

St. Raymond School

2019 - 2020 • ISSUE 3

CLOSE UP



Celebrating Over 30 Years in Catholic Education



St. Raymond Welcomes New Principal and Parochial Administrator

Each year brings positive change. For St. Raymond, that change is the wonderful addition of two new leaders, Principal, Gregory Peterson, and Parochial Administrator, Father Erick Villa. They will work closely together to carry out the school's mission statement and foster an environment that enriches our children and community. We are excited to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to them both!

Gregory Peterson, Principal

Gregory Peterson, also known as "Mr. P" to our school community, began his career in Catholic education in 2010. He started teaching 2nd and 3rd grade after earning his BA degree from Cal State East Bay where he is currently working towards his Master's in Education and Administrative Credential. He joined St. Raymond in 2013 as a Middle School homeroom, religion, language arts and social studies teacher and also serves as co-Vice Principal. His favorite school activities are the 7th grade Westminster Woods trip, Christmas program, Shadow Stations of the Cross and Catholic Schools and Spirit Week.



A note from Mr. Peterson:

With support and collaboration with Fr. Erick, faculty and staff, St. Raymond students and families, and parish community, I hope to grow a positive culture of faith, learning, and service. I look forward to growing our school and parish community, supporting teachers with best practices in the classroom, and creating an environment where students can succeed.

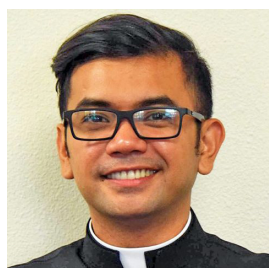
I want to thank Mrs. Deehan and Julie McCormack for their guidance as leaders since my arrival at St. Raymond School. I have learned so much from them and I look forward to learning even more in my new role. Thank you to all St. Raymond Staff (past and present). You have taught me what it means to teach in a Catholic school. I appreciate your hard work, passion, and dedication to St. Raymond School. Thank you, St. Raymond community (students, parents, and parish), for allowing me to be part of this amazing family. With excitement, I look forward to being your educational leader for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,
Mr. P.

Did you know?

Mr. P is an obstacle race athlete and since 2012 has been competing in the Spartan Sprint and Ultra obstacle race courses. An avid athlete, he and his wife also enjoy trail running and have visited many trails from the San Francisco Bay Area to Lake Tahoe. When they're not running, you might find him on vacation at the happiest place on earth riding his favorite ride, Pirates of the Caribbean or enjoying one his favorite meals: BBQ tri tip sandwiches, burritos or sushi. Mr. P's favorite movie is "That Thing You Do" written and directed by Tom Hanks.

Father Erick Villa, Parochial Administrator



Father John Erick Tabago Villa joined St. Raymond Parish in April 2020. Prior to St. Raymond, Fr. Erick served as Parochial Vicar at the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Brentwood for four years.

Fr. Erick was born in Mandaluyong, Philippines, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of the Philippines. His seminary journey began at the Lorenzo Mission Institute, the missionary seminary of the Archdiocese of Manila in 2003. In 2012, Father Erick was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Oakland. He continued his formation at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Theology and Masters Degree in Divinity in 2016. Father Erick was ordained by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, in May 2016.

Father Erick is very excited to serve as the parochial administrator for a parish with a school, "I have a brother with seven kids. I practically grew up with them and I loved it! I love them like my own!"

Don't be surprised if you see Father Erick on campus wearing his black cassock paired with his running shoes! This is reflective of his fun-loving, adventurous and easy-going nature.

Did you know?

Fr. Erick is a certified scuba diver and an avid skydiver. He hopes to engage the parish-school community with joy and energy to create a fun, faith-filled and collaborative environment centered in Christ and His love for all His creations. Fr. Erick's hobbies include graphic design, desktop publishing, hiking and eating chocolate cake for breakfast!

