We entered grammar school at such a young age that some of us have no memory of that first day. But by the time we were in 8th grade, we were the big fish in a little pond and, as we contemplated high school, many gave thought to what they wanted to be when they grew up. Some achieved the dreams of those 13- and 14-year-old graduates. Others found different paths as education, time and circumstances moved them along a different course.

We asked our alumni: When you were in 8th grade, what did you want to be when you grew up? And what are you now? Here we present some of the answers and stories about how and why they have chosen the paths they did.

Bruce Connors ’60 pictured himself working in design, probably fashion, when he was in 8th grade, but admits that he had no great desire to grow up! He is now in his 47th year as a director/cameraman/editor/producer in the film and video business. He says, “I’ve been fortunate to work in 20 countries, work with some of the top talent in the industry, shoot thousands of TV commercials, edit programs for PBS and the Travel Channel, and produce professional education programs for doctors, lawyers and accountants. As for fashion, I have worked with Bill Blass, Calvin Klein and Karl Lagerfeld among others.”

“I had the very good fortune to teach my daughter the business, and she served as my producer for a number of years before her passing in 2006,” Bruce continues. He says, that business is still good. He travels throughout the country and is enjoying it more than ever. “I’ve still managed to avoid growing up! However, I have begun to think about it. There’s a lovely restaurant in Key West, Louie’s Back Yard, that has outdoor tables that terrace down to the ocean, and right at the bottom is a small bar that seats maybe eight people. If I could get a gig for two or three nights a week tending that bar and fishing at my leisure the rest of the time, that is what I’d like to do when I grow up.”

Bob Linderman ’66 wanted to be a priest. The September after 8th grade graduation, he entered the Carmelite minor seminary in Middletown, NY. He stayed for 7-1/2 years and still has close friends who are current or former Carmelites.

After leaving the Carmelites, Bob went to graduate school and eventually, after a few detours, became a teacher. He taught in Newport News, Hopewell and the Williamsburg-James schools in Virginia as a special education teacher, with a specialty in math and social studies. For most of his career, he was a high school teacher in schools with high poverty rates, and worked with students with significant behavior problems. His last full-time teaching position was working in an inpatient setting where students were placed for behavioral issues. He retired in 2014, but still works as a substitute teacher and also as a security officer. He says he is looking forward to social security in a year.
Letters to the Editor

I enjoyed reading Jim Light’s article in the October edition of *The Annunciator*. I remember living down the street from him on Juana Street. Hello, Jim!

Ellin Collabetta Duggan ’64

Good article. I too remember Jim from Little League days. He was a good catcher.

Nick Florio ’66

I enjoyed reading the latest issue of newsletter, especially the article by Jimmy Light, who was our next door neighbor (he mentions my brother Mike ’65 in the story). I have a short video clip my dad took of the boys on the day of their Confirmation and would like to send it to him. Do you have his email address? Thanks in advance and keep up the great work.

Paul Salvati ’71

(Editor's Note: Paul and Jim got in touch and the video was shared.)

I enjoyed Mike Maiello’s article about Norman Rockwell. I have a copy of that painting hanging in my museum with an old picture of the actual station hanging above it. People often stop to look at it.

My father grew up in New Rochelle and was a neighbor of Norman Rockwell, who lived there at the time. My father is in one of Rockwell’s SEP covers in 1917. I love his work and have visited several Norman Rockwell museums.

Peggy Keyes

What a wonderful write up. I know you had a lot of good material, but you deserve much credit for your style and compassion. Crestwood & Annunciation really responded so well. As I've said before you keep raising the bar in journalism excellence.

I also enjoyed the Norman Rockwell Crestwood Station article. Being an ex-commuter, your life is controlled by a time table.

Jim Hanifer ’48

Just a note to say thank you for your continued efforts to produce the Annunciation alumni newsletter. This most recent edition is truly outstanding.

Vinnie D’Alessandro ’57

My husband, Mark, and I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated the beautiful memorial Mass for deceased alumni of Annunciation School. It was especially well done and reflected a great deal of thoughtful planning and hard work. As always, it was wonderful to be back at Annunciation. Thank you again.

Jean O’Leary Gaffney ’66

I thought the carnations given at the deceased alumni Mass were a beautiful touch and a wonderful way of acknowledging the families present. Thank you.

Laura Sinatra

Reunion 2017 News

Classes of 1957 & 1962
Please mark your calendar for a luncheon on May 13, 2017

Please mark your calendar now for the evening of
April 29, 2017
Youthful Aspirations

Continued from page 1

Dan Ricci ‘73 wanted to be a deep sea diver, exploring ancient shipwrecks. He also wanted to collect classic Rolls Royces like Mr. Samuels on Chittenden Avenue had. Instead, Dan became a history/government teacher and teaches at Mahopac High School. However, making good on at least a portion of his 8th grade dreams, Dan purchased a 1946 Chrysler New Yorker last summer.

Cathy Florio Revellese ‘74 wanted to be a teacher in 8th grade. She always knew she wanted to go into education. She jokingly says what motivated her was, “love for children first and love of vacation second!”

In order to pursue her dream, she went to Our Lady of Victory Academy and then to the College of Mt. St. Vincent, where she received B.A. in math with a minor in education. She received her first master’s degree in early childhood education at Lehman College and a second master’s in library sciences at Syracuse University. Cathy has worked at P.S. 46 in the Bronx and taught 2nd grade for ten years. She was a public school librarian at both P.S. 310 and P.S. 230 in the Bronx. She is currently a public school librarian at the Creston Campus Academy, where she has worked for eight years.

Cathy loves what she does because she loves sharing stories with the children and helping them to develop a love of reading. She and her husband, Arthur, live in Yonkers and are parents of two children—Dawn (25) and A.J. (22).

John Johnson ‘75 wanted to be a motorcycle cop in the California Highway Patrol. Today, he lives in California, and he rides a Harley, but instead, he is the CEO of an independent brokerage firm called National Planning Corporation.

