



**Kindergarten Morning Retreat**  
*St. Cecilia School, Tustin*

Kindergarten students enjoyed a special morning retreat celebrating God's love! The retreat included a visit by Fr. Nicolaus Thai. Following the visit by Fr. Nicolaus, students created Valentines to give to someone special.

**Student Food Drive**  
*St. Irenaeus Parish School, Cypress*

During Catholic Schools Week, St. I students held a food drive for the **Giving Children Hope** organization. **Giving Children Hope** has a program called *We've Got Your Back*, that supplies backpacks of food to be sent home weekly with school children living in poverty in Orange County. Students who took part in the food drive were allowed a day to wear sports attire. St. Irenaeus students collected almost ten boxes of food.



**STEM Learning at the Zoo**  
*St. Michael Academy, San Diego*

Kindergarten, first and second graders visited the San Diego Zoo as an extension of the science curriculum on plants and animals. SMA prepares science lessons using the 5 E's: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. The trip covers the first 4 E's. During the visit, students intently observed plants, animals, and environments while they applied and reinforced what they learned in class.

**Graduate Profile Award**  
*St. Katharine Drexel Academy, San Diego*

Each month at SKDA, students are nominated for a **Graduate Profile Award** by their community. The Graduate Profile includes the four school values:

- Resilient learner
- Forward thinker
- Global citizen
- Servant leader

Twice a year, parents attend student led conferences which focus on growth in the values. At the end of the year, fourth and eighth graders demonstrate their progress during their time as SKDA Crusaders and show how they upheld the school values.





## Catholic Schools Week Activities

### *St. Rita's School, San Diego*

St. Rita's celebrated Catholic Schools Week by dedicating a special theme to each day.

- **Monday** - Student Appreciation Day: A pancake breakfast made by teachers, a pep rally, no homework, and free dress.
- **Tuesday** - Community Service/Appreciation Day: Flag lesson by a veteran at flagpole for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. Student Council led community service project for homeless, and Jeans for Jesus.
- **Wednesday** - Family Appreciation Day: Pizza lunch with families.
- **Thursday** - Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day.
- **Friday** - Vocations and Donor Appreciation Day: Altar server and vocation recognition which included Sr. Gloria's vocation story (5th-8th grades), and a Buddy Gospel Reflection.

## Helping the Homeless in the Neighborhood

### *School of Our Lady, Santa Ana*

During a November social studies class, 8th graders and teacher, Mrs. Avila-Gonzalez, discussed how to help the homeless population in Santa Ana. School of Our Lady students implemented a homelessness awareness service project. Their goal was to put together 200 care packages to be delivered to a homeless shelter in Santa Ana. City Councilmember, David Penalzoza visited students on campus to show his support. This project perfectly aligned as a Catholic Schools Week service project. On January 25th, the Class of 2020, Mrs. Avila-Gonzalez, and Councilmember Penalzoza delivered the care packages to the Link Shelter in Santa Ana.

