

BLUE & GOLD

Newsletter for Alumni, Parents, Parishioners and friends of St. Anthony Catholic School in Washington, D.C.

Vol. XVI Number 2
WINTER 2015

2015-2016 Theme:

Be who you are and be that perfectly well. (St. Francis DeSales)

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The more things change, the more they stay the same!. My "Christmas" letter to you this year is being written on the Feast of Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro, a Jesuit priest martyred in 1926 in the failed attempt of the Mexican Government to destroy the Church. Blessed Miguel died proclaiming "Viva Christo Rey," which became the rallying cry of successful "Christeros rebellion," or "La Christiada." Because we give glory to God for the fact that "as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end," I want to share with you tiny parts of Pope Pius XII's "Christmas Message of 1942."

"As the Holy Christmas Season comes round each year, the message of Jesus, Who is light in the midst of darkness, echoes once more from the Crib of Bethlehem in the ears of Christians and re-echoes in their hearts with an ever new freshness of joy and piety. It is a message that lights up with heavenly truth a world that is plunged in darkness by fatal errors. It infuses exuberant and trustful joy into mankind, torn by the anxiety of deep, bitter sorrow. It proclaims liberty to the sons of Adam, shackled with the chains of sin and guilt. It promises mercy, love, peace to the countless hosts of those in suffering and tribulation who see their happiness shattered and their efforts broken in the tempestuous strife



and hate of our stormy days.

The church bells, which announce this message in every continent, not only recall the gift which God made to mankind at the dawn of the Christian Era; they also announce and proclaim a consoling reality of the present, a reality which is eternally young, living and life-giving; it is the reality of the "True Light which enlightens every man that comes into this World," and which knows no setting. The Eternal Word, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, began His mission of saving and redeeming the human race by being born in the squalor of a stable and by thus ennobling and hallowing poverty."

We live in a world where the mystery of iniquity prompts the Psalmist to ask in Psalm 2: "Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying, 'let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.'" While the Psalmist is amazed at the rebellion, and is certain it is "in vain" yet the resolution of the rebellion, like the ultimate decision

of the older son in Luke 15, stands outside the Psalm itself. That's where you and I come in. Before the fact of the Incarnation, before the Kingship of Christ crucified, we must decide. We all want a saner world, in which the dignity of every person is respected and enhanced, and reason and human effort alone cannot achieve it. Will we accept God's gracious gift of new life in Christ this Christmas? As Pope Pius XII asked:

"And where could (we) with greater assurance and trust and with more efficacious faith place (our) vow for the renewal of society than at the foot of the "Desired of all Nations" who lies before us in the crib with all the charm of His sweet humanity as a Babe, but also in the dynamic attraction of His incipient mission as Redeemer? Where could we make a more significant consecration or find more potent inspiration than at Bethlehem, where the new Adam appears in the adorable mystery of the Incarnation?"

As we are entering Advent, let me close with what St. Pope John Paul II, who beatified Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro, taught: "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

middle school N.E.T. Retreat, student council's "Lock-In," the Bow-tie Brunch for Boys, and the middle school Spelling Bee were among the highlights. Most recently was our canned food drive and Thanksgiving Mass. I am pleased to share that eight of our classes exceeded their goals and the school collected over 1,800 food items. Offering academic, spiritual, and social activities involves extra time, creativity, and effort from our staff and parents. These folks make our school a much more vibrant and fun place to learn! For their devotion to our students and school I am most grateful.

Over the years our school has been blessed by men and women who have served as champions for our school. Two of these men are Monsignor Richard W. Burton and House Speaker John Boehner. Monsignor Burton, our former pastor, loved our church and school and was committed to its sustainability. He was a true leader and teacher and will be remembered fondly. House Speaker Boehner has been a friend of St. Anthony and the Consortium for the last twelve years. He has invited our students, teachers, and parents to government functions including Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies, the unveiling of the Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks statues, the State of the Union, and even the Papal Address to the Joint Session of Congress. In addition, the House Speaker's fight to safeguard the Opportunity Scholarship Program, and his fund raising efforts have been great blessings. For these outstanding men and for all of you who support our school with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure—thank you! Your support means a lot to the St. Anthony Catholic School community.

You are invited to our upcoming Christmas Concerts on December 16 & 17 at 6:30 PM in the church. The concerts are a great way to get into the spirit.