The path from 8th grade to CEO took an unusual route. After graduating from Fordham Prep, John went to Binghamton University (SUNY), where he was an English major. His first job out of college was as a cab driver for Crestwood Taxi. He then worked in customer service for Dun & Bradstreet. It was a negotiation with his future wife, Denise, as to where they would live that led him to California. “After we were married in the spring of 1987, our honeymoon was a cross-country trip to California,” John says.

His first job in California was in customer service for a financial services company. After 14 years there, he left to join a new start-up called National Planning Corp. He worked his way up the ladder and is now CEO of a company that records $1 billion in revenue annually. John’s best advice for new college graduates, “Most of career success lies in your ability to communicate and influence folks you have no control over. Be loyal, patient and persevere. Your time will come.”

Mary Theresa Gill McCombe ‘75 wanted to be a doctor when she was 13 years old. “I wanted to help people,” she says, “and I had good grades, so I thought medicine made a lot of sense. But then when I got to high school, I realized two things—I didn’t like science all that much, and I realized that there was an awful lot of pain in medicine that I couldn’t handle—either seeing people in pain or causing people pain while trying to heal them. Instead, I became an auditor for KPMG. Some might say auditing is painful too, but I kind of enjoyed it!”

In 1992, she became a stay-at-home mother and looked for opportunities to give back by volunteering at various charities. Her love of Annunciation School and parish, where she sent her children and raised her family, was the impetus behind resurrecting the alumni program at the school, which she began in 2009 and has continued since. Now, instead of numbers, she spends much of her time with words, writing articles for The Annunciator and also for Our Lady of Fatima’s alumni newsletter, Our Fatima Family.

Maura McMahon Schmid ‘76 remembers, at the age of 8, wanting to be a pilot. She had gone to Ireland that summer, and when she got back to New York, she told her uncle that she wanted to be a flight attendant. She wanted to see differ-

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Youthful Aspirations

Continued from page 3

When he mentioned that pilots make more money, she thought, “Ok, I will be a pilot.” She still remembers making a cutout of a pilot in 4th grade to hang on the wall outside of class for an assignment to draw what you wanted to be when you grew up. And she never wavered in that desire. Today she is a pilot, spending the last 28 years flying for UPS.

Knowing that she wanted to be a pilot made college decisions very easy. After graduating from Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel in 1980, Maura went on to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical science in 1984. Along with the degree, she left college with her commercial instrument multi-engine pilot license. She spent three years flying various items—cancelled checks, next-day film developing and the U.S. mail.

She then moved to San Francisco to fly for American Eagle. After 2 years, she moved to Kentucky to fly for UPS at a time when she was able to get in on the ground floor of their next day air flight program.

A mother of four children, she was able to arrange her schedule to be home every day when they were little. Now that they are older, she feels that she can be gone a bit more. In fact, she had a layover in California and had dinner with her classmate Meg Hill Nealon in December, and in January, she was in Florida and had dinner with her classmate Jeanne Langenauer Carter.

Maura recognizes that she is fortunate to have been hired by UPS at the age of 26. “There are over 2,700 pilots at UPS, and I am 200 in terms of seniority. There are huge numbers of pilots retiring every month, so I just keep getting more senior!”

She also points out that there is a major pilot shortage in the country and the rest of the world. As such, it is a great time to start out in this industry. With many colleges offering degrees and flight programs in aviation, there are many places to obtain the necessary 4-year degree.

Kathy Ansbro ’78 wanted to be a psychologist. Instead she has done many different jobs over the years: bartender, assistant comptroller and licensed insurance agent. She also raised two children—Alexandra (23) and Darren (22). She now works from home as an independent contractor selling cruises for one of the major lines, which gives her the freedom of schedule she likes so that she can travel. She has been to Europe twice, and she and her boyfriend will be doing different motorcycle road trips within the U.S. in the future. Kathy lives in Sebastian, FL.

Jim Keyes ’81 knew he wanted a career in music after singing “Rhinestone Cowboy” in 4th grade at the school concert organized by former music teacher Mr. Taggart. And that career is what he has successfully pursued. He sings and plays multiple instruments, all self-taught, including the guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, harp, accordion, piano and organ. A member of various bands, he is lead guitar and vocals in Hot Rod Pacer, accordion, guitar and vocals in The Tappan Cowboys, and sits in time to time with other bands as necessary. He is also often called on to play on other people’s records, most recently playing Hammond organ and piano on an album soon to be released by Fred Gillen, Jr.

Visitors to the 2008 Historic Hudson Valley’s installations “Winter Wonderlights” and “The Great Jack-O-Lantern Blaze” have heard Jim’s work because he scored the music accompanying each. You can hear Jim’s music on network and cable television shows. He is currently a “green-light” composer for Getty Images, meaning his songs are pre-approved. His strong connection to the Hudson River inspired him to release his fourth CD of original music, Time on the Water, a collection of songs paying homage to life along the river.

In addition to his music, Jim earns a living as an audio engineer and doing voiceovers. Jim says, “The only education I’ve had in audio is from my father, Larry Keyes ’51, who...
Youthful Aspirations

Continued from page 4

was an audio engineer for Columbia Records for over thirty years. From him, I learned microphone, recording and mixing techniques. Upon his passing in 2007, I inherited his microphones, which I use in all of my work. Technology has changed a great deal since the days when I learned from my dad using audio tape, so I’ve taught myself to use computers for audio recording and editing.”

His voiceover work results from performing as a musician and storyteller over more than twenty years. Jim says, “Generally, a voiceover artist will read copy given by a client. The artist will usually provide a few different versions, with varying inflections and speed. Sometimes the client specifies how long a reading needs to be, down to the second. Most voiceover artists must go to a studio, which the client provides, to be recorded. I’m able to eliminate that step by having my own studio to record in, although I’ve also recorded other artists, sometimes bringing equipment to the artist’s location, to record there.”

