

November  
2016



# Our Fatima Family

## New Parish Website Has “Alumni Corner”

### Inside this issue:

<i>Fatima Parish History</i>	2
<i>In Memoriam</i>	4
<i>Reunion News</i>	4
<i>Facebook Asks</i>	5
<i>Class Notes</i>	6
<i>Lost Alumni</i>	11



Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Parish debuted a new website in September. Celebrating all of the things that make the new parish special, the website highlights, among other things, our ministries, our very busy parish calendar, all of our publications, how to find our two beautiful churches and a weekly letter from our Pastor.

Within the [website](#) is a page dedicated to our “parish history.” The first entry describes the merger of the two parishes. The second entry, a history of Annunciation Parish, and the third entry is a history of Our Lady of Fatima Parish. See page 2 for the text of that history.

The last item on the parish history page of

is “Our Lady of Fatima School Alumni Corner,” a place where information about reunions, the archives of *Our Fatima Family*, lists of missing alumni and an album of graduation photos will reside.

If you’d like to see your class graduation picture added to the graduation photos album, please send a high resolution jpeg of the photo to Mary Theresa McCombe at [mtmc525@aol.com](mailto:mtmc525@aol.com) and put “OLF School Graduation Photo” and your class year in the subject line.

We hope to continue to grow this page and look forward to it becoming a resource for all Our Lady of Fatima School alumni in the future. With time, and your help, it will grow.

## Summary of Our Lady of Fatima Parish History

*The following is a summary of the History of Our Lady of Fatima Parish. This summary was created from the written history of the parish that had previously been written on the 50th anniversary of the parish. This summary appears on the new [parish website](#).*

On Wednesday, November 3, 1948, the Archbishop of New York, Francis Cardinal Spellman, issued the official decree of the “erection of a new parish in Scarsdale under the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima.” That same day, the headlines proclaimed that Harry Truman had won the presidential election, to the surprise of the nation. The decree said further that the pastors of the three neighboring parishes in Scarsdale, Hartsdale and Crestwood “whose territories had been divided to furnish the territory of the new parish have been consulted.” Reverend Leo W. Madden was officially named pastor.

The name of the new parish – Our Lady of Fatima – most likely derived from Fr. Madden’s close friendship with a journalist, William Thomas Walsh, who with Cardinal Spellman’s help, had made a number of visits to the remote pasture near Fatima, Portugal where Our Lady had appeared in 1917 to three children watching over their family sheep. The Macmillan Company published Dr. Walsh’s book titled “Our Lady of Fatima” in 1947. A prominent businessman made the Scarsdale Theater, a local movie house on Garth Road, available to the new parish for Sunday morning Mass. The first Mass was celebrated on November 7, 1948 on a portable altar on the stage of the theater. The congregation numbered about 100.

Fr. Madden was quickly attracted to 85,000 square feet of open land at the southeast end of Garth Road in the Town of Eastchester, just east of the Bronx River. He arranged for its purchase from the town for \$48,000. A contemporary architect’s drawing of the site shows a plan for a cruciform flat-roofed church with a steeple, and a two-story school connected to a separate convent by a covered walkway. Essex Place bisected the property, and there was ample space for a playground and parking. He also purchased a house on Beech Hill Road for \$30,000 as an interim rectory and parish house.

By mid-January, about 600 people were attending Sunday Mass in the theater, and the pastor had moved into the second floor of the Beech Hill residence, making space for a chapel and convert-

ing the first floor space into three classrooms. By the end of 1949, the parish numbered almost 1,000.

The location for the new church seemed perfect, but it wasn’t. For one thing it would place the heart of the new parish at its extreme southeast corner of its parish boundaries (taken very seriously at that time). Additionally, it was determined that there was significant ground water from an underground tributary to the Bronx River running underneath the property. In May 1949, Fr. Madden wrote the Vicar General of the Archdiocese explaining in detail why it would not be in the best interest of the parish to build on the Garth Road property. He had, however, found property more suitable on the west side of the Bronx River in the City of Yonkers, a triangular piece of about 71,000 square feet at Strathmore and Scarsdale Roads. It was for sale at a price of \$12,500. In August, the Church of Our Lady of Fatima had acquired the property, and the Garth Road property was sold to the Town of Eastchester.