WCEA & WASC Accreditation

St. Raymond School holds a double accreditation with the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Accreditation was granted in 2015 and is held for six years.

St. Raymond School's leadership team and staff have been preparing for the next accreditation visit, which will take place in the Spring of 2021. During this process, a self-study was initiated to evaluate the strengths of St. Raymond School and surveys were completed by staff, parents and students allowing us to identify opportunities for growth. These opportunities will be the foundation of a strategic school wide action plan aligned with the schools mission and philosophy. The action plan will work toward achieving and ensuring St. Raymond School's commitment to continuous school improvement focused on high student achievement. We have begun updating the mission, goals and standards that our school is held by. This is reflected in:

- Updated Mission Statement
- Updated Philosophy Statement
- Revised Schoolwide Learning Expectations



Mission Statement

Guided by our Catholic faith, St. Raymond School empowers all students to achieve academic excellence, prepare for the challenges of life, and serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Current Action Plan Goals are:

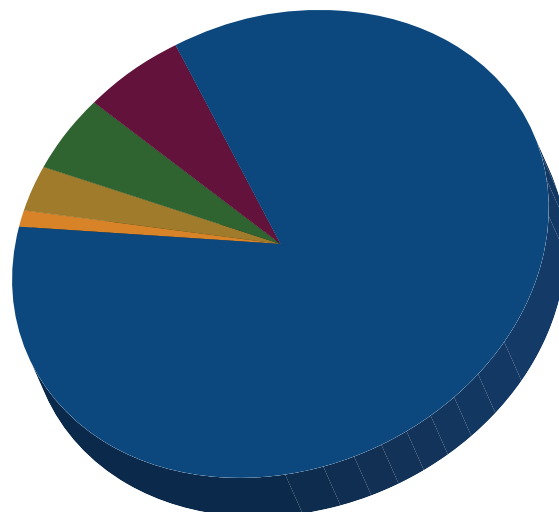
- Transfer community outreach into authentic service learning
- Further develop the school/parish/family partnership
- Implement differentiated instruction and integrate innovative strategies

2018-2019 Finance

St. Raymond School strives to be prudent stewards of our resources. We strive to operate efficiently and budget realistically for the long-term financial sustainability of the school. The school's income is generated primarily from tuition so the school does not have to be overly reliant on fundraising or financial support from the parish. Below is a breakdown of income by source for 2018-2019.

Tuition	85%	\$2,263,177.00
Fundraising	6%	\$160,612.00
Fees	5%	\$139,950.00
Donations	3%	\$70,895.00
Other	1%	\$34,477.00

TOTAL \$2,669,111.00



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is always a special time of year at St. Raymond School. It's an entire week of enrichment activities for the students and an opportunity to highlight the great happenings at St. Raymond School to our community!

Catholic Schools Week kicked-off with our annual Science Fair. Students in the 7th and 8th grade competed for the top prize and headed to the Alameda County Science Fair to compete against other science fair winners in the Oakland Diocese. St. Raymond students won several awards, including Alexandra Macri's qualification to participate at the California State Science and Engineering Fair.



Ava Mattei (7th), Alexandra Macri (7th), Niko Macario (8th) & Aiden Christen (8th)

Jammin' for Jesus performed at the Sunday mass which preceded the schools Open House. The open house welcomed current and future St. Raymond school families, parishioners, and members of the community to walk through the school, meet with the staff members and witness all the great work that the students do. Ms. Lander's 4th grade class completed their California Mission project scrapbooks which captured their mission visit experience and reflections. All of the students' scrapbooks were on display for visitors to enjoy.



Kids Against Hunger, based in Pleasanton, CA, visited St. Raymond School and approximately 150 3rd – 8th grade students spent several hours packing a total of 12,312 meals for kids in underdeveloped areas and in need throughout the world. When asked what his favorite part of the service project was, Lucca Adajar (5th) said "the feeling of giving back and helping those

in need." Cohen Boatman (5th) also enjoyed "putting the food together with my class! Using the scales to weigh the food was cool."

