

Saint Therese Carmelite School takes back Halloween

BY MINNIE GASKILL

As the popular celebration of Halloween becomes ever more fascinated with gore, ultra-violence, and the demonic, a local school is bucking this trend.

Halloween has risen to become the second biggest commercial holiday in the United States. As decorations, costumes, and themed events have become more elaborate and macabre, many seem to have forgotten the two days which follow. Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, as the name implies, is the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day). This is then followed by All Souls' Day. In Catholic and some Protestant traditions, these three days are a special time to remember and pray for the dead.

In order to shift the emphasis away from Halloween frights and back to the latter holy days, Saint Therese Carmelite School in Alhambra has its students dress up as saints on Oct. 31. They are not supposed to tell anyone which saints they are; in the afternoon each one has to give three clues to group members who then have to guess.

"The idea is to expose our students to as many saints as possible," said school Principal Alma Cornejo. "So they become familiar with them, imitate their virtues, and turn to them in time of need."

The saint quiz is followed by each grade marching around the playground in an All Saints' Day Parade. The celebration then culminates in an elaborate Trunk or Treat thrown by parents. Not only do parents give the children candy from trunks painstakingly decorated with everything from theatrical smoke to "papel picado" (perforated paper used for Day of the Dead), but they host carnival games where the students win even more candy.

"I really enjoy All Saints' Day, especially as a member of the Student Council," said Olivia, the Student Council member orga-



A Saint Therese student dresses up as a saint Oct. 31 as part of a program to get students to become familiar with the saints.

nizing this year's festivities. "I can see how much the students want to learn about our Catholic Saints and how much fun everyone has playing the different games we offer during the afternoon party and going Trunk or Treating."

Saint Therese Carmelite School was founded in 1926 and serves students in TK through eighth grade. The school educates students through the Catholic classical model to equip them with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary to succeed throughout their lives. As an alternative to Common Core, this model is developmentally appropriate and aims to provide well-rounded education, including classic books, math up to Euclidean geometry, science, Catholic catechesis, Latin, music, art, and P.E.

For more information, please visit <https://sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com/> and the school's Facebook page.



Howard Xu. Photo by J. Emilio Flores/Cal State LA.

Alhambra resident Howard Xu receives Cal State LA's 2019 Outstanding Professor Award

Cal State LA recognized Alhambra resident Howard Xu for excellence in the classroom and service to the community during the 2019 Fall Convocation at the Luckman Fine Arts Complex.

Mr. Xu, a microbiology professor in the university's Department of Biological Sciences, was one of four Outstanding Professors honored for excellence in teaching and significant achievement in scholarly inquiry or creativity, as well as professional activities and community service during the Aug. 19 event.

Mr. Xu directs an applied microbiology and biotechnology lab at Cal State LA, where students conduct research on novel antibiotics and elucidation of mechanisms of pathogenesis of bacterial pathogens. He has mentored master's, undergraduate, and post-baccalaureate students, resulting in more than 40 peer-reviewed publications from his lab.

He is also the director of incubator development and programming for Cal State LA BioSpace, which is leading the university's collaboration with private-sector firms and government agencies to promote inclusive entrepreneurship, innovation, workforce development, and commercialization of the regional bioscience industry in the heart of Los Angeles.

Mr. Xu has secured more than \$2

million in grants for his research program studying mechanisms of antibiotic resistance and virulence, with a special emphasis on developing novel antibiotics. He has also been co-principal investigator on more than \$11 million in grants that support research and biotechnology initiatives at Cal State LA.

For his outstanding contributions to biotechnology research and education, he was presented the Anthony Andreoli Faculty Service Award in 2011 and the Faculty Research Award in 2018, both from the CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology.

Mr. Xu earned his Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Minnesota and was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by The Ohio State University.

Additionally, three Outstanding Professor Awards went to Cal State LA faculty members Mark Balaguer, Heidi Riggio, and Deborah Won, and an Outstanding Lecturer Award was given to Jessica Bodoh-Creed. A President's Distinguished Professor Award was presented to Sachiko Matsunaga, who was a previous outstanding professor recipient. This award recognizes the faculty member's superlative teaching and exceptional commitment to students, as well as professional accomplishments and services.

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino announces 'Live Your Dream Awards'

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino is taking applications for women who are eligible to apply for "Live Your Dream" education and training cash awards. The process begins at the club level, where monetary awards are given in descending order, from first to fifth place. The first place award recipient becomes eligible to receive a more substantial Region level cash award if she is again chosen as the first place winner. As the first place winner at the Region level, she advances to the Federation level, where she may receive one of three Federation cash awards.

The Live Your Dream Awards are unique educational grants for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. Eligible applicants must be enrolled in, or have been accepted to either a vocational/skills training program or an



SOROPTIMIST

undergraduate degree program and must demonstrate a financial need.

Live Your Dream Awards give women the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects. Recipients may use the cash award to offset any cost associated with their efforts to attain higher education, including books, child care, and transportation.

If applicants meet the eligibility requirements as delineated at bit.ly/LYDA-apply, they may complete the application. Applications are accepted until Nov. 15.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer organization that economically improves the lives of disadvantaged woman and girls. Soroptimist International envisions a world where women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential.

Rotary
Club of Alhambra

OUR ROTARIANS OF THE MONTH

Each month, we highlight a Rotarian that exemplifies our values.

For October our two Exemplary Rotarians are Linda Wong & Raymond Poon.

Our club appreciates Linda & Raymond for taking the initiative in helping secure funding for an international project which will help renovate a school in Malawi, Africa. This project will assist in the ongoing fight to raise children out of poverty and inspire hope in them so they can become leaders who transform their nations.

We recognize and thank you for leading the efforts of giving back to the Malawi, often called the Warm Heart of Africa for their kindness and generosity. Through building these relationships, and giving back to those who give, you are embodying the 2019-2020 Rotary Goal of Connecting the World.

Linda and Raymond, the club truly thanks you for living above and beyond our motto: Service Above Self.

Rotary is a fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders who:

Some of Our Programs

- Support the AUSD: Tim Siu Scholarship, Teacher Mini Grants, Sponsor High School Service Clubs
- Support our underprivileged community: Thanksgiving Food Baskets, APD Hygiene Kits for the Homeless, Holiday Wish List Shopping for Kids
- Work with local and international non-profits: Raise Money for Children's Hospital, Send Crutches to Africa and Wheelchairs to Mexico, Eradicate Polio