

## From The Pastor's Desk

**Dear Alumni, Parishioners, Family  
and Friends,**

This "Christmas" letter is being composed on the Eve of All Hallows, which seems an apt time, for we as a Church and a Catholic School, are always and forever living on the eve of the new thing God is doing in our midst. As we celebrate our 95th Anniversary as a Catholic School, and are on the eve of our 125th as a Parish next year, we know from our history that God has both written and redeemed our stories. He has "crossed" our paths at just the right times, with just the right people, so that we might stand our ground on the hope His Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection gives us, with eyes wide open for opportunities to share this good news with others. Mr. Thomasian exhorts us to share our St. Anthony story. I call it bearing witness.

On the Eve of all that is holy, as we share our St. Anthony stories; it happens again! Hiding in plain sight, often enough, is the realization that we are part of something much more marvelous than we could have ever asked for or imagined. It's something that we glimpse more easily at this time of year with trees that are ablaze but never burned; with holidays and

feasts for our families of origin, the broader human family and even the communion of Saints. How can this be? By the love of God!

St. Anthony Catholic School exists so that the next generation of children will be rooted and grounded in "these most real things," things invisible and yet eternal, which disclose the meaning and purpose of things seen. It exists so the children might recognize Jesus Christ, be lifted up by Him to the hope of heaven, and be equipped to help others have this same experience, even their own children and grandchildren. "If these walls could speak," they would have a tale to tell, of boys and girls laughing and playing, learning and growing, maturing and passing on the gift they had received, the gift they became in this sacred place.

Over the years St. Anthony Catholic School has been supported by a tremendous cloud of witnesses, ensuring that generations yet unborn will satisfy their hunger and thirst for truth at this oasis, this Bethlehem, this "House of (St. Anthony) Bread" here in Brookland. Some major donors and fundraising highlights are in each issue, and we treasure them all, but want the mainstay of our fundraising effort to be "a dollar a day" for all those who can make this sacrifice, and some sacrifice from all. Your generous contributions make your story come alive again!

As we enter the Adventure



Season, and prepare for Christmas, let me close with the faith Pope St. John Paul II left us: "The future for us remains an unknown quantity, which we now accept without anxiety. Love has overcome anxiety. The future depends on love." A Blessed and Merry Christmas, and a joyous New Year, to you all!

Grace and Peace,

**Fr. Fred**

# From the Principal's Desk

**Dear Alumni, Parishioners, and Friends:**

Here's my story! In 2000, prior to graduating from Assumption College in Worcester, MA, I researched dozens of service programs but only applied to one, Response-Ability. Soon after, I was accepted and invited by the Society of the Holy Child, the sponsoring congregation, to teach in Washington, DC. A few weeks later I traveled to Washington to interview with my future mentor and great friend, Mr. Bill Eager. Mr. Eager and Msgr. Richard Burton then invited me to join the faculty of this great institution. Seventeen years later my love for the school has only grown stronger! What's your story?

When I talk with visitors and donors I am always fascinated by their St. Anthony stories. I ask you to reflect on how you have been invited to join the St. Anthony family. Whether you're an alumnus, a parishioner, a parent, or a friend of the school—how did the Lord bring you to His school? Our paths to St. Anthony vary, yet the love for our school unites us. All of us care about the school and are doing our part to be faithful stewards of time, talent, and treasure. These are blessings for which to be grateful; for sure!

Looking ahead, there are many opportunities for participation in the Saint Anthony mission. First, we invite you to pray for us during this Advent season and beyond. Second we invite you to come home and attend upcoming events, and lastly we invite you to join our work by giving a financial gift to support our mission. **Your prayer, presence, and participation are significant to what we do each and every day.**

Consider joining us at our Donor Appreciation Reception on December 6, where we will honor two great stewards—Mary Seton Corboy and Jake Abbott. A few weeks later, seats will be reserved for you at

our Christmas shows on December 14 and 15. Other events include our February 18 Mardi Gras party, March 13 Science Fair, and May 2 Career Day. Of course, you can always call the school to schedule a tour as well. If you would like to RSVP or learn about these events please visit our website or contact me directly.

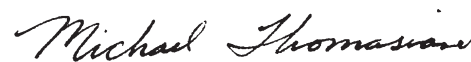
Finally, we always invite you to donate a financial gift. Your faithful stewardship allows the St. Anthony story to continue for future generations. Because of your generosity we award thousands of dollars in need-based scholarships each year. In addition, your support has helped us make repairs and complete special facility projects. Among the many summer projects were the restoration of the school's

bell tower and the creation of a brand new playground for our younger students. It is only through God's grace and your saying, "Yes!" to the invitation that we're able to do these awesome works for our students. Thank you!

In closing, let's continue to tell and live the St. Anthony story. May the Lord always bless you for who you are and for all that you do for St. Anthony Catholic School.

Wishing you peace and joy this Advent season.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



**Michael Thomasian**

Principal





# The Dominicans come to St. Anthony

At a time when religious orders are downsizing in Brookland, selling off parcels of their long-held properties in “Little Rome” to help care for older and infirmed members, two young religious have established a new foothold at our 95-year old parish school.

Sister John Peter, O.P., one of two Nashville Dominicans to arrive in August, is teaching fifth grade this school year. She enjoys the “sense of community” at Saint Anthony. She called her colleagues on the school staff “dedicated” and said that she senses that the parents and staff members enjoy being around one another. “There’s a certain sense of pride,” she said of the history of St. Anthony.

