

The Annunciator

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Inside this issue...

Grad Has Become a Missionary	3
Crestwood Calls	4
New Pastor Named	5
Ironman	6
Alumni Annual Fund Announced	7
Bits of Crestwood	8
Pasqua Post	9
Teachers: Caserta	10
More Uniforms	15
Milestones	19
Class Notes	20

Annunciation Elementary School
 465 Westchester Avenue
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The Annunciator Editorial Board:

- Richard Burke '48
- Patrick F.X. Brennan '53
- Chris Grealy Brown Daly '62
- Mary Theresa Gill McCombe '75
- John Sullivan '82
- Marie Villani-York '93

A Passion for Art

Is art a subject that can it be taught? Or is it an innate talent that one is able to hone with the right mentor or the right education? Can a person make a living as an artist or must a passion for the creative take a backseat to a more lucrative job?

A "call for class notes" emailed in August didn't yield the same quantity of responses that a previous call for lawyers or doctors did, but I think that you will see that among our graduates are some very talented artists whose work might just as likely inspire you to action as soothe your soul.

Frances Forcino Basso '54 completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY New Paltz and her master's degree at Southern Connecticut State University with additional study at the New York School of Interior Design.

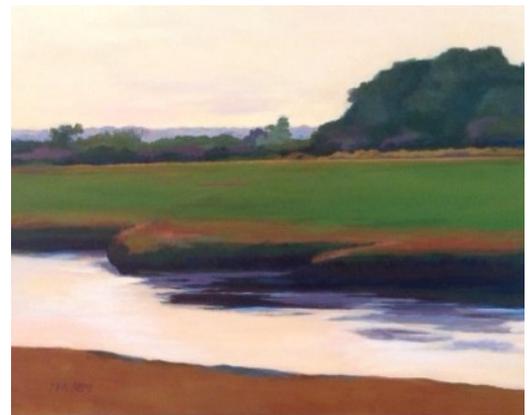
She taught art in the White Plains, NY and Valhalla, NY public schools and later in the Ridgefield, CT and Bethel, CT public schools. "I chose to teach art because I wanted to help young people develop their



Frances Forcino Basso

visual expression with an understanding of technique and material," Fran says.

In addition to teaching, Fran did both residential and commercial design work in Connecticut and New



A recent painting of the golden light of Marsh Meadow in Jamestown, RI by Frances Forcino Basso '54.

York.

Now retired, Fran lives in Jamestown, RI, near neighboring Newport, with her husband, Fred. Her interest in art is now manifested by spending time as a painter interested in plein aire landscape and still-life working in oil and watercolor.

Kate Kearney-Patch '67 is a graphic artist and an actor. Her interest in art has recently taken her to Maine for a plein aire painting session.



Kate Kearney-Patch

In addition to her work and painting for pleasure, Kate is an actor who can be seen on the pilot of the new ABC television show

How to Get Away with Murder, in which she has a scene with the show's star, Viola

Continued on page 12

Reunion 2015 News

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Classes of 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000

and

Saturday, May 2, 2015

Classes of 1948 to 1964

**The April reunion will be a dinner, and the May reunion will be a luncheon.
More information to follow by email, mail and future newsletters.**

Letter from the Principal

Dear Alumni,

Fall is upon us, and the school year is in full swing. Annunciation School is blessed to begin yet another year with a healthy enrollment, competitive overall test scores and a faculty that continues to be dedicated to the mission of our school and devoted to their students.

A couple of years ago, we reached out to you and asked for your help to enhance the technology in our school, and when we asked, you said yes. Soon you will be receiving a letter asking for your support of our inaugural Alumni Annual Fund. I do hope you consider making a donation knowing that we work hard to maintain the Catholic identity of our school as well as high academic standards.

As always, thank you for your love of this very special school and for your continued support of Annunciation!

Sincerely,

Maureen Noonan

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As the new pastor of Annunciation, I have been eager to get to know as many of the parishioners here as possible. Over the course of the past few months, I have indeed enjoyed many opportunities to greet and get to know a large circle of people who have already become very important and dear to me and my work in the parish. Today, I find myself more enthusiastic than I could have ever imagined because of the warmth and openness I have found at Annunciation.

It is my hope that we may continue to grow towards that kind of community where the love and peace of Christ is translated into an active and supportive atmosphere among us. Annunciation has always been a model parish filled with caring, concerned and dynamic parishioners. With the Good Shepherd as our guide, we work to make this a reality in our beloved parish and in the hearts of all our wonderful parishioners. I hope and pray that as the days go on, I will come to "know mine" and "mine know me".

May God bless this work and carry it to a happy completion.

I thank all of you who generously enable our school to face the challenges of the present and the future.

I will remember you in my prayers, asking God to continue to richly bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert Brizzo

Called To Be A Missionary

Deirdre Gaughan '06 spent thirteen years in Catholic school before heading off to college at New York University. One might think that those thirteen years of formation were enough to anchor her in her faith. And one would be mistaken.

After graduating from Annunciation School, Deirdre went on to graduate from Dominican Academy in New York City before enrolling at New York University. It was there, as a freshman, that she met a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary named Amber. Amber invited her to bible study, but Deirdre, by her own admission, made only a half-hearted attempt to go. At the time, Deirdre was a theatre major, and she says, "very quickly the mentality and lifestyle of my classmates and teachers made me question my faith for the first time. Up until then, I had not had much exposure to secular culture. I began to doubt my faith."

As a sophomore, Deirdre switched majors to psychology and found that she was sad that she had so much doubt in her heart, as she recognized that she was losing her faith. At that same time, an email arrived from Amber inviting people to go on a FOCUS mission trip. Deirdre thought that going on a trip might give her better clarity, so she signed up to head to the Appalachian region in Kentucky.

Deirdre says, "I entered this trip with lots of doubt and hesitation when it came to the Church. Through daily prayer and blessed conversations, my relationship with God started to change. Up until this point, my conception of God had been very abstract. Though I had been taught that Jesus died on the Cross for my sins, this was the first time I really entered into what that meant and how that affected me as an adult. The four FOCUS missionaries on this trip were witnesses to Christ and clearly instruments to show me what it meant to live out our Catholic faith in college."

Deirdre arrived back in New York with a renewed commitment to attend bible study. She met with Amber regularly and learned that Amber had been praying for her by name on a daily basis for over a year and a half. It was through this friendship that Deirdre began to understand how FOCUS missionaries invest in people to help them grow in their relationship with Christ. Ultimately, it is hoped that some

day, they can do the same for others.

FOCUS is a Catholic organization that is on one hundred different college campuses across the country. Its mission is to invite students into a relationship with Christ, to inspire and equip them with the tools they need to live out their Catholic faith so that they may lead others to do the same and, ultimately, to launch students into a life after graduation of leadership within their parish and their communities. FOCUS missionaries work in partnership with the university parish and/or a Newman Center and host student outreach events, weekly bible studies and one-on-one mentoring. Typically there are four missionaries who work as a team on a college campus.

Deirdre says, "in my own experience as a college student, I found that students are constantly looking for love and fulfillment but not always in the right places. As a young Catholic, I really believe that I have been called to be the hands and feet of Christ on a college campus. Right now there are many influences and paths students can go down in college, and those influences are much more prominent and much easier to fall into because their presence is everywhere. I believe that it is time that we, as a Church, have a voice on the college campus. My job is to meet students where they are and help them grow, just as I was able to grow."

