

# The Annunciator

*A publication for Annunciation Alumni*

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## Faculty Milestones at Annunciation—25 Years

June 2009 marked the end of twenty-five years of teaching at Annunciation for Mrs. Janice Zeitler (the former Miss Wascak). September 2009 marks the beginning of twenty-five years of teaching for Mrs. Muriel O'Neil. This type of longevity is not uncommon at Annunciation where the faculty remains relatively stable year to year, and familiar teachers from a decade or more ago can still be found in their classrooms today.

**Mrs. Janice Zeitler**—Mrs. Janice Zeitler arrived at Annunciation in September 1976. She was then known as Miss Wascak. Hired by Sr. John Margaret, O.P. to teach first grade, she was a new teacher who looked to Miss Ethel Pizzuti as a mentor. Two years later, she became the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher before realizing that junior high was not where she preferred to teach. She then moved back down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade which, at the time, had thirty-three students in one class. Some may recall that Sr. Alice Cronican came in each morning to pull out groups for reading and math work. It was an arrangement that worked well when the school had a much smaller enrollment.

In 1979, she married Thomas Zeitler and, in 1981, moved down to the kindergarten where she remained until March 1985 and the

birth of her daughter, Meredith. Though she had planned to be a stay-at-home mother after the birth of her daughter, she was called back for the 1986-87 school year by Principal Kevin Scanlon to teach in the pre-K four-year-olds program. (Annunciation no longer has a pre-K program.) Her son, Bryan, was born in 1988. In 1994, Mrs. Zeitler returned to Annunciation once again as a kindergarten teacher and then made her final move to third grade in 1996, where she teaches today.

Mrs. Zeitler says that her favorite subject to teach is reading. She loves to read fiction for her own personal enjoyment, and she loves to see children with books that they enjoy. In the early years of the after-school program, she also taught arts and crafts as well as a cooking class that utilized the kitchen in the Parish Room. She remembers her smallest class being one of the half day kindergarten classes that had only fifteen or sixteen students in it, while her largest class was the one with thirty-three (twenty-two boys and eleven girls in that class)!

Commenting on what has changed the most in the time that she has been at Annunciation, Mrs. Zeitler points to the changes in the physical plant. "While the external space remains mostly the same, the use of the internal space has grown tremendously. So many closets have been renovated into small



**Mrs. Janice Zeitler**

group space, locker space in the gym became classroom space, bathrooms and closets became a library, and a portion of the school yard was converted into a faculty room." Academically, the kindergarten program has changed as well. What was once a half-day program is now a full-day program. The only books utilized in the kindergarten many years ago were for reading and religion, leaving time for Mrs. Zeitler to use cooking as a learning tool – does anyone remember baking pretzel letters or cooking vegetable soup? Now the kindergarten is very academic with textbooks in many subjects including math and writing as well as phonics and handwriting.

In addition to being hooked on reading fiction in her spare time, Mrs. Zeitler loves to crochet, go for walks, play board games, and play piano. One other fact, known by close friends and family, is that she is a big Beatles fan, (Continued on page 4)

### Inside this Issue...

Letter from the Pastor and Principal	2
New Principal Appointed	2
Christian Service	3
Sr. Theresa's 50th	3
Cancer Advocates	5
Milestones	7
Reunions	8
Teacher Tributes	9
Class Notes	15
Cheerleading Leader	17
International Tennis Ambassador	17

### Annunciation Elementary School

465 Westchester Avenue  
Crestwood, NY 10707

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## Introducing Annunciation's New Principal—Barbara S. Kavanagh

Monsignor Dennis Keane introduced Mrs. Barbara S. Kavanagh as the new Principal of Annunciation School. She succeeds Sr. Anne Massell, PBVM in the position. Mrs. Kavanagh, a resident of Queens, NY, comes to Annunciation with experience as Principal of Our Lady of Grace School in Howard Beach and, prior to that, Principal of Our Lady of the Assumption School in the Bronx.

"I believe in the Church's mission to teach as Jesus taught and have dedicated my education career to supporting and furthering quality Catholic education. By developing an atmosphere of cooperation and trust among the home, school, and parish, I have established school environments that are warm, respectful and faith-filled. My

hope for Annunciation is to continue the tradition of excellence in education, promote the school's Catholic identity, show respect and gratitude for the past while looking forward to a future of growth and possibilities," said Mrs. Kavanagh.

Msgr. Keane said, "Mrs. Kavanagh brings with her a wealth of experience, which she will use to build upon the excellent educational foundation, established by Sr. Anne."

The faculty met the new Principal in August, and the students were introduced to her on their first day of school, September 9. She was introduced to the parents at the Home School Association meeting on September 15.



**New Principal, Mrs. Barbara Kavanagh, greets students (L to R) Avery (K), A.J. (5th) and Ashtyn (7th) Lange near the newly established prayer table on the first day of school.**

### Annunciation Principals

Sr. Francis Rose, O.P.  
 Sr. Barbara, O.P.  
 Sr. Rosanne, O.P.  
 Sr. Maurice, O.P.  
 Sr. Margaret Helene, O.P.  
 Sr. John Margaret, O.P.  
 Mrs. Mary Thornton  
 Mr. Kevin P. Scanlon  
 Fr. John Scarangello, O.F.M.  
 Sr. Anne Massell, PBVM  
 Mr. Louis Capozzi  
 Sr. Anne Massell, PBVM  
 Mrs. Barbara S. Kavanagh

### A School of Excellence!

Annunciation Elementary School has been cited by the Archdiocese of New York as a School of Excellence based on Pastoral support, leadership, reputation, programs, and facilities.

### Letter from the Pastor

Dear Alumni and Alumnae,

This September Annunciation School begins a new era. Last June we said "Thank you" to Sr. Anne Massell for all that she did for our students and families over the past twenty years as Principal. Our standing-room-only crowd attended a farewell Mass for her and then joined her for a reception in the gymnasium. I am very grateful for all that she did here at Annunciation and wish her well in her new position as Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York.

Mrs. Barbara Kavanagh will be our new Principal. She comes to us from Our Lady of Grace School in Queens and before that from Our Lady of the Assumption School in the Bronx. The teachers and students will soon get to know this excellent educator. I welcome her to Annunciation, and hopefully she will get to know our wonderful graduates.

Please be assured of our prayers,

*Msgr. Dennis P. Keane*

### Letter from the Principal

Dear Alumni and Friends of Annunciation School,

I am very excited to be part of the Annunciation family! I have heard only wonderful things about the school and parish communities and have already seen the strong ties the alumni have to Annunciation. My goal as principal is to ensure that our school's Catholic identity remains strong and that we provide our students with the highest academic standards. It is by building on the firm foundation already established at Annunciation that we can achieve our goals.

Next week, the school will be alive with the enthusiasm of over 550 students. We are financially, spiritually, and academically sound. The faculty, staff, and I are looking forward to working with the parents and students to make the 2009-2010 school year a rewarding experience for all. Please know that your prayers and support are important to us!

Warm Regards,

*Barbara S. Kavanagh*

## A Commitment to Annunciation Parish's Christian Service Programs

As a job-seeking sixteen-year-old, Diane Doyle Vezza '75 followed her heart. She had volunteered the previous year helping people with mental and physical disabilities in a group home in upstate New York and found the work very satisfying. Her job search led her to work with the residents of Ferncliff Manor in Yonkers, NY, working part-time during school and full-time in the summer.

By college, Diane had decided to focus on special education. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Mercy College and her master's degree in special education from LIU. Just as she was finishing her degree, Diane found that she was expecting the second of her two children with husband, John Vezza '74. Diane's decision to be a stay-at-home mom to son, Matthew '00, and daughter, Katie '03, meant that Diane was not going to be working in her chosen field.

