

The Annunciator

Find us on the web at www.school.annunciationcrestwood.com



Generations of Families Attend Annunciation

Everyone knows that Crestwood is a special place. Some say “all roads lead to Crestwood.” Others believe that there are only two degrees of separation between anyone in the world and someone in Crestwood. It is clearly a place where children hop on a bicycle after school to ride to a friend’s house or to Schultze Field for a pick-up football game.

There is almost universal consensus that what helps make Crestwood such a special place is the strong link between

the neighborhood and Annunciation parish and school. Real estate agents know that the strong reputation of the parish as a vibrant community and of the school as a quality education, supplemented by great athletic programs and a vigorous Home School Association, makes Crestwood desirable when shopping for a new home.

One of the most obvious signs of the deep pride and respect that our graduates have for their school



Alice Byrnes Morilla '61 and her grandson, Michael Hefner '18

and neighborhood is the fact that so many of them decide to make Crestwood their

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue...

- Letter from the Pastor and Principal** 2
- Musically Gifted** 3
- Growing Up in Crestwood** 5
- Catholic Schools Week** 8
- Sr. Margaret Louise** 9
- Milestones** 11
- Reunions** 17
- 1974 Reunion Held** 12
- Class Notes** 14
- Sports Stories** 18

Annunciation Elementary School
465 Westchester Avenue
Crestwood, NY 10707

The Annunciator Editorial Board:

- Richard Burke '48
- Judith Horncastle DiMenna '57
- Chris Grealy Brown '62
- Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75
- John Sullivan '82
- Marie Villani-York '93
- Melissa Brennan '95
- Caroline Sohr '08

Lives of Service: Call to Religious Life

The need for vocations in the United States may never have been stronger than it is right now. Fr. Joseph P. Tierney, President of Cardinal Hayes High School and weekend associate at Annunciation, prays at each Mass for an “increase in vocations.”

Over the years, a number of Annunciation graduates have answered the call to serve the Lord. Annunciation is proud to recognize four graduates from four different decades.

Sr. Barbara Anderson, O.P. '48

A member of Annunciation’s first graduating class, Sr. Barbara entered religious

life because, from what she had been taught and observed, it was a good way to continue to foster a deepening love and friendship with Jesus, as well as help others to do the same. She also gradually, throughout high school and her first year of college, became more and more convinced that this was what God wanted her to do, and that He was drawing her to it.

She picked the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh because of the life modeled for her by the group of sisters in Crestwood. The Dominican emphasis on prayer, study and preaching was also appealing.



Sr. Barbara Anderson

During her fifty-six years in religious life, Sr. Barbara taught for sixteen years and was a parish elementary school principal for thirty-three years, including St. Joan of Arc in Camden, NJ, St. Ursula’s School in Mount Vernon, NY, and St. Patrick’s School in Yorktown Heights, NY. Since 2004, she has continued to help at

Continued on page 7

Annunciation's Nativity Still A Tradition

The Annunciation School Christmas Concert continues a long tradition of celebrating the season of the birth of Christ in song. Adding to the sacredness of the holiday, the Christmas concert, which is performed by grades kindergarten through third, is held in the Church.

The effort of both the music teacher, Mr. Leguizamon, and the students in preparing for the concert is evident in how beautifully and confidently even the youngest student performs. This year's concert was based on songs from Spain, Austria and France.

The highlight of each concert is always the final act of the evening when the first-graders recreate the nativity on the altar. Every child in the grade was involved in this touching tradition as the scene was slowly built, from the arrival of Mary and Joseph to the coming of the Wise Men, complete with Pages to attend

to them. There were choirs of angels and shepherds who were dressed to perfection. The class sang "The Angels Sang", "Rise Up Shepherds and Follow" and finally "The Little Drummer Boy", a celebration of a child's innocent gift to the newborn Savior.

This year, the parts of Mary and Joseph were played by the children of alumni. Meagan McMahon, daughter of John McMahon '77, played the part of Mary while Daniel Breen, son of Kimberly White Breen '86, played the roll of Joseph.

Kimberly recalls that, when she was in first grade, she had the privilege of playing the part of the Angel Gabriel. "I remember the tin foil wings that I wore," she said. "The costumes today are much nicer."

John McMahon says that it "makes me feel proud to see traditions that have been going on even before I attended Annunciation over thirty years



Clockwise from top left: Amanda Dolis, Daniel Breen, Meagan McMahon and Christopher Spano

ago. It solidifies the foundation of a strong Catholic education."

"The concert would not have been the success that it was without the hard work and assistance of the dedicated teachers in grades K to 3," said Principal Barbara Kavanagh. "In addition, our parents supplied the most beautiful costumes for their children to wear, and we thank them for that effort."

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Alumni,

The Christmas Season has come and gone. We have welcomed in the New Year. I wish to take this opportunity to wish for all of you the very best of God's blessings this New Year.

Annunciation Church and School again showed wonderful spirit in donating food, clothing, and toys to many needy families. Under the guidance of Mrs. Cosgrove, our younger children—dressed as angels—visited the elderly in their homes. It's so good to keep traditions alive!

If you have moved away, be assured that you are always welcome to return and visit and that you are an important part of our Parish.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you.

Msgr. Dennis P. Keane

Letter from the Principal

Dear Alumni and Friends of Annunciation School,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Annunciation School, I wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year! I hope that the Christmas season filled your homes and hearts with the peace and love of the infant Jesus.

At the end of this month, we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This year's slogan, "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life," focuses on how a Catholic education can have positive, long-lasting benefits. During Catholic Schools Week, we will begin registration and participate in several school spirit activities. As a product of Catholic education myself, I join you in recognizing its true value. Like many of you, I have carried out this tradition with my own children and am grateful to see how their faith has been formed and their values have been shaped.

Thank you for your continued support of Annunciation School. Your active participation will help ensure that an Annunciation education will be available to many future generations!

Warm Regards,

Barbara J. Kavanagh

Bringing the Gift of Song to Annunciation

For thirty years, those who attend Christmas Eve Mass at Annunciation Church have witnessed a beautiful gift being given to the parish by Maura Molloy '74—that of the gift of song. Each year, since she was in college, Maura has sung a brief concert in the half hour before Mass begins and then been the Leader of Song during the Christmas Eve Mass. So beautiful is the Christmas concert, that Mass goers arrive an hour early just to be certain that they will get a seat and hear Maura sing.

Maura, who has an undergraduate degree from Catholic University in Music Education and a master's degree from Mannes College of Music in Vocal Performance, remembers that she started singing with just the church organ. Over the years, she has introduced different instruments to the performance and is currently using a harp, flute and percussion. "It is really beautiful to sing 'The Drummer Boy' and

have a real drummer do it with you!" Maura explained.

While Maura may live in Rye, her parents still reside in Crestwood, so she is back in the neighborhood frequently.

Christmas Eve in Crestwood is a command performance—even for Maura. "To me it would not be Christmas without singing at Annunciation. I think our lives

get so busy around the holidays, and people love the chance to just take in the spirituality of Christmas. I hope that I am able to help them do that with my music."

Maura's career is music focused as well. At Mauramusic.com, one can learn how she can help book music for a wed-



Maura Molloy

ding in almost any religion. You may even notice that a few of the photos on the website are from weddings at Annunciation. As a professional wedding music coordinator, Maura says that she is blessed to work with some of the finest musicians in New York City.

"The love and support from Annunciation and the joy that I have gotten over the years from singing at Annunciation" means so much to her she said. It is certainly the case that those who hear her sing feel joy as well.

Another Annunciation graduate, Regina Possavino Serai '93, who has studied voice (opera specifically) since she was fourteen years old, also brings the gift of song to Annunciation. Beginning when she was a senior in high school, Regina has been a leader of song at Sunday Mass.