Deirdre's commitment to this mission is for two years with an opportunity to continue the mission on a year-to-year basis. As a missionary, she is required to fundraise 100% of her living expenses and notes that 100% of donations to FOCUS on her behalf are tax deductible. "In a mission, some give by going and some go by giving, but without both components, there is no mission. My mission partners support me on a monthly basis so that I am able to devote my time to my students during the year, and I fundraise during the months when students are not on campus. I cannot be a missionary without the support of my mission partners and my Annunciation community."

Click on www.focusonline.org/goto/deirdre_gaughan if you would like to help Deirdre in her mission, which is at Seton Hall University, or email her at Deirdre.gaughan@focus.org.



Deirdre Gaughan '06 will be a FOCUS missionary for the next two years.

Going Home Again: Crestwood Calls

Ernest Tofani '71 has lived in Arizona for over twenty-seven years. There he worked for the Arizona Highway Patrol, retiring in May of this year after twenty-six years on the job.

As he began to ponder his retirement, Ernie already knew that he had an initial plan. "Road trip" were the words that sprang to Ernie's mind.

So, on May 27th, he and his son, Ernest, began their trip, which first took them through California, visiting some of Ernie's childhood friends, before heading north to Oregon to stay with his sister, Loretta '67, and her family for a bit before driving up to Mt. Rushmore and camping out.

A long cross country trip to Crestwood then took them through Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, before arriving in New York where Ernie was able to introduce his son to more childhood friends and childhood places that always bring a smile.

This wasn't Ernie's first time back in the old neighborhood, but he made sure that this time he took as many pictures as possible to record the journey.

During his trip, he visited with classmate Jim LaPaglia '71



Ernie Tofani '71 and his first-grade teacher, Miss Ethel Pizzuti.

and friends John Murphy '69 and Bill Henry Thompson III. Ernie, Ernest and Jim went to see a Yankee game on a beautiful summer evening.

Ernie took Ernest through Crestwood, showed him Annunciation School and Church, the convent and the rectory. They even knocked on the door of the home of his first-grade teacher—Miss Ethel Pizzuti. He took videos of the neighborhood so that when he got back to Arizona and was feeling nostalgic, he could watch it and feel like he was going home again.

The intrepid duo continued on to Vermont as well, where more visits with friends filled

the itinerary.

The drive back home took a familiar path diagonally heading southwest from New York to Arizona, traveling many of the same roads that Ernie had ridden by bicycle on another cross country trip in 1981.

Will this be Ernie's last trip home? He says that he hopes to come and visit again...maybe as soon as next summer!



Ernest Tofani, son of Ernie Tofani '71, poses with his father's classmate, Jim LaPaglia, outside of Yankee Stadium.



John Murphy '69 and his daughter also had a visit from Ernie and his son.

Father Robert F. Grippo Named Pastor

In July, we learned that Father Robert F. Grippo had been appointed as the new Pastor of Annunciation Parish, and on September 7, the parish celebrated his installation as our pastor with a Mass followed by a reception in the gym.

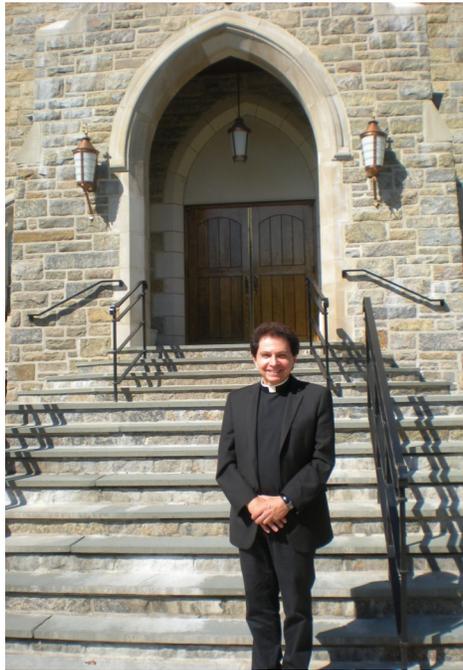
Fr. Grippo is a Bronx native, having grown up in the Belmont section. He graduated from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, Cardinal Spellman High School, Cathedral College and St. Joseph Seminary. He was ordained a priest on May 27, 1972.

Fr. Grippo's first assignment was at the parish of St. Frances de Chantal in the Throggs Neck area of the Bronx, where he served for 7-1/2 years. During that time, he was also one of the chaplains at Msgr. Preston High School, as well as a part-time campus minister at SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler. He has served on the retreat team for the inmates of Green Haven Prison in Stormville, NY.

His second assignment brought him to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Scarsdale, where he remained for over 11 years. While there he was involved in the pastoral work of the parish, as well as both the Scarsdale Rotary Club and the Scarsdale Village Human Relations Committee.

In 1991, his third assignment brought him back to the Bronx where he was named Pastor of St. Theresa Parish in the Pelham Bay section. It was there that he stayed for twenty-three years during which time he strengthened and grew the enrollment in the school, formed a parish council and a sports council to oversee the parish CYO. He created a teen and pre-teen center as well as an adult and children's choir. He also started the Midnight Run ministry at St. Theresa in addition to making the parish a home for three active Italian societies and a Gaelic football league.

When asked about his favorite hobbies, Fr. Grippo admits with a smile that, "as the years have increased, the hobbies have decreased. I used to love to ski and



Father Robert F. Grippo, Pastor

ice skate, but now I worry that injuries will take too long to heal!"

He is an early riser who loves to read before the day gets too busy. When he has the opportunity, he enjoys walking around New York City. "I love the city and all that it offers, especially the plays and the museums."

If his resume of activities and accomplishments aren't example enough, Fr. Grippo explains how he feels about parish life. "I believe that the most important thing is the working together of all of the members of the community—the clergy and the lay people—to reach out to one another to help each other."

"We are not just a community but a Catholic faith community," he continues. "That faith is the glue that keeps us together. The values that come from that faith are what make the community strong and make the

individuals in that community better. I believe that the key to a strong parish is to increase in active parish members their sense of discipleship and to help those who are inactive to become active."

After twenty-three years in the same parish, coming to Annunciation must have been a bittersweet move for Fr. Grippo, but it seems clear that Annunciation Parish has many of the same characteristics of his beloved St. Theresa's, including the strength and size of our school, our robust CYO program and an active and engaged Christian service program.

We hope that all of the parish activity will help Fr. Grippo feel right at home here at Annunciation. Already he has begun to meet parishioners at events like his installation, a new parishioner and new school family reception, Park Bench and a welcome by the Home School Association complete with Italian dinner! He has met parish children as he welcomed them in the school yard before school and greeted those children coming for after-school religious education.

Pastors of Annunciation Parish

Monsignor Timothy J. Dugan	1931-1957
Monsignor Vincent J. Brosnan	1957-1969
Monsignor John McNamara	1969-1975
Father John E. Byrne	1975-1980
Monsignor Eugene V. Clark	1980-1986
Father James Conte	1986-1989
Monsignor James R. Moore	1989-2003
Monsignor Dennis P. Keane	2003-2014
Father Robert F. Grippo	2014

Quinn Competes in Ironman World Championships

Over 80,000 athletes competed to qualify for it, but only 2,000 of those athletes made the cut to be at the starting line. One of them was Rudy Quinn '03 who, on October 11, 2014, competed in the Ironman World Championships, held in Kaiula-Kona, Hawaii.

