



TACSC
A CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION

TACSC Alumni Newsletter Volume 15

CELEBRATING

Mother's Day

WE

GROW

LEADERS

“God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers”

- RUDYARD KIPLING

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers,” said Rudyard Kipling. Today is a day when we celebrate our mothers—those amazing women who brought us into the world, stayed up late nights with us, who took on many roles to fit our adapting needs, who taught us more about life than school and once we had grown, let us fly away. Yet, we return again and again to our moms because of the love, the family, the memories of our childhood and that indescribable connection.

When you think about it, that connection isn't so different from the one we have at TACSC. If you were on staff, you stayed up late at night to make sure delegates were not out of their rooms and you took on many roles to adjust to their needs. As delegates, you learned valuable life lessons and then you flew away, only to return to those friends (who are friends forever) because of those shared memories from your childhood and that indescribable connection to the TACSC family.

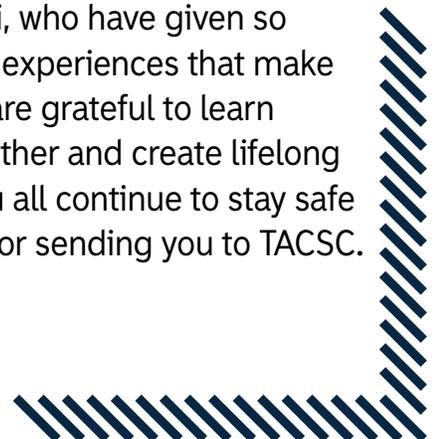
As a mother of three sons, one a TACSC alumni, I have seen first hand the transformation that happens at TACSC. The nervous delegate who gains a renewed confidence and the transformation in our staff as they give the best of themselves and grow in miraculous ways. It is this experience that we call the TACSC Magic.

This year, in the face of a pandemic, TACSC is working harder than ever to keep that magic alive. We have canceled our June Summer Conference and are cautiously optimistic about our late July dates. We are working hard to be ready with an online option if needed. Leaders are adaptable, and we are adapting to ensure that another generation can experience the TACSC Magic.

As we celebrate our 38th birthday, we celebrate each of you, our alumni, who have given so much to create the lasting lessons and experiences that make our TACSC family. Like all families we are grateful to learn from one another, face challenges together and create lifelong memories in the process. We hope you all continue to stay safe and don't forget to thank your mother for sending you to TACSC.

Happy Mother's Day!

Heidi Johnson,
Executive Director



GENERATIONS OF

Leadership

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Teresa Piña Jimenez is the seventh of eight children who grew up in Echo Park, California, where her mother, soon to be 90 years old, still lives. Ms. Jimenez and her siblings all attended Catholic schools, a family tradition that she carried on when she had a family of her own.

When she was in seventh grade, as a new student, Ms. Jimenez became a cheerleader and quickly acclimated to the community. She was elected as Commissioner of School Spirit and was invited by her school principal to attend the Catholic Association of Student Councils in 1976.

"My experience that summer was so impactful," Ms. Jimenez remembers. "It created deep self confidence."

She then went on to Our Lady of Loretto High School in Los Angeles, where she served on student council every year—Freshman Class President, Sophomore and Junior Class Social Director and then Associated Student Body Social Director.

Her student leadership continued through her college years at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, where she actively participated in M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán or the Chicano Student Movement of Aztlán), an organization that seeks to promote Chicano unity and empowerment.

Pictured above from left to right are Father Brian, Katie Gaitan, Gene Detre, Archbishop Gomez, Heidi Johnson, Sydney Strabala, Anthony Boulahoud and Teresa Jimenez at Summer Conference in 2019.



Ms. Jimenez's passion for serving continues, as she is now a Clinical Nurse III, Certified in Maternal Newborn Nursing, a Certified Lactation Educator and Baby Basic Instructor at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles—a challenging role to fill in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teresa has three daughters, all of whom were active leaders at their schools, primarily Our Mother of Good Counsel in Los Feliz. When her oldest daughter, Jazmin, was elected Student Body President, Ms. Jimenez met with the school principal to share the leadership experience she had at that age. Wanting her daughter to have the same opportunity, this began Ms. Jimenez's involvement with TACSC.

With all three of her daughters, Jazmin, Jaclyn and Janine, participating in TACSC, the Jimenez family has been involved with TACSC Summer Conferences in some capacity for more than 25 years.

Since first attending Summer Conference at the encouragement of her mother, Jazmin has served TACSC in many capacities ever since. She currently serves on the TACSC Board of Directors.

"I am forever grateful for my mother's continued modeling of love and leadership, which is fostered by our shared involvement with TACSC," says Jazmin.

