

Crusader News Network (CNN)

Fr. Miguel Makes an Impact



Father Miguel Corral prays during Mass (Las Vegas Review-Journal)

By Ray Brewer

Fr. Miguel Corral walks into the classroom at Saint Anne Catholic School on this Friday morning and the children rise out of their seats in excitement. Fr. Corral makes the round each Friday after the school mass to visit with the children. He's usually armed with the Sacrament, and of course, a story. It's one of the highlights of the week for the children. Fr. Corral, who became the parish's Parochial Administrator last summer, will quickly tell you the feeling is mutual. His ear to ear smile speaks volumes.

“We can always count on Fr. Miguel to offer great words of wisdom to our children,” said Mrs. Carpenter, the St. Anne principal.

Fr. Corral, who previously worked in the parish and school at St. Francis De Sales, is no stranger to the St. Anne Community. When his family moved to Las Vegas from Mexico in the early 1990s, they joined the parish because it offered the only Spanish services in the area.

One of eight children, the Corral family never missed a Sunday, planting a seed in young Miguel in serving the Lord.

“A lot of kids only went to mass on the Catholic holiday. With my mom it was never, ‘Are we going to mass?’” he said. “It was always, ‘What time are we going to mass?’”

Fr. Corral started to find his calling to the priesthood while being part of the young adult group at St. Bridget. He went from being a member of the group to one of its leaders. He also taught religious education classes and served as a lector at mass.

But he had a job at a bank and never considered attending the seminary. Then, he got a call from the parish office at St. Bridget asking a favor. Fr. James Swenson wondered if Corral would volunteer his time to watch the building during adoration.

St. Bridget is the only parish in Las Vegas to remain open around the clock for adoration, and they pegged Fr. Corral for the not-so-attractive 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. shift on the weekends.

Looking back, Fr. Corral said that was likely by design to further his journey to the priesthood. The one-on-one time with the Blessed Sacrament during adoration quickly sparked a fire with Fr. Corral to become a priest. There was a lot of prayer and reflection, often alone by himself in the chapel. Soon, he would leave for the seminary, an eight-year schooling process.

“God has his ways. I finally said yes to my calling and to what he wanted for me,” he said.

His priestly ordination was May 31, 2018 — a proud day for all, especially his family of 16 nieces and nephews.

The relationship with now-deceased Fr. Swenson was life-changing. Now, Fr. Corral hopes to have a similar impact with other Las Vegas considering their priestly calling. He also serves as the Assistant Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Las Vegas.

It often makes for some hectic weeks, but never too hectic for his favorite Friday tradition of visiting with the school children.

Those school masses carry extra significance because it wasn't too long ago that Fr. Corral was a child himself sitting in the same pews with his family. While the pandemic has limited some of the interactions with the school, Corral is determined to make an impact in the children's life — one fun story at a time.

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Spread the Word: Parent Involvement Matters

By Bernard Bermudez

I have to admit that since I am the proud husband of one of St. Anne's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) leaders, I wanted to write a piece to make a case for parents to get involved with the hopes of giving everyone an inside peek to the cohesiveness and the amount of work that this team accomplishes. Instead, I feel that these photos that I took and the resources below sums everything up nicely how you can really make a difference during your family's time here at SACS.

Email pto@saintannelvvnv.org for more info on how you can make an impact.



From left, Young, Ruvalcaba, Bermudez, Janelle Ignacio (Secretary) & Anessa Baer (Parent Advocate) volunteered long, tireless summer hours to supplement and enrich the 2021-2022 education experience for our children & give teachers and staff strong and reliable allies to achieve curricular and fundraising goals.



From left, Annalean Young (PTO President), Jaclyn Bermudez (Treasurer) & Sheina Ruvalcaba worked hard during 2019-2020 school year to increase student achievement through sponsored events. Each month, the team presented teacher appreciation events on behalf of our Crusader families. The response from teachers and staff was very positive.

Coming together
is a beginning;
keeping together
is progress;
working together
is SUCCESS.

Henry Ford

This brief two-minute video shows how you can tell your child that they are important to you:

<https://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/8074-spread-the-word-that-parent-involvement-matters>

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The SACS Experience: A Close-Knit Community with Traditions



From left, Alvaro Gonzalez, Gigi Gonzalez (St. Anne alumni, class of 2021), Lucca Gonzalez (St. Anne alumni class of 2019) & Flor Bernal-Gonzalez celebrate Gigi's graduation day.

