

Fr. Jim Bevacqua Makes Waves at Holy Family Catholic Community: An Incredible Leadership!

A special article published to express gratitude to Holy Family Glendale's Pastor, 2018 & 2019 Voted Best Clergy in Glendale, CA by Dr. Fidela Suelto (Principal, Holy Family Grade School), Deacon Ron Baker (Director of Operations for Ministries & Facilities Manager), Karen Compton (Project Manager - A3K Consulting), Katharine Monahan Huntley (Vice Principal of Elementary School), Alexa Isaac (Transitional Kindergarten Teacher), Ashley Liberda (Vice Principal of Middle School), Tony Makhoul (Parent-Teacher Organization, PTO Board President), Teresa Nelson (Athletic Director & Vice Principal of Primary School), Michael O'Brien (Consultative School Board, CSB President), Dr. Joe Reiken (Head of School for Holy Family High School), Jared Soliman (Middle School Math Teacher), Jeff Terashima (Business Manager of Holy Family High School), and HF Middle School students – James Chavez, Leona Cochico, Aidan Endoso, Clint Pascual, and Evelyn Samija.)



Fr. James Michael Bevacqua, dearly known as Fr. Jim, led the October 29th Ribbon-cutting ceremony with retired Bishop Gerald Wilkerson's blessing of the Grade School's enhanced facility renovations. Esteemed guests of honor John and Dorothy Shea of Shea Family Charities, dignitaries from the City of Glendale and the Department of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Los Angeles were in attendance. Thanks to the gifts of the Shea Family Charities to implement the second phase of a master plan which is the renovation of the Grade School fence and play yard. Fr. Jim spearheaded this Master Planning Process, with the over-all goal of Building Our Future for Holy Family Catholic Community. With the continuous development of Holy Family, some of the constituents have shared how much Fr. Jim's leadership has impacted each of their lives. Each question develops a true sense of pride and gratitude toward Fr. Jim's guidance of his flock.



1. How do you find Fr. Jim's vocation as a priest and as our spiritual leader? How has he helped in keeping our community's Catholic Faith?

Michael O'Brien: I feel blessed that Fr. Jim married my oldest son Patrick. The ceremony was very spiritual and at the same time, uniquely personal for Patrick and his bride, Sandi. I witnessed the gift of his vocation in a very memorable way. I have also watched him excel as a pastor over the past few years at HFGS. He recognized that there was an opportunity to do something special at HFGS and that there were people who could help him make it happen. Part of being a strong leader is assessing the people you are leading and bringing out the best in them. He has brought that gift of leadership to HFGS.

Teresa Nelson: Fr. Jim's faithful ministry to the people of our Holy Family Catholic Community is inspiring. His, guidance and teachings are uplifting and help bring us closer to Christ. His homilies remind us of our responsibility to one another through our actions, decisions, and words. Through Fr. Jim's leadership our Catholic community has been provided with many opportunities to learn, serve, and grow closer with each other in our faith journey.

Deacon Ron Baker: Fr. Jim is focused on the current climate of our society. He shares stories and insights that bring the truth of scripture to our current everyday lives. He often talks and prays with community on things that happen at our parish, our city, our country, and the world.

Karen Compton: Father is a unique leader inasmuch as he not only leads the faith of the church but the business of the church. Because of my unique position within the team, I experience his stewardship most. Father is thoughtful in how he invests the tithes and offerings of the church to improve not only the community of the faithful, but the broader Glendale community.

Ashley Liberda: Father Jim is a wonderful pastor who continuously makes others feel welcomed. He listens wholeheartedly, he advises with honesty, and he is involved in not only the lives of our students, but in the lives of the administration, faculty, staff, and parents as well. Father Jim has helped me persevere through challenging moments and I am grateful for his leadership, mentorship, and friendship.

Krikor Kiladjian: Fr. Jim loves what he does! He enjoys interacting with faculty, staff, and students and genuinely wants the best for us. His homilies during our masses are geared directly to our students and he makes understanding the message of the gospel very easy. He also provides other real world examples that students can easily connect to.

