

THE President's GALA

A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE

Join us in our annual celebration of our brilliant Verbum Dei High School students and the bright futures that await them. **This year we're gathering virtually to support our Resiliency Fund**, an effort to close the funding gap pertaining to lost scholarships and job placements due to COVID-19. While our community of students and families have been impacted this year, their optimism has never wavered. We hope you'll join us in honoring their perseverance, and raising funds for those who need it most.

You'll find Reply Card enclosed. Thank you in advance for this special consideration. We look forward to "seeing" you there!

OUR MISSION

Verbum Dei is a Jesuit Catholic, Cristo Rey high school that offers young men from supportive families of limited resources a college prep curriculum, corporate work experience, and faith formation that prepare them to graduate from college as men-with-and-for-others who serve their communities and pursue a more just and humane world for all.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.verbumdei.us

THANK YOU TO OUR President's GALA COMMITTEE

Collin Hinds
Phil Hosp
Peter Looker
Eileen Mancera
Vince McGuinness
Sara Mijares Del-Fium
Maileen Phillips
John Privett, S.J.
Don Regan

David Seidner
Sean Tierney
Joe Viola
Scott Wendelin
Dan and Sue White
Mark Wood
Mary Beth Woods
Andy Zimbaldi



VERBUM DEI
HIGH SCHOOL
CRISTO REY LOS ANGELES

verbumdei.us

For more information, please call Stephanie Andrade
323-564-6651 ext. 5110 • sandrade@verbumdei.us

THE President's GALA

A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE

THURSDAY
MARCH 11, 2021



VERBUM DEI
HIGH SCHOOL

Stephen A. Privett, S.J. and the Gentlemen of Verbum Dei High School invite you to celebrate our joy, growth and success!

THE President's GALA

A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE

MARCH 11, 2021

6:20PM – PRESHOW

Get your cocktails ready! Entertainment for the night provided by our very own EJ Vierya, Theology teacher and “The Fitzgerald”

6:30PM

Livestream of “Celebration of Resilience” Featuring Verb’s President, Stephen Privett, S.J. with special guests, Frank Luntz and the Verbum Dei High School Class of 2021.

THIS IS A VIRTUAL EVENT

streaming live at www.verbumdei.us

RSVP CARD ENCLOSED

For more information, please call Stephanie Andrade 323-564-6651 ext. 5110 sandrade@verbumdei.us

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Sue & Dan White

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Queenscare
Bob Smith Toyota/Patty & Mike Smith

BRONZE SPONSORS

Fox Rothschild, LLP
Law Office of Glenn Kawahara
Eileen Mancera

* Event sponsors at time of print.

OUR HONOREES



LATHAM
LATHAM & WATKINS

LATHAM & WATKINS/MICHAEL FEELEY

In 2002, Latham & Watkins incorporated the Corporate Work Study Program—an innovative program offered at Verbum Dei High School where all students work one day a week in corporate America. In addition to pro bono legal work, Latham has welcomed generations of Verb work study students to its offices. Frances Kipp, Michael Soriano, Ray Geroso, Keith Young, and everyone at Latham & Watkins provide not just an important work experience for our students, but also thoughtful mentoring that promotes students’ overall academic and personal development.

A senior partner at Latham, Michael Feeley’s contributions to Verbum Dei High School and to the Los Angeles Catholic community are broad and deep. He has actively supported Verbum Dei for over 18 years. Most recently, he utilized his legal expertise to work with the Archdiocese in support of Verbum Dei’s becoming an independent Jesuit, Cristo Rey school. Michael embodies the Jesuit ideal of “a person for others.”



JACK AND JUDY PERRY

Since 2008, Jack and Judy Perry have been steadfast supporters of Verbum Dei. And, in 2011, they were among the school’s first participants of the Verbum Dei’s Adopt-A-Student Program. This flagship fundraising program supports students through a mentoring system that goes beyond formal education, as well as assisting with the actual cost of that education. Jack and Judy have mentored and supported more than 10 students at Verbum Dei and beyond, through college.

Leading Verbum Dei’s Orange County support, Jack and Judy have spearheaded multiple fundraising events: gift gatherings, Verbum Dei’s First Annual Orange County Celebration, etc. Jack also serves as a founding member of Verbum Dei’s Mission Advancement Committee, Orange County. As successful as Verbum Dei has been in Los Angeles, we have been equally so in Orange County and not without the support of the Perry’s, and the many friends they have introduced to Verbum Dei.



VERBUM DEI CLASS OF 2021

Since entering Verbum Dei in 2017, the class of 2021 has diligently applied themselves to their course work, their work study jobs, their personal development, and their quest to become men for others. In their senior year they have had to give it their all while learning remotely and missing out on all senior activities. They have shown true resilience. And just as the 12

graduating classes preceding them, a 100% college acceptance rate is expected.

IN MEMORIAM

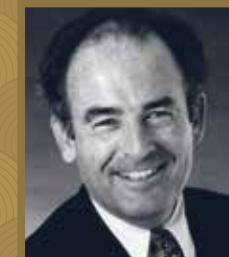


RICHARD WELLINGTON “JACK” LASATER II

For the past 15 years, Foley and Lardner where Jack was a partner, has provided student internships for over 50 motivated young men. Jack took special pleasure in mentoring Verbum Dei students. He was their champion and helped them grow from timid freshmen to confident college-bound graduates. Until recently, he attended every Verbum Dei graduation and treated students to an annual “end of year lunch” at the California Club

to discuss colleges. He also helped some of the students apply to Stanford University, his alma mater.