Continued on page 8

Kristine Elezaj Has Radio Hit

Those who knew her during her years as a student at Annunciation could tell you that Kristine Elezaj '99 was going to go places. Graced with a beautiful voice, she performed in many Annunciation School musicals from the age of 6. Outside of school, she participated in a theatre group during the summers that did cabarets and musicals.

These productions lead her to the study of modern dance and ballet. She enjoyed working with the choreographers and aspired to push herself to perform at the professional level, inspired by performers like Janet Jackson. "Dance plays a big part in making my music. As I'm in the studio writing, I see the performance in my head and

can already visualize it on stage or in a video," says Kristine.

It was only natural that this beauty with the incredible voice would, one day, make it to the radio. In July 2009, her debut single "Let You Know" was played on Pulse 87 (now known as Party 87.7) in the New York metropolitan area. Says Kristine, "When I first heard my music on the radio, I cried. It was such an amazing feeling when you have worked towards a goal for so long."

Her debut album, as yet untitled, is nearly finished and expected to be released in 2010. For the album, she has co-written songs with noted songwriters such as Fergie and Frankie Storm who co-wrote "Let You Know" and Kristine's next single "Souvenirs".

Kristine is also a talented dancer, burning up the video screen and numerous stages as she performs shows at night clubs like Tenjune in Manhattan, Republics in New Orleans, or Party 105s MEGAJAM on Long

Continued on page 10



Kristine Elezaj plans to release her debut album in 2010.

Generations at Annunciation

Continued from page 1

home. The next decision easily becomes sending their children to Annunciation School.

This year, Annunciation School is educating over 75 students whose parents and grandparents went to Annunciation. One example is Mary Ellen Flynn Loveless '48 who raised her seven children in Crestwood and sent them all to Annunciation. Now, her daughter, Jeannette Loveless Petti '78 is raising her three children and sending them to Annunciation too, making three generations of Annunciation students in one family! Another example is Alice Brynes Morilla '61 who raised her family in Orange County but whose daughter, Jen Hefner, recently purchased Alice's mother's home on Ridge Street and has enrolled her son, Michael, in kindergarten this year. Recently, Alice had an opportunity to tour the school with Michael, showing him the names of his great-grandparents, Alice and Tom Byrnes, who donated money to build Annunciation School in memory of Michael's great-great grandmother, Loretta Byrnes.

For some, staying in Annunciation has become a family affair. Five of the seven Gilchrest children now own homes in Crestwood. There are at least six sets of siblings who both live and/or send their children to Annunciation including Danny '78 and John Sullivan '82, John '77 and Marianne Conlon Conefrey '86, Casey '79 and Beth Conner Varker '75, Michael '80 and Dina Cavallo Madden '82, Stephen '78 and Catherine Melnyk Duffy '92, and Paul '77 and Patty Lee Tarpey '70. John Sullivan, who has two sons attending Annunciation, said "the primary reason for moving back was that Crestwood is a neighborhood and a community with Annunciation being the focal point for Crestwood."

Michael Brown '91, son of Chris Grealy Brown Daly '62, notes that there



Tim Finneran '81 and his daughter, Georgina. She will graduate in June

are both good and bad aspects of living in the neighborhood where your mother grew up. "It confirms that Crestwood and Annunciation are special communities. On the other hand, she always knew were to find me after school!" His mother, Chris, notes that, "If anything happened on the way home from school, my boys could walk into almost any house on the way and know someone would help them."

This year's graduating class has eleven graduates who are second generation students at Annunciation. When Georgina Finneran, daughter of Tim '81, graduates in June, Tim says he will be very proud. "Georgina is a fantastic daughter, and we are so happy with her development academically, spiritually, socially, and athletically while at Annunciation. Our parish and its school are unique 'gems', and we feel so blessed that our children can be members of such a special, nurturing community where so many families share our values. Georgina, her Aunt Margaret, Uncles Bill, Terry, Mike, and I will always share a special bond as Annunciation Knights."

If it appears that this is a recent phenomenon, further research shows that this has been the case since the earliest graduates. In addition to Mary Ellen Flynn Loveless '48, Lawrence Keyes '51, Katherine Eyth Shost '52, and Jeanne Hall Fritz '58 all sent their children to Annunciation.

Class of 2010 Legacy Graduates

Alessandro Angelori
Richard '79

Nikki Apostolopoulos
Lisa Innamorato '76

Elizabeth Conlon
John '77

Meaghan Dolan
Jeanne Marie Bickerstaff '78

Georgina Finneran
Tim '81

Thomas Gilchrist
Tommy '77

Zoe LaRock
Dede Elser '80

Sean Melnyk
Stephen '78

Kealy Moyna
Kathleen Gilchrist '84

Thomas Pagano
**Mary Lou LaSala '79 and
Edward '75**

Emma Soderquist
Catherine Walsh '79

Linda Oppermann Youngren '61, Janet O'Moore Speight '62, Eileen O'Moore McLoughlin '64, and Jeanette Byrnes Johnson '65 had a combined total of 14 children graduate from the school.

There has, however, been an increasing trend in the number of graduates who are buying houses in the area and sending their children to the school. A tremendous surge in graduates from the 1970s and 1980s making their homes in Crestwood has resulted in sixty-six second generation graduates from the school in the past ten years. As a result the awarding of diplomas, to legacy children, usually done by the Pastor and Principal, is an honor given to alumni parents who bestow that honor, sometimes tearfully, on their children at graduation.

Joe Houlihan Presents: “Growing up in Crestwood” to Historical Society

It was a natural fit. In 2001, the Crestwood Historical Society was looking for someone to underwrite their House Tour and Joe Houlihan '68 got the call. Joe and his brother Dan '66 own Houlihan & O'Malley Real Estate in Bronxville.

Recently, the CHS asked Joe to come and speak at one of their Saturday meetings at the Crestwood Library. Joe was concerned he would not be able to come up with a topic of universal appeal. What could he discuss that would be new and interesting? Then his brother, Gerry, a former member of the Class of 1971, recommended that he talk about their family's experience of “growing up in Crestwood” and a presentation was born. On June 13, Joe gave his talk entitled “50 years in Crestwood with the Houlihans of Chittenden Ave. 1949-1999.”

The Houlihan family almost didn't make it to Crestwood in 1949. The family of four with another on the way was looking for a two-family house somewhere on the Harlem line that would be walking distance to the train and walking distance to school—and that school, of course, had to be a Catholic school.

Though the family thought they had found the right house, they were not once, but twice, outbid at the last minute. Both times those last minute deals fell through and the owners would return to the Houlihans to see if they were still interested. “My father's family has been in the real estate business since his grandfather had come over from Ireland,” says Joe. “Every time the owners came back to my father, he said that he was still interested, but he dropped his offer by \$500.” In December of 1949, Dan and Kathrene purchased the two-family house on Chittenden Avenue for \$12,000. The family of five moved into the top two floors, while renting out the first floor for \$37 a month.

Fast forward to 1962. There were nine Houlihan children at 34 Chittenden.

Dan and Kathrene began to look for another home, one that would be large enough to accommodate so many growing children. Though they looked elsewhere in neighboring towns and other neighborhoods in Yonkers, there was one big issue. Every time Kathrene would call the pastor at the local Catholic school to ask if there would be room for all the Houlihan children, she was repeatedly told, “Nine children! You'd better stay where you are.” Left with no other option, the two-family house was converted into a one family home.