Instead, Diane turned her attention to the introduction

of new Christian Service commitments to the parish. Encouraged by Msgr. James Moore (Pastor 1989 to 2003) to bring a variety of service programs to the parish, Diane was the first to organize 90 to 100 parish individuals to cook on a monthly basis for the Sharing Community on Yonkers' west-side. She became the point person for Annunciation's Midnight Run, organizing two to four runs a year and approximately twenty volunteers to conduct each of those runs from 1993 to 2008. Diane was also the first to organize Annunciation's wildly successful Park Bench—a play group for mothers and other caregivers and their children which has been in existence since 1992. She started and continues to organize the Giving Tree—which annually contains the names of over 400 individuals—whose financial need would otherwise preclude them from receiving a gift at Christmas.

In 1998, Diane proposed that Annunciation host its first Handicapped Mass and



**The most recent capital campaign raised funds to make a variety of improvements at Annunciation Church. One of these improvements was the addition of a handicapped accessible ramp on the St. Eleanora's Lane entrance.**

luncheon. The Handicapped Mass, arranged through the Archdiocese of New York, allows residents of local group homes and other residential facilities an opportunity to attend Mass together and then enjoy a catered lunch. For the past eleven years, she and Susan Boulhosa, mother of Annunciation graduates Michael '00, Kyle '03, Brian '05 and Jillian '05, organized a crew of volunteers as young as four and as old as eighty-five to cook and serve 75 to 100 individuals. "This Mass

and luncheon is one of the nicest things we do as a parish. We never turn away a volunteer, and there is something to do for everyone at any age."

As if she wasn't busy enough, Diane has volunteered as a Girl Scout leader and was an active Ladies' Guild member for years. She is currently a Board of Advisor member for Mercy Center where she is also a volunteer ESL teacher and has twice chaired their largest fundraising event.



**Diane Doyle Vezza with husband John, and children Matt and Katie**

### Sr. Theresa Dadabo's 50th Anniversary

Annunciation's beloved 1st grade teacher, Sr. Theresa, will celebrate her 50th anniversary as a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the 12:45 Mass on September 20. This will be followed by a reception in the gym. All of Sr. Theresa's former students are invited to attend and congratulate Sr. Theresa on her anniversary!



**Sr. Theresa Dadabo**

## Faculty Milestones—25 Years

(Continued from page 1)

particularly of Paul McCartney.

**Mrs. Muriel O'Neil**—Arriving in September 1985, from a teaching position at St. Paul's in East Harlem, Mrs. Muriel O'Neil started at Annunciation as a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher when she was hired by Mr. Kevin Scanlon, then Principal of Annunciation. At the time, the school's student population had decreased, and there was only one class per grade level. Mrs. O'Neil also taught in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, before arriving in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade where she has taught since 1995.

Her favorite subjects are social studies and math, and she incorporates both of these in her teaching duties. In addition to being the social studies teacher for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, she teaches math after school during a TACHS review class, which takes place from the start of school until the TACHS test is

held in November. (TACHS is the title of the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.)

While class sizes have remained relatively stable in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (sizes range from 24 to 27 students), Mrs. O'Neil notes that she has seen a tremendous increase in the number of working mothers at Annunciation. "When I first started, you could count on one hand the number of mothers who had full-time jobs. Now, you can count on one hand the number of mothers who do not work full-time."



Mrs. Muriel O'Neil

As Mrs. O'Neil begins her 25th year of teaching at Annunciation, she says the reason that she has stayed is because, "teaching is fun. No two days are the same. Annunciation is part of a great community. The children are great, the parents supportive, and the faculty are a wonderful group of people. Just when I think it might be time to retire, along comes a new challenge, like the SIS system (Student Information System) or the SMART Boards. I find new challenges to be invigorating."

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. O'Neil spends time in Maine. She and her husband, Jack, like to travel with former Annunciation teacher, Maryellen DiSenso, and her husband, Dan. Last year, they went to Alaska, and they are planning a trip to Europe for next year. As any student can attest, Mrs. O'Neil is an avid Yankees fan. She also loves playing with her granddaughter, playing golf, and solving puzzles.

## Moeller is International Athlete Ambassador

(Continued from page 17)

a Holocaust survivor speak to us through a translator. What I had worked on in 6<sup>th</sup> grade as a project, was really interesting to see in person!"

After the training and cultural part of the trip, three days of Olympic style competition began. Sophia played in the 11-14 age group's round robin, winning all of her matches. This ad-

vanced her to the main draw where she lost in the first round. In the process, she met girls from all over Europe as well as her American teammates who hailed from states such as Ohio, Florida, California, Texas and Alabama. Twice daily phone calls at wake up and lights out kept homesickness at bay, while texting allowed Sophia to share her match results with her parents in Crestwood.

In school, Sophia's favorite subjects

are math and reading. In addition to tennis, she is also an altar server, plays piano and is studying for her brown belt in karate.

As for how she plans to top this experience, Sophia says she would like to become nationally ranked and play tennis in college and beyond. She has the support of her parents in all of this. Her mother, Kelly Moeller, says that the People to People program is wonderful, and this experience has taught Sophia life lessons such as how to handle an interview, how to ask coaches for recommendations, and thank them for writing those recommendations, how to travel to new places and how to make new friends. Sophia was excited to see that People to People offers other tennis-related experiences, including one that incorporates a trip to Wimbledon. Her brother, Max, who is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, is already looking forward to playing soccer in Brazil as a People to People Ambassador some day.

## Annunciation Big Winner of ITV Awards

On May 15, 2009, the Annunciation School Instructional Television team attended the EDDY Awards. The team was nominated in six categories, including Best Team, Best Research, Best Graphics, Best Anchors, Best Survey, and Best Debate for their broadcast "Money Matters: Some Perspective on the Financial Crisis."

We are thrilled to announce our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders won all six EDDY Awards! In addition, we would also like to congratulate Mrs. Elliott, who received the Moderator of the Year award! The ITV Team was featured on local cable News 12 as the "big winner of the EDDY Awards".

## Keyes Family Fights to Cure Pancreatic Cancer

When Larry Keyes '51 was diagnosed in August 2007 with pancreatic cancer, his family rallied around him—wife, Peggy, daughters Kathy '75, Meg '77, Laura '78 and Ellen '90 and son, Jimmy '81. Larry and Peggy had moved to Lake Lure, NC in 2001 from their home in Crestwood. Now, with this news, the siblings took turns traveling to Lake Lure to support their parents as they navigated through doctors visits and treatments.

Most frightening to the family was learning that survival rates for pancreatic cancer were very low. They instantly became the newest team of advocates for research into a cure for pancreatic cancer. Sadly, Larry died in November 2007, but the cause remains a priority for the Keyes family.

Peggy says, "I have dedicated my life to raising funds for pancreatic cancer research. After Larry's diagnosis, I learned that there has been no improvement in the treatment

of pancreatic cancer in over thirty years. I'm fighting to change that."

In March 2008, Kathy and Peggy went to Washington, DC with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to lobby for PC. On March 31, 2009—coincidentally Larry's birthday—Kathy, Meg and Peggy were in DC again. This time, they each met with their respective representatives—Peggy continues to reside in North Carolina, Kathy lives in Colorado and Meg in upstate New York. It was both exciting and exhilarating for the trio.

Peggy (key4646@bellsouth.net) has been knitting and selling scarves and baby items at craft fairs with the proceeds to benefit PC research. Larry, a member of the Train Collectors Association, had an extensive train collection which is being sold at various toy train shows and on Ebay. All of the money made goes directly to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network ([www.pancreaticcancer.org](http://www.pancreaticcancer.org)).



Peggy Keyes with Congressman Patrick Henry

## CYO Softball and Baseball Results

### Spring 2009

**7th and 8th grade girls**—Undeclared in two leagues, they finished the season with a 19-0 record. The team was coached by John Van Braemer.

**5th and 6th grade girls**—Eighteen girls competed on this team which was coached by Dawn Hone. They finished with a 4-6 season.

**8th grade boys**—Finished the season 10-3, but lost in the first round of playoffs to Our Lady of Sorrows. Luke Sweeney and Paul Meara were named to the All-Star Team. The team was coached by Jack Meara.