Jack lived his life as a “man for others.” He was a quiet champion for many whose station in life is better because of him. Jack’s death is a loss for the Verbum Dei family, but his generous spirit will be remembered and have a lasting impact on the school through **The Jack Lasater Scholarship Fund**.



GARY WEBBER PHILLIPS

For nearly 15 years, Gary was in support of Verbum Dei High School personally and through his firm, Phillips & Associates. In fact, were it not for Gary’s advice, Verbum Dei very likely would have closed without his vital tutelage on how to safely navigate cutting \$1,000,000 out of a \$4,000,000 budget during a very trying time while keeping the school open and functioning. Further, Gary went out of his way to help develop the Mission

Advancement Office through his time, talents, and finances. He specifically mentored members of the Mission Advancement Office for over ten years helping them grow to raise the largest funds in school history while maintaining some of the highest donor retention rates in the industry.

Gary exemplified a “man with and for others” to all he met. He always made himself available to the staff with a warm smile and a kind word at Verbum Dei and many, many other organizations all across Los Angeles and Orange County. The phrase, “Let’s ask Gary,” has been uttered in many a Development Office all across Southern California and it truly saddens us all that we can no longer. Yet, by his example, Verbum Dei High School will continue the spirit of his support by helping Verbum Dei students through **The Gary Phillips Scholarship Fund**.

Spring Gala AWARDS DINNER

The Verbum Dei High School annual Spring Gala is a celebration and fundraiser for scholarships to support Verbum Dei High School students. This year, the event is raising funds for the Adopt-A-Student Program for all Verbum Dei students. On average this

scholarship fund has to cover \$10,000 per student every year. With more than 300 students, that is quite a large funding gap.

Your gift will directly impact the students by providing much-needed scholarships. Please read the Reply Card enclosed with this invitation and check all the opportunities you can to benefit these worthy students who so need your assistance. (Most people check more than one box!) We are looking forward to seeing you at the dinner and celebrating together the students of Verbum Dei and your generosity.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.verbumdei.us

Our MISSION

Verbum Dei High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, college and career preparatory complemented by our corporate internship program, serving young men of Watts

and the surrounding communities who are economically and academically underserved. We develop self-confident gentlemen who are intellectually motivated, spiritually rooted, contemplative, and courageous in their pursuit of a more humane and just world.

Opportunity DRAWING

Pleasant Holidays Vacation for Two to Maui

\$50 per ticket

Buy four tickets get one free!

- Round trip air from LAX for 2
- 8 days, 7 nights at Royal Lahaina Resort
- \$300 credit at selected resort restaurants
- 2 complimentary \$108 value/person luau tickets

Complete enclosed reply card to purchase tickets or visit our website at www.verbumdei.us for more information.

Made possible by a grant from
The William H. Hannon Foundation

Drawing to be held during event.
Winner need not be present.

2018 Spring Gala

AWARDS DINNER

MARCH 8, 2018
Biltmore Hotel



VERBUM DEI
HIGH SCHOOL
CRISTO REY LOS ANGELES



Spring Gala COMMITTEE

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for this wonderful group of volunteers.

Rev. Allan Deck, S.J.
Mary Lin Dedeaux
Heidi Johnson
Mary Jo McKenna
Mimi O'Keefe
Mary Sabourin
Rev. Michael R. Tang

Kristen I. Hemenez

Kristen I. Hemenez, Senior Vice President at Capital Group, has been an ardent supporter of Verbum Dei High School for almost 10 years and was instrumental in initiating Capital Group's engagement with The Verb's Corporate Work Study Program. Since 2010, Capital Group has sponsored four full-time work study positions, recently expanding to six positions and a second office. Over the years, numerous Capital Group associates have mentored, trained, and broadened the horizons of the young men from Verbum Dei, exposing them to new perspectives and helping them develop their work and life skills. Through her efforts at Capital, and as a multi-year sponsor of the Adopt-A-Student program, Kristen's faith in our mission has served to tell the Verbum Dei story. She has demonstrated, by her example, what we hope our young men will one day become as members of their communities.

Rev. Michael J. Mandala, S.J.

Since joining Verbum Dei seven years ago, Father Mike has been a dedicated educator, president and member of the Executive Committee of our Board. His tenure at Verbum Dei includes many significant achievements. In 2017, 93% of our graduating students were accepted at four-year colleges, including top-notch schools such as Stanford University, Georgetown University, and UC Berkeley, among others. Under Father Mike's leadership, Verbum Dei has attracted new donors, in fact, the school is currently experiencing its largest fundraising growth in the history of the school. Father Mike has helped expand the Corporate Work Study Program to include many of the most prominent corporations and professional service firms in Los Angeles. The school's success today is a tribute to his faith in a hopeful future for the Verbum Dei community.

Verbum Dei Class of 2018

Since entering Verbum Dei in 2014, the class of 2018 has worked very hard and diligently on their course work, their work study jobs, their personal development, and their quest to become men for others. They have succeeded, and as with their ten predecessors, the graduating Class of 2018 is expected to receive a 100% college acceptance rate.



2018 Spring Gala

AWARDS DINNER

MARCH 8, 2018
Biltmore Hotel



5:30 PM
Registration • Cocktails

7:00 PM
Dinner

Cocktail/Business Attire

Valet Parking
Biltmore – \$22
Pershing Square – \$7

Crystal Ballroom
506 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071

RSVP Card Enclosed

For more information, please call Stephanie Andrade 323-564-6651 ext. 5110 sandrade@verbumdei.us

Rev. Michael J. Mandala, S.J. and the Gentlemen of Verbum Dei High School invite you to celebrate our joy, growth and success!

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