Joe remembers that growing up in that rambling house with the large side yard was a lot of fun. “From the Crestwood Library to Margaret Avenue—just one block—on Chittenden, there were forty-seven children. There was no such thing as a ‘playdate’ for us. There were kids everywhere. My parents had installed a swing set and basketball hoop, and my mother encouraged all our friends to come over. It was easy for my mother to glance out

“There was no such thing as a ‘playdate’ for us. There were kids everywhere.”

- Joe Houlihan '68

the window and see that everyone was okay or, alternatively, everyone was not okay and it was time for another trip to the Lawrence

Hospital ER.”

His mother was also ingenious. She would plan her grocery shopping to



The Houlihan Family—Circa 1961

coincide with the children arriving home from school daily for lunch. The garage door would be open and so would the trunk of the car. “If you didn't carry a bag of groceries up all those stairs into the house,” says Joe, “you didn't eat.” And don't go in the front door either. All children went in and out the back door, the front being reserved for adults and guests.

A rite of passage at the Houlihan house was getting a “new” bike. The bikes were new to the family, but they were all used bikes purchased from the Crestwood Bike Shop. Joe's bike arrived one Christmas morning with a red bow on the handlebar; to Joe it was a real step up in the world: it had three speeds and a real leather seat! To him, it was an English racing bike!

Joe remembers that riding a bike as far as Our Lady of Fatima felt like he had ridden to Siberia. Riding up to the building site for Walt Whitman middle school was a real treat. Joe could walk around the construction site and marvel at the progress that was being made. His bike was his transportation to get to work as a locker room attendant at the Bronxville Field Cub and to Mass to be an altar boy. He also made sure to make

Continued on page 6

Houlihan History

Continued from page 5

frequent stops at the bakery – not a place frequented by the Houlihan family whose parents considered the delectable sweets to be too expensive – to purchase his much-loved doughnuts when he had some money in his pocket!

Being a child in Crestwood meant skating at the Crestwood Lake if “the flag was up.” It meant 4th of July fireworks by the same lake. In the fall, it meant burning leaves after raking them. Going to the Crestwood Library was something done frequently with friendly librarians who knew each child and could find a way to encourage them to read. “Mrs. Almy was a wonderful woman who worked at the library. Sometimes my mother would have to call her on the phone to ask her to send my sister, Rita ‘62, home.”

And when you were old enough to want to earn some money, there was an opportunity to get a paper route. Joe’s older brother, Dan ‘66, had a route that covered Read Avenue—the Petrillis, Havraneks, Egans, etc. When Dan had saved up enough money, he bought himself a new bike. When Joe saw that bike, he wanted one for himself and knew he needed his own paper route. His route, however, was quite a bit further away, covering Scarsdale Road from the bottom of Crisfield and then

heading north toward Strathmore and then along Agnola and Juana streets. “I would have to walk all the way up Mrs. Gerstein’s driveway (the Gerstein estate had 20 acres which are now known as Creaville Estates and The Willows). She would give me a twenty-five cent tip, and I would be thrilled.”

For fun, the children could take the train into Bronxville. A movie at the theatre and an ice cream cone at Nielsen’s was a huge event. “I remember going to see the *Parent Trap* in 1961 with my sister and Nancy and Susie Partenheimer. My sister bought the single ‘Let’s Get Together’ that Hayley Mills sang in that movie. She played it so much, I think I could sing it for you today!” By the time Joe graduated from a bike or the train to a car and commuting to Iona Prep, the preferred pit stop for an ice cream was Huntley Farms on Route 22 in Eastchester.

One of the most indelible memories for Joe was creating “The Crestwood Fair” with his lifelong friend, Elise Barry ‘68. Along with Billy Larkin and the Armstrong twins, the pair spent all summer planning skits and games and a menu. They used the side porch on Elise’s house as their stage with a seating area set up in the yard. There was a haunted house, games such as Twister to be played, and hot dogs on the grill. Kids were assigned to hang fliers around the neighborhood to advertise the fair. They’d charge people to at-

tend and donate the money to “May Babies,” which was one of the charities they had raised money for at school. This fair was in production for three years, and Elise and Joe knew they had made it to the big time when Mrs. Peg Connors, their teacher at Annunciation, attended the fair.

Joe’s presentation had touched upon many memories that were universal to the world of children growing up in Crestwood. Joe, however, had one more speech to give. In July, Joe once again spoke about growing up as a Houlihan in Crestwood, this time to his siblings and children and nieces and nephews at the first ever Houlihan family reunion in honor of his mother’s 90th birthday. It gave the younger generations an appreciation of what life had been like for their parents. The Houlihans lived in the house on Chittenden for fifty years. It is now occupied by the Grogan family who has sent their four boys to Annunciation. Gerry Houlihan carries on the Crestwood legacy, having purchased a house there with his wife, Maureen, and his son, Sean ‘98, in 1993. Joe moved out of Crestwood in 1980 when he got married to his Iona College sweetheart, Anna. They have three girls and live in Fleetwood. Also employed at Houlihan & O’Malley are Joe and Dan’s sister, Liz ‘74 and brother, Gerry.

New Teacher is Part of the Annunciation Family



L to R: Joseph, Joe, Joanna and Christian

Joanna Capozzo Napolitano ‘90 has been hired to teach 4th grade at Annunciation, replacing Mrs. Sharon Reilly who retired. Joanna previously taught in the Bronx and New Rochelle public schools, and also coached Annunciation’s cheerleaders from 1989 to 2002 with her mother, Joann, and her sister, Gaetana.

Joanna and her husband, Joe, are parents of twin boys, Joseph and Christian, born in 2005. She had been a stay-at-home mother from the time of the boys’ birth until she decided to return to work. Says Joanna, “I absolutely love teaching at Annunciation. It truly feels like I never left and is such a wonderful place to be a part of.”

Lives of Service

Continued from page 1

St. Patrick's School and CCD and is doing some pastoral care work among the elderly sisters.

Sr. Mary Ann Dirr, R.S.M. '57

As a senior in high school, Sr. Mary Ann Dirr went to "chat" with her former principal, who was the head of the Franciscan sisters. Much to her surprise, she ended up filling out a preliminary information sheet, in which she was asked why she wanted to enter religious life. "I quickly wrote that it was 'to love God and to serve people'. Forty-eight years later that remains the same! For me, it has been the lifestyle that has enabled me 'to love God and serve people'."



Though attracted to both the Dominican sisters at Annunciation and the Franciscan sisters at St. Clare Academy, the daily contact with the Franciscans in high school was a big factor in her entering the Franciscans. (Sr. Francis Xavier and Sr. Denise of Annunciation had hoped that she would enter the Dominicans.) Mary Ann was a Franciscan Sister for twenty years, spent largely in education and community leadership. In 1981, Sr. Mary Ann transferred communities and became a Sister of Mercy. This brought her to a new phase of her journey in which she became part of a world-wide community with a fourth vow of service.

Over the forty-eight years, she has been in many different ministries including education, retreat work, administration, spiritual direction, and counseling. Since 1990, she has been

involved in the ministry of Mercy Center in the South Bronx, a center focused on the empowerment of economically-deprived women. The inclusion of so many people in the "Circle of Mercy" there, including many people from Annunciation, and the wonderful people who come to the Center are "all a source of great blessing and gift in my life."

Sr. Nuala Cotter, PhD. R.A. '69

Sr. Nuala didn't enter the Religious of the Assumption until she was 34 years old. Although she went to Catholic schools, she never really thought about religious life for herself, despite benefiting from many excellent Sister-teachers. While in high school and college, Sisters were also great to her family members while they faced her mother's terminal illness. In addition to real emotional support, they encouraged Sr. Nuala to develop an active intellectual and spiritual life.

