association has supported athletics at St. Mike's. The fields were made possible by alumni donations and alumni labor, as well as fundraising activities, the biggest of which was Bingo, which raised money not only for athletic equipment but for scholarships. “The year before I became president, the casinos basically drove us out of business,” Manuel explains. “We had zero in our bank account.





So the athletic director at the time let us take over the athletic sports program. I was able to use all the connections I'd made through the Jaycees to get advertisers, and that's how we started raising money for scholarships again."

Previously, alumni association scholarships were for athletes, but Lopez and the group decided that it would be better to offer financial assistance to all students in need, which is still the rule today, though recipients are required to participate in a school activity, athletic or otherwise. The alumni association

also continues the tradition of working the gate at athletic events; that money supports the athletic department. Over the last 20 years, the association has raised about \$400,000 for scholarships and athletics.

Manuel and Jolene raised three children, all of whom graduated from St. Mike's. "My daughter was homecoming queen, too," Manuel says of his middle child, Julie ('99), and adds that his wife's mother also held the title. His wife's family boasts a healthy 38 St. Mike's alumni; her uncle Charlie, who passed away recently, graduated with the class of 1932. Manuel continues to work at La Unica, alongside his eldest son, Chaz (Javier) ('93). His youngest, Manuel ('04), recently graduated from college.

FORMER SMHS PARENT DAVID BLACKMAN

IN 2000, after his youngest son graduated from St. Michael's, David Blackman mentioned to a couple of trustees that he'd be happy to make ads for St. Mike's should they ever need such a thing. Weeks later, he was asked to join the Board. Blackman, who grew up on a farm in central Iowa in the 1950s and moved to Santa Fe in 1982 with his family, was more than happy to lend his time and talents to furthering the mission of the school.

"I was so happy with my boys' experience at St. Mike's," he says, adding that his wife, Portia, served as president of the Parents' Club in the mid 1990s, when his eldest son was a student. Although his sons—Joel ('97) and Jeff ('00), both of whom are University of New Mexico graduates—now live in Albuquerque and Phoenix, Blackman remains committed to St. Michael's. Professionally, he worked most recently as the senior vice president for business development and commercial loan officer at First Community Bank in Santa Fe.

Until last year Blackman served on the school board and is now a member of the foundation board. His primary involvement with St. Mike's focuses on the restoration of the San Miguel Mission, the "oldest church," on Old Santa Fe Trail. The Mission dates to 1610, and since 1859 has been owned by St. Michael's. Mass is still held there twice each Sunday. It attracts a small but devoted following, and of course the site itself attracts tourists. But the building needs restoration if it is to live on for another 400 years. Now, a collaboration with Cornerstones Community Partnerships has breathed new life into the old adobe walls.

Through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service, initial drainage repair begins this spring, an endeavor that will include an archeological dig due to the historic nature of the site. Assessments and recommendations are being made for the restoration, which include removing the stucco exterior that was applied over the adobe. But the real, ongoing work of preservation must be a community effort.

"If you look at historic churches preserved in New Mexico, the one thing they all have in common is that they have a parish," Blackman explains. "In Truchas, in Taos, the people in those parishes come out and annually maintain the church, and every three to five years they do a major mudding. We

need to get our community engaged. The St. Michael's and Lasallian community in Santa Fe is the only parish San Miguel has ever had."

The Cornerstones mission to preserve historic churches in New Mexico and the Southwest includes this community component: the purpose isn't simply to preserve the buildings but to preserve the community culture, just as at St. Michael's, the purpose isn't simply to teach our children but to awaken in them, and the entire St. Mike's family, the Lasallian spirit of our founders. We know that the spirit is alive and well when we see the passion and dedication of David Blackman, a former St. Mike's parent and current community leader.



If you wish to get involved with the San Miguel restoration, call Mr. Blackman directly at (505) 660-9997.

THANK YOU!