The construction of the concrete block church was begun. The granite cornerstone of Our Lady of Fatima Church reads “1950—For God and Country” and by the end of 1950, a church had been built. The front of the church is faced with red-brown granite; on either side of the front doors is a coat of arms. One is Cardinal Spellman’s and the other that of Pius XII, who was Pope at that time. Over the front doors, whose upper third is etched glass of the Four Evangelists, is a sculpture of Our Lady of Fatima with the children and the sheep they were tending when she first appeared to them on May 13, 1917. Extending above the flat roof, against the sky, is a Cross. On December 2, 1950, a Solemn Mass was celebrated by the proud pastor.

By September 1952, there were four grades in the house on Beech Hill and the school was outgrowing itself. Anticipating the need for more space, Father Madden, with approval of the Archdiocese, had purchased six steep wooded lots on the west side of Scarsdale Road for \$6,500. By October, he had been given permission to proceed with plans for the construction of an eight-classroom building with a convent on the top floor, and on September 14, 1953, Our Lady of Fatima School moved from the house on Beech Hill to the building on the hill across from the church.

**Continued on page 3**

## Our Lady of Fatima Parish History

### Continued from page 2

In 1978, and again in 1998, major restorations of the church have been undertaken. Though the architecture of the church is modern functional, ("less is more," being the guiding principle) and the interior is eclectic, it is a tranquil blend of different centuries and traditions. More importantly, the strength of the faith of the parishioners is a testament to the strength of the priests who guided the parish. The stewardship of Our Lady of Fatima Parish was shared by only 4 Pastors in its 67 year history – two spent over 20 years of their lives in the Our Lady of Fatima parish family.

#### Our Lady of Fatima Pastors

Msgr. Leo W. Madden 1948-1972

Msgr. Joseph G. Goodwine 1972-1976

Msgr. John P. Breheny 1976-1994

Msgr. Hugh F. McManus 1994-2015

#### Important Dates in Our Lady of Fatima Parish History

- November 3, 1948 – A decree by Francis Cardinal Spellman creates the parish of Our Lady of Fatima out of territory previously covered by three other parishes located in Scarsdale, Hartsdale and Crestwood.
- November 7, 1948 – The first Mass of Our Lady of Fatima Parish is celebrated in the Scarsdale movie house on Garth Road.
- August 1949 – The parish purchases property at the corner of Scarsdale and Strathmore Road to construct its church.
- September 1950 – Classes for 36 pupils in grades K-2 commences in the Beech Hill house under the direction of Sister Mary Daniel Shannon and Sister Rose Anita, members of the Sisters of St. Dominic.
- December 2, 1950 – The first Mass is said in the new church building.
- Spring 1951 – 16 children make their first Holy Communion in the new church.
- October 1951 – 64 children receive the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Joseph F. Flannelly.
- January 19, 1953 – Ground is broken for a school building across Scarsdale Road from the church.
- September 14, 1954 – The construction of Our Lady of Fatima School is completed at a cost of \$35,000, and 160 students in grades K-5 occupy the school. The school was dedicated on November 15, 1953 by His Eminence James Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles.
- 1954 – The Rectory is constructed on the east side of the church.
- 1960 – The Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima is built into the hillside below the school.
- June 2013 – Our Lady of Fatima School graduates its final class and closes its doors.
- September 1, 2016—The parish completes a civil and canonical merger with Annunciation Parish.

## **In Memoriam**

**Please pray for the souls of the following alumnus:**

Dennis Urzo '97, brother of Alanna '00

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

Lorraine Squillante, mother of Michael '84 and Neil '85

Aniceta Bautista, mother of Glenda '90 and Gilbert '92

Rosalie Ricci, mother of Nicole '90 and Jenine '91

Edward Kearney, father of Sheila '73, Maureen '74, Crysta '75, Edward Jr. '77 and Michael '80

Edward Hernan, father of Susan '85 and Colleen

**Please pray for the soul of the following former faculty member:**

Mrs. Adrienne Montillet

**May they rest in peace.**

## **Reunion 2017 News**

Classes of 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2007

Please mark your calendars now for the  
evening of April 29, 2017.