When Sr. Nuala left for grad school at the University of Pennsylvania after having commuted to The College of New Rochelle, it was clear to anyone who knew her – and even, *sometimes*, to her – that she needed to experience life in new ways before she made any serious choices about anything.

One day when she was writing her dissertation and attending Mass at St. Francis de Sales Church, she approached two little old nuns dressed in purple habits with white veils. She was immediately invited to their house to pray with them. Praying with them also led to knowing them better and getting involved in their projects, too. "In the Assumption, we say that it's dangerous to be friends with the 'Purple Nuns'



unless you're looking for something new in your life. That was very true for me."

Today, Sr. Nuala teaches English and Theology at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. "As a professor who's also a Sister, even at this Catholic college, I run into students for whom I am their 'first nun ever.' For me, teaching is a kind of pilgrimage that I love to share. Together we're moving toward the truth, which for me means a person, Christ Jesus."

Rev. David G. Monaco, C.P. '74

Fr. David is a priest with the Passionist Community. He was first introduced to the Passionists while on retreat with his father and the Annunciation Men's Club. After seeing the type of work that the Passionists did and its effect in peoples' lives, Fr. David was convinced that this was where he belonged.

After Annunciation, Fr. David graduated from Iona Prep and Iona College. Following a brief period working for Price Waterhouse as a tax consultant, Fr. David joined the Passionist Congregation, taking his final vows in 1989. He was ordained a priest by on May 17, 1990.

Having completed an M.Div. from The Catholic Theological Union at Chicago, Fr. David worked in retreat ministry and vocation work until returning to full-time studies. He is finishing his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at the University of Chicago. He also teaches Biblical Studies and ancient languages (Greek, Hebrew, and Latin) at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois.



Students Look Forward to Catholic Schools Week

Annunciation School will celebrate Catholic Schools Week during the week of January 31 to February 5, 2010. This year's slogan is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life" and focuses on how a Catholic education can have positive, long-lasting benefits.

During the celebration, the school will begin the re-registration process for current families and will accept applications for new students. An Open House for prospective future students' parents will be held on Thursday, February 4 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

A highlight of the week, especially for the children in the youngest grades, is Wednesday, the day that parents visit.

While older students might no longer thrill to the opportunity to answer a teacher's question perfectly in front of their parents, the eager hands waving in the Kindergarten, First and Second grades show how proud our students are to be able to show off newly acquired academic skills.

Catholic Schools week is always a time for fun and learning. For many years, the entire school played "Family Feud". School assemblies were always a big hit and were frequently held during this celebratory week. At times the assembly's topic was pure fun, and at other times, educational.

This year, Monday will be Student Appreciation Day and will include a special lunch and ice cream for the students. There will also be a coin drive, the proceeds of which will benefit a children's hospital. That fundraising effort, which kicks off during Catholic Schools Week, will wrap up in February.

The week ends with Teachers Appreciation Day on Friday and special surprises for the teachers.

Calling All Veterans!

If you are a veteran, whether you served in time of peace or time of war, please contact Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75 at mtmc525@aol.com. You may be included in a story for a future edition of *The Annunciator*.

Gift of Song at Annunciation

Continued from page 3

Though she has a degree in economics from Yale University and now works in equity research, she sees being a Leader of Song as a privilege. "Given that my career is not in music, it is one of the primary ways I keep singing in my life on a regular basis." Recently married, Regina sings two Masses on the third Sunday of every month.



Regina Possavino Serai

Regina's parents have been parishioners for over forty years, so Regina feels that her "roots" are at Annuncia-

tion. She now lives in White Plains, making the commute to Crestwood even easier than when she lived in New York City.

And still there are other Leaders of Song who share their talents with the Annunciation parish on a weekly basis and who have Annunciation school connections. Patricia Lee, wife of Paul Lee '77, and Jeannie Sweeney, wife of William Sweeney '74, also share their vocal talents with the parish. Many long-time parishioners will also note that Jeannie, who has studied classical voice since the age of ten, is the daughter-in-law of long-time Leader of Song, the late Leo Sweeney whose voice brought joy to many Sunday Masses in the 1960s through 1980s.

CYO Program is Impressive

Continued from page 18

Donald O'Toole's boys team in a six year period from 2002 to 2007. (Coach O'Toole spent nineteen years coaching basketball at Annunciation.) The banners that hang in the Annunciation gym bear witness to dozens of County and CAA championships won over the years.

The demand on the gymnasium for practice and game time makes the basketball court on St. Eleanoras Lane look like Grand Central Station with teams coming and going. The CYO program must balance its use of the gym with the parish and Home School Association's needs for the space. A recent renovation of the gym and the adjoining kitchen moved the basketball court closer to the stage to accommodate the crowds that attend the games and move them closer to the snack bar now located in the kitchen.

You can find us on the Web

at

www.AnnunciationCrestwood.com

Remembering Sr. Margaret Louise Nagel O.P.

By Luise Bethencourt '54

Do you think things happen for a reason or do you believe in coincidence?

Last spring I was asked by *The Annunciator* to write a tribute to one of the teachers from Annunciation who had influenced me. It was an easy choice—Sr. Margaret Louise was the one who had taught me to read, and that made all the difference. She had letters and words all over her room. We learned to sound them out and when we put some of those sounds together, voila! We suddenly had words! It was a glorious moment for me when all the letters that Sister had around the room suddenly blossomed into words. I could read! Every time I read a book, I had a little thought about Sr. Margaret Louise. But I hadn't seen her or heard anything about her in years. I didn't know if she was alive or not. But it didn't matter. People who knew her would understand what I was talking about, would understand that we loved her.

In early November, I received an email telling me that Sr. Margaret Louise had died on November 9 – at the age of 99. But that couldn't be. I had just written about her. Sadly, it was true, and I made preparations to travel to Newburgh, NY for her wake and funeral. I didn't realize how touched I would be. What made me feel a little better was the news that before she died, someone had brought her a copy of *The Annunciator* and had read to her the tribute that I had written. I hope she realized that I spoke for probably hundreds of little children who had passed through her classes and who had felt the



Sr. Margaret Louise

love that she spread all around her.

At the wake and funeral, I learned a great deal more about Sister when I met a classmate of mine from Annunciation, Ann Anderson King. The Andersons had become great friends with Sr. Margaret Louise. She spent many holidays at the Anderson home and frequently took vacations trips to Maine with the family. Ann told me that on these family holidays and vacations, Sr. Margaret Louise loved to sing and dance, love to wear funny hats and loved eating lobsters. I was happy to know that there was lots of love and fun in her life.

The wake and funeral, at Mount Saint Mary's in Newburgh, were very beautiful. Many people spoke lovingly about Sr. Margaret Louise, the Dominican Sisters sang at the Mass, and she was buried just down the hill from the Church, in a little cemetery, among many of the Dominican Sisters.

Sister Margaret Louise loved God and little children. That was pretty obvious.

A Message from the Menzie Family

The Menzie family (Charlie '63, Joe '64, Anne Marie '68, John '70 and Barbara '73) was saddened by the loss of their youngest brother Josh '81. He was a passenger in a car that went off the road near their family home in the Catskill Mountains. The Menzie family would like to thank past and current members of Annunciation Parish for their support and prayers. They have started an education fund for Joshua's children, Haily and Leif.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please send a check to: Joshua's Children Education Fund, c/o John Menzie, 144 Highland Drive, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following alumni:

William O'Loughlin '66—brother of Mary '65, George '67, Nancy '70, Patricia '72, James '74

Joshua Menzie—see story above

Kevin Murphy '65—brother of James '57, Betty Ann '59, Brian, Rita '67, Kathleen '70 and John

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following former faculty:

Sr. Margaret Louise Nagel, O.P.—see story this page

We also pray for the souls of the following family of alumni:

Teresa Tortora—mother of Fred '72, Peter and the late Jeffrey '76

Eugene R. Fulton, Jr.—father of Eugene '61, Dennis '63, Maureen '65 and Kevin '69

Bernard A. Clark—father of James, Michael, John '73, Buddy '72, Thomas '75, Maureen '78 and the late Kevin.

