



Alumni Newsletter

St. Joseph Catholic High School
Frederiksted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands

JULY 2011 SPECIAL EDITION

THERE ARE MANY OUTSTANDING ALUMNI OF ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL *HERE ARE THE STORIES OF SOME OF THEM*

**LLOYD O. PRINCE, CLASS OF '74 IS
A CAPTAIN ON AIR TRAN AIRWAYS**



Lloyd O. Prince, Jr.

Lloyd O. Prince, Jr., is from Frederiksted, St. Croix. He attended St. Patrick's and graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1974.

He was licensed as a private pilot just after graduation from SJHS. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering and a commission as Ensign in the U. S. Navy in June 1978. He completed flight training and received

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**FR. JOHN MARK, CLASS OF '86, IS
APPOINTED PRINCIPAL FOR THE
2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR**



Fr. John Mark

Father John Mark will celebrate his 10th anniversary as a priest this August by taking on an unexpected role, as principal of his alma mater, St. Joseph High School on St. Croix, starting with the 2011-2012 academic year. He will continue as pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix and as the director of liturgy for the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

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-Lloyd O. Prince...continued-

Navy Wings in November 1980. He reported to his first carrier squadron, VA-82 flying the A-7E Corsair II in April 1982 aboard the USS Nimitz. After a 3 year tour flying and leading different departments, he reported to Naval Air Station in Kingsville, TX as a flight instructor from March 1985 to October 1987. Following that tour, he reported to the USS Midway, home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan as the Aircraft Handling Officer (ACHO) in December 1987.

As an ACHO, during flight and combat operations, he was responsible for all operations including ordinance, refueling, aircraft movement between flight and hangar decks, maintenance and coordination between the Air Wing (up to 9 squadrons of 6 aircraft types) and shipboard departments. (The USS Midway is now a museum in the San Diego, CA harbor.) The events following Hurricane Hugo in September 1989 caused him to make a career-changing decision to leave the USS Midway early to return to St. Croix to assist his family.

He eventually reported to VA-105 squadron as a department head in June 1990. He received an Aviation Safety Officer certification from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA in November 1990. His squadron was selected to transition from the A-7E Corsair to the F/A-18 Hornet (re-designated VFA-105) in the spring of 1991. As the Operations Department Head, he lead the training of all flight crews, coordinated the training of all maintenance crews and rewrote all tactical operations manuals for the squadron in time to begin Air Wing integration for a deployment to the Mediterranean.

Following this tour, he reported to the Naval Safety Center in NAS, Norfolk, VA as the F/A-18 staff safety analyst for the entire Naval fleet and Marine Corps. He lead the development of numerous innovations in accident investigation, system safety, data analysis and safety training for the F/A-18 and other fighter aircraft. Following retirement, he completed his Masters Degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University in December 1994. After a relatively short job-search, he accepted a position as the first Director of Safety and Regulatory Compliance at ValuJet Airlines in Atlanta, GA in April 1995. It was a new position in the airline industry

and Federal Aviation regulations. He defined the position based upon his extensive experience in flight operations, systems safety and operations analysis.

The next few years saw a rapidly growing airline nearly destroyed by a horrific accident. The airline restructured and reinvented itself as a highly prosperous AirTran Airways with an excellent safety record. He currently flies full-time as a Captain on the B-717 aircraft (DC-9 derivative).

Besides his outstanding career, his hobbies include photography, flying (of course!), audio recording and production, golf and restoring sports cars. St. Joseph High School is proud to have Lloyd O. Prince, Jr. as one of its most outstanding graduates!



Lloyd O' Prince with camera

The Alumni Newsletter

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-Fr. John Mark....continued-

Father Mark, the oldest of the three children of Deacon Joseph and Kathleen Mark, grew up on St. Croix and graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1986 as valedictorian and went on to Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He began his studies for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, then completed his last three years of formation at the prestigious North American College in Rome, Italy. With his ordination at his home parish, St. Ann Church on St. Croix in 2001, he returned to the Virgin Islands to stay. He was assigned to the three parishes on St. Thomas, each in turn, until Bishop Bevard assigned him to St. Joseph Church in December 2009.

Father Mark has worked with students in the past at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas and welcomes the chance to help students at St. Joseph High School find their path to the Lord.

In addition to ministering to high school students, his role as director of liturgy for the diocese is to help Bishop Bevard implement the new English translation of the Roman Missal, which was approved by the bishops of the United States in November 2009 and will be implemented in Advent 2011.

(The above story was adapted from the article in the April 2011 issue of the *Catholic Islander*)



Fr. John Mark leads the student in the morning prayers during the 2010-11 school year at St. Joseph Catholic High School.



On the left is a photo of St. Joseph High School Students in the 1960's-going to pray in the old St. Joseph Church Building, now the Social Hall.

ROSIE MACKAY, CLASS OF '67, IS THE FIRST FEMALE REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER IN THE TERRITORY



Rosie Mackay

Rosie Mackay is still excited about being a member of the distinguished and dynamic St. Joseph's Catholic High School Class of 1967. Born and raised on St. Croix, Rosie attended St. Patrick's and then entered St. Joseph's with the first sophomore class at the newly-built school in 1964.