Class of 1957—We are interested in hearing if you would like a 60th Anniversary  
Reunion

Class of 1961—We are interested in hearing if you would like a 56th Anniversary  
Reunion

If you are a member of either of the above classes, please contact Mary Theresa McCombe at  
[mtmc525@aol.com](mailto:mtmc525@aol.com)



## OLF Alumni Facebook Asks....



The Our Lady of Fatima (Strathmore) Alumni Facebook Group has 193 members! Can you help us break the 200 barrier? If you are a Facebook member, you can join the OLF School alumni page [HERE](#). Once you are a member of our alumni Facebook group, you can add your alumni family and friends (see the “Add Members” section on the left side of the Facebook page).

Get information, between newsletters, as it becomes available! Share memories and photos with your friends! Learn about reunions! Connect with your classmates again!

Our Facebook question was:

***What was your favorite summertime activity when you went to OLF School?***

**Victoria Ranieri Lia ‘58:** Going to Robin Hill Day Camp

**Kara Thompson Iraggi ‘92:** Field Day on the side of the Bronx River Parkway, to which **Louis Gambetta ‘79** replied, “Loved field day there!”

**Michele Cousin ‘70:** Not being in school; hanging in the fields by the BRP with my Strathmore friends and going to the Larchmont Shore Club.

**Judy Marothy Peterson ‘75:** Playing in the fields.



### New signs grace the OLF Church Property

A new sign stands at Our Lady of Fatima Church on the corner of Scarsdale and Strathmore Roads. The former OLF Rectory was blessed on October 6 and renamed the Pope Francis Mercy Center. It will be used for a variety of parish purposes, including our Special Education Religious Ed program.

### *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.

## Class notes

### Class of 1959

**Ray Albanese** writes, "My son Andrew, who is a professional firefighter in Eastchester, just passed his Westchester County Electrical Test and is now a licensed and fully insured Electrical Contractor, Albanese Electric (914-772-9964). I am very proud of him for the father he is, the husband he is, the brother he is and the son he is."

### Class of 1960

On Thursday, November 10, **Walter Johanson** participated in an alumni event at Iona College. For the last several years, the Iona Alumni Association has asked Walter to read the list of Iona men who died in Vietnam. A current student reads the names of Iona men killed in World War II and Korea. It is an impressive noontime ceremony held the day prior to Veterans' Day/Armistice Day, because the day itself is a school holiday and nobody would be on campus. Walt says, "The Iona Singers perform the national anthem; members of the student government lay a wreath at the monument for those Iona students killed in action; and the college chaplain leads those attending in prayer."

Walt points out that any OLF alumnus who also attended Iona might be interested in marking that day on their 2017 calendar and contacting the Iona Alumni Association so that they might be notified by email of the event next year.

**Carol Sawicky Pehl** graduated from Fashion Institute of Technology with a degree in commercial planning and interior design in 1966. After graduation, she worked in New York City and then Boston at a large design firm. In 1969, she married James Pehl and joined his firm when he founded Interior Planning Associates (IPA) in 1976.

Carol and Jim have two daughters. They also have four grandchildren, ages 9 to 13, and have lived in or around Boston since they were wed. She says, "When we are home, we live in Marlboro, MA, next door to our daughter, Kate and her family. Liz and family are just a short ride away in Carlisle, MA."

IPA closed in 2013 after 25 years as a full-service design firm and several years of real estate consulting to their corporate clients. During her last years of employment, Carol worked for State Street Corporation as a vice president of strategic

real estate planning. Though retired, she still loves to do occasional residential arch/design work for friends and family.

Carol says, "We spend our time with our family in Carlisle and Marlboro and traveling and sailing on our sailboat, Peace of Mind, in the Caribbean and are currently sailing from Tortola, British Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico."