Robert Astarita—father of Christine '81, Barbara '83, Robert '84 and Carolyn '91

John DiVita—father of Teresa DiVita Geremia '79

Joseph Cotter—father of Joseph '72, William '73 and Dianne '76

School and Parish Give Thanks by Giving Back

The parishioners of Annunciation Church and the families of school-children at Annunciation School dug deep this holiday season to provide the food, clothing and toys that are sorely needed in less fortunate parishes and neighborhoods in the Bronx, Manhattan and Westchester. Annunciation entered the holiday season with a spirit of Thanksgiving and a desire to give thanks by giving back.

The Ladies of Charity have an annual Tea Party every November at which the price of admission is the donation of a layette item. Over the years, these layette items have been given to the Pregnancy Care Center, the nursery at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and the Layette Program of the Archdiocese.

On the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving, the parish room overflowed with frozen turkeys and canned and fresh foods suitable for the most sumptuous Thanksgiving feast. Donors delivered their groceries in bags, boxes and baskets. Monday's donations were picked up and distributed to families assisted by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx. Tuesday's donations were distributed to families in St. Peter's Parish in Yonkers.

The evening before Thanksgiving, children from the second and third grades visited the elderly and infirm in our own parish. Dressing as Pilgrims and Indians, the children delivered baked treats and sang songs to bring some seasonal joy.

Sights quickly turned to the Christmas season with a variety of charitable collections from the parish,

the school and parish organizations. On December 5 and 6, parishioners took Christmas gift tags which had been hung like ornaments on a Christmas tree at St. Joseph's altar in the church. The following weekend, those tags were returned to the altar attached to Christmas gifts for over 375 needy people at St. Teresa of Avila in Sleepy Hollow, Mercy Center and SISDA, both in the South Bronx, and STEPS to End Family Violence in Harlem.

In the school, the students focused on how they could fully prepare their hearts for Jesus, and all grade levels were involved in collecting toiletries for the Jeanne Jugan home, winter necessities for the men of St. Christopher's Inn, and toys for children in need.

Girl Scout Troop 1737 collected 80 pairs of pajamas and 180 new books during their pajama drive. The proceeds will go to orphaned children in Westchester. Another parish organization, the Park Bench playgroup, collected twenty-five toys for the Incarcerated Mother's Program at Rikers Island.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, the second and third-grade boys and girls dressed as angels and shepherds and visited the homebound, singing holiday songs and bringing Christmas cookies and cheer.



The altar overflows with presents beneath the Giving Tree

Elezaj's Music

Continued from page 3

Island. She is currently working with noted choreographers Kevin Maher (Britney Spears and New Kids on the Block) and Ramon Baynes (Beyonce).

In addition to her music career, Kristine enjoys rally car racing and has participated, with her father, in Bullrun, a celebrity cross country benefit rally. Since 2006, she has raised money for Make-a-Wish and other charities.

Kristine lives in Manhattan but comes back "home" frequently to spend time with her parents and younger sister and two brothers. "My family is the biggest support system, and I know that, no matter what, they will always be there for me. At home, there is nothing but love!" says Kristine.

Milestones

Births

Angela Zinzi VanMoorsel '87 and her husband Gui are proud to announce the birth of Charlotte Christina on August 31, 2009. Charlotte joins big sister Ava, 3.

Erin O'Connell deSpoelberch '93 and her husband Dean had their first child on July 17, 2009. He was named Liam Christopher and was baptized at Annunciation on November 16. Liam's Godfather is Erin's brother, **Terry '92**, and his grandmother is **Janet O'Moore Speight '62**. Liam is Janet's first grandchild.

Mia Ann Caragliano was born to Robert and **Dina Cosmo Caragliano '92** on July 1, 2009. Mia was baptized at Annunciation Church on September 13. The Caragliano family lives in Croton-on-Hudson.

Giovanni Andrew Prisco was baptized at Annunciation Church on October 11, 2009. He was born on April 17, 2009 to Raffaele A. Prisco and **Virginia Ann Coleman-Prisco '89**. Giovanni's parents just purchased a home in Norfolk, CT to be closer to his brother Lucas (11).

Engagements

Jackie Johnson '97 was recently engaged to her college sweetheart Kevin Cox. The couple lives in Los Angeles, CA and will be wed at Annunciation Church on October 16, 2010. Jackie is an Account Supervisor with Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide.

Marriages

James Quinlan '90 married Jeneen Allen on October 16, 2009. After a honeymoon to St. Lucia, James and Jeneen are living in Fleetwood, NY. James is an Assistant Director of the Purchase College Association and Jeneen is an Registered Nurse at Columbia Presbyterian.

Meagan O'Connell '87 married Warren Frederick on October 17, 2009 at a destination wedding in the Catskills. Meagan's flowers were arranged by her mother, **Janet O'Moore Speight '62**.

Samantha DiNapoli '90 married Troy Mandara at Annunciation Church on November 20, 2009. Samantha works for Morgan Stanley in Human Resources and Troy works in his family owned business. Troy's sisters, **Danielle Mandara Campanella '93** and **Alexis Mandara '98**, were both in the wedding party. Samantha and Troy are living in Yonkers, NY.

Milestone Spotlight

Chris Grealy Brown Weds Ray Daly



Chris Grealy Brown '62 was married to Ray Daly on September 26, 2009 at Annunciation Church. Chris and Ray have known each other for years, having both served on Annunciation's Home School Association together. Members of the wedding party included Chris' sons, Michael Brown '91 and his wife, Kerry, and Patrick Brown '93 and his wife, Robyn, as well as Ray's children, Brendan Daly '92 and his wife, Katie, Meghan Daly Dooley and her husband, Ed, and Maureen Daly and her fiancé Jerry Dunn.

Save the Date!

Annunciation Parish Spring Dinner Dance

Honoring

Mrs. Evelyn Cosgrove,

Paul LaSalle,

and

Fr. Joseph Novak, S.J. (posthumously)

Saturday, April 17, 2010 at

Lake Isle

Eastchester, New York

More information to follow shortly

Class of 1974 Recall Their “Spirited” Days at Annunciation

The Class of 1974 held a reunion on October 10 at Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester, NY. A few graduates started the evening by attending the 5:00 Saturday evening Mass before heading to the festivities.

A total of 69 people attended the reunion, including two former faculty members who were invited back as guests of the reunion class. Miss Ethel Pizzuti, former first grade teacher, and Mrs. Mary Ann Seiler, former eighth grade teacher, recognized familiar faces and stories from the past.

Much to the delight of the class, Miss Pizzuti and Mrs. Seiler took to the microphone to make a few comments. Miss Pizzuti told those gathered that she was so happy to be invited and that she remembered them as first graders. “You were the best class,” she said.

Shortly thereafter, John Vezza and Elaine Coppola Heyda, who acted as emcees for the evening, invited Mrs. Seiler up to say a few words. “I am so honored that you remembered me and invited me to come,” said Mrs. Seiler, “but I remember your class too, and you guys were terrible!” The class erupted into cheers and laughter, remembering what a “spirited” class they had been.

Prior to the reunion, a



L to R: Robert Tahmlin, Monica Daley, Eileen Tedaldi Meraklis, Jim Bickerstaff, Hank Robertson and Elaine Coppola Heyda gather for a photo at the reunion.

thirty-page booklet of autobiographies, photos and memories was circulated, allowing those who were unable to attend to share in the reunion. After the reunion was over, Nancy Battaglia set up a website (www.annunciation74.com), where the class shared the photos taken that evening.