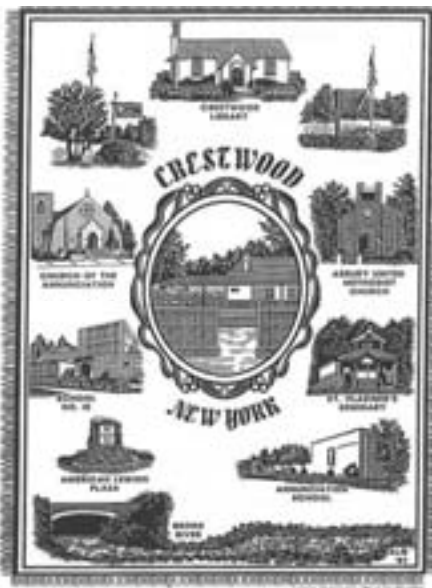
**7th grade boys**—Finished the season 7-5 and were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs. Nick D'Angelo and Aidan Hone were named to the All-Star team. The team was coached by Artie D'Angelo.

**6th grade boys**—4th in the season, the team advanced to the playoffs where they were defeated in the championship game by Iona Grammar School. Dennis Heslin coaches the 6th grade.

**5th grade boys**—2nd in the season, they advanced to the playoffs where they were defeated in the semi-finals by Annunciation's 6th grade. The team was coached by Mike Casella.

## Last Call—Only 6 Left!

The Annunciation Ladies' Guild has a limited supply of beautiful cranberry-colored Crestwood Throws featuring Crestwood landmarks such as Annunciation Church and School, the Crestwood Library, Schultze Field, Freddolino Park, P.S. 15, Asbury Church and St. Vladimir's Seminary. This comfy throw, which measures approximately 4' x 6', can be ordered for \$49.80. For further information, please email [BKMBM@aol.com](mailto:BKMBM@aol.com). It makes a great gift for those who hold Crestwood close to their hearts! Plan ahead for Christmas gifts.



## Mrs. Sharon Reilly Retires from 4th Grade

Mrs. Sharon Reilly, who had been firmly ensconced in Class 4B for twenty-four years, retired in June 2009. Over the years, Mrs. Reilly's classes have ranged from only eighteen students to last year's record of thirty-one. Her favorite subjects to teach were reading and religion. For many years, Mrs. Reilly was also a first-grade teacher in the parish's CCD program.

"The biggest change that I saw in my time at Annunciation," says Mrs. Reilly, "was the use of modern technology. The use of SMART Boards was a wonderful opportunity for learning. The SMART Board fits into every subject and was especially useful in social studies, English and reading. It added so much to the class, and the children could not wait to use it. In fact, the children were anxious to show me all that they knew about using it!" Technology had also lessened the amount of paperwork that was required since marks and attendance all are computerized at Annunciation.

Mrs. Reilly appreciates that each class had its own distinct personality. Her last class was so enthusiastic that the last week of school was spent allowing the children to take turns teaching the class something that they knew. Mrs. Reilly says that the overriding characteristic of all of her 4<sup>th</sup> graders has been one of curiosity and a desire to try new things.

"Fourth grade is really a wonderful learning age," notes Mrs. Reilly. In her retirement, Mrs. Reilly will be teaching religious education at her parish, volunteering at a hospital, and traveling. She "will always keep all at Annunciation in my thoughts and prayers."



**Mrs. Sharon Reilly**

## You can find us on the Web

at

[www.AnnunciationCrestwood.com](http://www.AnnunciationCrestwood.com)



**The Fatima Group Statues on St. Eleanora's Lane were replaced and restored in Spring 2005.**

**These statues were originally erected in memory of the deceased members of the Campbell and Hickey families.**

## Sr. Anne Massell Ends Long Service at Annunciation



Sr. Anne Massell, PBVM (Principal 1988-1995 and 1997-2009) announced in June that she was leaving Annunciation to take the position of Associate Superintendent at the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of New York. Commenting on her service, Msgr. Dennis Keane said, "Sr. Anne has been an extraordinary principal, working tirelessly for all our students. She leaves behind a great legacy and a treasured spot in our hearts."

## Deaths

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

William Drake '61 - brother of Michael '61 and Richard '64

Patricia Vitolo Clark '60 - sister of Francis '62 Carol '65 and Barbara '66

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

Catherine Tahmin - mother of Mark '68, Christine '71, Peter '72, Robert '74, Catherine '75 and Carrie '81

Anthony Balletta - father of Anthony '68, Joanna '70 John '71, James '74, Catherine '76 and Georgianne '90

Carmela Schirripa - mother of Antonella '68, John '70 and George '73

Anthony DiStasio - father of Rob '69, Chris '71, Maria '74 and Victoria '80

Umberto Salvati - father of Robert '60, Michael '65, Patricia '68 and Paul '71

Stella Bryne - mother of Donna '62, John, James '64, Michael '66, Thomas, Peter '70, Mary '73, Patty '75, Nancy '76, Jay and Adam, and the late Lynda '62

Daniel W. Morrison, Jr. - father of Patricia '73, Daniel, Matt and Neil

Isabel Moncalieri - mother of Allan '61 and Sheryl '65

Alice Byrnes - mother of Alice '62, Jeannette '65, Thomas '69, and Timothy '79

## Milestones

### Births

Patrick Joseph York IV, son of Patrick Joseph York Jr., and **Marie Villani-York '93** was baptized at Annunciation Church on June 7, 2009. Little Patrick was born on February 13. Marie recently resigned as editor of *The Riverdale Press*, a Pulitzer prize-winning weekly newspaper in the Bronx. She plans to attend Lehman College in the fall to earn her master's degree in elementary education. Her husband is a police officer in Yonkers. The family lives in Yonkers, NY.

**Robert Melnyk '86** and **June Cirigliano Melnyk '91**, joyfully welcomed their second child, Owen Stephen, on March 10, 2009. Owen was 18-3/4 inches and weighed 6 lbs., 2 oz. He was baptized on June 7, 2009 at Annunciation Church. **Brian Duffy '91** and **Cathryn Melnyk Duffy former classmate '92** are the loving Godparents.

Mary Margaret Blaney made her debut on April 8, 2009. She weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz. She is the daughter of Joseph Blaney and **Margaret Delaney Blaney '87**.

Ryan Christopher was born to Cindy and **Tom Martyn '83** on May 4, 2009 and joins siblings Caitlyn '12, Liam '14, and Lauren '17. He was baptized at Annunciation on July 12, 2009. Godparents are Kate and **Chris McSherry '83**.

**Chris Coppolecchia '93** and his wife, Anna, welcomed their first child on May 6, 2009. Carter Pasquale Coppolecchia was born in White Plains Hospital at 5:40 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz., and was 20 inches long. He is the first nephew for **Steven '02** and **Kevin '03** Coppolecchia. **Brian O'Dea '95** is Carter's Godfather.

### Marriages

**Ryan DeSola '96** and Aisling O'Sullivan were married on June 6, 2009 at Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary Church in Southampton, NY. Ryan is a strategic marketing consultant, and Aisling is an attorney. The couple lives in Bronxville, NY.

**Sara Tarpey '97** was married to John Galeazzi on July 11, 2009 at Annunciation Church. Sara works with autistic children at a special needs school in Brooklyn, and John is a Captain in the U.S. Army and an Energy Solutions Engineer at United Technologies in Manhattan. They live in Bronxville, NY.

**Anthony Pavia '95** was married to Rebecca Vingo on July 25, 2009 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in East Norwalk, CT. Father Sal Riccardi officiated. Anthony and Rebecca met at Brien McMahon High School in South

## Milestone Spotlight Warneckes Celebrate 30th Wedding Anniversary



Wendy and **Bill Warnecke '69** recently celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Grand Cayman. The June trip was taken with their two children, Kevin and Lauren. Wendy and Bill, who met in college, were married in Desert Hot Springs, CA on June 30, 1979. After marrying, the couple lived in Phoenix, AZ and San Diego, CA before moving to Ridgefield, CT in 1997. Bill is a contract investigator for the Federal government and Wendy works in communications for IBM. Their son, Kevin, is a senior at Ithaca College and daughter, Lauren, will be a freshman at The College of William and Mary.