Ellen Keyes Moyer ‘90 wanted to be a teacher when she was in 8th grade. Today, she is a 2nd-grade teacher at Langtree Charter Academy in Mooresville, NC. She says that her mother, who was a teacher, and former Annunciation 8th-grade teacher, Mrs. Muriel O’Neill, were her biggest inspirations.

“I wanted to be Mrs. O’Neill. I loved being in her class and was lucky enough to get to do so twice. She was my teacher in 5th grade and then again in 8th,” says Ellen.

Mrs. O’Neill’s class opened up a world outside of Crestwood for Ellen. “My favorite part of her class was current events. She would bring out a reel projector and show us all the current world leaders. I remember learning about Margaret Thatcher, Emperor Akihito of Japan, NATO and Tiananmen Square.” Ellen remembers that she was a firm teacher, who maintained her sense of humor and made it okay for the students to make mistakes as long as they were leaning how to correct them.

Ellen, who is the mother of 3 girls, says, “Today, I am a teacher, and my kids seem to think I’m pretty cool. I wouldn’t trade this career for anything in the world.”

Who Wants to Yell BINGO?!!

One of the most popular Home School Association events of the year!

On Friday, January 27, the HSA hosted Bingo for school families. Prizes filled the stage and kids studied their cards intently for the opportunity to yell “BINGO” at the top of their lungs. What could be better than multi-generational fun in the gym on a cold winter night?
Imagine being 90 years old. Imagine being a 90-year-old building. Imagine being a 90-year-old building built for public service; constructed for children and adults to use and to learn in. Imagine being a 90-year-old public library—the Crestwood Library. Imagine that if it had a memory, what it would know—what it would have seen.

It would know the wonder of little children discovering the universe of books on its walls. It would have seen so many times the wide eyes and heard as many times the glee that walks hand-in-hand with “finding things out.” There would have been countless gasps of astonishment recorded in its memory as stories reached crescendos or pictures revealed something never ever seen before. It could have been a drawing of the rasping teeth of a Tyrannosaurus, the description of a haunted house, or the words of a beautiful princess in love that caught the breath of the little ones sitting on those tiny chairs in its cozy basement room. Just imagine being filled with that happiness time and time again. To have seen the generations relive those precious, first-time moments must have been magical.

Upstairs, in its “living room,” built for solace with fireplace, comfy chairs and a librarian’s desk that does not intimidate but in fact invites, the library would have observed its many guests, some with their quiet scholarship, others of ardent intensity researching this or that, and those who came for the joy of it (revealing themselves with a subdued giggle after reading a clever or even outrageous line). Here too, it would have heard the many whispers of those searching through titles, or the more obvious (louder) requests for help that its small space cannot protect the quieter users from. Many times over, it would record a sound that defined what it was made for: the turning of—by now—what must be millions of pages. That singular, quiet, comforting sound of reading.

The library’s beautiful doors and homey entrance would have seen the passage of so many things: the carrying-cards of three generations, give or take. Curled hairstyles and corsets of the ‘30s, fedoras from the ‘40s, bouffants and poof cuts from the ‘50s, bell bottoms and Beatle haircuts from the ‘60s—they all passed through those doors. In the ‘70s, polyester leisure suits (polyester everything!) entered and later in the ‘80s, leg warmers, usually accompanied by scrunchies helped many a visitor through the warm embrace of the library’s entrance. Torn jeans and grungy shirts made their 1990s appearances. It wasn’t long after that iPhones were carried into its friendly confines. And, who opened those doors each day? All those many, delightful, helpful and all-knowing librarians who served so graciously and still do, that’s who. Many visitors and many hosts: the library welcomed them all. It would have been fun to see the changes and the many faces (the library did!) as the decades flew by.

And now at 90-plus, the little building that nurtured our youths and comforted our adulthoods goes on into the future with its mission unchanged. It will, I hope, see a future as long, as deeply enchanting and important as its past.

Note to our readers: first, thanks for reading my little bits of the past! Second, my mother was wonderful at keeping a small box of mementos from our days in Crestwood most of which are connected to my time at Annunciation School (a great Catholic elementary school!). Unfortunately, one thing missing from the collection is an old Crestwood Library bookmark from the 1960s or 1970s. They came in all sorts of colors and had a delightful drawing of the library’s entrance on it. If anyone has one I won’t deprive you of it, but perhaps you can scan both sides and send one to our editor at mtmc525@aol.com for relay to me. I would be eternally grateful. And just for the record, we all know that the Crestwood Library turned 90 in 2016. MM

Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Annunciation School are on Facebook! Don’t miss out on all the news!
A wonderful response by both alumni and parishioners alike has brought the 2016-2017 Annunciation School Annual Fund to nearly 55% of this year's $75,000 goal. The appeal, which was mailed out in November, encouraged timely giving so that we could take advantage of a $10,000 matching gift offer that was only available through December 31, 2016. As a result of your generosity, the entire $10,000 was utilized, and the Annual Fund now stands at $41,097!

As you know from our Annual Fund appeal letter, money from the Annual Fund has allowed the school to fund additional educational positions, especially in the area of mathematics. Your support can be directly tied to improved scores in state testing in math for Annunciation School students.

In addition to the Annual Fund, revenue comes in the form of tuition and fees, mandated services payments from New York State, non-Annual Fund donations from individuals, donations from the Men’s Club and Home School Association and a subsidy from the parish. This past year, a number of capital improvements were undertaken at the school, including new lighting and video monitors to improve security. Two of the six air conditioning units were replaced. (Annunciation School has been air conditioned since the 1990s.) The flat roof on the two-story classroom building (what some might call the “new” school!) was replaced. Those improvements are hard to see but critical to the functioning of the school.