By Flor Bernal-Gonzalez

Can you believe we are at the beginning of another school year? As the school doors opened again, children (and parents, why not) wondered what the next school year will bring for us. It is no surprise that the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and its corresponding downturns allowed us an opportunity to reflect on what truly matters, our family, our faith, and the well-being of our communities. But still, the lack of stability and the friends and family we lost want me to forget that 2020 even happened. How did we get to the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year?

As a prior eighth-grade parent, our family honors and cherishes former and current educators who have formed our children for who they are and the human beings they will become. I'd be remised not to express our gratitude to the educational pillars in our journey down the hall. Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Miller,

Ms. Burge, Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Mr. Musso, Mrs. Charles, Ms. Fong, Coach Hughes, and Mrs. Allen shall forever have a place in our hearts. Mrs. McDonald, thank you for keeping everyone in line and organized.

After driving to Saint Anne for 12 years, I can't believe that I am no longer doing the daily St. Anne drive. As I reflect now on the past few weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, I remember just a few months ago thinking that traditionally, the spring of eighth grade would bring an assortment of celebrations and planning. A few years ago when my son was a Crusader, eighth grade consumed our lives with pre-graduation fundraisers, festivities, dances, formals, even the highly coveted graduation Disneyland trip, but not last year. Yet, there remained so much to be excited about, and it felt so bittersweet to recall how we got there. Saint Anne Catholic School, as I know it, will continue to be a community where long-lasting relationships become extended family.

Our gratitude also extends to the many families who volunteered their time and resources to enhance the program offerings at Saint Anne. Thank you to the volunteer coaches who day after day held practice and showed up for every game to support Coach Hughes. When it came to school celebrations, who can forget the Blessing of the Animals, Multi-Cultural Day Feast, or Grandparents Book Fair, even the Christmas Bazaar, a shopping experience that would open with Santa Claus's arrival driven by our own Fire Truck? And when the firefighters were busy doing their job, Elvis also became a resource to ensure Santa Claus had transportation to greet our little ones and take photos with them. And what can I say when it came to the Sports BBQ, Coach Hughes and its planning committee always rocked the day! Former Saint Anne athletes came in to inspire and motivate our young ones; an alumns vs. eighth-grade basketball game was so much fun; our family undoubtedly missed last year's event (thanks, COVID). The Sports BBQ evening would also consist of camaraderie, food and beverage, and great silent auction opportunities. Fright Night produced and led by eighth-grade students and families with the corresponding Trunk or Treat and costume contest. My favorite 2019 memory, I may be biased, is the revival of

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the SACS Diocesan School Dance with our very own LED Robot. Pasta Night, when our gym would transform into an Italian restaurant, our eighth-grade students into hospitality staff, and families into avid diners. It is indeed true, the days go by slowly but the years go by fast!

“My daughter’s graduation last May brought closure to my term as a member of the Saint Anne Catholic School Advisory Board; I encourage you to inquire about this body. It is a rewarding opportunity to advise Saint Anne and make a difference in your children’s life.”

My hope for future Crusaders is that you are able to experience the meaning of our close-knit community and the traditions that kept many of us here to rekindle the memories and bring these back in what “new normal” shall be.

Q&A Session with Mrs. Waller

By Bernard Bermudez



Mrs. Laura Waller joins the SACS family as this school year’s new 6th grade teacher.

- Why did you choose St. Anne? **St. Anne felt like “home. I could feel the love and happiness from the moment I stepped on campus.**
- What is your approach towards getting the most out of our students? **I like to challenge my students to “think outside the box”... especially the 7th and 8th graders.**
- How long have you lived in Las Vegas? **I moved to Las Vegas from Texas in October 2019.**
- What do you want your legacy to be here at Saint Anne? **I hope my students will always see the face of Christ in the eyes of everyone they meet.**
- Please share an interesting fact about yourself. **I have traveled to all 50 states!**

Upcoming Trimester Events

September

- 9/6: No School
- 9/14: *PTO Meeting
- 9/15-16: *Uniform Swap Night
- 9/17: Noon Dismissal
- 9/20-24: Terra Nova Test Week
- 9/27: No School

October

- 10/1: Noon Dismissal
- 10/4-8: Noon Dismissal
- 10/10: Fun Fair
- 10/11: No School
- 10/28: *Fright Night
- 10/29: No School

November

- 11/5: Noon Dismissal & End of 1st Trimester

*PTO Sponsored Event

CNN is put together by the SACS Advisory Board

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