On Student Appreciation Day, Faith Families gathered in Moran Hall to play several rounds of bingo led by Mr. Peterson who served as the bingo caller. Afterwards, the students were treated to ice cream and popsicles. Outside of Moran Hall students celebrated with a dance party together with their friends and teachers brave enough to show off their dance moves! Natalia Roque (1st) loved spending time with her 8th grade buddy, Shannon McCormack and said her "favorite part of the day was when I walked out with my buddy and got a popsicle and also played bingo with my buddy."



Lastly, on Grandparents Day, one of the most anticipated events of the year, St. Raymond School hosted a special day for Grandparents and "adopted" Grandparents to visit the classrooms and spend the afternoon on campus. The activities began in Moran Hall with a delicious pasta lunch and various sweet treats. Afterwards, Grandparents proceeded to the classrooms to work on fun activities and build memories with the students. The afternoon ended with the Grandparents and students attending prayer service together.



Community

St. Raymond Students and Knights of Columbus Collect Warm Coats!

Bingo Night is an annual fundraiser, supported and sponsored by the St. Raymond PTG Social Committee. Moran Hall is transformed into a Halloween themed family pasta feed and game night. This year the St. Raymond Knights of Columbus (Council 7987) hosted the first annual Italian Heritage Pasta Dinner prior to the bingo game. The school and church community were invited to sit down together for a meal in a family friendly, inclusive atmosphere. The St. Raymond Catholic Daughters offer a free dessert to those who donate a new, or gently used coat, or jacket. The St. Raymond Girl Scouts worked in partnership with St. Raymond Middle School student volunteers to successfully run the bingo game and collect a total of 60 donated coats and jackets from the over 100 participants that evening! St. Vincent de Paul was able to help many people in our community stay warm this winter by directly donating to community members in need and by using sales profits to fund one of their many community assistance programs.



Scouts Express Duty to God on Scout Sunday

The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out our "Duty to God" pledge each week. Scout Sunday was celebrated at St. Raymond Parish on February 9th and gave St. Raymond Student Scouts an opportunity to serve their St. Raymond Parish community by participating throughout the mass. A "Scout is Reverent," and Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". Part of the Girl Scout Law states that a scout will try "To serve God and my country." This is a great reminder for everyone that we must keep our faith at the forefront of all that we do. Thank you to the St. Raymond Scouts for their commitment to their faith, families, scouting and community.



Who wore it best?

Havana Nights

Ambrose Hall at the Shannon Community Center was transformed into Havana, Cuba for the largest school fundraiser of the year. Organized by Karen Reedy and Sara Sanders, the hall was adorned with vibrant colored decor, the sounds of festive music filled the air and delicious Cuban cuisine and specialty beverages were prepared for all to enjoy. Everyone who attended had fun dressing up in themed attire, learning to salsa dance and throw their fedora into the ring by participating in the costume contest. The 2020 Annual School Auction was the party of the year!



Principal Deehan Leaves a Lasting Legacy



After 11 years as principal at St. Raymond School and a collective 29 years in the educational field, Catherine Deehan, will retire. St. Raymond School would not be the same place we all know and love today without Catherine's dedication, commitment and lasting contributions. During her tenure at St. Raymond School, Catherine inspired excellence through her strong leadership, unwavering support of innovative learning for our students and professional development for staff, and always holding herself and others to high expectations. This was never just a job to Mrs. Deehan. She believed teaching was a calling to serve the students and provide them opportunities to grow in their faith, lead to higher achievement, be good citizens and serve their communities.

Catherine discovered her passion for learning soon after high school. She obtained her teaching credentials followed by a public administration degree from Glasgow University. It was always important

to Catherine that her degree would have a vocational aspect. Her first role as an educator was in the Catholic school system in Scotland. Catherine recalls being inspired by the creativity and autonomy of being a teacher, comparing it to acting, "It was like being on stage 8 hours a day and acting a part." She worked in public administration in Scotland for ten years.