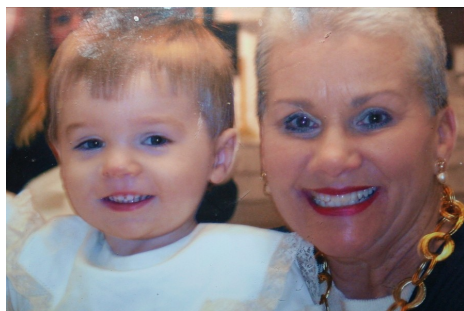
Carol has volunteered at Rosie's Place, a shelter for homeless women, as a board member, lunch caterer and chair of their permanent housing committee. In recent years, she has volunteered at her local hospital and helped to maintain a resource database for non-profit senior citizen advocacy group.

Carol says, "I turned 70 in March and am thankful for a full and happy life."

### Class of 1961

**Beth Landman Roach** recalls starting OLF, with her older brother, Ernie '59, in the parish house basement when it was brand new and, if she's not mistaken, Msgr. Madden lived upstairs! Beth says, "A few years later Ernie went on to Iona, but I stayed and graduated in '61. I remember lining up every afternoon and kissing our nuns goodbye before we left for the day. They were our family!"

One of my fondest memories, was a blizzard that started early in the afternoon and trapped my carpool until 8 p.m. We lived in Hartsdale. After waiting for a while downstairs in the lunchroom, the Sisters took us up to the convent, which was a "penthouse" on top of the school, where we had snacks and hot chocolate until our chauffeur arrived! We had a blast! We had three feet of snow with that storm, and that was one of the few times I can remember ever being out



of school for snow.

Several years ago, Ernie's Class of '59 had a reunion in New York, and I invited myself since I knew so many folks in that class. It was absolutely

**Continued on page 7**



## Class notes continued from page 6

fabulous seeing everybody, and as a result, we've kept in touch and have visited with each other several times since then. Unfortunately, Ernie passed away in January 2012. Ironically, **Teddy Homa**, one of his OLF classmates was visiting, and at his side, when he died.

Since graduating from Fatima, our family moved to Atlanta, GA, then Boca Raton, FL, Shreveport, LA and finally back home to Nashville, TN, where we were from originally. I've been in Nashville ever since. I went to Marymount College in Boca Raton and Centenary College in Shreveport. I graduated from nursing school at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, where I met my husband of 41 years, Al. I did ob/gyn nursing for several years before becoming a sales representative for AstraZeneca and Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, until about ten years ago.

We have a daughter, Katherine, and a son, Taylor, and three grandsons and one granddaughter. My days are filled with our grandchildren. We're blessed that they all live very close by. I sew and smock heirloom clothes for our granddaughter, love to paint and make jewelry. The creative juices are always flowing!"

**Richard Bianchini** and his wife, Catherine, have two children. Daughter, Lisa, and her husband, Johnny, have a little girl named Bella. Rick's son, Rich is engaged to Sue. Rick lives in Arroyo Grande, CA.



Rick and Catherine above. Johnny, Bella and Lisa, below left and Sue and Rich, below right.



**Anne Kelly Skolnik** and her husband, Rich, took a trip to China, including a cruise on the Yantze River, seeing the Terra Cotta warriors and the Forbidden City in Beijing. Ann says, "Of course, visiting with **Maureen Fath** Sabine and her family was the real highlight of the trip!" Below, a photo of Anne (left) and Maureen on Victoria Peak in Hong Kong, overlooking the harbor.

Anne is a casualty actuary who worked for the New York Insurance Department for many years. She retired four years ago and does some consulting now. She and Rich have three children.



### Class of 1964

**Fran Bastone** lives in Raleigh, NC, where she works as a RN clinical review nurse. She is divorced and has two daughters and two wonderful granddaughters—Katie is 9, and Giana is 5. Fran is a parishioner of St. Raphael Catholic Church and loves to read and crochet in her spare time.

**Jean Inzerillo Savoye** went to Our Lady of Victory Academy in Dobbs Ferry after graduation from Our Lady of Fatima. She then went to Marymount College in Tarrytown, where she earned a B.A. in English literature in 1972. She went to work for Business Week magazine and was on the staff for many years. She says, "I enjoyed being in the publishing industry."