Sister John Peter grew up in Seattle, among other places, with her family. Her father was a lawyer who taught and practiced law, and the family had to move a number of times due to the nature of his work. In 2006, she joined the Nashville Dominicans, a teaching order that wears the traditional Dominican habit.

“As much as people need physical assistance,” she said of helping the poor and hungry, “there’s a deeper yearning for truth, meaning, and love.” In her striving for the “truth and mercy of Jesus,” she decided to become a sister. Earlier, she found herself a pro-life activist, but as time went on, she found that beyond the need to preserve human life, there is a challenge for many people in understanding there is a meaning to their lives.

Her religious name, which she took in 2008 following a one-year Postulancy



*Sister John Peter, O.P., with her students in the St. Anthony Computer Lab, which is aptly named after St. Thomas Aquinas, Church Doctor and Dominican.*

and a one-year Novitiate, is a combination of the names of the two apostles who ran to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday – Saint John and Saint Peter – in addition to the names of two Dominican martyrs. “Your actions speak louder than your words,” she said of the witness that martyrdom represents.

Previously, she taught middle school religion and literature, high school religion and Latin, and also completed a third and fourth grade student teaching assignment. Sister John Peter holds bachelor’s degrees in English and Education from Aquinas College in Nashville.

Sister Cora Marie, O.P., also arrived in August at St. Anthony Catholic School, where she is the seventh grade homeroom, middle school Science, eighth grade Math, and seventh grade Religion teacher. An Indiana native, she entered the Dominicans five years ago and selected a religious name that reflects her devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“They had so much joy,” she said of coming to know the Nashville Dominicans. She also felt attracted to the Order of Preachers because she saw that each sister had her own personality. “Truth is the foundation

of the order,” she said, and this also attracted her. She holds a Master’s in Education from Aquinas College, and her teaching experience includes teaching Chemistry and drawing at a Catholic high school in Houston.

“They’re delightful,” Sister Cora Marie said of the St. Anthony middle school students. “it’s a good job,” she said of her work. “The parents are very supportive.”

While the academic content she teaches is very important, and Sister Cora Marie is very dedicated to preparing her students well for high school, she also wants her students to know that “they are deeply loved by God.” She wants to counter the message that some young people receive from society that they are not loved.

## In Memoriam

- James W. Henderson H.S. ‘65
- Margaret (McCann) Federighi H.S. ‘42
- Mary Seton Corboy G.S. ‘71/H.S. ‘75

*Please pray for the faithfully departed.*



# Woodridge Library

Reopening ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 28, 2016. Our students met Mr. Kenyon McDuffie, St. Anthony alumnus and Ward 5 councilman (in photo directly below caption), Mr. David Grosso, City Council Member-at-Large, Ms. Carla Hayden, U.S. Librarian of Congress and first African-American to hold this position (bottom of page, standing in front of Principal Mr. Michael Thomasian), and Mayor Muriel Bowser, a St. Elizabeth Seton High School alumna who is a St. Anthony parishioner (right column, second photo from bottom).





## Hoops for Youth

*Hoops for Youth Congressional Fall Classic – Sept. 20, 2016 – raised \$20,000 to support our students. Thank you to Mr. Paul Miller, executive director, and his colleagues and friends for their generous help!*



Show your pride! Purchase a St. Anthony t-shirt for \$15.00. Shipping is an additional \$5.00. Please call the school at 202-526-4657 or email our principal [michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org](mailto:michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org) to place your order. One can also purchase a t-shirt [www.stanthonyschooldc.org](http://www.stanthonyschooldc.org) on our Donate page by writing "t-shirt" in the comment line.



# Before and After our Bell Tower Repair



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, Dec. 6**

Donor Appreciation Reception

10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

11:00-11:45 a.m., tours

12:00 p.m., Mass

1:15 p.m., Reception

Honoring Jake Abbott and Mary Seton Corboy (posthumously) G.S. '71/H.S. '75

Margot Hall, All are invited!

### **Wednesday, Dec. 14**

Christmas Concert

6:30 p.m.

(Featuring Grades 4-8)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

### **Thursday, Dec. 15**

Christmas Concert

9:00 a.m.

(Featuring PreK – Grade 3)

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

### **Saturday, Feb. 18**

Mardi Gras

Francis Hall – Franciscan Monastery

### **March 13, 2017**

Science Fair

St. Anthony Catholic School

Please visit our website at [www.stanthonysschooldc.org](http://www.stanthonysschooldc.org) or call the school at 202-526-4657 for more information

## DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Help us earn money by registering your Giant A+ Rewards card with St. Anthony Catholic School. Our school code is #00195. Directions can be found in this week's Friday Folder. Please share this information with family, friends, and co-workers.







## PreK painting

*Our PreK students paint the centerpiece for the Ryan Feinstein Williams Dinner, which supports the Monumental Scholars Fund, a benefactor of St Anthony.*

## Playground Dedication

*Playground Dedication and blessing by Fr. Fred Close, pastor, on October 14, 2016*





**St. Anthony Catholic School**  
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From all of us to all of you, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

[www.stanthonyschooldc.org](http://www.stanthonyschooldc.org)

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*If you have any story ideas for the Blue & Gold or would like to update your address with us, please contact Bill Murray at the email address or phone number above. Thank you for staying in touch!*

## Mission Statement

*The mission of St. Anthony Catholic School is to prepare its students for lives of leadership and service rooted in an encounter with Jesus Christ.*