May the love that came that holy night bring you and your family great peace and happiness at Christmas and in the new year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael Thomasian

Principal

Dear Alumni, Parishioners, and Friends,

Greetings and Happy Advent! Most of us experience the sounds and sights of Christmas weeks before Thanksgiving. Christmas songs play on the radio, coffee shops give out "holiday" cups, and decorations are already 50% off, however the Church teaches us to celebrate Advent nevertheless. If many of us had our way perhaps we would immediately light all four Advent candles, but as good Catholics we wouldn't dare. Even though we might be out there shopping we still have appreciation and reverence for Advent. We are given four Sundays to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior. We do this by reflecting on the scripture, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and doing good works. Here, at St. Anthony we are doing our best to appreciate Advent and keep Christ in Christmas!

Life is never dull. As you can see from the photos in this issue we had a fabulous fall. A festive trip to the pumpkin patch, the Halloween dance and haunted house, Grandparents Morning, the

Congratulations to our Young Alumni Graduates



Alex Butler



Taylor Ashley German '07
St. John's University '15



Honor C.F. Williams '10
George Washington University '15

House Speaker John Boehner – Thank You from St. Anthony Catholic School

Thank you for adopting us as your top charity in Washington, D.C., since we were a part of the Center City Consortium and now the four-school Consortium of Catholic Academies. Speaker Boehner, as you enter a well-earned retirement, please know that you always have friends in Brookland.



Rev. Msgr. Richard W. Burton

(1935-2015)

Rev. Msgr. Richard W. Burton, who served as pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish from 1992 to 2005, passed away in November at the age of 80.

Retired since 2008, Msgr. Burton was a priest for 52 years during a time of great transition in the Catholic Church. He was ordained in May 1963, just six months before the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic president of the United States. The 1960s also witnessed the Second Vatican Council, the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X, and rioting

and resulting urban decay in cities like Washington, D.C.

Msgr. Burton's funeral Mass took place at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. Rev. Raymond Kemp, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington and former pastor of Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian Catholic Church and St. Augustine Catholic Church, gave the eulogy, paying tribute to Msgr. Burton as a "pastor, teacher, builder of community," and "a wonderful priest." Donald Cardinal Wuerl of Washington served as the main celebrant of the Mass, joined by dozens of priests.



"He loved people," Rev. Kemp said of Msgr. Burton. The eulogist described for the congregation a dinner table at the St. Anthony Rectory that included an assortment of people, from priests living in the rectory to religious education students and instructors from Catholic University of America.

"He never spoke badly about other priests," Rev. Kemp said. In addition, Msgr. Burton knew how to bring out the gifts in people and "saw the value in all of us," he said.

Rev. Kemp, who works at Georgetown University at the Woodstock Institute, also paid tribute to Msgr. Burton for twinning parish relationships at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Rockville, where Msgr. Burton served as pastor from 1984 to 1992, with St. Martin's Catholic Church on North Capital Street, N.W., and a Catholic church in the Dominican Republic.

Showing his passion for religious education, Msgr. Burton would visit the families of children receiving First Holy Communion during a frenetic six-week period before they were to receive the sacrament. At St. Anthony, moreover, Msgr. Burton "developed an appreciation for the gifts of the African American community," and what they bring to the Catholic Church.

Msgr. Burton was a native Washingtonian who attended DeMatha Catholic High School, Catholic University of America and Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Msgr. Burton's remains lie at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Washington.



Msgr. Richard Burton at a get together that included the current St. Anthony of Padua Church pastor, Rev. Frederick Close (R.).



Msgr. Richard Burton at Mass at St. Anthony, returning to the parish he once led, joined by a congregation that included Mr. Michael Thomasian (directly behind him) and the St. Anthony Knights of Columbus.

All 1970s St. Anthony High School Reunion

Lorree Lightfoot Thompkins H.S. '75



Serendipity Jazz Coffeehouse at 12th and Kearney Streets was the place to be in Brookland on Saturday, October 17. St. Anthony High School alumni from the 1970s gathered together for an afternoon of reconnecting and reminiscing about past times. The event was hosted by the Class of 1975 as a 40th graduation anniversary celebration. The reunion theme was "Blue and Gold Back Together Again."

The reunion was planned by Lorree Lightfoot Thompkins, Gloria Johnson-

Hanson, Charles Bailey, Charlene Wade, Rosalind McElrath White, and Aleta Dabney Hordge. Planning for the reunion began at the funeral Mass for the beloved Donna Rose Washington. Donna and other deceased class members, Cathy Mickens Wright, Thomas Scates and Kelvin Minnick were remembered with a moment of silence.