Jean married Nick Savoye in 1972. They have two children—Kristin and Mark. This year, they had their first grandchild, a baby boy born in March to Kristin. His name is Thomas James. Jean says, "We are fortunate to have both of our children within a five-mile radius of our home in Scarsdale. Nick and I own a textile company,

**Continued on page 8**

## Class notes continued from page 7

which still keeps us busy. We love to travel and do so frequently, for business and pleasure, both domestically and internationally. I enjoy gardening, cooking and reading. I especially like spending time with my family."

### Class of 1968

**Lynn Minervini**, who is a licensed acupuncturist and herbalist (East Asian Medicina) spent thirty-three years of her life in Italy, before returning to the United States for seven years. She has one son, who is a designer and lives in Barcelona.



She is now very happy to report that she is living in Panajachel, Guatemala working with The Integrative Health Project bringing acupuncture and Chinese medicine to the under-served native population, as well as training local health providers. Lynn says, "People work very hard here, and many are very poor, yet Guatemalans are the warmest, kindest, most joyful, and elegant people you could ever imagine. I'm blessed to be here!" Go to <http://www.theintegrativehealthproject.org> if you'd like to learn more about the work that Lynn does.

She enjoys traveling and exploring (especially with her son), hiking, swimming, photography, and when inspiration strikes, writing poetry.

### Class of 1975

**Colleen Costello Rutkunas** has been married for thirty-two years to her husband, Joseph, and is the proud mother of two adult sons, ages 26 and 19. Colleen has lived in Fairfield, CT for the last twenty-six years. Colleen says, "I moved here because, as a child, my grandparents had a beach house and I hated to leave at the end of our family vacations. I LOVE the beach. My favorite pastime is sitting at the beach and people watching."

Colleen is also an avid gardener, loving all her flowers and plants. She says that work can get in the way of her two favorite things, but it is some-

thing she has to do. Colleen works in the medical field, but says that she loved her restaurant jobs. "I loved waiting on people and found it fun. But I was getting older and needed to do something that didn't keep me out at night, away from my husband after the boys grew up," she said. "I also love keeping up with past friends and seeing how we all turned out! Let's hear from all of YOU!"

**Helen Jablonski McLaughlin-Buhlinger** writes, "On August 18th, the Jablonski Family celebrated the 16th anniversary of my nephew, Peter's, successful kidney transplant; I was his donor. I get chills thinking about it, even after 16 years. Through those 16 years, our family's Celebration of Life has grown and come to be something quite a bit larger than a simple family affair.

As many of you know, the entire Jablonski family has become very active in its support of the National Kidney Foundation, and in particular the New York City Kidney Walk. My brother, Lou (Peter's dad), serves on the NKF's Greater New York Board of Advisors. Peter is a member of the Kidney Walk's Leadership Committee, and my sister-in-law, (Peter's mom) Mary Beth, supports the NKF's education and awareness program as a speaker. Peter's siblings, Jay, Andrew and Annie, all play an active role in our annual celebration in support of the New York City Kidney Walk, reaching out to friends, hosting fundraisers, and helping to secure donations. Each of us knows how lucky we are to have faced a challenge and come away with a happy ending. We work to keep awareness in the forefront and to ensure that we never lose sight of our good fortune.

The New York City Kidney Walk is the major focus of our efforts and energy. Many of you of you have joined with us in support of the Walk and helped to raise nearly \$40,000 in each of the past few years. It has been an incredible display of friendship, love, and sharing. This year, the Walk was held on Sunday, November 13th, at Foley Square in Manhattan. From that starting point, we took a stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge and then headed to a local spot to raise a glass. It's proven to be a great day for all who participate.

Donating to the Walk is very simple, and it is not too late. Click on the link that follows and you will be at the site for our team, Got Kidneys? [http://donate.kidney.org/site/TR/Walk/NKFServingtheNortheast?px=1583580&pg=personal&fr\\_id=8289](http://donate.kidney.org/site/TR/Walk/NKFServingtheNortheast?px=1583580&pg=personal&fr_id=8289) Donations

**Continued on page 9**



## Class notes continued from page 8

can be made through the end of the year—and don't forget matching gifts!

