



1/ Pete and Alana Vilkins
2/ Cristo Rey's founding president Stephen Holte, student Azucena and founding principal Karelyn Roberts 3/ Brenda Springer and Gina Martin 4/ Karelyn Roberts and Gloria Preciado 5/ Burton and Linda Young were all smiles. 6/ Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club's bustling atmosphere

ON THE SCENE Top of the Class

THE PARTY Held at Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach Resort & Club in Dana Point, **Cristo Rey Orange County's third annual ¡VIVA! Gala** was a coastal evening of sunset cocktails, a ballroom dinner and a lively auction. Themed Building Momentum Together, the fundraiser garnered over \$2 million for the school's Corporate Work Study program and college-prep education. **THE PEOPLE** More than 400 community members attended the gala, alongside 31 corporate sponsors. **Bishop Kevin W. Vann** opened the evening in prayer, before **Father**

John Foley, S.J., founder of the Cristo Rey Network, was honored. Students like junior **Azucena** shared personal stories, showcasing the school's mission firsthand. **THE PINNACLE** The night highlighted how Cristo Rey is expanding opportunities for students of limited economic resources through education and real-world work experience. The gala's proceeds will help grow Cristo Rey's Santa Ana campus and its model of faith, college, career and service—turning an annual event into a launchpad for lifelong impact. *BY HANNAH GEORGE*