Norwalk where Rebecca is a math teacher and Anthony is a school counselor. They took a honeymoon trip to St. Lucia and reside in East Norwalk, CT.

**Regina Possavino '93** married Takehiko Serai on August 15, 2009 at Annunciation Church. Msgr. James Moore married the couple. Regina works in equity research at Sanford Bernstein & Co. in New York City, and Takehiko is a hedge fund manager at Arteaga Capital Management. They live in White Plains, NY.

**Peter Mullen '93** married Una Healy on August 29, 2009 at Annunciation Church. Peter is an officer in the Yonkers Police Department and Una works at Phelps Memorial Hospital. The couple lives in the Colonial Heights section of Yonkers, NY where they recently purchased a home.

### Anniversary

**Jeanne Wasp Tedesco '74** and her husband, Mike, celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 5, 2009. They have three boys ages 22, 18 and 15 and live in New York.

## 1974 Reunion will be held in October

The Class of 1974 will have a reunion on Saturday, October 10 at Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester, NY.

Ticket price is \$50 per person, and reservations must be made by September 21. Please contact Mary Theresa McCombe at [mtmc525@aol.com](mailto:mtmc525@aol.com) or 914-337-3953 for more information.

## Reunion News

### Classes of 1960, 1964, 1972 and 1975

Both 1964 and 1972 are planning separate reunions in Fall 2009. The class of 1960 and 1975 are planning reunions in 2010. If you are interested in participating in one of these reunions, please contact:

1960	Don McArthur	<a href="mailto:LTWCPD@yahoo.com">LTWCPD@yahoo.com</a>
1964	Barbara Begnal Scovotti	<a href="mailto:Babs2269@aol.com">Babs2269@aol.com</a>
1972	Jeanne Marconi	<a href="mailto:MDinCT@aol.com">MDinCT@aol.com</a>
1975	Mary Theresa Gill McCombe	<a href="mailto:Mtmc525@aol.com">Mtmc525@aol.com</a>

## Class of 1969 Weekend Reunion By Richard Linderman '69

The Class of 1969 held its 40<sup>th</sup> year reunion over the weekend of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The festivities started with a cocktail party at Marianne Gannon's house on Friday night. Even though the rain kept us from going outside, this was a great way to kick off what proved to be a special weekend. This also gave a few classmates, with conflicts on Saturday, an opportunity to reconnect with their past.

Saturday night was the main reunion party at the Residence Inn in White Plains. Sr. Martin Imelda, our fifth-grade teacher, was our guest of honor. She led us in grace before dinner and even remembered many of us from our youth. Our eighth-grade teacher, the former Sr. Mary Walter (now Mrs. Mary Ziegler) was unable to attend, but sent an email which was read that night. It contained some memories and great insights. Classmates brought memorabilia such as report cards, essays, and autograph books. We even had one girl's uniform! The

class recognized Joe Peragine with a plaque for his tireless efforts in finding and contacting classmates. He turned a dream into reality.

Although the Saturday party started at 5:30 and was officially over at 11:00 p.m., about twenty diehards, who didn't want the night to end, moved the party to one of our classmate's rooms until 2:00 a.m!

Sunday the class was recognized at 11:30 Mass followed by a school tour and brunch. Our classmates were Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, and our first-grade teacher, Miss Pizzuti, joined us for brunch.

Overall, approximately forty classmates attended at least one of the events. Classmates came from all over the country—Massachusetts, North Carolina, Georgia, and Missouri were just a few of the states represented.

Part of the price to attend the reunion went toward a class gift. Approximately \$800 was donated to the school to help a student with financial need next year.



Class of 1969 members surround Sr. Martin Imelda at the Saturday night reunion dinner in White Plains.



Brunch was held in the school on Sunday. Front row (L to R): Joan Cahill Louney Wakeman, Michael Coneys, Brigid Doherty VanVurst, Valerie Frascatti; Back row (L to R): William Gray, Mark Houlihan, Anne Tully, Miss Ethel Pizzuti, Valerie Sperruzzi LeShane, Rory O'Moore.

## Teacher Tributes: An Annunciation Legacy

*The dedication of Catholic school teachers is well known. Annunciation has been home to hundreds of wonderful, caring and interesting teachers who have had a hand in helping to shape us into the people we are today. The stories are many, but the underlying theme is consistent. Even as young children, the advice, assistance and lessons taught by our teachers affect the actions and decisions that we make everyday. Below you will find many familiar names and a story about how they made a difference in someone's life. We thank the alumni who were willing to share these memories.*

**Sr. Marie Emmanuel** (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) Sister Marie Emmanuel was a gifted teacher whom we recognized when we left Annunciation and entered the halls of various high schools. She had grounded us in English with detailed diagrams and conjugating verbs while throwing in some sense of Latin as well. Daily math, geography, and history were all part of her curriculum, but I recall how she taught us science and, in particular, I can visualize her explanation, with a blackboard demonstration of how the magnetic North Pole was offset by a distance to the left of the True North Pole, as perceived from Crestwood.

This lesson came back to me some twenty years later when I was flying in the U.S. Naval Reserve out of Naval Air Station Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, NY. On one occasion, there were three pilots and a crew of five on a four engine anti-submarine aircraft sent out on a four hour over-water flight to monitor some Russian electronic trawlers accompanying their fishing vessels, a few hundred miles out to sea. I was co-pilot for the mission, but the only qualified navigator on board, so I had to manage the dead reckoning chart for the patrol. It had been about ten years since I had navigated a Naval Patrol Plane from Alameda, California to Japan and back using dead reckoning plots, assisted by low frequency radio direction finders, LORAN and celestial navigation.

On this flight, I realized that I was rusty on how to apply the calculation of the variance between magnetic headings and true headings to keep our plot on the navigation chart accu-

rate. Our weekend warrior flying experience in the reserve had been largely flying airways and working with U.S. submarines close to the coast during which we navigated electronically, but this mission required us to go out to sea beyond electronic aids and necessitated dead reckoning navigation. As I sat at the "nav" table some thousands of feet in the air, I wrestled with the question, does one add the variance to the magnetic heading or does one subtract the variance from the magnetic heading? This step is crucial to arrive at an accurate true heading, which can then be plotted. The mnemonic to remember the formula taught in pre-flight school had long since receded from my memory, but I recalled Sister Marie Emmanuel's blackboard diagram of the location of magnetic north back in grammar school, and I realized that in New York you add the variance to the magnetic heading to calculate the true heading since the magnet pole is to the left in this area. If I had not applied the adjustment, our heading would have been off by six degrees, and if applied incorrectly, off by twelve degrees. As it turned out, we were right on track and sighted and plotted the position of the trawlers. I said a quick thank you to that dear teacher, who unknowingly, helped make that mission successful. - *John Manning '48*

**Sr. Margaret Louise** (1<sup>st</sup> grade) Doesn't everyone remember his or her first teacher? I remember my first-grade teacher, Sr. Margaret Louise. I think she was quite tall, but I was only five years old and a small five at that. I remember her voice – it was absolutely musical.

Everything she said sounded like a song. And everything she said sounded like she was smiling. She greeted us each morning with such welcoming sounds that we flocked to her like little birds. We all wanted to hug her or at least be as close to her as we could get. She had wonderful stories that she would read to us. And then, when we started to read by ourselves, the encouragement was boundless. She had lists of new words all over the room, and it was so exciting to recognize them in places other than the classroom. I would proudly point them out to my mother with the information that I had learned them from Sr. Margaret Louise. There were street sign words like "stop" and "slow"; store words like "grocery" and "butcher"; and words I could recognize in newspapers and magazines. She taught me to read, and there has never been anything as exciting or meaningful to me in or out of a classroom as being able to read.