Ironman competitions are grueling races that begin with a 2.4 mile open water swim, are followed by a 112 mile bike ride, and then are followed immediately after that by a 26.2 mile marathon. Most alumni probably cannot even fathom completing one of those segments much less combining all three into a single day event. But for Rudy, who qualified for the World Championships by finishing second in his age category, with a time of 9:52:45, in a similar July Ironman competition at Lake Placid, NY, competing in the World Championships is an achievement that he has been working toward for two years.

Rudy, who is a graduate of Regis High School and Boston College, isn't a professional Ironman. By day, he is a fund accountant at Silver Point Capital, LLC in Greenwich, CT. Evenings and weekends are spent training to get his body in peak shape to take the physical punishment that Ironman competitions inflict.

Training for any Ironman competition requires specialized advice, and Rudy trains with QT2 Systems. QT2 Systems takes a quantitative approach to training, meticulously focusing on training by heart rate and time, rather than mileage. They also focus on how Rudy should fuel up for workouts. That might include a recommendation to "carbo-load" in the days leading up to a race or specifics of what to eat before and during the race. They charge a fee for their service, but being able to have the proper equipment and training plans is "very convenient and takes all the thinking out of it for me," says Rudy.

A normal week of training involves swimming 3 days a week, biking 5-6 days, and running 5-6 days, which might average out to about 18 hours per week. Because the training is so precisely calibrated, there are some weeks that are "recovery" weeks, where training is only 12 hours, and other weeks that are considered "overload," and the training will take 24 hours. Rudy's training leading up to Kaiula-Kona was no different except that he was not yet recovered from

his Lake Placid event before he had to begin his World Championship training.

Rudy says that the best thing about training is, "the satisfaction of completing a block of training and then being able to relax afterwards." He acknowledges that the "worst part is right before starting a large block of training. Something has to be sacrificed in order to be able to fit these workouts into a day that already includes a ten-hour workday at my regular job. During the week, the sacrifice is sleep, and on the weekends, it's being about to hang out and party like anyone else my age."

Rudy doesn't do this alone. At the Lake Placid Ironman, he competed along with his brother, Steven '97. The brothers were followed and cheered throughout the course by a large group of friends and family who monitored their times and moved from vantage point to vantage point to be able to see them during the race.

Kaiula-Kona will be no different. A total of eleven friends and family traveled to Hawaii to cheer Rudy on. Included in that group were Rudy's brothers, Steven, Robert '01, Peter '03 and Tommy '03.

They also saw Beth Mullery Clarke '96 who was there to cheer on her brother-in-law who was also competing. Rudy took advice from his brother, Steven, who competed in the Kaiula-Kona World Championships in 2013.

"Watching Rudy and Steven compete in these competitions is truly inspirational. It shows what can occur when a man believes in himself above all else. Despite minimal previous experience in triathlons, they envisioned themselves crossing the finish line in Kona alongside the world's best. Both possessed the courage to follow this dream, and failure was simply not an option," said their brother Robert. Their mother, Paula, says that she loves traveling all over the country to watch the races. "You see some of the same people who are there to support their family members. You get to know them, and you want to cheer on those competitors too."

Rudy finished the Kaiula-Kona Ironman in 10:01:18. Will he try to qualify again next year? He already has plans for the Ironman in Mont Tremblant in Canada in August 2015!



Rudy Quinn '03

You can find us on the Web at

<http://School.AnnunciationCrestwood.com>

The Alumni Annual Fund Kicks Off

Annunciation School is calling on the ranks of its alumni to contribute to the financial health of the school in the 2014-2015 school year. We hope, with your help, to be able to raise \$30,000 in the inaugural Alumni Annual Fund.

Annunciation School is one of the larger schools in the Archdiocese of New York with an enrollment of approximately 485 students. It is still a parish-based school, unlike the majority of the schools in the Archdiocese of New York, which have become regionalized. In addition to reading, writing, math, science, and history, Annunciation provides a religious education and the additional subjects of computers, Spanish, art, music and gym. We strive to make sure that our students have the skills to be successful.

Tuition for our K-8 students is \$5,604 for one child, and as has historically been the case in Catholic education, Annunciation School continues to offer discounts for each additional child that a family enrolls.

Keeping tuition at a manageable level for our parish families requires both managing expenses and generating additional support through the fundraising efforts of our Home School Association, Men's Club and Ladies' Guild. There is also an annual supplement from the parish which helps to balance our budget.

We have always been mindful of the additional burden that each year's increase in tuition may cause, and every year we see a few families who have to leave our school because they are unable to afford that increase.

Many elementary schools in our area have had annual funds for years, and Annunciation will now be doing the same. We are grateful for the contributions that have al-

ready been given to us by our graduates, whether in memory of someone who has passed, in appreciation for the education that they were given or just because someone liked what they read in this alumni newsletter!

Having watched schools in our area close, most recently our neighboring school, Our Lady of Fatima, we know that financial pressures are everywhere for Catholic schools and that asking for your support will guarantee that Annunciation School continues in its strong tradition of Catholic education for years to come.

We know that many organizations ask you for a donation. We hope, especially as you make your year-end charitable decisions, that you will consider including your alma mater as one of the organizations that you choose to support. If you have access to corporate matching gifts, you already know the impact that utilizing those matching funds can make!

Below you will find a link to make a donation by credit card and information on how to make a donation by check. Though most alumni make

donations by these two methods, we are also able to accept donations of stock. Please call the school at 914-337-8760, and ask for Erin McHale, if you would like to make a donation of stock or if we can assist you in any way with respect to completing matching gift forms. Click the matching gift logo above to see if your company provides matching gifts.

Thank you in advance for your support of our school. Keep an eye on this newsletter and our school's website (www.school.annunciationcrestwood.com) and for reports on the progress toward our first alumni annual fund goal!



Help Support Annunciation School

If you appreciate the Annunciation School education that you received, please consider making a donation to the school today.

Donations by Credit Card

Via the School's Website

<http://school.annunciationcrestwood.com/giving>

Donations by check

Payable to Annunciation School

***465 Westchester Avenue
Crestwood, NY 10707***

Bits of Crestwood: Memories of the First Day of School

By Mark L. Maiello '71

I've just come back from buying my daughter's first Catholic school uniform. As I write this, her first day of first grade approaches. The school held a uniform sale in the auditorium. Maybe it was the venue or the sight of those plaid jumpers or the school supplies...but there I was 6 years old again (and 9...and 11), and ahead of me on tree-lined Westchester Avenue, lay the friendly confines of Annunciation School.

All those first days back from summers in Crestwood seemed smeared together—mixed into one dreamy emotional pallet filled with oddly contrasting feelings. There was the anticipation of starting something new; the adventure of learning reigniting, the drudgery of covering textbooks with paper carefully crafted from shopping bags and the leathery smell of that old fashioned book bag cracked open once again. Inside was my zippered pencil case carrying the “tools of ignorance:” the ubiquitous number 2 Ticonderogas, the benign, plastic protractor, and that dangerous-looking metal-pointed compass with a short eraser-less pencil held captive in one arm.

I mentioned uniforms...Always it seemed, everything was about the uniform. It was one of the centers of your school life. It had to fit of course, which meant every now and again, new ones had to be purchased, and then its condition had to be “just so.” For our moms, that might be better phrased “just sew!” On that first day back, there was no excuse for not having your new or old uniform in perfect shape.