After graduation from St. Joe's, she attended the then College of the Virgin Islands (now UVI), obtaining an Associate of Arts in Residential Construction Technology, and is the only female in the history of UVI to receive that degree, which then led to her being the first female local licensed general Contractor on St. Croix. Subsequently, she attended Lowell Technological Institute (now UMass at Lowell), receiving a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, making her the first Crucian female to receive a degree in engineering, which led to her being the first female to become a Registered Professional Engineer in the Territory.

Returning home after graduation, Rosie joined the Department of Labor as the Safety

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-Rosie Mackay....continued-

Engineer/Consultant with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, then making her the first engineer hired by the Department of Labor. Four years later, she moved on to become the Safety Engineer at the Martin Marietta Alumina plant (now Renaissance Park), until 1985 when that plant closed. For the next 25 years, she had her own consulting business, working as an expert witness in personal injury litigation. While that business is still functional, she presently is employed by Frederiksted Health Care, Inc. as the Safety Officer/Project Manager.g3

Rosie is a member of several professional associations, and has been inducted into 4 separate Who's Who organizations. Rosie truly appreciates the education, training and discipline she was afforded in the Catholic School system in St. Croix, and credits this education as part of the foundation her success in later endeavors. On a personal note, after being married, she retained her maiden name, has one daughter and 2 grandsons, both of whom are presently attending St. Patrick School.



Rosie Mackay at St. Joseph High Catholic High School showing her yearbook to Students after her presentation for the 2011 Catholic Schools Week.



On the left, St. Joseph High School students of the 1960's taking the school buses after school.

**ERNEST E. MORRIS, JR., CLASS OF '96,
IS A GRADUATE OF YALE WITH 2 B.A.
DEGREES AND HAS A JURIS DOCTOR
DEGREE FROM THE HOWARD
UNIVERSITY OF LAW**



Ernest E. Morris, Jr., Esq.

Ernest E. Morris, Jr. was born on December 24, 1978 in Christiansted, St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands to Shirley W. Morris and Ernest E. Morris, Sr. He attended St. Patrick School where he graduated from the eighth grade as Valedictorian. He then attended St. Joseph High School where he graduated as Valedictorian of the Class of 1996. Attorney Morris went on to study at Yale University where he earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Spanish. While at Yale, most notably, he received the F. Wilder Bellamy, Jr. Memorial Prize for being one of the most outstanding members of his class, and the Silliman Cup Award for the senior who contributed most to the life of the college. He completed his education at Howard University School of Law where he earned a Juris Doctor degree. He is a member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Bar Association for the Judicial Third Circuit, and the Bar Association of the Supreme Court of the United States.

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-Ernest E. Morris, Jr., Esq...continued-

Upon the completion of his undergraduate degree, Attorney Morris returned home to St. Croix where he worked as an insurance agent and as teacher at the St. Croix Education Complex before continuing on to law school. Upon completion of law school, he again returned home where he worked as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Edgar D. Ross and the Honorable Julio A. Brady at the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. He then worked as an Appellate Law Clerk for the Honorable Maria M. Cabret at the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands. He now spends his time zealously advocating on behalf of indigent defendants as a Territorial Public Defender.

Since his return home, Attorney Morris has remained passionate about contributing to the local community. He counsels juvenile offenders as a regular part of his job as a Public Defender, and provides free legal services as a volunteer with Legal Services of the Virgin Islands. He serves as the St. Croix recruiter and fundraiser for the Junior Statesmen Summer School, a summer program at Princeton, Stanford, and Georgetown Universities for academically talented high school students. The program is dedicated to helping students develop an understanding and appreciation for democracy while learning how to succeed in top-tiered academic settings. He also serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, as co-chairperson of the Associations Public Education and the Law Committee and Scholarship Committee, and chairperson of the Associations Nominating Committee. He is vice-president of the Prime Time Poker Club, a member of the Young Professionals Network, a member of the St. Joseph High School Accreditation Team.

Attorney Morris is also a volunteer coach for the St. Joseph High School moot court team, a volunteer Class Agent for the Yale Alumni Fund, a volunteer karate instructor at the Sunsu dojo in La Grande Princesse, and a volunteer Interscholastic Association volleyball referee and umpire. He is passionate about preserving Virgin Islands culture, and is a member of all three local quadrille dance groups, the St. Croix Heritage Dancers, the Ay Ay Cultural Dancers, and the

W.D.Y. Cultural Dancers. Attorney Morris is also a student of Cuban style rueda dancing as a member of the Bailar Casino Social Group. He also supports public education broadcasting as a supporting member of WTJX Channel 12. When time permits, Attorney Morris also moonlights as a photographer for various charitable organizations and events. He gains the most enjoyment, however, from spending his free time with his family and friends.

For the past two years, Attorney Morris has served the community as a Territorial Public Defender. He recently, however, joined the legal counsel team at the Legislature of the Virgin Islands where he serves as Assistant Legal Counsel.