The day was always too short and the school day was always over too soon. We would have stayed longer with Sr. Margaret Louise if we could have. And when it was time for us to leave and meet our mothers or our older brothers or sisters who would be outside school waiting to pick us up at the end of the school day, we would troop out with Sr. Margaret Louise holding our hands. She would not go back inside until each of us was gone. She would call out to us as we left,



## Teacher Tributes (Continued)

"God loves you. Have a happy day!" I think she was the first person to ever use that term.

When I read a good book, I think about Sr. Margaret Louise who taught me to read. I've had many happy days because of her. **Luise Bethencourt '54**

**Sr. Marie Pauline** (2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades) Sister Marie Pauline was my teacher for 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. I remember her as always smiling and having rosy cheeks and always being patient, even though I couldn't have understood that concept at the time.

I was an early reader and always got way ahead when the class was taking turns reading aloud. Sister caught on to me very quickly and so would either have me read first or after an interruption, when she could give me a cue on where to pick up the text. With her I never had to worry about being called on and not knowing where the class was and being embarrassed. Afterwards, she would often ask me how far I had gotten.

In the springtime, when we were restless in the afternoons, Sister would often take us out for walks through the grounds of St. Eleanora's Home (a somewhat mysterious place for us kids) or up the hill to what was called "the Indian trail," which ran through the woods overlooking the parkway and later became a housing development.

By the 5th grade, I was as tall as Sister, and we were old friends. It was great to be back in her class after a year, and I think everyone felt the same as most of the class had been together since kindergarten.

Seventh-grade boys had the task of cleaning blackboards in the lower grade classrooms, not as punishment, but kind of like early "community service." I was lucky enough to be as-

signed to Sr. Marie Pauline's classroom and enjoyed having conversations with her on a non-pupil level. She always showed interest in how I was doing and liked to talk baseball.

One of the best things I liked about her was she always called me Jeff and not Geoffrey as all my other teachers would. She was a great teacher, and when my memory slips back to Annunciation School days, it is always the memory of the good Sister Marie Pauline that makes me smile and think fondly of those early years in Crestwood. **Jeff Walsh '57**

**Mrs. Helen Brennan** (5th grade) Mrs. Brennan spent a tremendous amount of time having us diagram sentences. Doing so gave us (me at least) the greatest grounding in the English language we could have had. You couldn't help but understand English grammar after diagramming those hundreds of sentences. **Tim Arnstein '60**

**Sr. Francis Xavier** (4th grade) Whenever Sister saw any kid slouching -- and it happened every five minutes or so -- she'd call us all to attention by saying "Posture! Posture!" I was so terrified of being scolded by Sr. Francis Xavier that I ALWAYS sat up straight -- a good habit I carry to this day.

Sister embodied the word strict, and we were all afraid of her. One time she read Edward Lear's poem, "The Owl and the Pussycat" as if it were a dirge. I raised my hand and took exception to her delivery. The other kids thought I was going to have my head taken off. Instead Sister challenged me to read it as I thought it should be read. It's a nonsense poem, and I read it as such. I wasn't looking up, of course - I was

looking down to read, but a friend told me later that Sr. Francis Xavier was smiling. **Tim Arnstein, '60**

**Sr. Agnes William** (1st and 2nd grades) Sr. Agnes was very smart, patient and youthful. She had a knack for connecting with the kids and making learning fun. **Bill Wasp '61**

**Sr. John Francis** (5th grade) Fifth grade was a very pivotal year for me. Sr. John Francis was tough, but always ready with a great sense of humor. She did her job with glee in her eyes and encouraged us to challenge her in creative ways. Sr. John Francis was fondly nicknamed "Sr. Johnny Cakes." **Bill Wasp '61**

**Sr. Ann Thaddeus** (2nd grade) My favorite teacher was Sr. Ann Thaddeus. I was introduced to her when I was a 1st grader and she was teaching 2nd grade. I had gotten in trouble in 1st grade, and Sr. Agnes Williams, my first-grade teacher, brought me into the 2nd grade to teach me a lesson. Unrelated to this, I left Annunciation for



about two years when my family traveled to Venezuela. I returned toward the end of 3rd grade and had to get to know everyone again. I was lucky enough to have Sr. Ann Thaddeus for a later grade (I think 5th or 6th). We had long discussions on the state of the world. This was during the "duck and cover" period, and the students of Annunciation were sure something would happen soon and that communists would be landing or dropping bombs (those in school at this time will remember that this was a big focus). So there were many questions



## Teacher Tributes (continued)

about the future possibilities. Sr. Ann Thaddeus was willing to discuss those with me. Beyond our friendship, the discussions opened up for me a life-long inquiry and an ability to explore things beyond what was presented to us. **Charlie Menzie '63**

**Sr. Ann Thaddeus** (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Sr. Ann Thaddeus was a strict disciplinarian, but an excellent educator, and not just of book knowledge, either. These many years later, a comment she made still sticks with me: "You dislike in others what you see in yourself." **Brian McCallen '64**

**Sr. Mary Immaculata** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) I graduated Annunciation in 1964, although I was originally supposed to graduate in 1963. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Sister Mary Immaculata, found out that my reading was so poor that I should be kept back. I was devastated, especially when my mother waited two days before school started to tell me. When I walked into school to return to my fifth-grade class, I found my good friend Jimmy Santore had also been kept back. (I think the teachers cut a deal with our parents.) Sister Mary was young and cute. I still miss my class of '63. **Bob Flynn '64**

**Mr. Ed Onorato** (Music) One winter evening, probably when I was in fifth grade or so, the school was holding a Father-Daughter dance. My Dad owned a heating oil business, and winter days were long and hard for him, but he had promised to meet me at school as soon as he was able. I had primped and prepared for the big night and was at the gym waiting for Dad to arrive from work for our special date. The music had started, and I was standing on the sidelines watching the fathers and

daughters take to the floor. I must have looked pretty forlorn, because suddenly a dapper gentleman with a beautiful smile approached and asked if he could fill in until my escort arrived. It was "Mr. Eddie" who whisked me across the floor and brought the smile back to my face until my Dad cut in and replaced it with an even bigger one. I'll never forget that little act of kindness...or the songs we learned in his class that are still lodged in my memory more than forty-five years later ("Sixteen Miles on the Erie Canal," "Barnacle Bill the Sailor," "Billy Boy" and so many more!) **Linda Chioldo Baron '66**

**Sr. Francis Jane** (8<sup>th</sup> grade) In September of 1965 the playground/parking lot of Annunciation School was filled with students anticipating a new year. At the appointed time, the loud buzzer rang. We all stood silently. The second buzzer sounded and we all got into our lines for class. Then the teachers came out to escort us to our new classrooms. A nun we had never seen before came to escort my class. We all looked at each other not knowing what to expect. This was our 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, and we were supposed to be on top, yet there was this unknown little lady who would responsible for us.

We soon found out there were changes for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at Annunciation. Besides our new teacher, we would have a departmental approach to learning. One teacher would teach history, another science, another religion and another math. We would actually change classes. Of course we would have to change them in an extremely orderly way and in silence. Leading our group in this new experiment was Sister Francis Jane. Besides being our homeroom teacher, she taught religion to all in 7<sup>th</sup>

and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. She also taught us everything else besides history, science and math.

By the time she became our teacher, Sister was experienced as both a religious Sister as well as a teacher. She was the first Sister that ever referred to a member of her community in front of the students without the title Sister. Thus she injected some humanity into an extremely strict and formal situation. Sister made it clear that she cared for us. This caring was not in any touchy-feely way, but was very concrete and observable. She would make time for any student that needed additional help. She made sure students would learn what was necessary to move on to high school. When necessary, she went to bat for students helping them get into Catholic high schools.

Teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys requires the patience of Job. Even with our limited vocabularies, we could always find the double meaning in words. She would put up with it to a point, yet kept it from getting out of hand. She could be strict when necessary but also had time for a smile or a joke. She loved her dual vocation of being a Dominican and a teacher.