And once—just once in this oddly important department of school life—there was a huge change. One year back in the '60s we boys were decked out in green blazers and brown pants (I know: a horrific combination). Then it seemed more fashion forward powers-that-be prevailed, and we turned up the next year in a more eye-pleasing arrangement of navy blue jackets and grey slacks. There was a similar change for our female classmates. That first day back in the new garb must have been positively disorienting—and much better color-coordinated.

That one epoch change aside, each first day back highlighted more customary changes from year to year. There was of course a new classroom to report to. Similar to your old one, but with those subtle changes that told you this



Kathleen '79, Mary Theresa '75 and Maureen Gill '76 in uniform on the first day of school 1972.

year had “new” written all over it. Those formica-covered desks got bigger for one thing. And, the classroom was located “somewhere else” from the year before too. You knew you were growing up when your classroom was upstairs at Annunciation. Before that you had moved from the old-fashioned peaked-roof part of the building that housed the younger grades to the flat roofed two-story side where the older kids attended.

I always liked that side of the school the most. It had its own entrance to the parking lot out back, its own “lobby” and that cool glass enclosed staircase. Moving up meant there were new civic and spiritual responsibilities too: altar boy duties, AAA junior safety patrol postings, the lowering of the U.S. flag from the

pole out front, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Oh, and let's not forget the clip-on tie. There eventually came the year when you ditched it and learned to tie one like a man!

Then of course there was the new teacher. What would he or she be like? You had heard rumors from your friends and older siblings. Was she beloved by her students? Was he easy on homework? Was she all about discipline? It was still all a great mystery until you settled into the new teacher's routine.

My recollections of those first days of school are all a blur spread wide from all the grammar school years: a blend of happiness, a little fear of failure, a dash of responsibility, some sadness at summer's passing and a dose of apprehension about the future. But surely, those past first days were all quite fun too. After all, there were all your classmates, many of whom had accompanied you for years since kindergarten at P.S. 15. How had they changed? What had they done in the preceding three months? And how would we be brought together in the months to come?

My daughter has told me that she is “afraid” of first grade. That's understandable. It's that little bit of the unknown that pulls at us on that first day. Buried under all that anticipation are really more important questions: How many fond memories will be made beginning with this pristine and precious first day of school, and just how fun will this day and the ones to follow really be?

Alumnus Keeps Pasqua Post Active

By Marie Villani-York '93

Like many soldiers who returned home from World War II, the 12 men of the Spartan Athletic Club in Yonkers counted their blessings. They had forged friendship and brotherhood on the baseball diamond, and grew up on the streets of East Yonkers. And now, they had survived the war.

Yet, there was one player and friend who never made it back: Lt. Ernest L. Pasqua. Pasqua served in the U.S. Army



Ernest Pasqua

Air Force after graduating from the Victorville Air Force Academy in Victorville, California. He was promoted to second lieutenant in 1942, earning his bombardier's wings and navigator's wings.

On the night of Feb. 26, 1943, he and nine other Air Force men boarded B-17 bomber planes, flying from Biggs Field in Texas to England. It was a journey 22-year-old Pasqua would never complete. His plane flew into a mountain and was destroyed.

To honor their fallen comrade, the Spartans founded the Ernest Pasqua Post, offering veterans of East Yonkers a second home, a social outlet where they could share war stories, throw back a few and enjoy themselves. The first meeting, in 1946, was held at the Sherwood Park Volunteers Firehouse. As the post's popularity – and intentions—grew and evolved, members recognized the need for a permanent home. In 1960, after a great fundraising effort, they became property owners, purchasing the old St. John's Church on Tuckahoe Road in the Cedar Knolls section.

It was there the post was able to expand its mission, hosting bazaars, blood drives and other events that benefited local organizations and schools. As the years pressed on, so did the post and membership thrived.

Today, under the leadership of Commander Mark Kucera and guidance of Lt. Col. Glenn Sadowski, the post's adjutant and 1981 Annunciation graduate, the organization continues to meet—albeit in a new McLean Avenue location—and remains charitable. Yet, the post has seen its ranks decline. While there are 35 members, Sadowski said, only seven or so are active. What's more, Sadowski said, those who are active are amongst some of the oldest, serving in the Korean War and World War II. Vietnam War soldiers, he explained, were "reticent" to join veterans' organizations, and those serving in the more recent wars are failing to see the benefits of joining. As a result, there's a real hole in many veterans' organizations,

and the Ernest Pasqua Post is no exception.

Sadowski, a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Reserves, joined the post with friend and fellow Annunciation grad and Marine, Wally Powers '81, after Wally's father had joined years prior. Sadowski said his reason for joining and remaining active continues to be of a philanthropic nature. He enjoys helping older veterans navigate the maze of benefits, and he gets a good feeling from giving back to the community.

In addition to donating to local food pantries and collecting care packages for soldiers overseas in conjunction with the Boy Scout Pack 6, the Ernest Pasqua Post organizes the Memorial Day Parade in May and the POW-MIA Ceremony in September, both in Crestwood. You will see members of the post outside of Annunciation Church the third weekend in May selling poppies. Poppy sales help the post fund a Christmas celebration for veterans in Montrose, NY, as well as gifts to the Montrose Food Pantry and Hope for the Warriors. Poppy sales also give Crestwood residents a chance to display poppies for Memorial Day demonstrating acknowledgment of those who gave all for their country. The post also recently began a \$100 scholarship for an Annunciation student who exhibits the most patriotic behavior during his or her eighth-grade year.

"Everyone should give back to their community," Sadowski said, explaining why he remains a post member. "That's my volunteer work ... although I don't consider it work. It's not labor. It's something I do. I'm there to support the veterans."

As the active members age out, Sadowski said the post is in "desperate need" of new members in order to keep it going. He doesn't expect members to attend every meeting, he said, but it's important for local veterans in Crestwood and beyond to make a connection with the local post. And it is important for communities to understand the sacrifices members of the U.S. military make that give Americans their freedoms and allow communities like Crestwood to exist.

The Ernest Pasqua Post meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at the Charles N. Bajart Post, at 840 McLean Avenue. For more information, call Glenn Sadowski, post adjutant, at 914-787-8119 or email him at sadowskigj@state.gov.



Lt. Col. Glenn Sadowski '81

Where are They Now? Mr. Tom Caserta By Marie Villani-York '93

Tom Caserta only spent five years as a teacher at Annunciation, but if you ask him—or his former students—his time at the Crestwood school was one his most productive and proudest as an educator.

Mr. Caserta came to Annunciation in 1975 after a short teaching stint at St. Bartholomew's on Lockwood Avenue in Yonkers. While the Fordham University graduate knew he wanted to teach at a Catholic school, he also knew that just wasn't the place for him. "Those kids ate me up," he recalled with a chuckle. "I was in over my head."

It was at Annunciation, he explained, that he hit his stride. As a young teacher in his mid-20s, Mr. Caserta was joining an experienced and smart faculty that included Mary Ann Seiler, Gail Kelmer (Ramirez), Annette Colombo (Shanley) and Mrs. Peg Connors, with whom he co-taught fifth- and sixth-grade.

"One of my favorite memories involves Mrs. Connors," he said. "I was just a young whippersnapper teacher coming in and she had been there forever—she was an institution—and she asked me for my suggestions. She was open to what I had in mind as a teacher and person. She never told me this is the way we do it here."