Music was provided by Billy Sweeney who put together a four-hour play list of songs that would bring back memories of their time at Annunciation. Elaine Coppola Heyda even led the class in song, remembering many tunes that were sung around the school yard.

As the reunion drew to a close, nobody wanted to say “good-bye”. So the party moved to the former Crestwood Market, which is now an Irish pub, with the class taking over the pub until the wee hours of the morning.



L to R: Robert Brancucci, Stephen Carl and John Vezza

50th Anniversary Reunion News

Class of 1960 Reunion

The Class of 1960 is planning a 50th Anniversary Reunion on Saturday, May 15, 2010. All graduates and former members of this class are invited to attend. Invitations will be mailed at the end of March. Please contact Don McArthur '61 at LTWCPD@yahoo.com to make sure that we have your address on file. The reunion is expected to include Mass, a tour of the school and a dinner at Leewood Golf Club.

Found Photo Stirs Memories of Annunciation's Football Team



It started as an investigation into the identities of the group of boys who comprised Annunciation's first football team. It ended with the identification of all of the players, and an email chain that reunited players and stirred memories of that long ago day in the fall of 1947 when Coach Bethencourt's team faced Iona Grammar School on the field.

"We were a rag tag team," said Jim Hanifer. "Iona had full uniforms and cleats. We used to wake up coach on Saturday morning and he would teach us neat versions of the infamous 'Statue of Liberty Reverse' that we executed with pride."

John Manning recalls, "Coach Bethencourt was a wonderful, patient coach who drilled us in the reverse play. The first time we ran it, Bob Geiger took it for a touchdown. Mr. Hanifer had an 8mm movie camera, and we reviewed the games many times. Father Dugan was known to announce the result of the game from the altar. We practiced regularly after school at the park next to the Bronx River Parkway at the end of Carpenter Avenue. On Saturdays, Coach Bethencourt would meet us for practice at a building lot on Chittenden Avenue following our 9:00 a.m. Church Latin lesson in the rectory."

The players are (left to right), **Bottom Row:** Tony Brennan, Mikey Cronin, Raymond Horncastle, Jim Hanifer, Billy Pagen, John Manning, Stephen Palen, Roger Gaire **Top Row:** Paul Reilly, Tom Hanifer, Billy Cronin, Noel Fordrung, Coach Bethencourt, Peter Garst, Bob Geiger, Billy McCaffrey and Al Amend.

Graduate Runs Marathon

Continued from page 18

Getting ready to compete in a marathon requires tremendous dedication. "You run four to five times a week and are doing the same type of training each week. It takes a lot of concentration and determination to do the workouts when there is no variety. You have to prepare through some discomfort because the same muscles are being used day in and day out," said Steven. "I followed a specific training plan that gradually increased my weekly mileage and the weekly 'long runs' that I did each weekend. The long runs at the beginning of the program were seven to eight miles and gradually worked their way up to twenty-two to twenty-three miles. You never run the full 26.2 miles before the marathon. The experts are right when they say that you should save the full 26.2 miles for race day and that a marathon is 'a 20-mile warm up with a 6 mile race'".

While Steven's run supported The Ronald McDonald House, it was also the support that he received from friends and family

that left a lasting impression on him. "It is a big commitment for your friends and family to come and watch you in an event like the marathon," he said. "They have to travel into the city, fight the crowds, get to a spot where they can see you and then sit there and wait for you to run by. They do all this to see you for a total of maybe 60 seconds. My family and friends saw me at 87th Street and First Avenue and then got tickets to sit in the grandstand at the finish line. I learned to appreciate the people in my life who took the time to show up for me at events like this because it is a sacrifice for them as well. They all contributed to the charity, and I didn't have to ask one of them to come support me. They were there without being asked."

Steven, who lives in Manhattan, already has a spot in the 2010 NYC Marathon with his name on it! He hopes to be running it with his brother, Rudy '03, who has already run one Boston Marathon to benefit The Campus School at Boston College.

Track Team Succeeds



Johnny Tannian '10 and Pierce Butler '10 placed first and second, respectively, in the CYO Championships School boys' race, while Emma Clarke '10 and Nicola Breen '10 finished first and second, respectively, in the girls' race.

Class Notes

1948

Richard Burke has become a presenter for Operation Lifesaver, a nationwide group of volunteers concerned for safety at railroad crossings. In addition to his usual engineering responsibilities in rail safety for the New York State Department of Transportation, Richard shows rail safety movies and slides to students and school bus drivers throughout New York State. Recent school presentations have been made in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration.

1949

Frank Doyle sends greetings from Sunny Sumter, SC, where he and his wife, Joan, are enjoying retired life. They have four children and six grandchildren, all living in South Carolina. Frank spends lots of time on the golf course—Monday with the Catholic Community golf group, and Wednesday and Friday with the Retired Officers Group and once a month with the Happy Seniors and Tri-Country Seniors, where 100 or so “old guys” get together. He is also active in the local Kiwanis Club and volunteers once a week as a “Reading Buddy” in a kindergarten class where his daughter is a teacher. In 2010, Frank and Joan are planning two cruises one of which will, hopefully, include all seventeen of their extended family.

1951

Barbara Merola Frates was married at Annunciation fifty years ago on July 18, 1959. She and her husband, George, have raised four children and have 11 grandchildren. Says Barbara, “The Lord has truly blessed us.” She worked many years for the Girl Scouts, stationed in Pleasantville and is still active, training and trying to

raise funds. Barbara would like to hear from anyone from her class and can be contacted at george.frates@comast.net.

1953

Patrick Brennan attended quite a few high schools—Regis, Stepinac, and Mt. St. Michael as well as Fordham University. He had a many-faceted work career: theatre, banking, information technology, marketing, corporate education, and now insurance sales and advocacy.

In January 1963, he married Mary Louise French at Annunciation Church. They lived in New York City and then New Jersey. Their three children now live in Saratoga, NY, Maine and Massachusetts, and they have a total of seven grandchildren. Mary Lou died in 1991.

Patrick met Patty Ann Ferguson in Minneapolis when they both went to visit their daughters, who were rooming together. Now Patrick has another four children, living in Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida. Together, that’s seven children living in seven states; Pat and Patty Ann have much good reason for spending time on the road.

The couple is active in their local parish, which is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Marquette: Saint Peter. Pat is a commissioned lay minister of the diocese, an RCIA and CCD catechist, “senior” altar server, kitchen coordinator for the church’s social justice programs, and a regular contributor to the parish bulletin and liturgy. Every now and then, Pat speaks on behalf of the Diocese on Social Justice topics. Monsignor Timothy Dugan and the Annunciation tradition of participation in worship and in service are never far from the front of his mind.

1954

Mike Palen married Sandy Mallardi,

former classmate ‘55. They have three children, Lisa, Keneth, and Thomas and two grandchildren. They have lived in Mahopac NY for forty-five years. Mike served with the Air National guard and was an aero medic.

1955

After leaving Annunciation, **Rich Colesanti** went to Roosevelt High School, where he met his wife of forty-five years. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines, served at a few bases and was discharged from Little Creek, VA where he was a Force Reconnaissance instructor. Rich and Barbara built a house in Beekman and moved from Yonkers in 1972. There, they raised two great kids. Their son, Rich, and his daughter live in Beekman. Their daughter, Jennifer, her husband and two daughters live in Port Orange, FL, where Rich and Barbara are now retired and enjoying every minute of it!

