

March
2018



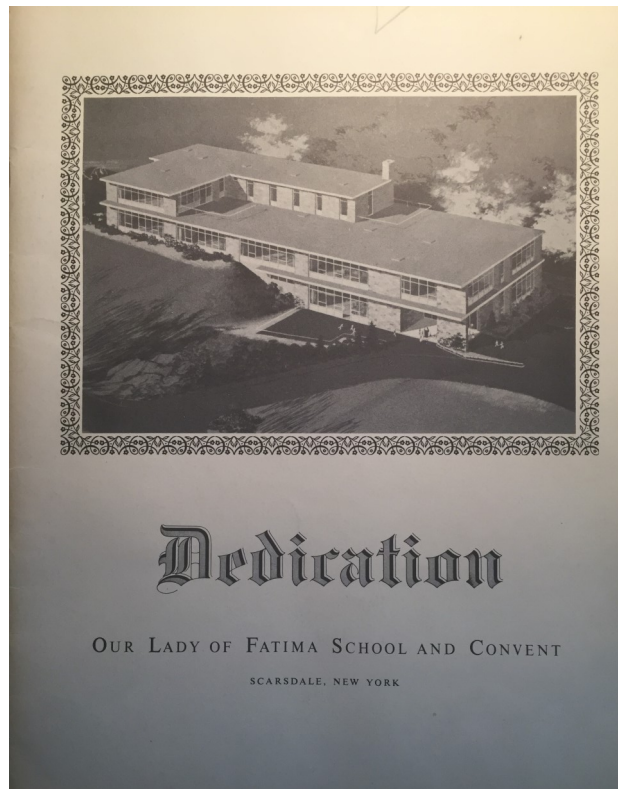
Our Fatima Family

A Selection from the Archives

The merger of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Annunciation Parish has unearthed various documents and photos as the former Our Lady of Fatima School building and the former Our Lady of Fatima rectory were emptied and repurposed. Here are some of the items found in the archives!

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DEAR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS:

Five years ago we humbly began our parish of *The Church of Our Lady of Fatima*. Today we stand here, happy, and justifiably proud, at the dedication of our school. In this short space of time, with God's continual blessings and your unceasing efforts, we have completed a parochial building program which would take many such groups a generation, or more, to attain. Our pride is mingled with regret and tears at leaving our first little school in the Parish House. However, this move is permitting us to increase immediately fourfold in beautiful, modern surroundings.

We are thankful to Almighty God for His Infinite Guidance and Help. We have been able to accomplish this much in such a short period of time, because He has kept us ever present in His Solitude. *We are appreciative, also, of His Blessed Mother, Our Patroness of Fatima.* Who has helped guide our way through the untried paths found in every young parish.

We wish to express our deep indebtedness to *His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman*, who is honoring us with his presence today. It is he who established our parish. It is he who has inspired and befriended us, as we made our new, uncertain way.

Mr. Robert A. Green, our architect, who designed our school, as well as our Church, has worked diligently in supervising the development of his design.

The Iorio Construction Company has built a fine, sturdy edifice to house the ever-increasing number of our school children, and the devoted Sisters who so ably guide our youngsters in the paths of Truth. The sub-contractors and the men under them all worked in such a competent manner as to bring the completion of this work in record time.

We thank the many friends and neighbors, not of our faith, who have helped us realize the fruition of this vast undertaking.

And, too, we are indeed grateful to the advertisers and friends who have made it possible to have this handsome souvenir journal.

Lastly, as your Pastor, I wish to thank especially you, my loyal and unselfish Parishoners, who have helped in so many varied ways, through prayer, work, monetary support, and complete good will. If only space permitted, I would name each of you individually. Since it does not, know that you and your loved ones are ever in my prayers. *I constantly ask Almighty God to shower his most bountiful Blessings on you for your unflinching support and exemplary generosity.*

LEO W. MADDEN, PASTOR

Snowy Scenes and More from the Archives



More photos from the archives! If you can identify anyone in these photos, please email Mary Theresa at mtmcombe@annunciationcrestwood.com. Identifications will be printed in the next edition of the newsletter! Your help is appreciated.



Winter Wonderland—1952



Closing Exercises—June, 1952



Alumna's Firm Wins Best of Customer Service on Houzz

DW Design & Decor of Croton-on-Hudson, NY has been recognized as “Best of Houzz” for the seventh consecutive year. Houzz, the leading platform for home remodeling and design has named the firm as Best of Customer Service.