More visible improvements include new lighting in the gym and the installation of a walkway from the front of the school to the rear of the school. Many will remember taking a shortcut over the grass on the south side of the single-story portion of the school to get into the schoolyard. The path that was worn into the grass is now a beautiful walkway, complete with handrail. Today, Annunciation students enter and exit school through the schoolyard. Current parents are pleased with the safer pathway to drop-off and pick-up their children.

Future capital needs for the school include roofing over the gym and gym floor replacement. The remaining A/C units will need to be replaced as well. We are proud of the facility that we offer today’s students and are always striving to make sure that there are no surprises—heat works in the winter and air conditioning works on hot days!

Your donation to the Annual Fund is most appreciated. If you haven’t yet made your donation this year, please consider doing so by clicking on the link below or mailing your check to the address shown below. Every dollar is utilized to continue to provide the best religious and academic education that our school has always been known for.

**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](http://school.annunciationcrestwood.com/giving)

**Donations by check**

*Payable to Annunciation School*

465 Westchester Avenue

Crestwood, NY 10707

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*New path to rear schoolyard*
Around the Church and School

Second-graders observe, hypothesize and discuss the three states of matter.

Students collected toys in December to donate to the Cardinal McCloskey toy drive for children in Head Start and foster care programs.

Members of the Class of 2017 received their class rings in November.

Our 8th-grade students prepare to head to Dunwoodie to present their ITV program.
Classmates from 1986, Kimberly White Breen and Tina Pietrantuono DellaMonica, were reunited at the Annunciation School Halloween carnival. Kim is the mother of twin 8th graders, Jack and Daniel, and co-President of the Ladies' Guild. Tina is a new school mom. Her son, C.J., is in PreK-3.

A long-time tradition, the Halloween Carnival is run by the 8th-grade students who create games to entertain the students in other grades. The funds raised from the carnival go toward graduation festivities later in the school year.

One last Father-Daughter dance for these 8th-graders and their alumni parents. Left to right: Lauren Martyn and her father, Tom ‘83; Caroline Conlon and her father, John ‘77; Mikaela Walsh and her father, Brian ‘82; and Meagan and Claire McMahon with their father, John ‘78. The Father-Daughter dance takes place in the fall.

As cute as can be! The PreK performs at the Christmas concert, providing a morning of song and smiles.


When there was an opening in the 3rd Grade, Ann moved up to fill that position. Half of her prior 2nd-grade class moved with her, allowing Mrs. O’Brien to see how the things she had taught in 2nd grade, carried over into the 3rd-grade curriculum. She felt that it was very helpful to already know so many of her students.

She found that she was pleasantly surprised to learn that her students were able to do so much more just one year later. “I found that there was much more quality composition work that the children were capable of. They were also better able to express themselves and discuss the things that we were learning. We could read books and then write letters to the authors expressing how we felt about their book. It was so interesting.”

And writing letters to authors is just one of the many lessons that Mrs. O’Brien taught the children as she tried to pass along her immense love of all things related to books. “If I had not become a teacher, I would have been a librarian,” she says. “I love children’s books, and my students will remember that I read to them every day before lunch.” She used to take them on a yearly trip to the Crestwood Library. Her students may also remember their annual “trip” to the school gym to learn about voting and see a voting machine, when Annunciation School’s gym used to be a voting location. She would explain the voting process and, the day after the election, the students would write congratulatory letters to the winners. Sometimes, the elected officials would write back.

She says that she really enjoyed challenging the students. “Every single day they would come into the classroom and the blackboard would have five to seven different questions about a whole range of topics. There was also always a riddle of the day.” She explains that the questions came from a teacher resource that she had found, and that she always took questions from a 4th-grade level. “I thought they were very talented students and could be challenged to think and answer things at least a grade level higher than their ages. We were able to get into some great discussions and then tie those discussions back to things they were learning.”

Students were divided into two reading groups and some of the children from Mrs. Zeitler’s class, the other 3rd-grade teacher, would come into Mrs. O’Brien’s class for reading. “I remember that, when the students were lining up in the yard prior to the start of the school day, that they would be lined up at my window, trying to get a peek at today’s riddle and the questions for the day. They really enjoyed working on things outside of the standard textbook.”

Though she loved being in the classroom and was happy every day she went to school, Ann made the decision to retire at the end of the school year in June 1999. She then devoted her time to volunteering at the Bedford Correctional Facility—a women’s prison. She says that her work with the women inmates was very eye-opening. “They just wanted someone to talk to and who would listen to them,” she recalls. Her volunteer work there continued for another seven or eight years.

Ann moved from her home on the corner of Hollywood Avenue and Kennedy Place just three years ago. Now a parishioner of St. Joseph’s in Bronxville, she also spends time at her home on the north fork of Long Island in Southold, as well as renting a place for three months every winter in Naples, FL, where she notes, she lives very near to Mary Ellen DiSenso—another longtime Annunciation faculty member. Ann loves that her lifelong friends are all still close by.

When asked what she loved best about Crestwood, she says that two things really come to mind. The first is that her children had a wonderful childhood growing up in our neighborhood, and they have lifelong friends from that childhood. The second is the generosity of the people who live there. “My husband passed away at a very young age. He was only 45 years old, and I had five children. When he was ill, and then passed away, there was no end to what people did for us. They cooked for us; they helped in every possible way. People were incredibly kind and caring.”

Ann says that she spends her days reading incessantly, sometimes reading two books at a time on her iPad. She does a daily crossword puzzle and plays golf when the weather cooperates. She has 16 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter who she loves spending time with, and they live across many states in the northeast. They all share a love of reading. “Two of my children followed me into education and three have law degrees. Two of my grandchildren have law degrees as well. I would say that we are very much a family who tends toward an affinity for the English language. We aren’t scientists; we love words.”
Health Issues—When Life Takes An Unexpected Turn

Just a few months ago, the only thing Rich Linderman ’69 knew about sepsis was that it was something he didn’t want to get. Little did he know that he was about to become much more familiar with this very serious condition. Sepsis is a complication caused by the body’s overwhelming and life-threatening response to an infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and even death. It kills more than 250,000 people in the United States each year.

