

Celebration of Angels 2009



Msgr. Timothy O'Connell receiving "Outstanding Leadership Award" from Sr. Paula Vandegaer, International Life Services.



Event veteran and New Grandma, Diane Mayer with granddaughter, Miss Taylor Elizabeth Mayer attending her 1st Celebration of Angels.



Visitation School Students-Cast of "WICKED."

The 7th Annual CELEBRATION OF ANGELS (Luncheon, Youth Talent Showcase/Silent Auction) held on Saturday, February 7, 2009 in Visitation Church's O'Sullivan Hall was a grand success. The fundraiser, which equally benefits International Life Services (Respect Life) and the Fight for Jessica (Leoni) was a memorable occasion.

Sr. Paula Vandegaer, Founder of ILS, shared information on new "Respect Life" challenges, and encouraged everyone to continue to "be a voice for LIFE."

Sr. Paula presented Msgr. Timothy O'Connell, chairman of the Commission for Catholic Life Issues, and Pastor, Church of the Visitation, with the Outstanding Leadership Award and applauded Msgr. O'Connell as a true "HERO" for the "Respect Life" mission for over 30 years.

Anthony Leoni, Jessica's dad, shared the news of encouraging breakthroughs in the progress being made to find a cure for Niemann-Pick Type C (NP-C). Mr. Leoni also communicated his family's appreciation for the many spiritual gifts and the love, help and support they receive from so many "ANGELS" as they continue caring for Jessica's medical needs.

The Youth Talent Showcase was "Broadway Quality." Many St. Anastasia and Visitation Parish young people, along with Notre Dame Academy, Loyola High School and St. Monica High School students participated. Arriving guests were greeted with the enchanting "Heavenly Harpist," Carly Syta. Carly also dazzled the audience during the Talent Showcase with a song from Phantom. The Visitation students, along with Jessica Pierce, PAW Drama Teacher delivered a very "WICKED" performance of "WICKED!" Lisa Engler, "Lady of the Dance" performed two incredible Irish dances. Vocalists Brittany Gunnell (performing for the sixth year), Ali Toia and Sean Plume wowed the audience with their amazing voices. Brittany and Ali were both fabulous in their duet "Colors of the Wind" and when Brittany and Sean performed their duet, "My Prayer-" in ITALIAN!- there was not a dry eye in the room. It was SPECTACULAR!

The celebration of Angels was a prayerful day, a hopeful day and a day of Celebrating Life! Please keep Jessie (www.fightforjessica.com) and Sr. Paula, ILS & the Respect Life Mission (www.internationallifetimeservices.org) in your prayers.



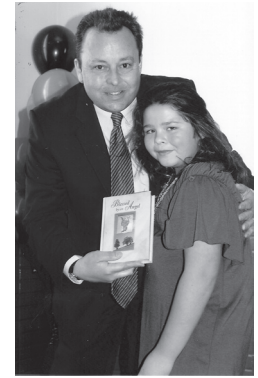
Jessicas Grandma, Peggy Leoni (left) with Mom, Lisa



John & Louise (ILSWA Founding Board Member) Walsh



Sr. Paula Vandegaer, Founder, International Life Services



Anthony Leoni receiving a special gift for Jessica from Jessie's Visitation School classmate, Lourdes Lidzbarski.



A fabulous group of young entertainers.



Teresa Syta, Mistress of Ceremonies, enjoying a special moment with her son, Tommy.