

*A Celebration of Faith*



*Sisters of the Holy Family Jubilee 2008*

## *Sr. Mary Aquinas Judge, SSF*

Sister Mary Aquinas Judge (nee Blanche Odette Judge), daughter of the late Joseph Vincent Judge and Ethel Carmon Judge entered into eternal rest on January 11, 2012. Sister Aquinas was born in Palmetto, Louisiana on October 11, 1915 and was 96 years old. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 8, 1933, professed Temporary Vows on May 30, 1936 and made Perpetual Profession on August 15, 1942.

During her seventy-eight years in religious life, Sister ministered to the people of God as a teacher and catechist in the following schools and parishes: St. Francis Xavier, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana; St. Paul and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lafayette, Louisiana; Holy Ghost, Opelousas, Louisiana; Holy Rosary, Galveston, Texas; Holy Redeemer, San Antonio, Texas; Our Mother of Mercy, Houston, Texas; and St. Joseph, Marshall, Texas. Sister also served as Novice Mistress for six years. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Sister Aquinas served in the Prayer Ministry at the Motherhouse. After Hurricane Katrina, she lived in Alexandria, Louisiana and stayed there until 2011 when she returned to the Motherhouse in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her last few months at the Motherhouse were memorable ones. She delighted in time spent with old Novitiate friends, and often expressed her gratitude to the Sisters for bringing her back to live at the Motherhouse. Her short stay at the Motherhouse left a lasting and edifying image to those who ministered to her. Sister Laura Mercier said, "I found Sister Aquinas joyful, alert, and very grateful for the care given to her. Everyday she remarked how happy she was to be at the Motherhouse. It was evident that Sister deeply loved her family. I thank God for permitting me to be there for her."

Sister Aquinas was preceded in death by her parents, John and Ethel Judge and her sister, Mary. She is survived by devoted cousins and friends. She will be greatly missed by all.

# Sr. Mary Aquinas Judge Memorial Fund

St. Joseph Catholic School, located at 2307 South Garrett Street, has served the Marshall community and surrounding Harrison County area with quality education from 1879 to its closing in 2001 due to area economic distress. The school experienced rebirth in 2007 as an Early Learning Center and now has expanded its academic offerings to 4<sup>th</sup> grade beginning this current 2012-2013 school year.

To continue the growth trend, long-range plans will add grades each year, beginning with 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2012, until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade vision is realized. The school continually strengthens its identity as an accredited elementary school with extraordinary student achievement and provides another education choice for parents in our growing Marshall community and surrounding area.

Parents have chosen St. Joseph's Catholic School for their children's education because of its safe, Christ-centered environment, academic excellence, and attentive enthusiastic teachers. From baking pies to planting a garden, our students are learning to apply math and science. Social studies, and important communication skills such as reading, writing, and public speaking are part of the curriculum. Spanish language, music and art are also offered and participation in physical education is a vital activity that is important to the enrichment and overall learning development of each child. In addition to academic studies, our students are learning about kindness and respect for themselves and others by practicing the disciplines of patience and sharing Christian values such as loving our neighbors as Jesus taught.

St. Joseph's also offers Pre-Kindergarten classes for children ages 3-5 years. They are taught by teachers who are attentive, energetic, and love teaching these youngest students. The "Pre-K" classes are education curriculum-based and prepare children academically and socially for the expectations of Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and beyond.

Registration and enrollment continues for the summer 2012 session. All students attending the Fall 2012 school session are enrolling now. We encourage you to visit our school and witness for yourselves what wonderful miracles take place on a daily basis that we know as "truth in action" that only children can experience.

According to Reverend (Fr.) Denzil Vitange, the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church and School, "the growth of St. Joseph's Catholic School has been inspired by God and nourished by all the hard work, dedication, and support of parents, faculty, staff, benefactors, and many others in the Marshall community."

You may visit **St. Joseph Catholic School** Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. For more information about enrollment and the school's programs and how they will benefit your children contact the school office at (903) 935-5502 or the St. Joseph Catholic Church office at (903) 935-2536.

The school is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Accreditation Commission (TCCAC) and recognized by the Texas Education Association (TED). All teachers at St. Joseph's are Texas state-certified in their fields.

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St. Joseph's Catholic School welcomes all children regardless of religion, race, or ethnic origin because our motto is **"Building the Kingdom of God one child at a time."**