Rich, an operations specialist with Tenet Healthcare’s performance management and innovation team, had traveled to Phoenix, AZ to visit hospitals in the Abrazo Community Health Network during the week of April 25, 2016. On April 27th, he was at their Arrowhead Campus in Glendale, AZ. About 90 minutes after finishing a late lunch, Rich experienced an extreme bout of nausea and chills. Since all of his scheduled meetings were complete, he decided to drive back to his hotel room and finish his work for the day. “I was 99.5 percent sure it was food poisoning,” Rich said. “I thought I could weather it back at my hotel.”

However, by the time he got to the parking lot of his hotel room his condition was worse and had declined further in the time it took him to reach his room. He called a colleague at the Arrowhead Campus, Chief Nursing Officer Robin Shepherd, who told him to dial 9-1-1 and get back to the hospital right away.

The ambulance was unable to take him to Arrowhead, so the paramedics called a cab to take him there. Rich was too weak by the time they reached the hospital, and had to be taken inside in a wheelchair. He credits the Arrowhead Emergency Department, ICU, patient care team and physicians with saving his life. “I was pretty close to meeting my maker,” he said.

Rich remembers being admitted to the ER, and being told he was being transferred to the ICU, but not much else. He has no memory of his 29-day stay there. Rich’s family in St. Louis was called and told they needed to come out. He later found out that he was awake for some of the 29 days, but not lucid.

Rich didn’t realize the severity of what was happening when he was first admitted. He was in full septic shock, which develops beyond severe sepsis and results in organ failure. Rich’s sepsis led to acute respiratory distress syndrome, known as ARDS, a life-threatening lung condition often caused by sepsis. ARDS develops quickly and drastically reduces the amount of oxygen your blood receives from your lungs. He was intubated and placed on a respirator to aid his breathing. His kidneys and liver were failing. “My heart was the only thing keeping me alive,” Rich said. “I had no clue about what was happening to me.”

The next thing Rich remembered was being transferred via an ICU-equipped air ambulance jet to Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital in Chesterfield, MO, which was closer to his St. Louis home. That was on May 26, and he stayed there for eight-and-a-half weeks.

When Rich first arrived at Mercy, his motor skills were so diminished that he could only wiggle his fingers and toes. He’s since made a lot of progress. Four weeks after leaving the rehab hospital, Rich said he could walk 1.05 miles on the treadmill without stopping. “Seven-and-a-half weeks ago, I could only walk six steps.”

The journey to recovery hasn’t been easy. “I’ve had easier missions in my life than this,” he said. “It’s tough. You really have to work hard and do what you need to do to get right. It’s a long fight back.” He advises anyone who is going through sepsis recovery not to give up. “There were times when I wanted to inflict pain on my physical and occupational therapists, but their persistence and expertise has been instrumental in my recovery,” Rich said. “By spring, I’ll be playing catch with my college softball-playing daughter.”

Rich hopes that others can learn from his experience. He likely got sepsis from a cut in his leg that he didn’t realize was infected. The infection led to cellulitis, which is one of the leading causes of sepsis. Rich was fortunate to speak to his colleague, who encouraged him to get to a hospital right away. Rapid treatment leads to significantly better outcomes for patients. Others can protect themselves and loved ones by learning the signs and symptoms of sepsis so that they can receive treatment as soon as possible. If you are someone you know have symptoms of sepsis, get to an emergency room right away.

This article, with minor edits, was published in Tenet Healthcare’s October Sepsis Awareness Newsletter.
Dick Monaco Retires from Annunciation Players

Dick Monaco has “retired” after almost 4 decades as head of the Annunciation Players. In August, he sent an email to those who are currently part of the group, announcing his plans to step down.

To All Annunciation Players:

In the late 1970s, I was approached with a simple request to produce a musical. Its purpose was to raise the spirits of our parish, which had experienced a tragic loss. The generous outpouring of talent and love was an inspiration that brought new joy, new friendships formed and a strong desire to continue performing that resulting in the birth of “The Annunciation Players.” As a result, I had the honor of writing, directing and producing many shows throughout the years.

At this advanced stage in my life, after so many shows, so many years, the time has come to “pass the baton,” leaving more time for other pursuits. I leave The Players in your many capable hands. The talents you contribute, the energy, hard work and devotion you all share, will continue to bring good people together, to encourage our young, and bring joy to a most appreciative and supportive parish for years to come.

I remain your ardent fan and supporter,

Dick Monaco

Over many years, Dick, who is the father of David ‘74, Rick ’75 and Gracelyn ’79, took the helm as head of the Annunciation Antics, later renamed the Annunciation Players. He and many, many other talented parishioners put on multiple productions that have delighted and entertained parishioners since the late 1970s. The casts changed over time though there are stalwarts who have been part of the troupe since the beginning.

One of many parishioners who has participated in the Annunciation Players productions over the years, Joe Furgiuele ’66, said the Annunciation Players was the essence of parish community. “Where else can you be on stage with your father and your grandfather?” In fact, Joe says that there have been as many as three or four generations of one family on stage. Ages of those in the productions can range from 8 years old to 88 years old. Joe says, “There is an enormous amount of work involved in these productions. This was noted by the parish in 2012 when Dick was given an award for being a ‘parish treasure.’”

Every production was special but there were some favorites. Dick recalls the “Hooray for Hollywood” production in 1982 and the “Romeos & Juliets” of just a few years ago as some of his favorites. “Hooray for Hollywood’ had an enormous cast of talented parishioners,” he said.