Jaclyn was a delegate in 1998, a few years after Jazmin. She then served as a Staff Member from 2000 - 2012 and again in 2015. She also was a TACSC Intern in 2002 and Chair in 2015.

"TACSC has always and will always be a special organization to her and her family," says Jaclyn.

Janine attended her first conference in 2001. She had lost the election for Student Council President, but TACSC founder, Marilyn Thickett, encouraged her to attend anyway.

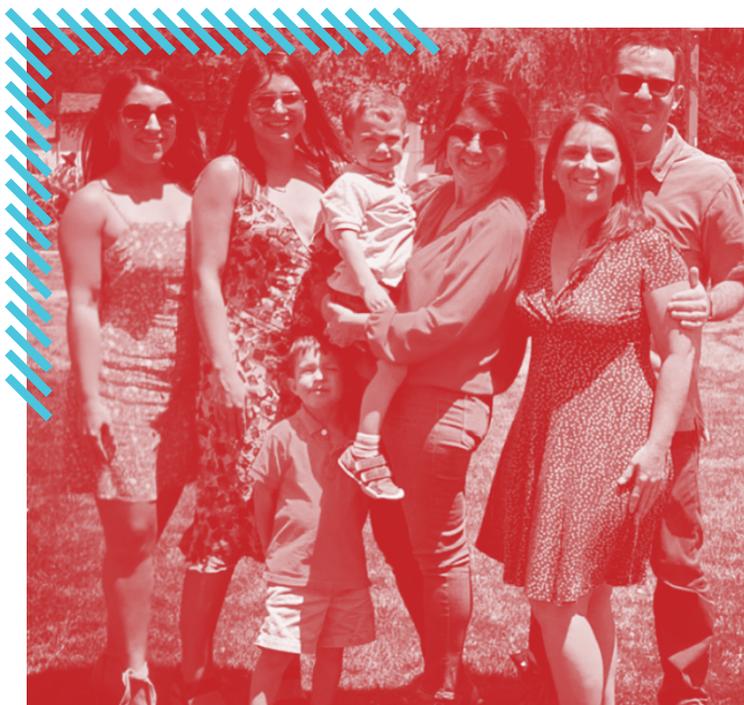
"I thought I knew the benefits from my sisters' experiences, but attending myself was even more magical than expected," Janine says. "I have lifelong friends in my TACSC family, and am continually grateful for true tools I learned and relationships I developed over the years."

From then on, she led Student Government Days (now known as Student Leadership Days), was on staff at Pitzer and Menlo Colleges from 2002 - 2006 and was also on the retreat team, led by Ali Jacobe Bergeron.

Once her daughters went to college and began their careers, Ms. Jimenez wanted to give back to an organization that gave her and her family so much. She has supported TACSC by being the full-time Camp Nurse "Mom" for more than nine years.

"One of the best memories I have was to experience a Summer Conference with my mom on staff, says Jaclyn. "It was fun to see her in her element and share her talents while being the





Camp Nurse. We laughed, cried, cheered, prayed and did the chicken dance together. I am so grateful for the opportunity TACSC gave for some extra quality time."

"I'm excited for the day when my children can go to TACSC Summer Conference and their Grandma Terri is their Camp Nurse," says Jazmin. "At that point, they will be able to celebrate three generations of TACSCers!"

*Happy Mother's Day to
our Camp Mom!*



As we celebrate our 38th birthday, we celebrate each of you, our alumni, who have given so much. During these challenging times, we hope that you'll take a moment to relive the TACSC magic and recognize this milestone. Reach out to an old friend from Summer Conference, dig out the old photos, share your favorite TACSC memories or consider making a donation. Whether it's a dollar for every TACSC birthday or another amount meaningful to you, a donation of any size helps TACSC grow more future Catholic leaders—just like you.

**Wish TACSC a
Happy Birthday**

Give Now



CONGRATS Graduates



FARLEY ANUNCIACION

University: California State University, Dominguez Hills
Major: Business Administration / General Business

Farley started LAX WHITEGLOVE SERVICES, a transportation and whiteglove service company that services logistic, corporate and luxury brand companies in California. He is also in the process of purchasing his first house.



MEGAN DEEGAN

University: California State Polytechnic University
Major: Journalism (Public Relations)
Minor: Communications

Megan will be moving to Newport Beach to join the a public relations agency's social media team.



AVA HALLIDAY

University: California State University Northridge
Majors: Criminology and Justice Studies

Ava will continue as a teacher's aide at St. Paschal Baylon School in Thousand Oaks, while working to obtain her teaching credentials.



