



Jolyn Duhe Johnson Graves, Class of 1969, is the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Graduate Award for St. Peter School. She will be honored at the Catholic Schools Week closing Mass and annual Alumni gumbo dinner on Sunday, February 7, 2010. She attended St. Peter School from 1961-1969.

She is married to Bill Graves and has two children, Jeremiah (SPS Class of 2000) and James Johnson (Class of 2003).

After graduating from Leon Godchaux High School she attended Touro Infirmary School of Nursing in New Orleans, where she received her RN degree in 1976. In 1982 she was chosen as the first Medical/Surgical Department Manager of River Parishes Hospital in LaPlace, and assisted in the opening of the hospital. Jolyn assisted her former husband, Rusty Johnson, in founding and building a local environmental cleanup company, Industrial Cleanup, Inc. Jolyn taught in St. Peter Church's Confirmation Program and attended retreats at Camp Abby in Covington, where she shared many of her life experiences.

During the 1995-1996 school year, when the Archdiocese of New Orleans discussed the possibility of closing St. Peter School, Jolyn, served as Marketing and Development Director. Working with members of the community and the "Investment Committee" a plan was written and presented to the Archbishop detailing how St. Peter School would maintain itself while increasing its enrollment to become self-sufficient. In 1996, St. Peter School celebrated its "Re-Birth". Mrs. Graves instituted new fund-raising activities such as the Spring Pageantry, Winter Dance, Golf Tournament, and the Scrip Program to help supplement the school's budget. During Jolyn's time as Development Director, the school received numerous grants. She felt a special connection to Msgr. Jean Eyraud and knew that he was in part responsible for all of the successes the school enjoyed.

Jolyn developed the Medical Assistant Program at the Louisiana Technical College in Reserve and was appointed to Department Head of the Practical Nursing and Allied Health Programs. Within five years two nursing classes were accepted each year graduating over 50 nurses per year.

She feels the curriculum at St. Peter was excellent. The Dominican Sisters taught her leadership qualities and she knew that God would help her to be successful in life. Jolyn knew that every one of God's children is special and is on earth for His special purpose.