His son, Rick, watched his father’s work. “The shows evolved like Field of Dreams—if you build it, they will come. What started off as a smaller variety show, grew rapidly. People in the parish came out of the woodwork to share their talents. And it wasn’t just the very talented parishioners who were leaders of song at the time, like Leo Sweeney or Ben Marsalisi. It was also people like Sal Mancino who did sound and Sonny DeVito who handled lighting and electrical needs. Joan LaSala and Wynn Camas organized dance routines. By the second or third show, my father was having to make really hard decisions about which material would make it to the stage.”

Marie Monaco, Dick’s wife, a former music teacher at Annunciation School and Players rehearsal pianist, remembers when there were so many performers in some productions that they could not all fit on the stage to take a bow. “We had people on the stage, people in front of the stage on the floor, people on the stairs on both sides of the stage.” She also recalls the incredible artists that helped design and create the most amazing sets.

Rick recalls that through it all, his father balanced the monumental pressure of these productions with his professional life in the Yonkers public education system and his responsibilities as a father. “My dad was a great principal, a wonderful family man, and a talented thespian. He took it all in stride and made each production an incredibly positive experience.”

Along with the transition in leadership, the name of the group has been changed to reflect the new parish name. The Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Players will now be headed by Frank D’Erasmo, who has been involved with the group since 2008. Frank is a design engineer by vocation, working on food, chemical and pharmaceutical plants throughout the world, and a musician by avocation. His home music studio has allowed him to bring the musical arrangements and production for the Players into the

Dick Monaco accepts the Annunciation Parish Treasures award from Msgr. Dennis Keane in 2012.

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Welcoming Fr. Livinus Anweting

Fr. Livinus Anweting joined Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Parish as an associate at the end of September 2016. He is a native of Okopedi Okobo, Nigeria, and attended the provincial major seminary of St. Joseph, Ikot Ekpene - Nigeria. He was ordained for Uyo Diocese on December 18, 2004, and served in some parishes in his home diocese before embarking on studies in the United States in 2010.

Father has a degree in pastoral counseling from Loyola University Chicago and is currently at the dissertation stage in the religious education Ph.D program at Fordham University. During his time at Fordham, Fr. Livinus has been assigned to a number of parishes in the New York Archdiocese, including Immaculate Conception-Our Lady of the Assumption in Tuckahoe, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the Bronx and St. John the Evangelist in Mahopac, before arriving at our parish.

Father recalls, as early as when he was in high school, that he was discerning but uncertain about becoming a priest. In an effort to allow for a clearer discerning, and with the guidance of his parents, he decided to take a teaching job at a nursery/primary school, teaching students who are the equivalent of our 8th graders. It was after completion of two years of teaching that he decided to enter the seminary.

Fr. Livinus is one of seven children. He grew up in the village of Okopedi Okobo, which is in southern Nigeria (part of the Niger Delta region). He goes home annually to visit his family, a trip that takes nearly 17 hours with a layover. He says that it is worth every minute to be able to see his five brothers, one sister, his parents, and grandmother whom he misses very much.

In his spare time, he loves to write and has written several articles that have been published in various magazines. He also loves to listen to music, preferring genres that are calming, such as classical music. He is a runner and, when he is in Nigeria, he plays soccer. “I am trying to learn all about American football while I am here,” he said.

“Academically, I like the education here in the United States. I also like the people in the parishes. They have been welcoming and wonderful,” Father says.

Father hopes to complete his degree some time this year and from there, is open to what the Spirit and his Bishop directs. Father says, “Returning to Nigeria at some point to be a formator at the seminary or teach at any of the Catholic universities will be fulfilling.”

Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima welcomes Fr. Livinus and hopes that he enjoys his stay with us.

Monaco

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21st century by digitally orchestrating the music—a real benefit during rehearsals—and providing the audience and cast with the full sound of a Broadway pit orchestra instead of just piano with drums.

Frank will be using this year’s production, “Hooray for...The Bronx” as an opportunity to elevate some of the older teens into leading roles. “I am really impressed with the dedication of these teens. They balance school, dance lessons, singing lessons and performances with theatre companies elsewhere in Westchester with their desire to be part of our parish production.”

He also notes that he has the very necessary help of a group of parishioners to assist in this production. Alyssa DiPanfilo ’08 will be the production’s director. Mary Ann Penzero will be the choreographer, Tommy O’Moore will handle staging and be the assistant choreographer and Sal Mancino and Frank Keffas will be the audio engineers. Kathee Eyth Shost ’52 and Deirdre Tracey are also instrumental as they provide stage manager and administrative assistance. “We have no ringers in our production. We strive to be the best possible production that we can be with all of our parish talent. We are blessed to have a really good talent pool here,” he said.

As parting advice, Dick encourages everyone to get involved in The Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Players. “Our parishioners will find that they will form lasting friendships as they give back to the parish community by utilizing their incredible talents.”
Catholic Schools Week Begins with Mass

Annunciation School celebrated with Catholic schools all across the country during the last week of January/first week of February. The theme of this year’s Catholic Schools Week was “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge & Service.”

The school kicked the week off on Sunday, January 29, with the 10 a.m. family Mass, where Annunciation students and families celebrated and offered thanks for the beautiful gift of a Catholic education. Students, dressed in uniform, brought up items symbolic of one aspect of their Catholic school education. Each grade was represented and the 6th-graders and 8th-graders each recognized alumni in different ways.