In 1994, Catherine, together with her husband, Martin, and 4 children, moved to California from Ireland. After spending time at home to raise her four children, she was determined to return to her calling as an educator. She began teaching 4th grade at St. Raymond School, in 1997 for five years, then moved to 8th grade homeroom and Middle School language arts. In 2007 Catherine was appointed Principal at School of the Madeleine in Berkeley where she remained for 3 years before returning as Principal of St. Raymond School in 2010.

Countless improvements to existing programs and many new initiatives were put into place under Catherine's leadership, including the establishment of a Middle School Advisory and Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLE) talks for students. The Middle School elective programs were improved to be cross-grade and expanded with diversified offerings.

It was always Catherine's priority to identify and pursue opportunities to make infrastructure investments that would benefit the community, create an environment for students to thrive and align with the evolution of student learning. Catherine's proudest accomplishment is the addition of our kindergarten and preschool building. For many years, Catherine received feedback from families that a preschool was highly desired for their younger children to begin their faith-based education. She made this dream come true when St. Ray-



mond opened its preschool in 2016. Catherine also led the school's science room renovation to incorporate STEAM technology and curriculum into the classroom. She also led the transformation of our school library into the new "Learning Commons" to encourage

more engagement and collaboration for the students and flexibility for learning.

Catherine feels so blessed to have had the opportunity to educate so many brilliant, talented, and creative students. Alumni continue to send her letters to express their gratitude for the positive impacts made from being her student. Her encouragement and belief in her students' capabilities gave them the confidence to pursue their aspirations. She fondly recalls one of her former students who went on



to graduate at the top of her class from Sonoma State University and credited Catherine for her success. Catherine's efforts to inspire young girls led to recognition at the California Museum in Sacramento, where a plaque was hung in her honor for three consecutive years.



What's in store for Catherine Deehan next?

Catherine looks forward to enjoying her time off. She plans to take an art class and loves to knit. She would love to explore any opportunities to support non-profit and Catholic relief work. Mostly, she is looking forward to spending more quality time with her grandchildren: Toby (15), Fiona (1), and baby grandson, expected in July. When we asked Catherine what she will miss most about St. Raymond School, she responded, "The dynamic environment. Every day can be different, and change makes each day interesting."

Thank you so much for the many years of service to our school, parish and community, Mrs. Deehan! You will leave a lasting legacy. We will all miss you dearly.



"I've had the honor of working with and for Catherine for 21 years and will miss her unwavering ability to turn any situation into a positive experience!"

- Sandy Cramer

"What I'll miss about Catherine is her ability to make me laugh. We've shared many laughs at our teachers' retreats each year in Santa Cruz, throughout our many staff meetings, and in our daily interactions each school day. I'll miss her stories about her past students, her family, and life in a different country which could always bring a smile to the faculty. Thank you for sharing these memories and moments with us. Blessings!"

- Greg Peterson

"I have so many fond memories of Catherine Deehan, not only as Principal, but as a Teacher to my 4 children that went through St. Raymond School from 1999-2009. The characteristics that have remained consistent with Catherine are her positive, fun attitude along with her ability to make things happen. I will truly miss her as our Leader."

- Lori Brunnett

"We want to thank Mrs. Deehan for her dedication, love and the support she has provided our children for the past 10 years. She remembers every child's name, along with the names of the children who graduated from St. Raymond in the years past. We have never experienced such a deep connection between a principal and students. We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement."