It was something that stuck with Mr. Caserta, and this type of camaraderie amongst teachers and open environment allowed him to push the envelope and try new things in his social studies classroom. At a time when the standard of teaching in Catholic school might have been to have the teacher lecture and the students take notes, Mr. Caserta said he tried hard to give his students a voice. One of his more popular lessons, he recalled, was the Athens versus Sparta debate, where students became active participants in their history lessons.

"I wasn't so much into static grades as I was into making the experience fulfilling for my students," he said. "I tried to make social studies fun."

Former students may remember the times he brought in a visiting priest from India to complement his lessons on



Tom Caserta and his wife, Andrea.

Indian culture and history. Or maybe they remember his intense focus on geography, most notably his 50 states test—two points per state—which he gave over and over again until all the students were able to correctly label the states.

While many of his students were motivated and academically gifted—something he admired about the crop of kids at Annunciation—he said he tried hard to reach those who found schoolwork more challenging and needed extra guidance. His attention to these students caught the eye of his then-principal Kevin Scanlon, who, after watching a lesson, commended the teacher for his efforts.

"I also made sure, I think, philosophically and morally, the students who were a little more challenged academically would leave feeling good about themselves and the work they were doing," he said.

In 1979, though wildly popular amongst students, Mr. Caserta made the decision to leave Annunciation and begin his own SAT prep service, which he continues to run today. He prepares students for the SAT at schools like Fordham Prep—his alma mater—Ursuline, Hackley and Rye Country Day. The Yonkers native, who grew up just off Roxbury Drive, now lives in Tarrytown, NY, with his wife and 14-year-old daughter who attends school at Ursuline.

He has made it to two Annunciation reunions, in 2012 and 2013, and said he was so gratified to see how successful so many of his former charges have become. He hopes to attend more.

And while he very much enjoys the work he is doing now, he is quick to point out that the years he spent at Annunciation were really where he excelled.

"I believe God put me on this Earth to become a teacher," Mr. Caserta said. Annunciation students, he continued, "had me at my very most creative, most open-minded and the most ambitious part of my life. They brought out the best of me, and I think I brought out the best of them."



Annunciation Church and Annunciation School are on Facebook!

You can find more fun and interesting stories plus a whole new conversation on our Facebook pages. Don't miss out on all the news!

Class of 1954 Celebrates 60 Years!



Marcella Leddy Baker and Richard Dalton organized a 60th Anniversary reunion for the Class of 1954. Fifteen classmates attended the festivities, which were held at Sunset Cove in Tarrytown, NY, on June 12, 2014.

Pictured left: (front row), David King, Peter Dirr, Marcella Leddy Baker, Jim Fitzgerald, Mike Palen and Rae Freedson Bottino; (back row) Ann Anderson King, Rosemary Kear Donnestad, Joan Frey Voight, Pat Hannifer Carufe, Joan Lantry O'Leary, Sheila Manning Schaberick, Carolyn Suozzi Casella, Margaret McGowan and Haxel Cousens Brown.

Pictured below: Jim Fitzgerald (left) and Dick Dalton enjoy catching up at the reunion.



The Class of 1954 at graduation takes their formal photo with Msgr. Dugan (center) and Fr. (now Monsignor) James Cox (left).

Don't forget to check page 2 of this newsletter to see if your class has an upcoming reunion!

Missing from the Class of 1954

We are always on the look-out for missing alumni. The following individuals from the Class of 1954 are missing. Please help us find them so that they won't miss the next reunion for their class! Contact mtmc525@aol.com if you know where our missing alumni are! Thank you.

- John Baker
- Loretta Devlin
- Linda Caraccia
- Mary Ellen Gilmartin
- Phyllis Carosella
- Judith Ream

A Passion for Art

Continued from page 1

Davis. She can also be seen in an episode of Discovery's series *Momsters*, in which she plays a lawyer who has been duped by one of the lovely mothers. Kate is also appearing in an off-Broadway play, which opened October 16, *The Brightness of Heaven*, by Laura Pederesen, at The Cherry Lane Theatre.



"Apples" by Kate Kearney-Patch '67.

Bob Johnson '73 describes himself as a "philosopher by disposition and training, a fine art fabricator by profession, and a do-gooding trouble-maker by vocation!" With a bachelor's and master's degree in philosophy from Binghamton University, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Duquesne University, one might not have expected Bob to be an artist—but that is exactly what he is.

"RiverCubes" are works of art created by the compression of what most people would



Bob Johnson

consider to be trash, removed from waterways during "river sweeps." Usually volunteers fill dumpsters, but Bob eliminates the use of dumpsters suggesting, "waste is something we do, not something that is." The stuff of RiverCubes (www.rivercubes.net) is "wrested from nature, wrought to our will, then discarded when no longer 'useful' or 'valued.'"

RiverCubes is an outgrowth of the Tireless Project, focused on collecting and recycling tires in the Pittsburgh, PA area. Artful Trash Management (ATM) is a response to all the non-tire trash.

In 2004, Bob said of Pittsburgh, "We live in one of the most reliable watersheds in the United States, yet are among the least compliant with the Clean Water Act. We also accept landfill from neighboring states with

higher population densities: our land wealth 'affords' revenue and waste streams. RiverCubes provoke reflection on these and related issues. Our common approach to everyday stuff that we no longer want is to place it out of sight: in the trash, in landfills, in rivers and lakes. RiverCubes are rescued from that fate, and are offered for public viewing with



"Wheel Cube" from the Pittsburgh Pool, Tireless Project, Summer 2003 by Bob Johnson '73.

Continued on page 13

Keep Us in Mind!

If you have a bit of news to share—a birth, marriage, anniversary, engagement, job change or other fun life event, please drop us a line and send us a photo!

If you have a change of email or mailing address, please let us know. We don't want to lose touch!

**All information can be emailed to MTMC525@aol.com.
Please don't forget to include your full name and year of graduation.**

A Passion for Art

Continued from page 12

mischievous pleasure.”

Bob’s RiverCubes want to live in close proximity to where their components were originally found, with an account of who, when, and what was involved in the clean-up. He believes that involving other people in these efforts offers “opportunities for reflection on our more general relations with the stuff we produce, consume and discard.”

Bob coined the term “Artful Trash Management” to turn the tide on our habit of hiding trash, suggesting that “trash reflects important truths about our culture—and that we become more conscious and deliberate about our consumer habits.”

He says that there is something “unsatisfactory” about investing in the removal of trash from the waterways only to remove it to a landfill. “While re-moving trash may be one destiny of our age, we might consider rendering our trash artfully visible where we have no viable re-use for it.”

Brian Arditi ‘96 has his own business as an artist called Flowers As Paint (www.flowersaspaint.com), which he considers to be “organically inspired art.” Flowers As Paint takes flowers at any stage of their lives and transforms them into an original piece of art. The pigments are extracted from the flowers and used to create items such as stained glass, tiles, jewelry and more.



Brian Arditi

The concept of Flowers As Paint stemmed from “an honest attempt to transform the physical beauty and brilliant engineering of everyday flowers to a more permanent platform.” Stepping on a buttercup flower on his way to work one day, Brian took a moment to realize the beauty that had just been trampled, and an idea was born.