The interior design firm, owned by **Denise Devenuti Wenacur '77**, was chosen by the more than 40 million monthly unique users that comprise the Houzz community from among more than one million active home building, remodeling and design industry professionals.

The Best of Houzz is awarded annually in three categories: Design, Customer Service and Photography. Design award winners' work was the most popular among the more than 40 million monthly users on Houzz. Customer service honors are based on several factors, including the number and quality of client reviews a professional received in 2017. A “Best of Houzz 2018” badge will appear on winners' profiles, as a sign of their commitment to excellence. These badges help homeowners identify popular and top-rated home professionals in every metro area on Houzz.

“The Houzz community selected a phenomenal group of Best of Houzz 2018 award winners, so this year's recipients should be very proud,” said Liza Hausman, Vice President of Industry Marketing at Houzz. “Best of Houzz winners represent some of the most talented and customer-focused professionals in our industry, and we are extremely pleased to give them both this recognition and a platform on which to showcase their expertise.”

Houzz connects millions of homeowners, home design enthusiasts and home improvement

professionals across the country and around the world. With the largest residential design database, and a vibrant community empowered by technology, Houzz is the easiest way



Denise Devenuti Wenacur '77

for people to find inspiration, get advice, buy products and hire the professionals they need to help turn their ideas into reality. With over 30 years in the design profession, DW Design & Decor provides customized interior design services for residential and commercial projects throughout Westchester and surrounding areas, from concept to completion. Led by Denise, the team at DW Design & Decor partner their clients with top industry trade professionals to ensure successful results for all design and renovation projects.

“We are so honored that our clients have once again singled us out for our commitment to customer service, and we are equally honored that we have won this distinction for the seventh consecutive year,” said Wenacur. “The team at DW Design & Decor strives to meet the unique vision of each individual project along the way and continually enhances the personal experience for each and every one of our clients.”

Denise is a graduate of Edgemont High School, Iona College, New York School of Interior Design and Pace University. She is a res-

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Houzz Award

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ident of Croton-On-Hudson and active member of the community. Denise says that she has always loved art and design, and was an illustrator and decorator of hallway bulletins boards at OLF from 1st through 8th grade. She credits her mother, who is a retired fine artist/painter, and her father, who is a retired engineer and MBA, with being her teachers and creative influences.

Denise has had her design work published in several books and trade magazines. The mom of two is an active member of the American Society of Interior Designers, International Interior Design Association and is a Certified WBE (Women in Business Enterprise).

DW Design & Decor offers services in interior design, construction design and coordination, space planning, kitchen & bath design, and house furnishing and decorating. For more information and inspiration check out the DW Design & Decor website/blog at www.denisewenacur.com or call 914-827-5234 to set up an appointment. Follow DW Design & Décor on Houzz at <http://www.houzz.com/pro/denisewenacur> or on social media.

Reunions Announcement

Reunions for the classes ending in '3 and '8 are, unfortunately, suspended for this Spring. Annunciation School, with whom OLF School alumni jointly celebrate reunions, is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year, and reunions have been suspended due to a large Annunciation School anniversary celebration that is being held instead.

If you are a member of a class ending in '3, '4, '8 or '9, reunions will resume next year. If you would like to assist in gathering your classmates together in Spring 2019, please contact Mary Theresa McCombe at mtmccombe@annunciationcrestwood.com. She will be happy to assist you in gathering contact information for your classmates.

In Memoriam

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

Ralph Pero, father of Jeanine Pero '95

George Grilli, father of Barbara '62, Joan '68 and the late Richard '69

Dr. Francis Greco, father of Mark '65, David '69, Gary '71 and Amy

Rose Marie Connolly, mother of Jean Marie '71, Jeanette '89, Jennifer '89, Barbara, Robert and the late Ellen

May they Rest in Peace.

Class Notes

1958

Victoria Ranieri Lia says, “Every week I walk into my fifth grade CCD classroom and think about my Catholic school education and about how much I learned every day about all of the traditions, prayers, symbols and doctrine of our faith. Unfortunately, my students will not learn one eighth of what I learned in 8 years of Catholic school!”