Katy Huntley: Father Jim is eminently suited to his vocation as a priest, and as our Holy Family Catholic Community spiritual leader. He possesses a natural graciousness during Mass, ensuring all are welcome. His homilies in particular are accessible and engaging. Fr. Jim makes a point to be visible on campus, greeting students and adults alike with smiles and words of encouragement. On a personal note, Fr. Jim reached out to me when I was recovering from breast cancer. He recognized my need for spiritual healing, and arranged for a restorative pilgrimage to Lourdes, France.

Alexandra Isaac: Father Jim has a naturally welcoming presence to him, which brings a sense of comfort to all those who interact with him. From being a student to working under him, he has always gone above and beyond to make sure we know we are all loved and appreciated. He truly ties our community together.



Jared Soliman: Fr. Jim has welcomed me into the Holy Family Community with open arms since my first day. He never fails to tell me how much he appreciates me and it is such a pleasure to work for him, knowing I will always have his full support. It is easy to see how much Fr. Jim cares about our students. His guidance during school masses, classroom visits, and attendance at sports games, truly inspires our students to deepen their relationship with God. Our community is truly blessed to have Fr. Jim as our pastor, leader, and friend.

Tony Makhoul: Father Jim is a remarkable priest. His wealth of theological knowledge is immeasurable and his spiritual guidance radiates throughout our community. Father Jim is friendly, kind, caring, and supportive.

Jeff Terashima: Father Jim's presence at the high school has strengthened our Catholic faith and identity in so many ways. Whether it is attending the senior retreat, saying Mass for the school, providing confessions to the students or being present for the day with the girls, Father Jim is the cornerstone spiritual leader of the high school and parish communities.

2. How do you see his vision and his spearheading the Building Our Future Campaign - Master Plan working for Holy Family's congregation of people, the Glendale community, and beyond?

Michael O'Brien: His ability to minister to us as a priest and lead us a pastor is a glorious gift. There are many wonderful priests and pastors. Fr. Jim is amazing because he is both.

Teresa Nelson: Fr. Jim has worked tirelessly in making his vision come to reality in the grade school, and continues to work for the remainder of the Master Plan to come to fruition. Our beloved grade school presents itself now as one of the most beautiful campuses in the Los Angeles Archdiocese while inspiring our students to shine as brightly and academically through the updated technology and classroom enhancements. All of these gifts to our school community have been through Fr. Jim's vision and his spearheading our Building Our Future Campaign.

Deacon Ron Baker: Fr. Jim has illustrated how the original church and schools were built by past generations for our benefit. He knows what we need to do to take care of our aging facilities and building new ones for the future. They will benefit us as well as the future generation of this parish and the Glendale community in whole.

Karen Compton: Father's vision for Holy Family is to create a campus that brings the community of Glendale into the community of faith that is Holy Family. The vision for parish center creates ONE interwoven center for staff and administration to work; a safe and secure environment that architecturally integrates with the residential area of south Glendale and is inviting to the community at large. As a leader, he is driven to see this vision realized and for those of us that are fortunate enough to support it, it is a blessing!

Joe Reiken: Father Jim is a visionary. I have always appreciated his commitment to and passion for quality and high standards, both for the high school and the parish community. The Building Our Future Campaign is the embodiment of his commitment to quality and ushering in the next era for the Holy Family community.

Ashley Liberda: Father Jim is not only an incredible pastor, but he is a fantastic businessman as well. With his innovative ideas, modernized perspective, and goal-oriented mind, Father Jim has helped foster a 21st century classroom through effective communication, collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership.

Krikor Kiladjian: The wonderful changes that have been made at HFGS (HVAC, playground, water fountains, restrooms, and faculty room) would not be possible without Father Jim's efforts. His vision is clear and firm steps have been taken to effectuate them. We are seeing the fruit of his vision!



Katy Huntley: We can literally see Father Jim's vision realized on the physical campus of Holy Family Grade School. The strides to modernize this 1925 campus have resulted in a welcoming ambiance that serves to elevate our educational purpose as a Catholic school. The Holy Family Catholic Community is quite evidently and enthusiastically following our spiritual leader!

