

Trott and Tamayo: Valuable staff members at SJA

Lori Trott was first employed at St. Joseph Academy in August 2000 as assistant principal for academics. She later became dean of the middle school and is now principal of St. Joseph Academy. In her current position, she is responsible for the academic work in both the middle school and the high school.

Trott and her husband moved to the Rio Grande Valley in the 1990s, retiring from their former home in the Chicago area. While living in Chicago, she had worked as a teacher, both in public schools and in Catholic schools.

In the year 2000, after living in the Valley for a time, she learned that St. Joseph was seeking to employ a person to serve as assistant principal. She became interested in returning to work in the field of Catholic education, and she applied for the job. Her previous experience in Chicago had given her a strong feeling of affiliation with Catholic education. She says that when she first walked onto the St. Joseph campus she felt like she “was coming home.”

She says her primary responsibility is to see that St. Joseph offers an education experience that adequately prepares students to continue their education at the college or university level. Her responsibilities include making sure that teachers have the resources they need for their classroom work, interviewing people seeking employment in the academic area, scheduling classes and other academic activities, reviewing student grades, identifying students for honor roll recognition and dealing with parents who wish to meet with her.

Lori says she very much enjoys the atmosphere at St. Joseph Academy, and she feels the students help her to continue feeling young.

Lupana Tamayo has been at St. Joseph Academy for more than 40 years, where she has served in several positions: as secretary, registrar and administrative assistant. Due to an increased enrollment, in 2005, she began working as registrar only. She has also served as surrogate mother to various students since beginning her employment in 1973.

She has served under almost a dozen principals, and her ongoing loyalty to the school has provided many administrations with good counsel and wisdom.

In her earlier years, most faculty members were brothers, and Dr. Peña was principal, followed later by Lucy Williams. During those years, the classroom building, located adjacent to the present-day administration building, was the site of a residence for brothers on the second floor, with a cafeteria on the first floor.

Her husband, Joe Tamayo, is a 1950 St. Joseph graduate. All four of their children are graduates, and three of their five grandchildren now attend St. Joseph.

She looks upon St. Joseph as a school whose mission is to prepare students to attend college and to lead productive lives.

On Jan. 20, 2007, Marist Brothers Provincial Brother John Klein bestowed upon Mr. and Mrs. Tamayo the USA Province Affiliation, the highest honor awarded by the Marist Brothers to lay community members. This award came about because of a recommendation by Brother Charles Imbergamo,

then president of St. Joseph Academy, that a special honor be bestowed on Mr. and Mrs. Tamayo for their services and loyalty to the school.

In 2005, Tamayo received the St. Joseph Spirit Award in recognition of her many years of service to the school.



Special to the Herald

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