Love, The Wiersma Family

St. Raymond Campus and Facilities Improvements During Catherine's Tenure as Principal (2010 - 2020)

- 2011 – Accessible Walkways added for pedestrian safety
- 2012 – Exterior of school painted
- 2013 – Interior of school painted
- 2014 – Began 3-year phased renewal of AC
- 2015 – Began replacement of carpets throughout the school
- 2016 – Moved the school office and opened the Pre-School*
- 2016 – Introduced the Chrome-book 1-1 program to 6-8 graders
- 2017 – Science room renovation
- 2018 – Learning Commons updated for library/computer room
- 2019 – Blacktop renewed



*School took a \$1.35MM loan in 2016 from the Diocese for the new Kindergarten and Preschool building. As of July 2020, the balance has been paid down to \$350,000. This is a significant accomplishment.

Distance Learning

St. Raymond School has a remarkable educational community. Distance learning has illustrated the limitless capabilities of the St. Raymond teachers and staff, while observing the state "Shelter-in-Place" and "Stay-at-Home" Orders, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The planning, preparation, and organization of materials for learning at home has been a phenomenal experience for the students of St. Raymond School. Each child was well equipped with the technology needed to interact with their teachers and classmates virtually. Our community of families have been unwavering with their support of this quick and historical change in learning scenery.

Our St. Raymond community has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to their faith and to one another by staying connected and finding ways to help others. Families and teachers have leveraged digital channels to communicate, ensure celebrations are not overlooked by hosting car parades, virtual parties and meetings to catch up on all of the change that is going on around us. We know for many, the community we have built here at St. Raymond has made our pandemic experience easier, knowing that we are all in this together, no matter the distance!



What Students are saying about remote learning:



"Miss Walterhouse is doing a great job teaching over the computer! She gives us all the help we need and she makes learning really fun."

- Lizzy Eldridge, 2nd grade

"Two thumbs up, I get to stay home, be safe and still learn. I really like doing work online on different websites."

-Roman Rego, 1st Grade

Ellyse Balland, 4th grade, is enjoying remote learning, as well, with lots of time for family and friends. In particular, she said, ***"I loved going on my virtual Field Trip to Sutter's Fort with my classmates. It was as close to the real thing as we could get; it was very informative and fun!"***



Tobias Balland proudly answers his first grade classmates' questions during a Zoom. The baby chicks his family is raising became the honorary "class pets" in April when they were 9 days old.

What are Teachers saying about remote learning:

"The kids have been absolutely amazing during distance learning. Rising to the challenge! 6th graders shared their DNA Projects virtually rather than in person, and they were incredible. 7th and 8th grade are in the process of creating their own functioning musical instruments made from household materials! Excited to see the final products. We are doing our best to learn by doing and practicing our STEM skills. Shelter in place, more like STEM-ing in place!" Jennifer Palo, Science Teacher

Faith in Action

A central aspect of Christianity and Catholic Education is putting faith into action. Service in the community, parish and home is fundamental for growth in our Catholic faith and to strengthen our relationship with God. Students are encouraged to serve their community in a variety of ways and many service opportunities are available throughout the year for students to participate in at school, through parish ministries and external organizations. During the pandemic, St. Raymond students and their families found many creative ways to share their time, talents and resources to serve others, bringing so many smiles and much joy to our community. We are so proud to share their stories!

5th Grade Scouts Bring Smiles during Pandemic to Local Non-Profit

The 5th Grade Girl Scout Troop #33605 learned about COVID-19 and its effect on the world. They recognized that it must be lonely for residents of care facilities and care homes who were unable to go out or have visitors during the pandemic.



The girls found Algeria, a non-profit that provides housing, care and support to adults with developmental disabilities, such as autism. Staff work around the clock to care for clients who are unable to live independently. The St. Raymond 5th grade troop made cards for each client and house staff to brighten their day and show them they are not alone.

Scouts Collect Donations for Animals

For Lent, the 1st Grade Cub Scouts, Roman Rego, Grant Fujimura, Luke Valderrama, Tobias Balland, Troy Valdez, Cameron Rodriguez and Miles Villanueva ran a donation drive and collected daily necessities for the animals at the Dublin SPCA. Donations were delivered to the shelter during the Shelter in Place, a time when supplies were most needed for the animals.