Alexandra Isaac: His vision has become a reality through our new playground! Each time my Transitional Kindergarten class gets to go to recess, they are filled with excitement to be able to play in such a beautiful play structure. The turf is a wonderful addition, and although was mostly intended for play, our class loves to have outdoor lessons here when the weather is nice. Our school has been transformed into a more modern, aesthetically pleasing environment all because of the hard work Father Jim put into making our dreams a reality.

Jared Soliman: He has completely transformed Holy Family Grade School's campus. It is such a great thing to see our young students be filled with joy on the play structure and it reminds me of why I teach. We all look to Fr. Jim's generosity and leadership as the biggest reason why the Master Plan has become a reality.

Tony Makhoul: Father Jim is a visionary priest. He takes on immense challenges as GOD is his guide to beautify his community with his positive leadership and by creating Catholic leaders to walk along with him.



3. Any additional inspiring words about our Pastor -

Deacon Ron Baker: Fr. Jim inspires young people. He wants a good environment for them to grow. He wants young adults to continue to grow. He wants the mature adults to be more like children - innocent, non-judgmental, loving and being happy with simplicity.

Ashley Liberda: Genuine, motivated, and knowledgeable are best words to describe him.

Krikor Kiladjian: I leaned on Father Jim regarding a personal issue. He helped me tremendously and I can't thank him enough for it. I am better for it because of his help. We are lucky to have him as our pastor!

Katy Huntley: Father Jim Bevacqua embodies his favorite adjective: Awesome!

Teresa Nelson: Words alone cannot express appreciation for the dedicated service Fr. Jim has provided to our Church community. His kindness and personal touch of acknowledging each of us for the gifts we bring to our community, his gentle way of consoling us in our sorrow, and celebrating with us in our happy moments have endeared him to us as more than a Pastor.

Alexandra Isaac: With Fr. Jim's ambition, Holy Family will continue to improve and prosper!

Jared Soliman: Ambitious, confident, and relentless!

Tony Makhoul: A future Bishop.

James Chavez: Overall, he is a fantastic pastor at Holy Family Grade School. He makes an effort to speak with the students inquiring about their school day and home life. I personally speak with Father Jim often and he asks me about my day and how the Varsity Football game went. He even tries to make it to our games to cheer us on. I personally love how Father Jim runs things. He is a great person and he does his best to make the students of Holy Family Grade School smile.

Clint Pascual: An amazing pastor and friend! He takes time out of his busy day to greet and speak with the students and teachers after school. He always asks the students how their day went and he comforts everyone when needed. Another amazing thing about Father Jim is that he prays for us and blesses us prior to sporting events. He even tries to attend our games if he is not too busy. My brother and I have known Father Jim our entire lives and he always tells us how he remembers us when we were younger. This always puts a smile on our faces. He is an amazing person and it makes the students at Holy Family Grade School happy when we get to see him.



Aidan Endoso: He is a great pastor, very friendly, and caring towards others. He greets students during and after school. He likes to ask me how my day has been and how my family is, which shows how caring he is. He also comes to a few sporting events to support us. Overall, he is a great pastor and he will try to make your day better.

Leona Cochico: Such a nice priest and an amazing person to talk to. Every time he sees me, he always comes up to give me a pat on the back or sometimes a hug. He is the type of person one would feel happy and safe to be around. After Mass, he always greets the students, gives high fives, and even hugs many of us. Whenever I see Father Jim, he asks me how my brother is doing and this always makes me smile. Overall, he is a great person and he always makes us feel better if we had a bad day.

Evelyn Samija: Father Jim is a very good priest and really inspirational to speak with. In fact, he is more like a friend than a priest. He always makes me feel better when I am sad. He always has something nice and interesting to say and you will always feel better after you talk to him. In all, he is an amazing priest and an overall great person.



(3rd from left) Fr. Jim Bevacqua at Holy Family Catholic Community is one of Glendale's Best - VOTED BEST Clergy in two consecutive years, 2018 and 2019 – Glendale Readers' Choice Awards.



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