She continues, “It is hard to funnel all of that information into a short hour per week. The lesson plans do not include instruction on little things such as bowing your head when you hear the name of Jesus, learning in-depth about the Rosary (they are taught the basics but the Mysteries are not truly explained), or even the significance of Holy Days (especially since in many parts of the U.S. some dioceses do not observe).

I know that when we lived in Canada for a few years, we learned that they do not observe the Holy Days. My children could not believe that they didn’t have to go to Church on those days but that when we lived in the U.S. they were ‘forced to go.’ It is quite confusing and difficult to explain.”

Victoria says her CCD students have limited exposure to all the wonderful intricacies of their religion—why the Tabernacle always has a candle or light always illuminating it, how no one should sit down until Holy Communion is over and the Tabernacle is closed, the colors of the different vestments and their meaning, the difference between a Cross and a Crucifix, or an in-depth explanation about the Stations of the Cross, the Saints, their personal stories and what the process is to be Canonized.

She says, “As you can see, I can go on and on. I try every week to fit in a little tidbit or two that is not in the lesson plan, but it is difficult with trying to teach basic facts, prayers, Gospels, etc. I am not inferring that because they do not know these things that they will not grow into a good Catholic. What I am saying is that these little things are so interesting and gives such real meaning to a religion that is

steeped in historical events, has endured persecution and is based on forgiveness and love...something that we all need.”

1960

Greg Arcaro writes to say, “I am living in the same house as I was when I attended OLF from 1956 to 1960—though I don’t think I can walk up and down the hill twice a day any more (I never got to eat in the lunchroom)!”

After graduation, I learned a thing or two at Fordham Prep, Holy Cross College and New York University and served in the Air Force from 1970-72 (Tinker AFB, Oklahoma).

On Easter Sunday in 1970, I was married in a 5” snow storm! Janice and I have been blessed with two children—Rebecca (Taka) and Michael (Anna). I should also mention that Janice worked at OLF as a teacher, development officer and principal from 2001 to 2008...small world!

For many years I worked for the City of Yonkers in its planning and affordable housing departments and for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (a national non-profit) in its affordable housing division. For the past eleven years, I have been the Executive Director of the Community Planning Council of Yonkers (a non-profit providing services to youth, new immigrant parents and the elderly). Since 2013, I have been self-employed as a planning consultant, lately on a part-time basis, giving me more time to take care of an aging house and body!

Over the years I have enjoyed the opportunity to be involved with some wonderful non-profits—Mercy Center (which provides a range of services to families in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx), One World (which provides global education curriculum and linking of schools throughout the world), Hearts to Homes (providing household furnishings to young adults who have aged out of foster care and are moving to an apartment on their own

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and our local Rotary Club.

Although I stayed in touch with a few classmates shortly after graduation, in the past ten years, I pretty much only see **Bob O'Donnell**, as we went to Fordham Prep together, and have stayed in touch over work, golf games, and dinners. I did see **Frank Dursi** recently at a Rotary event and Habitat for Humanity golf fundraiser!

I have fond memories of our class and still have the program from our graduation in 1960! I enjoyed reading **Vicki Crawley's** letter in the June 2017 OLF newsletter and about her tracking down Father Kennedy to officiate at her wedding and Sister Marie Genevieve to a prison in Mississippi. I look forward to hearing from other classmates!

Carol D'Onofrio sends greetings from Jacksonville, FL! After Our Lady of Fatima, she attended Maria Regina, the Academy of Mount St. Vincent in Tuxedo Park, NY and Elizabeth Seton Jr. College in New York. Her entire career was spent in retail, with her early years in New York working in store operations before moving into buying and merchandising.

Carol says, "In 1972, I joined the Navy Exchange System, in New York, which is responsible for buying and merchandising for Navy Exchanges worldwide. While working for the Navy (I was not in the military as that would be a Private Benjamin moment—remember that movie?), I relocated to California, Hawaii and Virginia for many years.



During my time as a buyer, and ultimately merchandise manager, I was responsible for all types of merchandise products from fashion apparel, hard lines and consumable products. Travelling to all the exchanges and to markets on the east and west coast occupied most of my

time.

In 1992, I relocated to Jacksonville, FL. After spending close to 30 years with the Navy I retired and now spend my time playing tennis and golf and volunteering for various organizations—social, philanthropic and civic. Unfortunately, moving around you lose contact, so if anyone is in or around the Florida area, please contact me (or any area for that matter) I would love to catch up. My email is caroladonofrio@gmail.com. My best to all my fellow alumni.