Whether using flowers from a bridal bouquet or flowers received for a birthday or other significant occasion, Brian can utilize the pigments in those flowers to create a memory that will live on in a contemporary way. He has also traveled around the country picking up organic materials from many states for use in his artwork.

When working with flowers, Brian notes that a prime blossom will allow for more possibilities in terms of the creative process, but even flowers that have been dried for years can also yield beautiful results. No two pieces are ever

the same, and some of his wedding pieces even include pieces of fabric from dresses worn, gems from tiaras and even wedding invitations.

Brian has been interested in art for as long as he can remember. When he was young, he taught himself to draw by copying pictures of animals on wildlife flash cards, later learning technique from his father. Since then, art has always been his passion.

After Annunciation, Brian graduated from Iona Prep and Binghamton University with a bachelor’s degree in history. He has worked as a substitute teacher and in the restaurant business for years, working his way from bus boy to restaurant manager. Flowers As Paint has become a successful business, allowing Brian to concentrate on his passion.

Brian credits his parents as his most influential teachers. At Annunciation, Mrs. O’Neil instilled a love of social studies and history in him, as well as a love for teaching. By high school, his art teacher, Donald Keene, helped to inspire him further.

Brian says, “The idea for this type of art grew from artistic experiment and trial and error, as well as the suggestion of others, including my friend Anthony Ruffino ‘96 and brother Christopher ‘89. I started by pressing flowers, then thought hey, why not try this, and it grew and still continues today. My work is constantly evolving, as I continue to experiment and try new things.”

Recently, more than one Annunciation alumnus became involved in Flowers As Paint, when Brian has hired Cristina Gandolfo ‘05 to handle public relations and marketing for him.

At 5 years old, **Christopher Garcia ‘85** spent hours with a box of Crayola crayons and pads of paper trying to duplicate works of art. By the time he went to high school at New York Military Academy, he was ready to follow his creative

Continued on page 14



“Fall, Under a Microscope” by Brian Arditi ‘96.



Christopher Garcia

A Passion for Art

Continued from page 13

side under the mentoring of Major Peggy Yost, a U.S. Marine and fine artist. During that time, he really concentrated on improving his skills, and that effort resulted in winning numerous art awards.

“With the assistance of two other cadets, Major Yost and I helped create a long-needed art program at the academy, bringing updated equipment and materials so that future students could follow their passion,” says Christopher.

He continued on to Westchester Community College, where he majored in fine arts with a concentration in commercial and graphic design. Though he was offered a full scholarship to the San Francisco Art Institute, he declined that offer, preferring to stay in New York.

Married to his wife, Sandy, and father to a beautiful 7-year-old daughter, Brianna, Christopher turned to his military training to pursue a career as a New York City corrections officer in their Transportation Unit. Recently, he was offered a move to the correction department’s Graphics Unit.

Christopher has been keeping his art alive by continuing to do airbrushing, pinstriping and tattooing.



A tattoo designed by Christopher Garcia '85.

sketchbook. The URL ‘kate thegreatsketches’ came about because my grandmother used to call me ‘Kate the Great.’” Each piece of art is shown on the blog with a quote. Katie says that the art comes before the quote, and it can take a while to find the perfect words to accompany the piece.

Her favorite materials are colored pencils, particularly her Prismacolors, and scratchboard. She notes that scratchboard pieces tend to be more time consuming, so she doesn’t do as many of those. Katie says, “Mary Quataro at Ursuline introduced me to a variety of new media. She was the teacher who helped guide me in my advanced design and AP art classes in high school.”

In addition to her art and her biology studies, Katie is vice president of Boston College’s pre-med club, Mendel Society. She says that she spends a lot of time working in a biology lab on campus and volunteering at The Brigham & Women’s Hospital in downtown Boston. “The blog is maintained better over the summer and vacation breaks when I have a little more free time.” She has also been writing for *The Gavel*, Boston College’s student newspaper, where she is now an associate editor of the features section.



A work entitled Flux: n. continuous change by Katie Carsky '08.



Katie Carsky

Katie Carsky '08 also has a passion for art. Katie is the daughter of Madeleine Sweeney Carsky '78 and is a student at Boston College, majoring in biology. She is also a graduate of The Ursuline School who says she has loved art for as long as she can remember. “When I was little, my mom and I would make clay beads to make necklaces and bracelets. I was a coloring book fiend and loved making my own comics and storybooks.”

Her blog <http://katethegreatsketches.blogspot.com/>, created as a simple project to keep busy over the summer, allows her to share her art. “The blog just seemed like a fun idea. Most of the pieces are small drawings from my

CYO Holds Communion Breakfast

On Sunday, September 21, Annunciation’s CYO held its annual communion breakfast. More than 225 parish athletes and their families attended Mass in the gym, which was celebrated by our Pastor, Fr. Robert Grippo. Breakfast followed, and the guest speaker for the event was Sean O’Keefe, a former CYO athlete who graduated from St. John the Baptist in Yonkers, before moving on to Fordham Prep and West Point. Sean spoke of the importance of character, commitment, a strong work ethic and family. Click “speech” to watch Sean’s inspiring speech or find it on our church website.

Speech!

Annunciation and the Changing Uniform

By Emily Varker '15

Catholic schools have a good reputation based on many things: good education, friendly teachers, great preparation for high school, and, of course, school uniforms. Most people recoil when they think of school uniforms, but having gone to a Catholic school since kindergarten, I have found the school uniform not bad at all! Of course, there have been many changes in our dress code since I started at Annunciation.

First, the shoe was changed. You used to be able to wear any shoe you liked as long as it was dark, but now younger girls wear Mary Janes and older girls, like myself, wear loafers. Boys have a choice between Oxfords and loafers.

There were major changes to the older students' uniform when I was in 4th grade (older students being grades 6-8). Older girls used to wear yellow blouses, green plaid skirts, and navy blue polyester bolero vests. My mom, Elizabeth Conner Varker '75, had to wear the uncomfortable vests too when she attended Annunciation, and she did not like them. My mom said they were, "Ugly, ugly, ugly." Older girls now wear white button-down shirts, navy blue sweater vests with Annunciation embroidered on them, knee socks, and the same plaid skirt as before. Older boys wear white button-downs, grey slacks, navy blue blazers, and striped ties. Younger girls



Emily Varker '15 and her mother, Liz Conner Varker '75.



The Annunciation School Shield was sewn onto girls' uniforms and boys' blazers in the 1960s and 1970s.

wear yellow Peter Pan collar blouses, green plaid jumpers with matching criss-cross ties, and knee socks. Younger boys wear yellow dress shirts, navy trousers, and clip-on plaid ties.

This year Annunciation School introduced polo shirts to be worn by both male and female students from September 4-October 15 and April 15-June 19. This seems to have been met with approval from the students, since the polo shirts are quite cool on hot days and much more comfortable than our regular school uniform.

There are accessories that can be bought to go with the uniform. Today's accessories include a sweater, a fleece, a plaid scrunchie, and a plaid hairband. My mother recalled that when she first attended Annunciation, female students had a plaid beret that they wore to Church, because women had to keep their heads covered.

The uniform sure has changed a lot in these past years! Even though students wear uniforms, they can still express themselves on "Crazy Socks and Ties Day" during Catholic Schools Week, and on the much-awaited "Dress Down Days." Girls are also allowed to wear earrings as long as they are not overly large and they are posts. Our school uniforms have changed a lot over many years. Who knows what will come next?