After graduation I went away for high school. Every time she saw me home for a visit, she would stop and talk after Mass. Eventually, in my senior year of high school, my family left the New York area. A few years later I saw Sister for the last time. Father Hyland was celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass in Middletown, NY. Since I was living there, I was invited to attend and to serve at the liturgy. At the dinner following, I saw Sister and gave her a kiss. I could see she was happy to see me. She was happy that I was doing well. She even told Sister Rosanne (former Annunciation Principal) that I

## Teacher Tributes (Continued)

had kissed her. I thanked her for all her efforts teaching me. I let her know that I was prepared for high school and was then in my second year of college. We said goodbye when the dinner ended. I have always wondered how life turned out for her.

**Robert Linderman '66**

**Sr. Margretta** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) I have to say, I use this expression all the time with my own kids. "It is not what you say, it is how you say it!" Of course in September and June, we often heard "it is hot, and it will get hotter," which was a nice way of saying "please wear deodorant." **Sheila McGovern '74**

**Mrs. Mary Ann Seiler** (8<sup>th</sup> grade) I remember Mrs. Seiler playing John Lennon's "Imagine" in one of our classes. At the time I thought it was so cool to listen to rock music in school. Another, somewhat related, memory was one of her assignments for our class. She had us write our own original short story and asked us to illustrate it and bind it in book form. I had so much fun doing that homework project. "Imagine," indeed! At least as a grade schooler, I experienced the thrill of being a published—albeit, self-published—author. Mrs. Seiler helped open a world of creative possibilities to me. **Kathleen Fitzgerald '72**



**Mrs. Mary Ann Seiler** (8<sup>th</sup> grade) As an adjunct professor in a university, I am consistently horrified at the total lack of English grammar skills on the part of my students. I spend more

time correcting their grammar than I do correcting the subject material. What Mrs. Seiler taught us has proven invaluable to me over the years, although there is one negative twist to my praise. In fact I found that college classes in English literature didn't measure up to what we had done in seventh grade. She was my favorite teacher, and I will always be grateful for the fine training that she gave me. **Dave Monaco '74**

**Miss Ethel Pizzuti** (1<sup>st</sup> grade) Miss Pizzuti was a masterful teacher of the first-grade curriculum, particularly phonics. But beyond that, I will always remember her fondly for her kindness. I don't recall Miss Pizzuti ever being angry, and we first graders must have been a handful. Who didn't love Miss Pizzuti? She was many an Annunciation kid's second mother. I do have a vivid memory of my first day in 1st grade. I was one of 14 twins (7 sets) in that September 1964 first grade class. The teachers lined us up in the hallway to marvel at their twin cluster before splitting us up between grades 1A and 1B. Thank God I had Miss Pizzuti to help me recover from the trauma of losing my twin brother, John, to 1A! It's almost 45 years later, and I remember it like it was yesterday. **Kathleen Fitzgerald '72**



**Miss Ethel Pizzuti** (1<sup>st</sup> grade) When taking a standardized test in first grade, I was stuck on reading the word "between" and wouldn't be able to identify its meaning in the vocabulary section of the test. She must have sensed my panic and nervousness and gently covered the "tween" part of the word so I knew the first syllable was the little word "be". It clicked, and I was able to read the word and answer the question and move on to the next one. She amazed

me at how well she knew her students and their needs. I went on to be a teacher, and her loving, nurturing way helped guide me in the profession. I think of that moment every time I have to administer standardized tests to my students and try to put them at ease like she did for me! **Cathy Florio '74**

**Sr. Martin Imelda** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) When Sr. Martin Imelda was teaching us about the use of quotation marks in writing conversations, she held up my homework to show all the students an example of excellent work. I had used colored pencils for the quotations and commas, and it really impressed Sr. Martin Imelda. That simple act made me feel like gold, and to this day, every time I think about it, it makes me proud that she noticed my effort and the pride I took in my schoolwork. That feeling is priceless, and I try to make my students feel good about themselves and their work whenever I can. I have Sr. Martin Imelda to thank for that! **Cathy Florio '74**

**Mr. William Taggart** (Music) Of course our music teacher, Mr. Taggart was wonderful. He had the greatest concerts and an awful lot of patience. He actually had us singing Beatles songs in the Spring concerts like "O Bla Di", and "While my Guitar Gently Weeps". At Christmas, we sang the most wonderful rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" that I had ever heard. He was ahead of his time, and I always thought we sounded fabulous. **Jeanne Wasp Tedesco '74**

## Teacher Tributes (Continued)

**Miss Mary Dillon** (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) One of my favorite teachers at Annunciation was Miss Dillon. I remember wishing she could marry my oldest brother. He was in college at the time as an art major, and I brought in his art portfolio for her to look at hoping that would interest her. It was her first year teaching at Annunciation, and I remember her being very pretty and young and really nice to the class. *Jeanne Wasp Tedesco '74*

**Mrs. Mary Lou MacDonald** (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Mrs. MacDonald was humorous and real down-to-earth. I remember her always smiling and laughing and having a "laid back" attitude. We would visit her at home after school, and she was really nice about that. I say that because I am now a seventh-grade teacher myself and am not so sure how I'd feel if my students came over (other than on Halloween, of course!). *Jeanne Wasp Tedesco '74*

**Mr. Vincent Celestino** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Mr. Celestino's famous first words in the morning were "books, notebooks, and something to write with." He always commended you for a job well done, but also tried to help if you were having difficulty in a particular area. He offered his time to help, but did not force it on you. Mr. Celestino gave encouragement and support to everyone, especially the ones who could not grasp the message as easily as some of the other students. For that, I'll always be grateful.

Mr. Celestino was also one not to panic or get riled when something bad or scary happened. I remember when one of our classmates had a fainting spell. Thankfully, she was not hurt from her fall, but still I was scared to death at what I just witnessed. Mr. Celestino asked me to calm down and please go next door to Mr. Brody's

class and ask him to come into our classroom. So, I did. The nurse was also notified. Mr. Celestino, Mr. Brody, and the nurse were able to bring our classmate to her feet and get the situation under control. I don't remember the reaction from the rest of the class, but I know I was petrified. Mr. Celestino gave me a pat on the back, and said thank you. Teachers come and go, and often go unremembered, but Mr. Celestino will always be one that I remember. *Thomas Schultze '75*

**Mrs. Sara Hult** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) I wonder if it's a coincidence that Mrs. Hult taught me to write and all these many years later I'm editing *The Annunciator*. I very distinctly remember a project that she gave the class. We were to work in groups of three or four to write a story. The first person would write a paragraph and hand it over to the second person who would write another paragraph. They passed it on to the third person who wrote and so on. The story was passed around in circles until it was completed. What was so interesting about this was that we never knew where the story would end up. Each of us had different ideas about what would happen in the story. Not only did it teach us how to critique each others' work, but it also taught us communication and cooperation. I remember that we enjoyed it so much that we continued to do it – a memory of writing on Peggy O'Brien's front porch with Gigi Corbett comes to mind. *Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75*

**Mrs. Rosemarie Maron** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) When I look back at my years at Annunciation I have some very vivid memories of some very special teachers. Mrs. Maron was one of those teachers whom I held near and dear to my heart.

She wasn't like other teachers. She would have us listen to music and dissect the lyrics. I never had a teacher ask us to think of things in the way she did.

I found her to be so kind and caring, and she loved to teach. She opened my eyes to the world of reading...not the act of reading but reading for pleasure, for the total joy of getting so involved with the characters of a book that you can't put the book down.

Before fifth grade, reading was nothing more than an annoying assignment to me. This woman introduced me to a world of books and authors that I never knew existed.

Throughout high school, college, and grad school, I met many more teachers whom I really liked, but none of them gave me the gift of reading like Mrs. Maron. For that I will always be grateful. *Diane Doyle Vezza '75*

**Sr. Ann Gilbert—Sr. Alice Cronican** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades) How scary is it to walk into your fourth-grade class and see the name of the teacher but know that's a different name than when you were in her the second-grade class? Well, that's exactly what happened to me. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, I had this wonderful teacher named Sr. Ann Gilbert. She was warm and loving. She was soft spoken and sweet, and I loved her. Imagine my surprise when, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I walk into Sr. Alice Cronican's class only to realize she WAS Sr. Ann Gilbert! I was so confused but also very excited to have my sweet teacher again.