- The pre-Kindergarteners brought a set of paints and a CD to symbolize the special subjects of art, music, library, Spanish and gym that students are fortunate to participate in at Annunciation.
- The Kindergarteners brought a Bible and a cross. These symbols of our faith are daily reminders of the mission of the school.
- The first-graders brought books from the first-grade classroom. These books remind us of the world we can explore through the adventures of reading.
- The second-graders brought cans of food for the Feeding Our Neighbors campaign of Catholic Charities food drive that the school participated in that week, reminders of God’s call to share our blessings with others.
- The third-graders brought forth flashcards, symbols of the facts and truths that govern the world around us.
- The fourth-graders brought thank you cards for the parents and families who sacrifice to allow their children to receive a Catholic school education.
- The fifth-graders brought forth a laptop and an iPad, which symbolize the technology that Annunciation students are fortunate to have through the generosity of our parents, alumni and members of the church and school community.
- The sixth-graders brought planbooks to reminds us of the hours of planning, preparation, and grading that our teachers spend for our education.
- The seventh-graders brought forth an American flag, which reminds us of the country that we are blessed to live in and the freedoms, opportunities, and access to education that we have.
- The eighth-graders, all of whom are children of alumni, brought forth yearbooks, which remind us of the alumni who have graduated from this school and all of the eighth-graders who will become alumni in June. During Catholic Schools Week, we remember the alumni who continue to generously support our school in many ways. We pray for them and in a special way, we remember and appreciate all of our alumni who have chosen to come back to Annunciation to educate their own children.

A special collection was taken up at all Masses that day to support the school’s Annual Fund.

All week special daily events were planned—including crazy sock and crazy tie day—ending with an open house for parents on Friday morning, from the opening of school until 9:40 a.m. Then all were invited to a 10 a.m Mass, the culmination of which was the blessing of throats for the Feast of St. Blaise.

In a continued spirit of giving, students were asked to donate a pair of men’s socks to support the parish Midnight Run ministry on “crazy sock and tie day,” in addition to their contributions to the Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign.
Deaths

Please pray for the souls of the following deceased alumni:

Judy Horncastle DiMenna ’57, sister of Mary Jane ’60 and the late Raymond ’54
William Lang ’69
Thomas McQuillen ’68, brother of Elizabeth ’71 and Joanne ’73
Patricia Gibbons Zapanta ’77, sister of Maureen and the late Kathleen ’74

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

Nicholas Steven Khoury, infant son of Carolyn Alvino ’96
Anne Marie McGovern, mother of Nancy ’71, Suzy ’72 and Sheila ’74
Gina Guarascio, mother of Carmelina ’70, Nancy and Bernardo and grandmother of six, including Gabriella ’06 and Brianna ’08
Muriel Tracy, mother of Gerard ’62, Kathleen ’63, Patricia ’66, Tim ’66, Maryjo ’68, Terence ’72, Kerry ’75 and Megan ’81
Anthony Quinlan, husband of Miriam O’Donnell ’56 and father of Thomas ’89, James ’90 and Matthew ’96
Angelo Ricchezza, father of Jeanne ’70 and Joseph ’73 and grandfather of Olivia ’15 and Gregory ’15
Mary Hill, mother of Jim ’74, Ed ’75, Meg ’76 and Frank ’78. Mary was also a former faculty member.

Deceased Alumni Mass Held November 5

The Annunciation School Deceased Alumni Mass was held at Annunciation Church on Saturday, November 5, at 5 p.m. The month of November is a special time when the school community remembers all those who have been students at Annunciation School and have passed away. Almost 230 alumni are prayed for at the Mass.

Each year, the families of deceased alumni are invited to the Mass either by email or mailed invitations. Mass is always more crowded than usual as not only are the alumni families invited, but also members of the current Annunciation School community who have made a month-long commitment of prayer.

Each year, more than 60 school families commit to pray for specific deceased alumni during the month of November. Many of these families make the same commitment each year, and are assigned the same names each year. As a result, the names of our deceased alumni have become familiar to them. The school families have said that this familiarity has been a wonderful aspect of this tradition.

In the past, students from the 8th grade have read the names of every deceased alumnus during the Mass. Because the list is so long, a decision was made to halt the listing of names and instead place the names on the altar printed on two large poster boards. At the end of the Mass, Fr. Grippo, pastor of Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Parish, invited all family members of our deceased to come to the altar for a special group blessing and to receive a red carnation in remembrance.

This tradition could not continue without the help and dedication of the school families whose month-long prayers help hold these alumni in our hearts.

We pray for the soul of the following deceased faculty member:

Sr. Rosanne O’Rourke, Principal from 1959-1965

You can find us on the Web at http://School.AnnunciationCrestwood.com
Births

Tiernan Nicholas Grogan was born on November 10, 2016, weighing in at 7 lbs., 14 ozs. to Sean Grogan ‘02 and his fiancé, Kristen Vitillo. The family lives in Albany, NY, where Sean is an HRIS analyst for Daymon Worldwide.

John Manning ‘48 and his wife, Veronica, welcomed their first great-grandchild in August. Little Emilia Grace is also the first grandchild for Carolyn Manning Palomba ‘74 and her husband, Ed. Emilia’s parents are Eddie and Lizzie Palomba. Everyone posed for a happy picture with Emilia, below.

Milestones

Engagements

George Apostolopoulos ‘06 became engaged to Katie Lynch on October 8, 2016. George and Katie met while both working at Iona College. George is a remediation specialist for Restore Core, Inc., in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. Katie is a head softball coach and operations coordinator at Cedar Crest College in Allentown.

Marriages

Meghan Gallen ‘98 married Matthew Pepe on October 1, 2016, at Annunciation Church. The couple met in 2010 while living in San Francisco, CA. They enjoyed a honeymoon in South Africa and now reside in White Plains, NY. Meghan is a nurse manager, and Matt works as a consultant.

John ‘74 and Diane Doyle Vezza ‘75 welcomed their first grandchild, John Matthew Vezza, on November 28. Jack, as he will be called, is the first child of Matthew ‘00 and his wife, Christina. Matt’s sister, Katie ‘03, will be Jack’s godmother. Diane and John still live in Crestwood and Matt, Christina and baby Jack live in Scarsdale. Jack, dressed in his Annunciation colors, poses with John and Matt, below.

James Kosky proposed to Arianna Apostolopoulos ‘08 on November 20, 2016. The couple have known each other for more than five years. Arianna is a trial prep assistant in the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, and James is presently a project leader at Nature’s Bounty Company in Ronkonkoma.