My address is Helen McLaughlin-Buhlinger, 32 First St., Florham Park, NJ 07932 for those of you who prefer to write a check to the National Kidney Foundation. If you are not in a position to make a contribution, then please consider checking your license and making sure that you have given thought to becoming an organ donor. Perhaps you can make the biggest difference for someone like Peter, just as I did. Remember, one in three American families are touched by kidney disease. The risks are big and the need is very real.

So there it is, my friends. I have once again stepped out of my comfort zone and asked for you to join with me in celebrating Peter's good health. Thanks, in advance, for your continued support. I look forward to the opportunity to return the kindness."

### Class of 1977

**Ed Kearney** lives in Neptune Beach, FL, where he is a FedEx contractor. He and his wife, Michelle Culhane (Culhane's Irish Pub, Atlantic Beach, FL) have two children. Sophia is 5 years old and Ryan is 2 years old.

### Class of 1979

**Christine Oakley Judge** and her husband, Ray, have four children—Katharina, Madeline and Elizabeth, who are all in college at Marquette, Hobart William Smith and Boston College, respectively, and Stephen, who is a sophomore at Iona Prep. Christine is a realtor with Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty in Scarsdale. She says, "Life is good!"

### Class of 1982

**Erin Sullivan Anderson** left OLF School in 1980, at the end of 6th grade, to attend Scarsdale Middle School. She went on to graduate from Long Island University and became a professional fundraiser for Montefiore Medical Center, NYU Langone Medical Center and Hospital for Special Surgery. Today, she is the director of development of Ferncliff Manor, Inc., a residential school for children with severe developmental disabilities, located in Yonkers, NY.

She recently had an opportunity to visit ACDS, which is now leasing the former OLF school build-

ing. She says, "I wished them success. The school looks great, and they do fantastic work!"

Erin and her husband, Bill, live in Hartsdale, NY.

### Class of 2005

After attending Iona Prep, where he wrestled, **Anthony Fico** earned a BBA in accounting from Iona College as well as an MBA in finance, also at Iona. He then enlisted in the Marines and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant.

Anthony opened a gym in Stamford, CT called C3 Athletics. In 2015, he became a Yonkers Police Officer working out of the 3rd Precinct



## 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](mailto:mtmccombe@annunciationcrestwood.com)  
 for inclusion in our next newsletter.

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



## ANNUNCIATION SCHOOL



We have a new PreK-3 program!





Are you interested in having your child be part of a caring, age-appropriate, faith-based three year old program?

- ✧ Three year olds will explore the world through play, literature, and music and participate in special activities such as gym, art, and technology.
- ✧ The class will have a full-time teacher and teacher's assistant.
- ✧ The half-day program will follow Annunciation's school calendar and will run from 8:15AM – 11:30AM, every day.
- ✧ Three year olds can also attend early morning care, available from 7:15AM.
- ✧ Tuition will be \$4,500/year plus PreK student fees.
- ✧ Children must be three years old by 12/31/16.

*If you'd like to consider joining our school's PreK-3 program, please email Adele Sinnott at [asinnott@annunciationcrestwood.com](mailto:asinnott@annunciationcrestwood.com) or call the school at 914.337.8760. You may also attend our information session at 6:30PM in the school gym on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.*

[school.annunciationcrestwood.com](http://school.annunciationcrestwood.com)

### ***OLF School Still an Educational Facility***

Right: ACDS now rents the Our Lady of Fatima School building. They serve children and adults with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities.

## Lost Alumni for Upcoming Reunion

Can you help us locate any of the following lost alumni for the upcoming April 2017 reunion?

**1967**—Donna Adrian, Francis Daly, Mary Doyle, Robert Long, Francis Madonia, Marybeth McNamara, Janelle Pisciotta

**1977**—Val Constantine, Josephine Dell-Ponte, Kerrin Siegel, Kristen Siegel

**1997**—Michael DelVino

**2007**—Alexa-Mae Cendana, Michael Rojas, Toni Ann Simone

Please email [MTMC525@aol.com](mailto:MTMC525@aol.com) with any contact information you might have. Thank you in advance for your help!



## 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](mailto:mtmccombe@annunciationcrestwood.com).

Not sure if your idea is right for the newsletter? Get in touch with me prior to writing to discuss your idea, and see if we can work it out!