MARGARET VIDAL, CLASS OF '90, HAS M.A. DEGREE IN EDUCATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



Margaret Vidal

Margaret Vidal is a proud 1990 graduate of the St. Joseph High School. She continued her education at the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix campus. She pursued her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in English and graduated in 1999. She began her teaching career in 2001 at the Juanita Gardine Elementary School where she has been educating the youth of this community for the past ten years.

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-Margaret Vidal...continued-

She has also continued to pursue higher education at the University of the Virgin Island. Margaret achieved her Master of Arts Degree in Education with a concentration in counseling in 2010. She continues to be an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church where she is a lector.

In reflection Margaret has very fond memories of St. Joseph Catholic High School. She credits her teachers with helping her to prepare to compete in the world and reach for her dreams. She continues to love reading and spending quiet times with her family.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR



A student choir from St. Joseph High School on St. Croix sings in the choir loft of St. Joseph Church at school Masses. The choir is led by teacher Marsha Bedford. The audio of some of the hymns sung by the choir is often posted as background music on the school's website.

**ATTENTION ALL ST. JOSEPH
HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI**

**Register or re-register online by
going directly to this web
address:**

<http://sjhs.cybermeme.net/sjhs/>

ZINA DORE, CLASS OF '06, RETURNS AS A TEACHER



Zina Dore is shown in the faculty room while preparing her math classes

Zina Dore graduated from St. Joseph High School in 2006, then graduated from the University of the Virgin Islands in 2010 with a B.A. in math. Ms. Dore has returned to her high school alma mater to teach trigonometry and calculus. She is working toward a master's degree in math education at the same university.



Six years ago, In this photo from the Fall of 2005, Zina Dore is on the right while observing the computer screen with Michaela Cooke, also a 2006 graduate of St. Joseph High School. They were observing the trajectory of a tossed ball on the screen during a lab in Br. James Petrait's Physics Class.

O Saint Joseph, foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ and true spouse of Mary the Virgin, pray for us.

FR. JOHN MARK'S PLAN FOR ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Fr. Mark welcomes the chance to help students at St. Joseph High School “find their path to the Lord.”

“Our task is two-fold,” he said. “First of all, we are focusing on the moral and spiritual formation of our young people according to the mind and heart of Jesus Christ. The second task is to ensure that the academic preparation is top-notch, as the school is a preparatory school for college education and future careers. This is important for the future of the Virgin Islands in general. We need our future leaders to be moral, spiritual and competent. We will do all we can for the young people who represent the future of the Virgin Islands so they can contribute to the culture and the society in productive and meaningful ways.”

Fr. Mark paused and concluded, saying, “I am entrusting the school and its future to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with the powerful intercession of our patron, St. Joseph.”
(The above was adapted from an article in the Catholic Islander, April 2011 issue.)



The “Senior Tree” on the SJHS campus in full bloom—or should it be “Senior Trees”? How many Flamboyant trees are really in the “Senior Tree”? Drop by and find out.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

THE ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE

The St. Joseph Catholic High School website was the first school website on St. Croix, Virgin Islands. It was started on August 31, 1996 and has been continuously updated since that time and most of the original pages are still online. It has been looked at by over 132,425 visitors from all over the world! Visit the main and Alumni web pages. From the Alumni page you can register or re-register as a SJHS Alumnus.

You can go to the SJHS Website or SJHS Web Portal from the original website at

<http://www.islands.vi/~sjhs/>
(that's a tilde ~ before the sjhs)

or go directly to the SJHS Web Portal Page where you can choose the Alumni and main website.

<http://sjhs.cybermeme.net/> (no WWW)



The SJHS faculty team defeated the student team in a volleyball game played during a Field Day held during Catholic schools Week.





Statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph with the Child Jesus in the school Library.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O glorious St. Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, obtain for us pure, humble and charitable minds and perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be our guide, father, and model through life, that we may merit to die as you died, in the holy arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY

We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

(The above prayers are taken from the Daily Prayers said by all at the start of the school day at St. Joseph Catholic high School)

ALUMNI LEADERS WANTED

SJHS Alumni who want to take part in helping as leaders (or followers) to organize the Alumni and contribute their services, please indicate it on your online registration. You may also nominate another registered member.



St. Joseph High School Class of 1965



Old St. Joseph High School office – same steps today

RECENT ALUMNI NEWS ITEM

Mary (Maria) Benitez Rodriguez, a 1965 graduate of SJHS. sent in the following news with her online alumni registration on May 22, 2011:

“I have formed a group page at facebook named - St. Joseph High School Class of 1965 & 1966 - If you are a former student in any of these 2 classes please contact us . If you know anyone who was a student of these 2 classes - please notify them of our attempt to get this group together. Facebook - St. Joseph High School Class of 1965 & 1966. . Thank You – May God continue to Bless the School.”

Mary (Maria) Benitez Rodriguez sent in an update on May 31, 2011: “A group of us is trying to reconnect with all ‘65 and ‘66 graduates for our facebook group. We would love to hear from all or as many as possible. It would be great to have a 50th class reunion. By reconnecting we may be able to bring this wish to fruition. Any and all help would be appreciated. My yahoo email is now registered with the alumni website. Peace and blessings!!!”