

Feb 5, 2005

Around the schools

Gabriela Castaneda, an eighth grader at Holy Spirit School in Sacramento and a member of St. Anthony Parish, was among the reporters covering the inauguration of President George W. Bush. She was one of two members selected from the Scholastic Kids Press Corps to travel to Washington, D.C. after having covered the 2004 presidential election from her hometown. She earned the job by answering an advertisement for reporters in Junior Scholastic magazine, which is distributed at schools nationwide. She wrote an essay on why she would make a good reporter.

Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento has named Vance Mueller, former assistant varsity football coach, as its new varsity head football coach. A fourth round draft choice for the AFL Raiders in 1986, Mueller enjoyed a six-year career as a kick-returner, running back and fullback until a serious knee injury sidelined him in 1992.

After retiring from professional football in 1993, he opened his own fitness center in El Dorado Hills. Mueller and his wife Lissa have three children who attend St. John Notre Dame School in Folsom where Lissa is a teacher and head track coach. Mueller replaces coach Bobby Fresques, who will remain as a teacher at the school.

Students at St. Lawrence School in North Highlands began celebrating Catholic Schools Week on Jan. 30 by participating as liturgical ministers during a Mass in St. Lawrence Church. The "Faith in Our Students" week included a project in which students collected items for Wellspring Women's Center in Sacramento, wrote poetry on the subject of faith, held a luncheon for parents and grandparents and participated in multicultural dances. The week concluded with a presentation of Christian citizenship awards.

Michael Estopinal, a sophomore at Jesuit High School in Carmichael, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Estopinal's project involved constructing a prayer garden at St. John Vianney School in Rancho Cordova. The prayer garden was designed with special seating and a statue of Mary.

Names, news, notes

Philip Niederberger, director of Catholic cemeteries for the Diocese of Sacramento, has been elected president

of Catholic Cemeteries of the West for 2005. The organization is comprised of Catholic cemetery management, personnel, trade association and industry representatives from



Philip Niederberger

25 Western states and the four Western provinces of Canada. The diocesan cemeteries department will host the organization's annual meeting at the Sacramento Red Lion Inn April 20-23.

Employees at Sacramento-area Mercy hospitals donated \$9,265 to the Sacramento Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross to aid tsunami victims in Southeast Asia and Western Africa. Money for this contribution was collected by Mercy Foundation. The donation follows an earlier donation of \$250,000 given by the operating company of Mercy hospitals, Catholic Healthcare West in San Francisco.

Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento and Mercy San Juan Hospital in Carmichael are two of the first hospitals in the state to earn the "gold seal" of approval for stroke care from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Both hospitals were awarded primary stroke center certification. Mercy General and Mercy San Juan, both operated by Catholic Healthcare West, earned the gold seal after the commission conducted on-site reviews in December. The commission found the two Mercy hospitals demonstrated their stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients.

Mark Warren, former president of Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, has been named president of the Arthritis Foundation's Northeastern California/Northern Nevada chapter. A graduate of Jesuit High School in Carmichael, Warren taught and coached at Jesuit from 1972 to 1986 and then served the school for 10 years as director of development. He served at Christian Brothers from 1996 to 2003.