I found a picture of Sr. Alice recently, and her smile was huge, and

## Teacher Tributes (Continued)

she was laughing. This was one very happy lady and a terrific teacher. How lucky I was to have her twice in my career at Annunciation. *Diane Doyle Vezza '75*

**Mrs. Margaret "Peg" Connors** (6th grade) "Take out your marble notebooks." It is amazing how those words can still bring back memories of terror, and comfort. With the 20/20 vision that comes from years of working in the field of education, I can now see that Peg Connors was setting clear expectations for her classroom. You would ALWAYS have your notebook with you, and it would NEVER be spiral. Mrs. Connors was teaching the importance of being prepared and meeting your responsibilities as much as she was teaching fractions and long division.



In Peg Connors' classroom there was no fooling around, no crawling under desks, no doodling in notebooks. You were there to learn, and that is what you were going to do. I remember that, even when I wasn't sure of the answer, I raised my hand and tried because that was the expectation that she set. While in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I'm sure I described Mrs. Connors as "mean", but over the years that description changed to "strict", then "firm" and now "consistent". And as I ran into Peg Connors at graduation, Annunciation School events, and reunions, I added the word "caring" to my description.

It amazed me that with all the students she taught, her memories of me and my classmates were personal and accurate. And so today, as a very prepared, responsible adult, I thank Peg Connors for all she gave to the stu-

dents of Annunciation School, and smile in warm affection when I see a marble notebook. *Jeanine Smith Rufo '75*

**Mr. Tom Barnes** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Mr. Barnes' talent was in making the sometimes not so exciting subject matter a little more fun and a little more interesting. He encouraged students to think and analyze as well as participate actively in discussions. He was fair in his evaluations of students' work and efforts and always supported students' efforts to do well and expand their horizons. Mr. Barnes also had a really good sense of humor and wasn't afraid to see the humor in silly classroom situations. When he left to pursue his optometry career, his style and presence were missed by the students he mentored. *Alice Dillon Brown '77*

**Mr. Kevin Scanlon** (Principal) Mr. Scanlon was infamous for having any student that spoke while he was speaking write the following hundreds of times and the work was due to his office the following day after the occurrence. "When Mr. Scanlon speaks I shall listen. Whenever Mr. Scanlon speaks it must be important or he would not waste his valuable time saying it." As can be seen, I wrote this statement literally thousands of times during my years at Annunciation as it has stayed with me thirty years after I graduated. *Rich Ferrari '79*

**Mrs. Muriel O'Neil** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) My favorite teacher was Mrs. O'Neil. I really enjoyed our "current events" class. She would not only teach us what was currently happening throughout our nation, but also had individuals who had experience with our topic of discussion come in and visit the class to show pictures or slide shows or speak to us. My twin brother, Joe, and I were in the same class from kindergarten to 8th grade.

Mrs. O'Neil always treated us as individuals...not "the twins". I loved her for that! Mrs. O'Neil is an enthusiastic and well-informed educator. I still see Mrs. O'Neil today when I drop my son off on Wednesdays for CCD. *Jennifer Mulligan Godshall '89*

**Mrs. Muriel O'Neil** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Mrs. O'Neil was a no-nonsense, but fun teacher. She once told me to "stop making googly-eyes at boys" and that line has always stuck with me and makes me smile when I think of it. I now have three girls and one boy of my own, and I keep thinking that they will be making "googly-eyes" soon enough. If only they had a Mrs. O'Neil to keep them in line. I just loved her and loved her class. *Jaime Castellano '91*

**Mrs. Judy Manzi** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) I remember Mrs. Manzi's warmth and sense of humor—she was a teacher who made her classroom an inviting and non-threatening place. I think of her often, especially when I have a very anxious student whom I can see myself in. Mrs. Manzi knew how to calm my fears and made learning fun, and this is the type of teacher I strive to be. *Cami Zinzi O'Brien '90*

**Mrs. Janice Zeitler** (kindergarten) I was really excited about starting pre-K, but I had a pretty bad experience with the teacher—so much so, that I became frightened of school, and I was worried about starting kindergarten. Mrs. Zeitler's class was a breath of fresh air. I remember her singing and playing guitar for us. She is the reason I began to like school and to look forward to going. *Cami Zinzi O'Brien '90*

## Class Notes

**1948**

**John Manning** and his wife, Veronica, sailed with **Peter Garst '48** and his wife, **Nancy Clark Garst '50** on the Holland American Lines, MS Noordam, on March 14 from Fort Lauderdale to the Southern Caribbean, visiting Half Moon Cay, St. Thomas, Curacao, and Aruba. The perfect weather, smooth turquoise waters, fine dining, dancing, seeing Broadway singing and dancing shows, sandy beaches, sunning, swimming, trivia contests, and reading, all added to the memorable ten day cruise to celebrate each of our fifty-one years of marriage. The chaplain, a native of the Island of Malta, currently a priest serving a parish in Toronto, said daily Mass and gave special homilies on the feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph.

**1960**

See Reunion News on Page 8

**Virginia Barry Gross** was elected the President of Putnam County, NY Retired Teachers. This small organization has two luncheons and two trips each year. Each June they give ten \$100 scholarships to BOCES students who want to further their technical education.

**1964**

See Reunion News on Page 8

**1969**

**Diana Hoogestraat Spagnolo Schorr** moved to Summerville, SC. She would have preferred to stay in Dutchess County, but her mother and sister are in SC. Diane is divorced and has a married daughter, Carol Lee, who is thirty years old and a pediatrician in Florida. So for anyone in Florida, you won't get a better doctor

for your kids!

**1972**

See Reunion News on Page 8

**1974**

See Reunion News on Page 8

**John Gormley** and his wife, the former Donna Coyle, live in Wyckoff, NJ. John is a VP and Precious Metals Options trader for Mitsui and Co. Precious Metals Inc. in New York City. John and Donna recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by traveling to Italy with their four children. Their oldest son, Tom, is 21 and entering his senior year at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA studying marketing. Ryan is 19 and entering his sophomore year at the University of Pennsylvania and is studying Digital Media Design. Kristin is 15 and entering her sophomore year at Bergen Academics High School. Peter is 13 and will be entering the 8th grade at Eisenhower Middle School. Donna and John are looking forward to catching up with John's classmates at the October reunion.

**1975**

See Reunion News on Page 8

**Anne Marie Farrelly Melley** has been living in beautiful Cape Cod for the past twenty years with her husband, Bob, and their five children. Kara graduated from Fordham University in May, Kristina is a junior at Framingham State College, and Alison will be playing soccer at Division 1 Bryant University this fall. Bobby is a sophomore at Boston College High School, and our youngest is in eighth grade. Bob works at a movie production company called Plymouth Rock Studios in Plymouth MA, and Anne Marie is a school nurse in an elementary school. Most of Anne Marie's family is still in New York. She loves the Cape

but misses New York and tries to visit as much as she can.

**1977**

**Patrick Begos** lives in Rowayton, CT. He has been married to Julie LoPresti Begos for twenty years. They have three children – Francesca (14), Olivia (10), and Billy (6). Patrick is a lawyer in the firm of Begos Horgan & Brown LLP. The firm has offices in Bronxville, NY and Westport, CT.

**Alice Dillon Brown** is living in Woodbridge, VA. She is working in the Memory Disorders Program at Georgetown University, and her husband is in charge of the Amtrak Auto Train facility in Lorton, VA.

**1981**

**Glenn Sadowski** and his wife, the former Claudia Navraez, live in Bronxville and are parishioners of Annunciation. Their daughter, Julia Mae just turned one year old in August. Julia's Godmother is Glenn's sister, **Debbie Sadowski Miano '78**. Glenn is a Military Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Claudia works for Millennium Global.



**Julia Mae Sadowski**

## Class Notes (Continued)

### 1982

**Eva Possavino Puorro** attended Fordham University, class of 1990; NY Law School, class of 1994; and became an attorney licensed to practice in NY, NJ and CT. She has practiced law for over ten years, specializing in civil and commercial litigation, securities litigation and arbitration. Eva married Bob Puorro in 2002, and they have a son, Robert, who is almost two. They live in Connecticut.