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**Class Notes**

**1957**

**Marilyn Niesz Caravetta** writes, “Happy New Year from Southwest, FL. We are here for a few months and had a wonderful Christmas. Our youngest daughter, Michelle, got engaged to David, and our oldest granddaughter, Taylor, had our first great-granddaughter, Sage Lillian. Our grandson, Michael, got engaged to Casey, and they will start their new life while Michael is serving in the Navy on the West Coast. That is exactly how Paul and I started out—4 years in the Navy. A happy end of 2016 and beginning of 2017.”

Marilyn is celebrating her 43rd year in real estate in the western Connecticut area, and is happy to report 2016 was a great year, and 2017 is already shaping up to be a good one as well. She says, “I can’t really remember what I wanted to be in 8th grade, but can’t imagine having had a better life. My childhood growing up in Crestwood, and Annunciation years, are loaded with fond memories. I have my lasting friendships with two classmates and the closeness I have always experienced with my brother and cousins, who also have the Crestwood and Annunciation roots. It’s a wonderful place to grow up and, having driven through recently, it still looks and feels exactly the same as when I left.”

**1965**

**Peter Auteri** retired from Verizon (and its predecessor Companies—NJ Bell & Bell Atlantic) in May 2015 after 42 years. He started in June 1973 as an assistant engineer and retired as a lead engineer. Peter has found lots of new things to do in retirement. He is a commissioner for the Pompton Lakes Shade Tree Commission, where he lives in New Jersey. He and his wife are on the marriage prep team in their parish of St. Mary’s, also in Pompton Lakes, where Pete is an usher at the Saturday evening Mass. He and his wife also happily babysit their 2-1/2-year-old granddaughter one morning a week.

Pete is a runner for the last 18 years and a member of the Garden State Track Club. He runs anything from a 5K to a marathon and totals somewhere between 15 to 20 races a year. He is looking forward to running in the 2017 Boston Marathon, his fourth one in Boston and 25th marathon overall.

**1969**

**Michael P. Coneys** will retire from employment with the Board of Education of the City of New York on February 3, 2017 after nearly thirty years as a civil service attorney with the school district. In retirement, Michael will continue to serve pro bono as chairman and president of The Leo House (leohousenyc.com) the not-for-profit Catholic guesthouse in Manhattan, on whose Board of Directors he has served since 1991, and as chairman and president since 2006. In addition, Michael will continue to serve pro bono as recording secretary for the Board of Directors of Virtual Enterprises International, Inc. (veinternational.org), the not-for-profit corporation he helped to found that has developed and operates the national educational/curricular program, in which middle school, high school and college students operate every school day in their classrooms all aspects of simulated small businesses (e.g., www.nuappsnyc.com, fvoftthegrid.wixsite.com/fvhs, veolympicinsurance.wixsite.com/olympicinsurance and travelonadimemagazine.weebly.com) with a teacher and a volunteer professional business mentor(s) to gain a broad range of interdisciplinary skills. He will also continue to serve pro bono as third vice president of the Board of Directors of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc., the not-for-profit corporation that operates Fraunces Tavern Museum in Manhattan, and promotes many patriotic, civic, educational, historical and charitable causes and events (frauncestavernmuseum.org, sonsoftherevolution.org). At the same time, Michael is caring for his aged parents and his elder, mentally disabled brother.

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**Class Notes**

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1961

Suzan Lamberson ’55 tells us that her brother is looking for a kidney donor. Gary Lamberson lives in Westport, CT and can be reached at 203-254-7228.

1975

Frank Doherty, known professionally as Frank Murphy, is one of two new hosts for the 33rd season of East Tennessee PBS Scholars’ Bowl, an academic head-to-head competition between 53 high school teams from East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky. Both new hosts are also radio personalities. Murphy works at Classic Hits 93.1 WNOX and Jack Ryan is heard on Merle-FM.

Fifty-two episodes will be aired between January 2, 2017 and March 17, 2017. The annual Scholars’ Bowl showcases the top academic students and promotes scholastic excellence in a competitive setting.

1989

Virginia Coleman-Prisco successfully completed her doctor of education degree in curriculum, teaching, learning and leadership from Northeastern University in December 2016. She was also accepted as a research fellow for 2016-2017 with the Open Education Group sponsored by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. She presented her research findings at the 13th Annual Open Education Conference in Richmond, VA in November 2016, and will present the findings again at the OER17: The Politics of Open Conference in London, UK in April 2017.

Thomas Quinlan reports that the cybersecurity company he works for in London, United Kingdom—Blue Coat—has been acquired by Symantec. It was a $4.65 billion acquisition. In an interesting twist, the CEO of the acquired company has become the CEO of the new combined company.

2013

Katie McLoughlin, a senior at The Ursuline School, is quite the athlete. So far this school year, she has been named player of the week by The Journal News in basketball and volleyball during each of their respective seasons, as well as being named to the Super 7 by The Journal News, an honor recognizing the top seven basketball players in the Hudson Valley. In January, she was named Con Edison Athlete of the Week, and received its Westchester Scholastic Sports award. She was interviewed on WHUD. Named 4th team All-State Volleyball and 5th team All-State Basketball, Katie also plays lacrosse for Ursuline, and is a captain for all three teams. She began her volleyball career at Annunciation and also played basketball at Annunciation.

Milestones

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Michael McCabe ’03 married Erin Riordan on July 23, 2016, at Annunciation Church. Erin is a special education teacher at School 16 in Yonkers. Mike is an associate at MC-Five Mile Commercial Mortgage Finance. The couple met in 2006 while waiting in line to buy tickets to a Fordham Prep-Iona Prep hockey game in Rye, NY. Michael’s brothers, Brian ‘10 and Daniel ‘12, were in the wedding party. After a honeymoon to London, Paris and the French Riviera, the couple is making their home in Bronxville, NY.