After the service, Rich went to computer programming school and spent forty years in the corporate world as a technical department director. He worked for various companies, including CBS-TV, American Airlines, General Foods and Guinness. After retiring, he took specialized classes at the University of Florida and is now a Florida Master Naturalist. When he’s not out fishing, he works part-time at the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, FL where they rescue and rehabilitate and release endangered sea turtles and shore birds. He would love to hear from other members of the class of ‘55. He can be reached at rcole1141@aol.com.

1960—see Reunions p. 17

Donald McArthur graduated from Roosevelt High School. Seven days

Class Notes (continued)

after graduation, he entered the U.S. Air Force. After completing Air Force basic training in Texas, he was assigned to attend technical training also in Texas and soon found himself in Air Force Instructor School. After a teaching assignment, he was assigned to Military Airlift Command units flying around the world for the remainder of his enlistment.

Upon separation from active duty, Don returned to Yonkers briefly before joining the Air Force Reserve and later the Air National Guard. He returned to flying on a part-time basis and traveled the world including Iran, Ethiopia, Pago Pago and the South Pole. He retired from flying in September of 1998.

In 1973, Don joined the Westchester Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff. The department later merged with the Westchester County Parkway Police and he found himself patrolling the Westchester County parkways and property. Over his years on the force, Don has taught and attained the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant. While working full-time as a sergeant and flying part-time with Uncle Sam, Don graduated from Manhattan College with a bachelor's degree and from Marist College with a master's degree. He retired in 2008 and relocated to the Treasure Coast of Florida in 2009.

Don married Judy Gustavson, and the couple will be married forty years in February. They have two daughters: Kirstin who is Associate Director of Development for the John Coleman School in White Plains, and Karin McArthur Rodriguez Esq., who works in the Fairfax County School District in the HR division. Karin and her husband, Adam Rodriguez, are the proud parents of twins, Maryella and Benjamin, born in October.

1961—See Reunions p. 17

In 2004, **Nancy C. Waters** retired as Director of Communications & Community Relations for Yonkers Public Library, a branch of which is located in Crestwood at 16 Thompson St. However, Nancy's not languishing in a rocking chair! She is a writer who now works on her frank and often painful memoir whose working title is *Through Irish Eyes*. Hope you were good to her way back when! Nancy takes creative prose writing courses in NYC and Westchester where, just this year, her talent for serious poetry emerged. In fact, her professor submitted one poem for inclusion in the *Journal for Therapeutic Poetry* 2010.

Nancy's volunteer work includes leading book discussions and/or delivering lectures about literature in NYC and Westchester; supporting The Ursuline School while organizing her Class of 1965 reunions; contributing as both a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Joseph's Parish, Bronxville, where she is also program chair for its Auxiliary; functioning as an active member of Renew, a group for younger retirees, at St. Francis of Assisi, NYC; and, earlier on, being certified as a Hospice volunteer—a ministry she found the most rewarding.

Currently Nancy is working on her next lecture for Renew in Spring 2010 entitled "Christians & Jews: Perfect Together" since Passover and Easter fall within the same week. Her hobbies include baking, digital photography, travel, learning Italian, and working with miniatures to create biographical room boxes for lucky friends.

1962

After 38 years in the telecommunications business, **Gordon Duffield** has pulled up stakes and is now working as

a sales executive for Hilton Grand Vacation Club in New York. In this new position he sells fractional ownership in Hilton's West 57th Street property. This ownership program permits owners to travel anywhere in the Hilton Vacation Clubs or Hilton Hotels which include Waldorf Astorias, Hiltons and many other brands. This is an exciting new endeavor for Gordon who can be contacted at gduffield@HGVC.com.

1963

Marianne Henshaw Fleming spent her junior year at the University of Durham in England where she returned after graduating from Manhattanville College to complete a master degree in Theology. She became qualified to teach religious education in the state school system and did so in both Catholic and state schools for twenty-seven years. In England, children must study religion, no matter what school they attend, in order to understand the beliefs and practices of others. The six major world religions are taught as well as religious attitudes towards moral issues like war, abortion, poverty and the environment. Marianne co-authored a book entitled *Thinking about God and Morality* (Heinemann, 2004) for secondary school students studying philosophy of religion and moral issues. This year, she and three colleagues authored six textbooks for secondary school students.

1964

Eileen O'Moore McLoughlin '64 is happy to report that her son, Thomas '91 and his wife, Megan Jensen, are going to make her a grandmother for the first time. The baby is due in January 2010. Tommy and Megan live in Arlington, MA. Eileen's mother, Janet, sister Janet O'Moore Speight '62, and

Class Notes (continued)

brother Tom O'Moore '71 are all still parishioners of Annunciation.

Valarie Papantonio Burk and her husband, Claude, will celebrate 25 years of marital partnership in St. Lucia in February. They love living in Wilmington, NC, where they have been for three years. The beaches are "some of the best I've seen, and the weather overall is terrific." Valarie works part-time offshore for the Bald Head Island Club where she is their Front Desk/Concierge. She uses a ferry to get to/from work, which is a very unique environment where no two days are the same. Valarie and Claude's son, Zack, will be graduating in 2010 from East Carolina University.

Valarie has also reconnected with Robin Kirchoff and Kevin Koop, who are also "southerners" (once Kevin makes the move).

1965—See Reunion News p. 17

Denise Murphy Shepherd would have graduated with Annunciation's Class of '65 but her family moved that February so she finished the year in Florida instead. That must have given her the traveling bug because she's lived in four states (Alabama, Illinois, Iowa and Pennsylvania) and three countries (Canada, the U.K and Switzerland) since graduating from the University of South Florida. She and her husband, John, live in West Chester, PA and both work for SunGard Wealth Management Systems where Denise is a Senior Project Manager. She recently worked on an assignment in White Plains which gave her the chance to retrace her steps in Crestwood and visit with some family friends, among them Anne O'Brien, former Annunciation teacher.

When she's not working, Denise enjoys travel (no surprise), reading, golf, tennis and family time with five grandchildren. Denise, John and her brothers and sisters got together in October for a surprise party for her mother's 85th birthday. Her parents (Neil and Marie Murphy) live in Jupiter, Florida.

The Murphy's had seven children, five of whom attended Annunciation. Marilyn (Class of '63) has five grown children and one granddaughter and is currently living in Aix-en-Provence France. Terry, a year younger than Denise, is married and lives in Jacksonville, FL. The rest of the clan lives in Florida and Louisiana. Denise would love to hear from former classmates at dmshepherd@verizon.net.

1967

Linda Kramer Hymans and her husband, Allen, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 17 with a Mediterranean cruise to Italy, Greece and Turkey with their two children Jason and Lauren and Lauren's husband, Bryan. Allen retired from the White Plains Police Dept. in June 1989 and they moved the family to Austin, TX to be closer to Linda's parents and brother, Bob, and his family. Unfortunately, Linda's mother Mary Kramer passed away before they got there, in February 1989, and Dad, Bob, died of a heart attack during a tornado that passed through his house in May 1997. After moving to Austin, Linda decided to finish her college degree program and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992. She is a huge Longhorn football fan. She also earned her MBA in August 2009. Linda followed her Dad into the telephone business and now works from home for Neustar, Inc. in telecommunications. In addition to spend-

ing time with family and taking care of their three dogs, Sunny (17), Beau (7) and Tara (2), Linda is mentoring an 8th-grade girl and is chair of her neighborhood welcome committee.

1970—See Reunions p. 17

1975—See Reunions p. 17

Liz Shost Fernandez is an attorney and living in Rochester, New York with her three sons, Christopher (11), Brendan and Daniel (7 year old twins). She manages the western New York lead litigation for the firm of Thornton & Naumes, LLP, a Boston-based law firm specializing in toxic tort litigation. She and the boys love to ski in the winter and there is usually plenty of snow!