ALEX HAGERTY

University: Texas Christian University
Major: Accounting
Minor: Political Science

Alex will be working at Deloitte in Dallas, Texas while she pursues her Masters of Accounting at Texas Christian University.





ALLIE HANDAL

University: Loyola University Chicago
Major: Advertising and Public Relations
Minor: Marketing

Allie just moved to Wrigleyville, IL and is interning for a digital marketing agency in Chicago.



GRANT MOONEY

University: University of California, Los Angeles
Major: Sociology

Grant's next steps are in the air, as he takes life day by day.



JACQUELYN TEPPER

University: Northwestern University
Majors: Dance and Political Science
Minor: Environmental Policy & Culture

Jacquelyn is moving to London to join EDGE Dance Company at the Place, London Contemporary Dance School where she will be pursuing her Master's in Contemporary Dance Performance.



MADDY VALLADAO

University: Duke University
Major: Public Policy

Maddy will be working in New York as a consultant for Accenture.



SAVANNA LUJAN

University: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Majors: Apparel Merchandising and Management
Minor: Marketing

Savanna will be starting at Insight Global in August. Insight Global is an industry leader for staffing and managed services.



KENDALL STRABALA

University: University of Southern California
Majors: Law, History and Culture and Psychology

Kendall will attend law school in the fall.

Congratulations!

TACSC PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

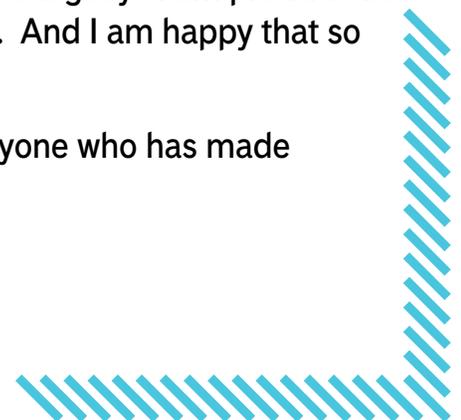
Happy Mother's Day! As a TACSCer since 1984, it has been my privilege to experience TACSC on many different levels. It truly runs through my veins. Very few other experiences build you the way TACSC does... and has been doing for more than 38 years.

I spoke with TACSC founder, Marilyn Thickett, this week, who is a second mother to many of us. After we made it past our political differences, we chatted about life and how things are changing. She was so excited to have seen so many TACSCers recently via a Zoom call earlier in the week. Catherine Mifsud organized alumni from the 80's and 90's to "Zoom in," and they spent a few hours catching up with each other. Marilyn was so happy to see her "kids" again.

Beginning in 1982, Marilyn built TACSC by showing us that leading others is not about your "ego." Rather, it is about becoming a good citizen and stepping forward to lead others, guided by our own example. Some things never change. For 38 years, the TACSC family has grown and we are sending OUR kids now. As Executive Director, Heidi continues to do an incredible job of building and strengthening the TACSC legacy. I am proud to be part of our TACSC past, present and future. And I am happy that so many of you reading this are the same.

Happy Mother's Day and thank you to everyone who has made TACSC so magical for so many years!

Gene Detre,
Program Director



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

PROGRAMMING UPDATE

This year, TACSC served middle school students from across the Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Phoenix (Arch)Dioceses. As featured in our last newsletter, we also had our first event at the Diocese of Stockton, starting a great partnership for future collaboration. The Core Leadership Team (CLT), composed of partner high school students, worked hard to prepare for these big spring events.

Every year, TACSC partners with an organization for the Servant Leadership module. This year, we partnered with the Spiritual Care Guild through Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Students created 500 bracelets, placemats and cards that will be delivered to the hospital.

We are grateful for all of our participating partner schools. Together, we are growing future Catholic leaders.



TACSC GOES DIGITAL

At TACSC, we teach our students that leaders are adaptable. COVID-19 has changed every organization's operation, including ours. Following social distancing and Stay-at-Home Orders, for the first time in TACSC History, the Annual Staff Selection and Development event did not happen in-person. We quickly adapted and had all of our staff create FlipGrid videos for their introductions. We also hosted a webinar for all Student Council moderators and administrators. We had more than 75 participants from more than 55 different schools join the webinar.

WE WANT TO

HEAR

from
YOU!

We're looking to collect important alumni demographic information to help us receive additional grant funding. Please take a few moments to complete this brief survey to help us continue the TACSC magic!



**TAKE THE
SURVEY**



Share your stories with us and stay connected with TACSC via social media or at tacsc@tacsc.org

FOLLOW US:



@tacsc



@tacsc



facebook.com/tacsc