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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JSerra Catholic High School Launches House System to Build Community, Leadership and Faith

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (May 5, 2025) – JSerra Catholic High School has launched a new House System for students, the first of its kind in Southern California Catholic high schools and any of its size, designed to foster community, provide mentorship and cultivate leadership rooted in Gospel values. The system organizes students into six Houses: Alta, Carmel, Monterey, San Onofre, Petra and Ventura, each named after places significant to the life of St. Junipero Serra.

The launch of this House System comes at a critical time as young people are experiencing greater social disconnection and mental health challenges than ever before. Studies show that across age groups, people spend significantly less time together in person than two decades ago, with 15-to 24-year-olds experiencing 70% less social interaction with their friends. JSerra's House System directly addresses these concerns by fostering meaningful, face-to-face interactions through mentorship, shared experiences and a deep sense of belonging within the school community.

"This new House System is more than just a way to build school spirit, it's a transformative approach to helping our students grow as leaders and deepen their faith," said Eric Stroupe, Principal of JSerra Catholic High School. "By creating intentional spaces for mentorship and leadership, we are giving our students the tools they need to build relationships and become the people Christ has called them to be."

Faith and community are intentionally woven into the system's structure. With around 200 students per House, each is further divided into 8-9 smaller single-sex dens (homerooms), which meet three times a week for 30-minutes sessions focused on

mentorship, faith, leadership and student-led programming. Houses are intentionally mixed-gender and mixed-grade to promote wider community bonds. Upperclassmen will also mentor younger students, ensuring that Freshmen and Sophomores experience friendship, encouragement and support.

“The beauty of this system is that it immerses students in very practical and hands-on ways into a culture that allows them to internalize the core Christian values we idealize as a school and multiplies their opportunities for exercising the virtues that are at the heart of our mission,” said Brian Ong, Director of the House System.

Houses will earn points through competitions, service projects, and school spirit initiatives, culminating in the awarding of the JSerra Cup to the top-performing House at the year’s end. Leadership opportunities include roles such as Co-Presidents, Directors of Communications, and Directors of Curriculum, allowing students to develop skills that will serve them beyond high school.

“We’re creating a cultural infrastructure within which students can identify with, exercise, internalize, and master the habits of heart that makes us most fully human,” said Zach Eckert, VP of Student Formation and Leadership at JSerra Catholic High School. “This is our ultimate purpose as a serious, formation-driven, Catholic institution.”

For more information, visit jserra.org.

ABOUT JSERRA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

JSerra is an independent Catholic high school that encourages students to pursue personal and professional excellence in life. Our inspirational teachers partner with committed parents to form the faith, intellect, and character of young men and women within a Christ-centered, sacrament-based learning environment. JSerra has 5 acclaimed Magnet Programs in medicine, engineering, business, law, and the arts as well as online educational options. The school offers students 28 Varsity sports (26 of which are CIF sports) and 4 club teams. Both visual and performing arts are also well-represented on campus. For more information, visit jserra.org.