Families Supply PPE to Frontliners

During the pandemic, personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages presented a tremendous challenge to our frontliners in healthcare. St. Raymond students and families leveraged their skills and talents to fill the need. Marissa Abbatiello in 7th grade created PPE masks for family members. The Carrion family handmade 75 headbands for local nurses and have been helping the Avalos family collect sweatshirts for local farmers. Sammy Seymour in 6th grade volunteered at a local ambulance company to organize PPE bags and give a helping hand where he was able.



Students Use Technology to Connect With Others

Many families are finding that the best way to brighten someone's day is reaching out through text, phone calls and Zoom. The Jupina Family have reached out via zoom and phone to the elderly people in their lives and have brought meals to those in need. Forest Rodman, 7th grade, has been using his skills to help teach Zoom classes for his dad's martial arts gym.

While we cannot assemble as a congregation during the pandemic, the Valdez family found a way to bring the power of prayer to people's homes. Tristan (6th), Tyler (4th), Troy (1st) and Tyson (preschool) have been leading a virtual weekly rosary with extended family since April 26th with special intentions for the current pandemic. Participation has grown to 26 families with representation from Northern and Southern California, Washington, Canada, Australia and even the Philippines!

St. Raymond Sports Field

The St. Raymond School Board together with the St. Raymond Buildings & Grounds Committees are excited about the progress made on the planning and development of the new St. Raymond Field. Careful consideration went into selecting field features for the best utility during and after school, cost and size. The field designs incorporate a two lane running track, soccer field, bleachers, picnic space as well as landscaping and foliage.

The shelter in place mandates have required the school to prioritize its focus on distance learning and adapting to the shelter-in-place orders. The school will resume this project when the facilities planning committees are able to meet again in the fall.

Thank you to all families, friends and parishioners who have contributed to the Annual Fund to help make our field of dreams a reality! We are delighted to share that an additional \$50,000 was raised at the School Auction last March, bringing us closer to our goal. If you would like to make a donation, please visit the St. Raymond School website or contact the St. Raymond School Office (925) 828-4064.



Field designs, schematics and 3D renderings by Stephanie Fujimura, Parent



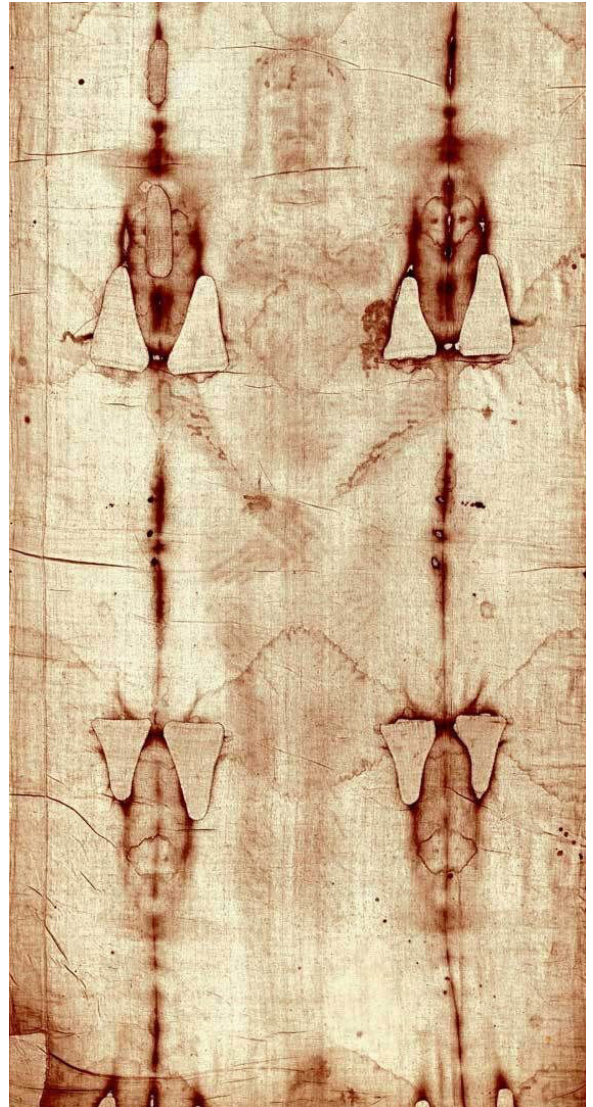
Students are Fascinated by Presentation on the Shroud of Turin by Fr. Lawrence D'Anjou