1962

William Bulger says, "Spending all day every day with the same people for eight years is an experience unequaled, next to prison, for forming life altering influences. Had I attended another school, I can't help but feel that I would be a different person. Thanks to all of you for that. I made friends in high school and college, but none left a stronger impression than those of grammar school.

My departure from O.L.F. was followed by four years at Archbishop Stepinac. I enjoyed the continued friendship of **John Zebatto**, **Gene Petinatti**, **Andy Little** and **Barry Homa**. I occasionally bumped into Jimmy **Palmer** (water skiing on my boat) and **Lee Ritter** (in a nightclub). In college, I also ran into **Julie Tancredi**. During my college years I spent the summer of '69 working on a fishing boat in Alaska. We were out of touch, and I managed to miss Woodstock and man walking on the moon.

Life was fun and games until I graduated from college carrying a !A draft status. I had been in ROTC at Fordham and generally believed in service to my country. Days before my induction call, I spent a night in a bar with John Zebatto, who had become a campus activist against the war at Marist College. We presented our points of view over the course of the evening, with no seeming headway. The

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next morning, I woke up, and one of my first thoughts was that John was right.

Well, I did not show up for my induction and declared myself to be a conscientious objector. This was much to everyone's surprise. This started a journey that defined my entire life for years to come. I was now an outlaw—I could not get a serious job with a !A classification. Luckily, I was not alone. I had a lot of company in resisting the draft.

At one point, I went south to work for the Southern Leadership Conference under Hosea Williams. I wanted to have this as an experience in case I was allowed to perform a five-year alternative service. The draft board was relentless, however, and kept calling me home for hearings.

While things remained undecided I started a M.B.A. program at St. John's, but had no real conviction about what I wanted to do. I ran into **Pat Natarelli** one night, who said that he was interested in city planning. I must have been really looking for something to latch on to, because this sounded pretty good to me. I enrolled in a program at Hunter College and tried to do this, along with night classes at St. John's.

Eventually, my draft status was changed under the shear weight of fellow resisters cases. The government realized they could not try them all. I packed a backpack and hitchhiked to California. There, I discovered Lake Tahoe and knew where I belonged. Shortly after, my mother called to say that a recruiter from IBM had called and was willing to give me a job. I did not return, knowing that I would not be happy.

After five years, I left the lake to live in the Nevada desert, working in restaurants and casinos for the next fourteen years. Eventually life brought me back to New York State. My family now lived in Rochester due to my sister's employment at Xerox and my mother's age. I spent the next twelve years building a real estate company with my sister, specializing in low-income housing. This was at a time, however, when people were fleeing the city for the suburbs. Although we never made a lot of money, I still run into people who say I was the best landlord they ever had.

For the last 22 years, I have worked for a courier company. I love the work and people. I am in good health, so I see no reason to stop working. My niece, Elizabeth, and her family live with me. It's nice to have her 4-year-old daughter around. I've also hosted my nephew and his family since it can be so hard to get a start in life these days. I have a big house and am happy to have them. Skyler, my grandniece, is just starting at Holy Cross so the cycle continues.

I would like to offer up an open invitation for anyone traveling this way to stop in anytime for a visit. We can light a fire and reminisce. I live at 686 Seneca Parkway, Rochester, NY 13613. My number is 585-737-5925. There is no need to call. You can just pop in."

Theresa Russell spent 38 years in the fashion industry in New York and traveled to Europe, South America and all over the Orient. After living in NYC for so many years, she felt she needed a change and sold her apartment in New York City, buying in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL on the grounds of Sawgrass Club. Theresa says, "I picked this area because it is in northern Florida, and we get seasons, and yes, it was unseasonably cold here too. I am loving retirement—who knew I could garden? Volunteering is a real plus. We have wonderful church ministries, and I love my Tuesdays at Mayo Clinic. I come up north to see family, shop and go back to my favorite restaurants. And yes, I forgot to get married, but I have wonderful nieces/nephews and their children who keep me running around. I hope to see you all at some point in time. **Patsy Taylor** and I still keep in touch. I got a big kick that **Dorothy Herrick** went to last reunion, as the two of us were always dancing."