1976

Mary Conner Kuzemchak is living in Richmond, VA with her husband, Robert, and has been here for 25 years. Their oldest son, Steve, is a junior majoring in marketing at Virginia Tech. Their second son, Kyle, is a freshman majoring in history in a five year master's education program at Christopher Newport University and their youngest, Karen, is a junior in high school. Mary went back to college three years ago and received her teaching certificate. She currently teaches 5th graders in Chesterfield County Public Schools, which is a rewarding, exhausting and many times, entertaining job.

Dianne Cotter Ledingham and her husband, Bill, have three children: Lauren is 17 and a junior at Wellesley High School; Christie is 15 and a freshman at Wellesley HS; and Will is 9 and in the fourth grade. All three children are ac-

tive in sports and music. Diane's mom lives in CT with her husband. Diane's Dad will celebrate his 80th birthday in February and is still rooting hard for the Yankees. Bill is CTO at a small security focused software company in the Boston area and Diane is a senior partner at Bain – a management consulting firm.

1977

Bill Finneran works as a cardiologist in Wyomissing, PA. His wife Betsy (nee McGrath) and he have a mixed marriage—she is a graduate of St Joseph's in Bronxville. They're still making a go of it after twenty years. Bill and Betsy have three children—Billy (15), Katherine (13) and Meredith (10). Bill is a U.S. Navy vet, having served for ten years in the Medical Corps and moved to PA after leaving the Navy in 2001. Bill has great memories from Annunciation—Sister John Margaret, Sister Alice, Sister Margaretta, Mrs. Seiler, Mrs. Connors, gym with Mr Cristian-tiello. He still hears about all the new exploits in Crestwood from his nieces, Georgina, Katie and Laura—all enrolled at Annunciation.

1984

After Iona Prep, **Robert Curtis** graduated from Temple University in 1992 with a degree in electrical engineering. He received a commission in the United States Navy through University of Pennsylvania NROTC, and completed twelve years active duty as a naval aviator where he initially flew SH-60B Seahawk helicopters for the five years before transitioning to the P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft in 1999.

Bob is now a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves with 18 years of service flying the Orion part-time out of Naval Air

Station Jacksonville, FL, where he resides with his wife, Laura, a nurse practitioner, and three beautiful children, Samuel (5), Alaina (2), and Braden (1 mo). Currently Bob is a first officer with FedEx Express flying the B-757.

1985—See Reunions below

Tricia O'Brien Brazill married married James Brazill in December of 2000 and have twin boys who are 3 1/2. They are living in Easton, MD where Jim is a state trooper. Tricia just went back to work as an accountant at a local firm after having the best job as a stay at home mom for 3 1/2 years. The family enjoys spending time at the beach and in the Poconos with Grandma and Pop O'Brien.

1986

Jodi Mosiello is an attorney living in the Colonial Heights section of Yonkers, NY. She is an attorney. Jodi's two children attend Annunciation. Stephanie is in third grade and Justin is in kindergarten.

1990—See Reunions below

1995—See Reunions below

2001

Matthew Franzetti currently lives in London, UK and is pursuing an M.A. in arts administration and cultural policy at Goldsmiths, University of London. He just assistant produced a new play in the West End called, *Public Property* at Trafalgar Studios. Matthew is also the co-creative director of 24 Carrot Productions, a London-based theatre company that is currently in production for a new work to premier at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

2004

Ryan McCombe attends Washington University in St. Louis where he is a sophomore and double majors in systems engineering and finance. In his spare time, Ryan continues to compete as an Irish dancer and is a DJ in lower Westchester and Fairfield County, CT.

Upcoming Reunions

Reunions are being planned for the following classes. For additional information please contact Mary Theresa McCombe at MTMC525@aol.com.

Class of 1960	50 years	See page 12
Class of 1961	50 years (2011)	Contact Maurice Powers by email MP7347@aol.com
Class of 1965	45 years	TBD
Class of 1970	40 years	April 24, 2010
Class of 1975	35 years	April 24, 2010
Class of 1985	25 years	TBD
Class of 1990	20 years	April 24, 2010
Class of 1995	15 years	April 3, 2010

Graduate Completes NYC Marathon for Charity

“There are certain points of the race that are unbelievable. The start of the marathon at the Verrazano Narrows Bridge is a spectacle. Then as you come down off the 59th Street Bridge and turn on First Avenue, you feel like a rock star. The number of people cheering is incredible. And then there is that point at which you see your family and friends cheering for you.”

These are the reflections of Steven Quinn '97 who ran the New York City Marathon for the first time on Sunday, November 1, 2009. Finishing the 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 50 minutes and 20 seconds, Steven reflected on the combination of dedication and luck that permitted him to compete in this prestigious event, joining 42,000 runners from all over the world in a running tour of the city's five boroughs.

Steven, who ran track while a student at Annunciation, had been using longer distance runs as part of his conditioning for playing basketball at Holy Cross. Five to seven mile runs became part of his gym routine during college and in the years after college when he

started his job as a Financial Advisor at Wells Fargo.

After many years of the same workout routine, Steven wanted to mix things up. Hearing of friends who had competed in marathons and triathlons, he was intrigued, and, in March 2009, began training for his first triathlon.

“In June, I did the NY State Sprint Triathlon in Harriman State Park (Bear



Steven Quinn

Mountain). I was hooked and signed up for the Mossman Sprint Triathlon in Norwalk, CT in July and the Sag Harbor Olympic Triathlon in Sag Harbor, NY in September. The training was a great change from the normal routine of going to the gym, lifting weights and running on the treadmill.”

In July, his manager at Wells Fargo told Steven that the firm had an extra spot in the NYC Marathon. That spot had been secured through the Ronald McDonald House, a charity that Wells Fargo raised over \$168,000 for in the 2009 marathon.

Steven says, “It sounds cliché, but it is true, when you raise money and train/run for a charity, when you are going through those periods of pain and discomfort in your training, the people you are helping are a constant inspiration. I have seen the children at the House and, if they can have a smile on their face, you feel like you can get through a workout and feel lucky that you are able to run/train.”

Continued on page 13

Impressive CYO Basketball Program at Annunciation Has Alumni Support

The CYO program at Annunciation is robust. Offering six different sports—cheerleading, volleyball, baseball, softball, track and basketball—there is athletic variety and opportunity to learn the skill set that comes with playing team sports.

By far, the most popular of all of these programs is basketball, and the number of students served by that program is impressive. For the 2009-2010 basketball season, 222 children in the third through eighth grades will play on seventeen teams in two different leagues. An additional 25 children in second grade participate in Saturday

morning intramurals, which focus on development and drills.

Supporting this program is a cadre of thirty-five coaches and assistant coaches including eight former Annunciation students. Tom Martyn '83, Brian Duffy '91, and Catherine Melnyk Duffy '92 are all coaches, guiding third- and fourth-grade teams. Assistant coaching positions are held by Brian Mullery '91, Tommy Gilchrist '77, Chris White '74, Danny McKenna '06, and Mary Fitzmaurice Barnes '92. Three other members of the coaching staff are married to Annunciation graduates: John Feighery (married to Grace Donovan '67); Brendan Moyna

(married to Kathleen Gilchrist '84); and Steve Apostolopoulos (married to Lisa Innamorato '76).

All seventeen teams participate in the Archdiocesan CYO basketball league. In addition, the boys' and girls' 6th and 8th-grade teams also participate in the Catholic Athletic Association league. For the 6th and 8th grade teams, that means a competitive season of over 60 games.

All that practice has made for some spectacular results over the years including four Archdiocesan Championship titles for Coach

Continued on page 8