Nancy Waters '61 models her new school uniform, complete with hat, on her first day at Annunciation in September 1957.

"Connie Weireter remembers that in 1963, the St. Ann's Club was responsible for replacing the old, green gabardine uniform with a more practical, wash and wear plaid one. Once the uniform changed, the children could spill something on it at lunch time and still go back to school in a presentable uniform. (As a matter of information, those plaid uniforms were handed down for 20 years, only changing this year, 1983.)"

- From the *History of the Sixties Annunciation Parish Crestwood, New York*, a booklet written by parishioners in 1983, which was found in the family home of long-time parishioner Peter Spero '83.

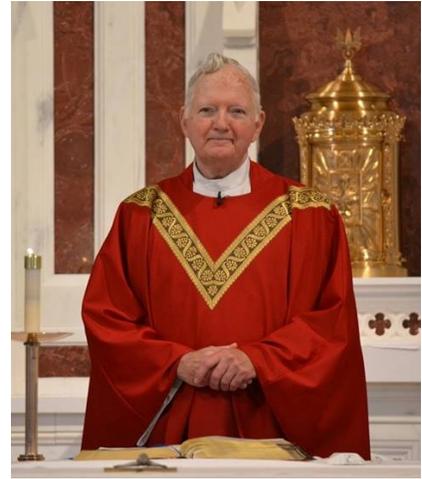
Around the School and Parish

Blue Bloods Films in Crestwood



Actor Donnie Wahlberg speaks to fans outside of the Crestwood Library while filming an episode of CBS's *Blue Bloods*. Filming took place on July 30 and 31st at the library and on Thompson Street, Pennsylvania Avenue and Hollywood Avenue. The episode was shown on television on October 10.

Monsignor Moore Retires



Monsignor James R. Moore, Pastor of Annunciation Church from 1989 to 2003, has retired. A Mass in celebration of his service was held on September 14, 2014, at St. Joseph's Church, in Croton Falls, NY where Msgr. Moore was Pastor from the time he left Annunciation until his retirement. We wish him a long and enjoyable retirement!

Softball Wins Championships



Shortly after the publication of our June 2014 newsletter, the 7th and 8th grade girls' CYO softball team, coached by Eileen and Brian McElroy, won the Westchester Catholic Girls School Softball League Championship. A belated congratulations to the girls and their coaches!

Sr. Theresa to Library



Long-time, and well-loved, 1st-grade teacher, Sr. Theresa Dadabo, P.B.V.M, has left the classroom and is now working part-time as Annunciation School's librarian.

Sr. Margaret Louise and the Class of 1960



Your eyes do not deceive you. There are 72 children in this kindergarten picture of the Class of 1960 with Sr. Margaret Louise! Can you help us identify every child in this photo? Do you see yourself, a sibling or a former neighbor or childhood friend? We need 72 names so let's get started! Please send your answers to mtmc525@aol.com and put "1960 Picture" in the subject line.

Reunion Photos Have Been Added to the School's Web Site!

It's been a long time coming, but we have finally been able to add reunion photos to the school's web site under the "alumni" heading. Please check and see if your class photos are up. You can find them here:

<http://school.annunciationcrestwood.com/reunion-picture-gallery/>

If you don't see your reunion photos and would like to submit some, please email them to mtmc525@aol.com and put "Reunion Photos" in the subject line of your email.



Deceased Alumni Mass

The annual deceased alumni Mass will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2014. We invite all family members of the deceased to come and hear the name of their loved one being read. We also invite all Annunciation alumni to attend the Mass and remember their former classmates, friends and neighbors. In addition to the Mass, the names of the deceased are listed by class on a bulletin board in the front hall of the school.

This month, fifty school families volunteered to “adopt” a class and pray for the deceased alumni of that class every day during the month of November. Of those 50 families, over 30 of them have agreed to adopt the same class as last year, strengthening the link between Annunciation school families and our deceased alumni by making those names familiar to our current families. Said Liz Conner Varker ‘75, whose family prays for the Class of 1949, “My daughters look forward to praying for the names in the Class of 1949 in November. They have now come to know these names over the years as we continue to participate in this tradition.”

If you are unsure if your loved one’s name is on our deceased list, please send an email to Mary Theresa McCombe at MTMC525@aol.com, and she will be able to confirm their inclusion in this year’s list.



Annunciation's LinkedIn Group is for alumni, family and friends of Annunciation. Join [Annunciation School \(Crestwood, NY\)](#) today!

Deaths

Please pray for the souls of the following deceased alumni:

Marilyn Sonner Fitzgerald ‘53

Robert Quintano ‘56, brother of Louis ‘61 and Vincent

Gary Shupe ‘56, brother of Karen ‘53, Marcia ‘54, Maureen ‘58, Richard ‘60, James ‘65, Michael ‘68 and the late Kenneth ‘64 and Steven ‘67

Roger Vitolo ‘72, brother of Francis ‘62, Carol ‘65, Barbara ‘66 and the late Patricia ‘60

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

Cornelius Sullivan, father of Gayle ‘71, Lori ‘72, Kerry ‘77, Colleen ‘78, John ‘80 and Scott ‘85

Daniel Prendergast, father of Marion, Jackie, Jean, Daniel ‘82 and Robert ‘92

Robert Sutton, father of Kristin ‘82, Amy ‘85, and Beau ‘90

Cornelius O’Brien, father of Peggy ‘75, Patty Ann ‘77, Mary Theresa ‘80 and Thomas ‘85

Alan Harrington, father of Margaret, Alanna ‘07, Patrick ‘09 and Jack ‘10

Mass Intentions

Annunciation Church has some Mass intentions available at 6:45 Masses. If you would like to remember anyone at any of the available Masses, please contact Jeanne Doran at the rectory. She can be reached by email at Jeanne.doran@annunciationcrestwood.com.

Milestones

Births

Helena Sharkey Kirk '95 is proud to announce the birth of her second child, Oliver Thomas, who was born on April 11, 2014. Helena and her husband, Andrew, also have a daughter, Hannah, who is two years old.



Amelia Roselli Carpanzano '93 and her husband, Dave, are feeling blessed. Their daughter, Alexa Catherine, was born on July 1, 2014, weighing 6 lbs., 10 ozs. and measuring 18 inches. Her sister, Gianna Marie, is thrilled to be a big sister. In addition to that happy news, Amelia also received



tenure at Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD for assistant principal, where she has worked for ten years.

Adam DiSenso '91 and his wife, Jennifer, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Lauren Marie. Lauren was born on July 3, 2014, in Bronxville, NY and weighed in at 8 lbs., 15 ozs. She has blue eyes and



strawberry blond hair. **Kristen DiSenso '96** is Lauren's godmother. Lauren is also the granddaughter of long-time Annunciation faculty member **Mary Ellen DiSenso**. Adam works in the mortgage industry in New York City, and Jennifer works as a paralegal in White Plains. The family lives in Hartsdale, NY.



Dr. Francis S. Tobia '57 announces the birth of his second grandson, Liam Shaughnessy Burns on July 6, 2014. Liam, who weighed in at 8 lbs., 7 ozs. and was 21 inches long, is the son of Frank's daughter, Linda, and her husband, Eric. Frank says, "Liam is sure to give his older brother, Thomas Francis, a run for his money in due time."

Milestone Spotlight Babies Galore!