1964

Carol Ann Sepa Mueller says, "It's amazing to think that I graduated with my friends, 54

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years ago from Our Lady of Fatima. When I was 18, I survived a near fatal car accident, which changed my life. After a full recovery, I pursued my dreams of studying art and earned a B.A. from SUNY Albany. I developed my skills as an artist, exhibited my work and earned my M.A. in art education from Teachers College, Columbia University. I enjoyed teaching in the Bronxville, Rye and Pleasantville schools before staying at home to raise my two sons.

In 1995, when my sons were school age, my husband and I moved our family from Yonkers to Westport, CT. We enjoy the coastal town and the proximity to New York City. My sons are now in their late twenties, pursuing careers in business and law. My husband is retired, and I have resumed my passion for painting. I participate in classes at Silvermine Art Center, and have had my work accepted into many juried shows. Artists, like musicians, never retire. I look forward to continuing my work and staying healthy so that I can stay active and stay in touch with my childhood friends!

1968

Alice O'Leary Kerrigan writes, "It seems from looking at our 1968 class list, there are quite a few classmates still in the NY/CT area. In a nutshell, I received my Master's in special education from Fordham University and was a special education teacher at Eagle Hill School in Greenwich, CT, where I worked with learning disabled elementary and middle school students for thirteen years.

Looking for a change, I joined my younger brother, Paul, to manage The Blazer Pub, a well established pub in northern Westchester which my parents purchased in 1988. I have been the general manager since 1993. While working at The Blazer Pub, I met my husband, Kevin Kerrigan, a decoy artist who hand-carves and paints reproduc-

tions of antique waterfowl decoys. **Ted Cousin '68** and his wife, Cathy, are Blazer Pub regulars.

As I did during my OLF days, the extended O'Leary family continues to spend time in Cape Cod."

1970

Michele Cousin-Hartmann says that when the Cousin family grew up in Strathmore, and all graduated from OLF, there were many other families in Strathmore whose kids attended OLF. "We still have connections that last to this day," she says.



1986

Jennifer Murphy Annunziata went to Resurrection Academy in Rye and then to Iona College in New Rochelle. She met her husband in 1992, and they were married in October 1996. Together, they have three beautiful boys (ages 17, 15 and 12) and live in Eastchester, NY.

After college, Jennifer was in marketing and advertising for twelve years. She went back to school after her third son was born and graduated from Lehman College with a Master's degree in school counseling.

Jennifer currently works as an education advocate at a social service agency supporting and advocating for the needs of at-risk youth (foster care, preventive and juvenile justice are all involved.) While working, she completed an advanced degree in mental health counseling through Alfred University. Jennifer now works as a part-time therapist in the Article 31 clinic at her agency. She plans to become a licensed mental health counselor so that one day she will be

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able to have her own private practice. Jennifer's specialty is cognitive behavior therapy and trauma focused therapy.

Jennifer says, "I love taking long walks with my husband and my golden retriever, watching all three of my boys play football, and playing tennis all year round! My occupation is like a mission, and I am extremely passionate and proud of the work that I do!"

1995

Neesha Jhaveri is a Pharm D graduate from St. John's University College of Pharmacy. She married her husband, Srikanth Chamakura, in 2015. They are happy to announce the birth of their baby girl, Sahana Chamakura. Sahana was born at NYU Langone on July 1, 2017. She is their first child. Sahana is a happy baby with brown eyes and black hair. The family lives in New York City. Neesha and Sri are both pharmacists in New York City.



2001

Stephanie Giattino D'Angelo and her husband, Andrew, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Jaxon D'Angelo, on September 26, 2017 at Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut. Jaxon, who is their first child, was baptized at Annunciation Church on January 28, 2018. Stephanie



is a corporate accountant, and Andrew is a project manager. The family lives in New Rochelle, NY.

Do You Enjoy Writing?

If you enjoy writing and have some great memories about your time at Our Lady of Fatima School, I welcome you to submit your essays for future publication.

Please email your story to Mary Theresa McCombe at mtmccombe@annunciationcrestwood.com

Not sure if your idea is right for the newsletter? Get in touch with me prior to writing to discuss it!

Know Someone Who Would Like to Receive Our Fatima Family?

If you did not receive this issue of *Our Fatima Family* directly by email, or know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, you can click [HERE](#) to be added to our email database.

Didn't see a Class Note from your year?

You can help make Class Notes even better next time.

Send your class note today to mtmccombe@annunciationcrestwood.com for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Please encourage all your friends and siblings to do the same!