On January 15, 2020 we started the New Year with a very interesting presentation from Mr. Richard Bernatchez who shared exhibits and a presentation on the Shroud of Turin. The Shroud of Turin is said to be the burial cloth of Jesus. Mr. Bernatchez was here to try and convince us that the Shroud of Turin is the actual burial cloth of Jesus.

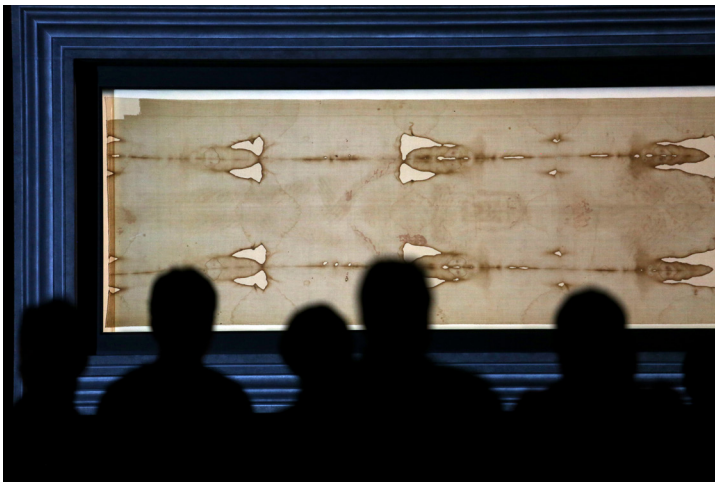
The burial customs in Jesus time include anointing a body with oil and perfume and then wrapping it in a linen cloth. "They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish custom" the Gospel of John 19:40 records. This was done on a Friday afternoon before the sabbath (John 19:31). But Jesus didn't remain in the tomb. Something amazing happened early the third day after Jesus' burial. The heavy stone was rolled away from the tomb and Jesus' body was no longer there! His burial cloths were still there as John 20:6 attests. This burial cloth was the main subject of Mr. Bernatchez's presentation.

St. Raymond school students listened to Mr. Bernatchez explain how ancient paintings and historical accounts attest to the shrouds presence through the centuries from Jesus' to our own. He spoke about the mysterious image of a crucified man on the shroud and how no one has been able to explain how it got there or has been able to duplicate such an image.

It was fun to watch the curiosity of the students as they looked at the many exhibits that accompanied the presentation. Children were drawn to a bone relic of St. Jude Thaddeus and to a relic of the True Cross which Jesus was crucified upon. They got to see an amazing piece of scientific equipment which showed a 3-D representation of the image on the shroud. There were also books about the history and science of the Shroud of Turin, stories of people involved with it and replicas of some artifacts related to Jesus' final days on earth.



"It was interesting to see what happened to Jesus; the type of weapons used on him," said Maya China of 6th grade. Anna Jarosz commented on how fascinating it was to see the cloth and how it showed Jesus' wounds. "I learned how we found proof of how he looked," said Miyo Macario. "I learned where some real artifacts of Jesus' life are." Chloe Barrios was impressed with how they hurt Jesus and how the resurrection of Jesus is a big part of the story of the Shroud of Turin.





St. Raymond School

To tour campus or request more information:
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