The festivities included the presentation of "Tonie" awards such as, oldest alumni, Silvia Brown (1970)

and the 1975 alumni with the most grandchildren was Tony Brown, with 10. Elaine Brown won for traveling the farthest by coming from Texas, but other out of town attendees were Albert Ellis '74 and Earl "Rocky" Wright '74, who both traveled from Florida. The class of 1975 cheerleaders, Donna Ball Brown, LaShahn Snowden Booth, Tracy Hatton, Lynda Matthews Gordon and Charlene Wade cheered once again for varsity basketball players Jonathan Smith, Alonzo "Cheese" Halloway, Dane Edley, Kevin McNutt and trainer Michael Jennifer, who also attended.

Other 1975 alumni who attended were Alexis Revis-Yeoman, Cecil Clark Coleman, Albert "Squirrel" Smith, Rosemary Foster Tyner, Debra Chase, Gary Goins, Kathy Sutherland, and Kate Kelly Heutte. Over 30 alumni from other classes from 1970-1979 were also there.





NET Retreat

As many of them prepare for Confirmation, our middle school students (Grades 6-8) took a NET retreat on Nov. 5, 2015. National Evangelization Teams (NET) Ministries of St. Paul, Minn., runs NET retreats, and the organization challenges young people to love Christ and serve the Church. Each year, 150 young people who are 18 to 28 years old give themselves to serving on NET retreat teams, and they are divided into 14 teams who spend nine months each year across the country giving retreats.

Canned Food Drive





Continuing the tradition

Michael ultimately received a doctorate in Nuclear Physics from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, after receiving his bachelor's in Physics from the Catholic University of America. Since 2008, Michael has served as an associate professor of Physics at Canisius College in Buffalo.

Bronx, N.Y., and Timothy Wood is in Milwaukee.

Michael has fond memories of growing up in St. Anthony Parish. He remembers serving Mass with the late Fr. Joseph Norton, who served as pastor of St. Anthony of Padua, and how he could miss school while serving in a funeral Mass. Michael appreciates the work of the Benedictine Sisters of Elisabeth, N.J., including the late Sister Alice Kelly, O.S.B., who served as principal, and Sr. Clotelle, O.S.B., a fourth grade teacher, and Sister Damian, O.S.B., a reading specialist. "The teachers did a good job," Michael said of his parochial school. "At the time, they seemed very strict." Ultimately, St. Anthony prepared him well for high school.

Back when he was in fourth or fifth grade, growing up a half-block from St. Anthony Catholic School on Lawrence Street in Brookland, Michael Wood G.S. '86 remembers being asked in school what he wanted to do for a living. This was back in the day when life was so simple that he could walk home from school to have lunch each day.

He wanted to be an engineer. His father, Herb Wood, had been an engineer before getting a doctorate in Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin. Michael remembers being fascinated by a problem with radioactive chemical disposal that his father faced while working for the District of Columbia government.

This fascination led his father to urge Michael to take the most challenging Science and Math courses at St. Anthony Catholic School. A year before he enrolled at Gonzaga College High School, Michael remembers taking Mr. Wayne Straight's eighth grade Math class at St. Anthony and being mesmerized by his teacher's handwritten explanations on the chalkboard for how to solve problems.

"Where are all the numbers," he recalls asking himself. He realized, looking back on his eighth grade Math experience, that Mr. Straight was explaining the answers using a very structured and rigorous method for his students by plotting out each step in the answer.

"When I was 14, I knew I wanted to teach Physics," Michael now attests.

Fascinated by how particles were created milliseconds after the formation of the universe, Michael Wood in August received a \$105,000, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to study the creation of particles, with some of the work taking place at the Department of Energy facility in Newport News, Va., where he goes once or twice each year.

Michael enjoys teaching at a Jesuit college, since he attended a Jesuit high school. He also enjoys advising his students and helping ones who have a particular aptitude for and interest in Physics with job placements and applying to graduate school. He has seen his former students matriculate to attend graduate school at the University of Massachusetts, the University of Notre Dame, and Syracuse University. He usually hires "two or three" students to assist him each summer with his research projects.

Raised the sixth of eight children by Herb and Kathy Wood, Michael is the last of four boys in the Wood family. One brother, Christopher Wood G.S. '79, is an Army officer serving in South Korea, while Kevin Wood G.S. '76/H.S. '80 has lived for more than 20 years in Madrid, where he is married and has two children. In addition, Amy Wood G.S. '77 resides in Chicago, Margaret (Wood) Munits G.S. '90 lives in New York, Elizabeth Wood G.S. '80 is in The

Michael and his wife of 21 years, Dee, have three children: Joe, 15, Caroline, 12, and Lilly, who is four years old. He describes Buffalo as a very family-friendly city with a declining population and far less traffic congestion than the Washington, D.C., area. Getting used to the cold winters and up to five months of snow on the ground have taken some time, since Michael had previously not lived above the Mason-Dixon Line.