St. Michael's High School is grateful to the many alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, sponsors and friends who contributed to the success of the **150th Birthday Party and Homecoming Bash.**

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IN MEMORY

RAY LOBATO JR. ('70)

Ray Lobato passed away suddenly on September 27, 2009. A memorial service was held at the Elk's Lodge on Oct. 1. Mr. Lobato is survived by his daughters: Michelle-Desiree Lobato, Jennifer Anne Brehm and husband Chris, and Lesley Kristina Lobato (a St. Michael's student); parents, Raymond and Eloisa Lobato; sisters: Teri Lobato Vaisa and children, John-Michael Vaisa (Felicia and Layla), Chris Vaisa (Anita and Shania), Melissa Vaisa Romero and husband Thomas, Tricia Lobato (Pat, Jason, Brooke and Scott Sealy); brother, Joe Lobato and wife Angela and children, Matthew and Jared; numerous other aunts, uncles, and beloved friends. For those who want to honor Ray's memory, a savings account has been set up for his daughter, Lesley, at Del Norte Credit Union, (505) 455-5228, 1020 Don Diego, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

ST. MICHAEL'S MEMORIES

RON PORTERFIELD ('83)

I GREW UP THE OLDEST OF FIVE CHILDREN. My father, Ron, graduated from St. Michael's in 1959, the same year my mother graduated from Loretto Academy. During my childhood we had a common saying in our household: "What are you going to do today?" The answer: "Beat the Demons!"

You see, the oldest rivalry in New Mexico at the time was between St. Michael's and Santa Fe High. Santa Fe High, the larger school, was always the favorite in every event, game or activity, while St. Mike's was the underdog. Of course we didn't play the Santa Fe High Demons every day, but we did have to face our own demons every day. The household saying meant that I was going to give my best each and every day. I could not be lazy. If I wanted to succeed, I had to make sure my parents could trust me, set a good example for my four younger siblings, and give my all when I prayed, did my homework and chores, or competed in an athletic event.

My fondest memories of St. Michael's are of the closeness I had with my fellow students, not only those in my class but those in other years as well. St. Michael's had a lot of spirit, centered on our belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Students and faculty supported each other's efforts to be successful in all of our school activities and events. Most important, though, was the support of my parents, which was second to none.

I always felt comfortable, able to give my all. There was no one trying to stab me in the back—only people who had my back. I remember rock-a-thons, talent shows, pep rallies, football, baseball and basketball games, track meets, award

banquets, and Camp LaSalle. My friends and I still keep in touch and reminisce about old times.

As you can probably tell, my greatest involvement at St. Mike's was in athletics. Athletics taught me about life: how to get knocked down and get back up; how to make decisions in the blink of an eye; and how to get along with my peers, friends, family and teammates. St. Michael's prepared me to succeed academically in college—which in turn made it possible for me to participate in college athletics. Although I did not achieve my childhood dream of playing professional football or baseball, I came as close as I possibly could. For 22 years I've worked with some of the best professional baseball players in the world as the head athletic trainer for the Tampa Bay Rays. I have a beautiful wife and two wonderful children, as well as close relationships with all four of my siblings. I have known all of my grandparents, and through the example of my parents, I learned what God and family are all about. And I owe a great deal of my success in life to St. Michael's High School.



(Ron was recently honored for his years of service in Major League Baseball by the Professional Baseball Athletic Training Society. A \$1,000 gift was made to SMHS by the PBATS in his name.)

"St. Michael's Memories" will be an on-going feature in *San Miguel News*. If you have a memory you'd like to share, please contact Lynette Montoya, Director of Development, at lmontoya@stmikessf.org.

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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Michael's High School, with a college preparatory curriculum, has as its mission to educate each student in the spirit of faith and academic excellence according to Roman Catholic principles in the Lasallian tradition of the Christian Brothers.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Do we have your current address, phone number and e-mail? Call (505) 988-2264 or e-mail alumni@stmikessf.org with updates.

St. Michael's continues to thrive thanks to the support of donors who believe in our mission. To make a donation to the Fund for the Future, call the Development Office or visit www.stmichaelsf.org/giving.html

ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL recently changed the name of its sports complex and stadiums in honor of all the Christian Brothers who have served students academically and in support of St. Mike's many athletic programs. Please note the new names of the complex and stadiums: The Christian Brothers Athletic Complex, The Christian Brothers Football Stadium and The Christian Brothers Baseball Stadium. New signage will be posted later this year.



ABOVE: At the Oct. 17 Homecoming Game, the St. Michael's Horsemen beat the West Las Vegas Dons 44-6.

www.stmichaelsf.org—check our Web site for upcoming events!