Linda Oppermann Youngren '61 and her husband, Conrad, expanded their "grandkid league" from four to seven during summer 2014 with the births of (l-r) Vivian Maria Youngren, on August 15, daughter of **Drew '92** and his wife, Veronika; Logan Charles Hsu born June 20, son of **Christine '91** and her husband, Mark; and Clark Cassidy Youngren on August 7, son of **Craig '90** and his wife, Adrianna.



Engagements

Christian McNamara '95 became engaged to Kim McManus on August 29 while on a vacation in California. Christian is a firefighter with the New York City Fire Department, and Kim is studying to be a physician's assistant at Thomas Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia, PA.



Marriages

On June 13, 2014, **Keith McNamara '96** married Lindsay Walsh. Father Sal Riccardi performed the ceremony at St. John the Baptist Church in Wading River, NY. A reception followed

Continued on page 21

Class Notes

1961

Linda Oppermann Youngren '61 has seven grandchildren, with three being born this past summer (see the Milestone Spotlight on page 19). Not wanting to insult her other grandchildren, she is pleased to present (L to R) Edward and Bridget, children of Linda's daughter **Kirsten '88**, who is also pictured, Millicent, daughter of **Drew '92** and Miranda, daughter of **Craig '90**.



1964

Dynise Kondruchuck O'Connor has retired from education where she spent over 30 years working with children who exhibited serious problems in behavioral, social, emotional and educational areas. With an M.S. degree in education and computer technology from Iona College, an M.S. degree in psychology and an advanced graduate degree in educational supervision from Pace University, Dynise last served as pupil personnel—district-wide educational evaluator and coordinator. Her background included a diverse range of experiences within the field of special education, including teaching, working as a mentor educator, and conducting research/assessments focused on developing and implementing interventions targeting social, emotional and educational skills and self-regulation across

diverse settings.

Because children with special needs are close to her heart, she volunteered to become a court-appointed special advocate with children dealing with issues in foster care. Never one to completely leave education, she is a committed advocate for educational equity for students with special needs and hopes to volunteer where her skills might be needed.

Dynise would like to rekindle her relationship with the visual arts where she first began at The School of Visual Arts in younger days. She will pursue her dream of illustrating children's books for special needs children.

Married to her high school sweetheart for over 35 years, Dynise hopes to continue with their extensive travel plans when he retires and spend tons of time with their nieces and nephews.

1965

Ross Scovotti and his wife, Carol, took a trip on Route 66 late last spring. Carol blogged about their trip for family and friends and the blog was followed by anywhere from 160 to over 180 followers each day. If you'd like to read the blog, it can be found at <http://blogs.uww.edu/scovotti/>.

1970

Bob Browne retired from the Yonkers Police Department on April 1, 2014 after 35 years. His wife, Patti, had retired the previous October after 25 years. Bob retired as a lieutenant, and Patti retired as a captain, having been only the second woman in YPD history to reach that rank. They sold their house in Yonkers, and are having a new house built in Surfside Beach, SC. In the meantime, they are living in their RV.

Bob and Patti recently went out with **Vernon Smith '70** and some other Iona Prep alumni. Bob says, "Retired life is great, and it seems we've reached a point

in our lives where the kids are raised and now that we have a little time on our hands, we are getting back together with old friends. I play a little golf with **Tim Byrnes '70** every now and then. The kids are all gainfully employed, which in this economy is no mean feat. **Katie '00** is an accountant, **Patti Anne '03** is a pastry chef on Cape Cod, Patrick is a Navy diver in Japan, and **Robert '07** is finishing up his engineering degree at SUNY Binghamton."

1979

After seven years as director of alumni and special events at Iona Prep, **Mary-Lou LaSala Pagano** has taken a position as vice president for advancement at the Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation. The foundation provides philanthropic support to enhance the medical, therapeutic, rehabilitative and special educational goals of medically complex children served by the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center (Yonkers, NY), the John A. Coleman School (Yonkers and White Plains, NY) and the Children's Rehabilitation Center (Yonkers, NY).

1982

Kathleen Murphy Ryan took her daughter, Kaitlin, who is 15 years old to Paris, Corsica, Sienna and Florence this summer.



They stayed with Kathleen's Parisian pen pal for a few days, had lunch with two friends and headed off for Corsica with the Stocolet family, whose daughter the Ryan family had hosted for three weeks last summer. In Corsica,

continued on page 21

Class Notes

Continued from page 20

Kathleen and Kaitlin stayed at the grandmother's house in Porto Vecchio, which overlooks the Mediterranean. Kathleen says, "It was our favorite part of our trip! We took a lot of pictures and want to make a scrapbook to highlight our summer vacation."

1993

Angela Seda Porcelli is the publisher of *Yonkers Macaroni Kid*, a free weekly newsletter and website that highlights all of the great things for kids and their families to do in Yonkers, NY. Under her direction, *Yonkers Macaroni Kid* is poised to quickly become the go

to source for all things family.

Angela says, "As a mom in Yonkers, and having grown up here, I know how difficult it has been to keep track of the fun and enriching events and activities available for kids. I'm extremely excited to bring *Macaroni Kid* to our community and look forward to the opportunity to support the many cultural, not-for-profit, school and just plain fun things there are to do in Yonkers." Learn more at yonkers.macaronikid.com, [facebook.com/MacaroniKidYonkersNY](https://www.facebook.com/MacaroniKidYonkersNY) and twitter.com/MacKid_Yonkers.

2000

Theresa Labreglio is active in the theatre/web series world and recently

hosted a kickstarter campaign to support her next project. The web series *Or So The Story Goes* (<http://www.orsothestorygoes.com>) was filmed in Crestwood in September and October and included some local children as cast members.

2005

Jillian Boulhosa is the new 1st-grade teacher at St. Raymond's School in the Bronx, NY. Jill is a graduate of Coastal Carolina where she majored in early childhood education. She is studying for a dual masters degree in special education and literacy at Manhattanville College, which she expects to complete in May 2015.

Milestones

Continued from page 19

at East Winds. The couple took a honeymoon to Greece and Italy. Keith is director of operations for Tape Systems, Inc., and Lindsay is an account director for Creative Media Marketing. The couple makes their home in Tuckahoe, NY.



men included **Michael Boulhosa**, **Erik Johnson**, **Sean Gallen**, and **Sean O'Connor**, all **Class of 2000**. **Robert Quinn '01** read at the Mass. The couple, who are living in Eastchester, NY, took a honeymoon to Hawaii. Christina is a seventh-grade teacher at H.C. Crittenden Middle School and Matthew is a commercial real estate appraiser with KTR Real Estate Advisors.

Kimberly Gutekunst '00 married Hugh A. Stout III on Saturday, August 16, 2014 at the Bronx Zoo in Bronx, NY, where the couple also held their reception. The wedding party included Kimberly's two sisters, **Lacey Gutekunst '03** and **Elise Gutekunst '10**. The couple took a honeymoon to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Kimberly is a human resources coordinator at Ouidad, and Hugh is a co-founder of WorkOf. They live in Manhattan, NY.



Matthew Vezza '00 married Christina Bonitatibus on June 28, 2014. Matt is the son of **John '74** and **Diane Doyle Vezza '75**. The wedding was held at Annunciation Church, and a reception followed in White Plains at C.V. Rich Mansion. **Katie Vezza '03** was a bridesmaid, and the best man was **Michael Ambroselli '00**. Grooms-