People who meet Michael and Dee Wood in Buffalo sometimes assume that they grew up in the area and were returning there, as many Buffalo natives eventually do, and they have had to assure these acquaintance that they do not have roots in Western New York.

Michael and Dee Wood also appreciate the choice of Catholic schools that they have had in Buffalo, a city the professor describes as one with "a very strong Catholic background."

Somehow, the couple are continuing the tradition of Catholic education and learning that Michael's parents had instilled in him at St. Anthony in Brookland.

Second Annual Donor Reception

A student choir of five eighth grade students, led by Ms. Darah Means-Ross G.S. '65/H.S. '69, helped entertain our donors at our Second Annual Donor Reception at Margot Hall on Saturday Dec. 5. Ms. Means-Ross is the music teacher at St. Anthony Catholic School.



Joseph Bruno G.S. '48 of Connecticut and Larry Schneider G.S. '57 of Bethany Beach, Del., enjoy a trip down memory lane in Brookland at the donor reception.



Herb and Kathy Wood, longtime parishioners and alumni parents, enjoy the donor reception. Mrs. Wood formerly served as parish secretary.

Casey Thompson '16 receives Seton Award Scholarship



Congratulations to Casey Thompson '16 for receiving a National Catholic Education Association Seton Award Scholarship at the NCEA Seton Gala at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington on Oct. 5, 2015. This scholarship, designated to Casey by the Archdiocese of Washington, will enable her to attend a Catholic high school. Congratulations, Casey!



St. Anthony High School Class of 1960 Reunion

The St. Anthony High School Class of 1960 held a reunion on Sept. 26, 2015, organized by Mary Ann (Montgomery Egan H.S. '60. Their well-loved former teacher, Gloria Moriani, who ministered at our school as Sister Theodora, O.S.B., was a special guest at the reunion.



Christmas in Brookland

St. Anthony Catholic School students wish you a Merry Christmas!



Miss Kathleen Downey, our longtime PK4 teacher, prepares for Christmas with her students.

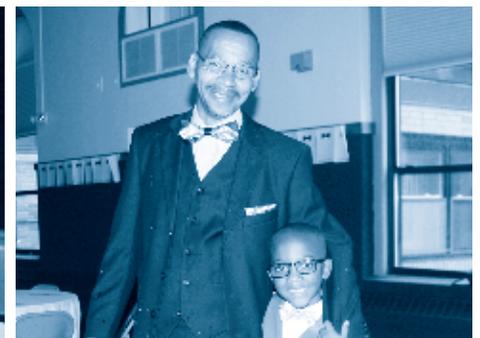
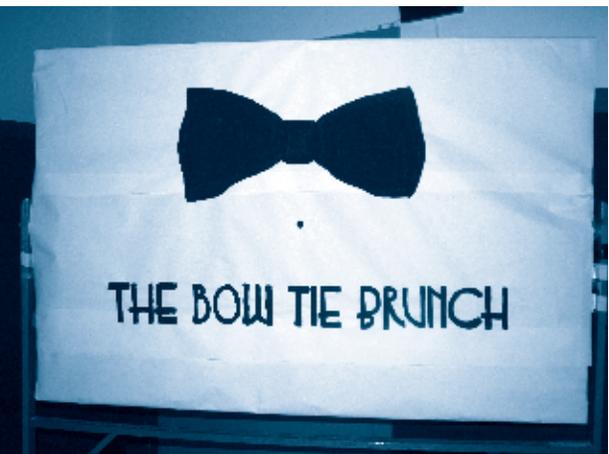
Capitals Slapshot

On Wed., Dec. 9, St. Anthony students wore their PE uniforms to school and participated in an hour-long “Feeling Great: Fitness, Nutrition, Fun” seminar in Margot Hall with the Washington Capitals Slapshot organization, including the professional hockey team’s mascot. The event, sponsored by the St. Anthony Student Council, featured music, dancing and games.



Second Annual Bow Tie Brunch for Boys

Organized by grandmother, Ms. Sylvia Hall.
Brunch: Workshops & lectures



Grandparents Morning

Dozens of grandparents joined us on Nov. 4 for brunch, Mass with a blessing, student entertainment (singing), and a visit to their grandchildren's classrooms for crafts, games, and activities. Thank you, Grandparents, for coming to this event and for your support of your grandchildren's education!



St. Anthony Catholic School
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Office of Development/Alumni Relations
3400 12th Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017-1793

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www.stanthonyschooldc.org

Rev. Frederick Close, pastor
padrefred@earthlink.net
202-250-8208

Mr. Michael Thomasian, principal
michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org
202-526-4657

Bill Murray, Blue & Gold editor
billm@developassociates.com
240-418-5427

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!