### 1988

**Christie Mullery McLoughlin** and her husband, Peter, are living in Eastchester, NY with their son P.J. (2-1/2 years old) and Annie (1 year old). Christie left JP Morgan to be at home with her kids and work for Peter's contracting business. The fun is just beginning!

### 1989

**Dana Merritts Lomoriello** has been happily married for fourteen years and has three wonderful children - Christopher is 13; Nicole is 11 and Jennifer is 9. The family lives in Mahopac, NY.

### 1990

This September, **Cami Zinzi O'Brien** will be starting her fifth year as a high school English teacher at Pelham Memorial High School. She has also published two of her poems entitled "Ars Poetica" and "Parcel" (under her maiden name) in two separate poetry journals this year. Cami is currently working on her first collection of poetry.

### 1991

**Laura Arditi** and her family live in

Wallingford, CT. She and her husband, Joseph, have three children - Vincent is in second grade, Giovanni is in kindergarten and Dominic is 2- 1/2 years old. The family loves to vacation at the Jersey Shore. Says Laura, "I just want to say hello to everyone!"

### 1993

**Danielle Cetani Russo** went to The Ursuline School and then to St. John's University where she graduated with a BA in economics. She spent a semester abroad in 1999 at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy. She was married in June 2007 (at Annunciation of course!) to Michael Russo, of Mahopac, NY. Some alumni at the wedding included Danielle's sister and maid of honor, **Nicole Cetani, Jeff Aquilino, Andrew Rogers and Marina Castellanos (all Class of 1991), Amelia Roselli Carpanzano, Michelle Piacente, Brian Morrisey, and Danielle Mandara Campanella, (all Class of 1993), Juliane Rogers '94 Frank Roselli '95, and Alexis Mandara '98.**

Danielle is a Business Manager for Zachys Wine Auctions, Inc. where she has worked for six years. Her job involves a lot of travel, both domestic and abroad. Michael owns an Allstate Insurance Agency in Scarsdale, NY where the couple also makes their home.

### 1997

**Rich Parisi** is learning the family business running a car service. Currently he is managing Bayview Airport Service based out of Larchmont, NY.

### 1999

**Peter O'Donnell** is working in New York City for a pharmaceutical advertising agency. He recently moved into a house with some friends from high school.

### 2001

In May, **Matthew Franzetti** graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts (Stage Management/Design) and Business Administration from Muhlenberg College. He worked on a production of FAME that ran at the Tropicana in Atlantic City this past summer. In September, he will be attending Goldsmiths' College, University of London to pursue his M.A. in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy.

### 2003

**Amanda Moffa** is studying communications at NYU, where she is on the diving team and loving every minute of it! She spent Spring 2009 studying in Florence, Italy where she was able to enjoy that beautiful city and travel!

### 2004

**Joanna Guido** was accepted to the NYU Silver School of Social Work—advanced standing. She started in August for one year and lives in the city. Joanna is a graduate of Mercy College with two high honors. During her last year of college she interned at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. Her clinical cases brought her to her clients' homes where she assisted with visits.

### 2005

**Brendan O'Grady** graduated from Iona Prep in May where he rowed for their Crew team. Brendan has compiled some impressive results, finishing 14th in Nation (Summer '08), 7th in Nation (Spring '09), 4th in NY State (NYS Scholastic Rowing Championships) as a junior and 2<sup>nd</sup> in NYS as a senior. He was recruited by Iona, Fairfield, Drexel, Lehigh, Loyola Maryland and Oklahoma. Brendan now attends Iona College where he studies Business Administration and Political Science.

## Taylor McElroy Captains Team

Taylor McElroy '04 credits her cheering ability to the experience she gained at Annunciation. Although it was hard and intense, she loved every minute of it and remembers well the thrill of being in competitions. "The Capozzo's were amazing coaches and they taught me absolutely everything I know about cheerleading. I had some of the best times of my life; from sleep away camp every summer, to the basketball games and competitions, to Great Adventure and being with the team all the time. I learned how to be a team player, a leader and a confident girl from being part of Annunciation's team. The coaches taught us to never give up. Since then, I have never given up on anything I have started."

When Taylor got to St. Bonaventure University, she knew she wanted to get in-

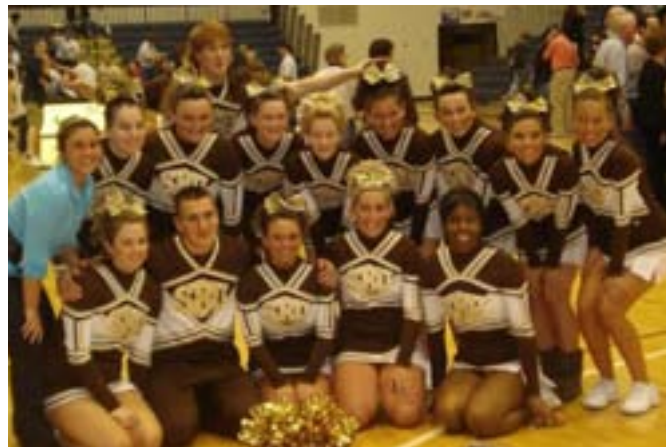
involved in something at school, and she thought cheerleading would be the perfect sport. Though the competition for a spot on the team was intense, and required a week of daily try-outs, Taylor soon found her name on the roster for new members. Quickly, the team became like a family. Time spent together really adds up when practice is held five or six times a week. Once basketball season starts, cheerleaders have either a practice or game every day of the week – and sometimes they have both! The Bonaventure cheerleaders cheer for both the men's and women's basketball teams.

During a trip to Atlantic City for the A10 basketball tournament, the team was asked to vote for next year's captain. Says Taylor, "When the votes were counted, I was absolutely

speechless. I could not believe that I was going to be the team captain as a sophomore!" Recognizing that it is unusual for a sophomore to be voted captain, Taylor knew that she has the confidence of her team and her coach, and she is determined to be the best captain she can be, utilizing all the skills that she developed as a young cheerleader at Annunciation.

Over the summer, the team members are all responsible for staying in shape, practicing and stretching

every day. In addition, everyone on the team is required to choreograph an original dance and two cheers to be used during the next season's games. For the coming year, the cheerleading team will continue to be a club sport. However, Taylor believes that the more the team proves itself, the closer they can come to becoming recognized as a Division 1 team. This year, St. Bonaventure will enter cheering competitions in addition to their usual responsibilities.



2009 St. Bonaventure University Cheerleading Team

## Sophia Moeller is International Athlete Ambassador

Seventh-grade student, Sophia Moeller, loves tennis. During school, she plays four days a week, getting up at 5:50 a.m. to hit tennis balls before school begins. In summer, she spends ten hours a day,



7th grade student Sophia Moeller

five days a week working on her game. Coached by Rodrigo Teixeira and, previously by Teza Simunyola, at the College Racquet Club at Concordia College in Bronxville, NY, her level of commitment to the sport is obvious. Her hopes are that she will continue to improve and that there will be no limit as to how far she can go. And this summer, tennis did, in fact, take her quite far – all the way to the Youth Friendship Games in Austria as a People to People Athlete Am-

bassador. People to People, founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, fosters friendship and understanding through one-on-one interaction between people of different countries.

In July, Sophia participated in a ten day trip to Vienna. A combination of sports and cultural exchange, she started with a three day Training Camp that included drills with People to People coaches to determine her playing level, tours of Vienna and surrounding towns, and

a day at an amusement park. While Sophia says that the amusement park was "lots of fun", her visit to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp made the biggest impression on her. Perhaps part of the reason for this is that Sophia and a group of classmates had selected Austria for their 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies project (a well known requirement in Mrs. McVey's class!), and Sophia's individual project was a paper on the Mauthausen camp. "It was depressing and, at the same time, so interesting. They had (Continued on page 4)