

ST. ANTHONY'S

# BLUE & GOLD

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

Vol. XVI Number 1  
Fall 2015

2015-2016 Theme:  
*Be who you are and be that perfectly well.* / St. Francis DeSales

## Walking with Francis

The Holy Father's historic visit to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24-26 brings great joy to the St. Anthony Catholic School community.



# From the Principal's Desk

**Dear Alumni, Parishioners, and Friends of St. Anthony:**

"Be who you are and be that perfectly well!" These inspiring words from St. Francis DeSales are the same words that challenge St. Anthony students today. This is our 2015-16 school theme and one that much of this year's teaching and preaching is based upon. Here at St. Anthony, we encourage our students to use their God-given gifts and talents to please the Lord, live up to their potential, and to make our school community a better place. This may mean excelling academically and athletically, participating in choir or band, or simply being a model of kindness to others. Together, we will make these words come alive as we strive to be our best selves.

Last spring we celebrated the "Class of 2015" and bid them farewell as they set off to begin a new chapter in their lives. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and school families I would like to express gratitude to Mayor Muriel Bowser for serving as our 2015 commencement speaker. Mayor Bowser gave a powerful speech that I trust inspired our graduates. Once again, our graduates were accepted into the top public and private high schools in and around the DC area. Please see the list of school names in this issue. Our middle school faculty is to be commended for training and preparing such a fine class!

Each summer we do our best to make improvements to our building and to enhance our academic program. In June Margot Hall had walls repaired and painted, a new floor installed, and the kitchen completely renovated. By the grace of God, this work was done in time for our June 13th gala. Later in the summer new windows were installed in the third floor of the North Building, air conditioning was installed in the third floor of both the South and North Buildings as well as in the main office and administrative offices. Lastly, grade one, five, and the vice principal's office were painted and new floor tiles were installed. The Pre-K4 classroom and the cafeteria bathrooms were also painted.

All of this work has made a huge and positive impact. If you haven't visited our school lately I encourage you to do so. It is a much cleaner, brighter, and more cheerful environment. We have plenty more work to do, but I am confident that we are on the right path.



I am pleased to share that our faculty and staff have completed all of the requirements necessary to become certified catechists. The process included an opening retreat, seven online courses, small group discussions, and a closing retreat. Together we grew more knowledgeable and confident in teaching our Catholic faith. It was a great experience. We will be commissioned by the archdiocese in early October.

**All eyes and ears were on Pope Francis during his recent mission to the United States. To prepare for his visit, students learned about the symbols of the papacy, the life of Pope Francis, the Vatican, and Blessed Junipero Serra. Students made papal crosses, miniature Vatican flags, and miters. Some students even enjoyed some Argentinian cuisine. Our students and staff were blessed by many opportunities to participate in the Holy Father's visit. One student joined the crowd at Andrews Air Force Base to welcome the Holy Father's visit. Another sixteen students greeted and met the pope at the Apostolic Nunciature, and two eighth graders attended the Joint Session of Congress, while others attended the Mass and Canonization with their families. Truly, the Holy Father's historic visit brought great joy to our school community, the parish, and the Brookland neighborhood.**

You play a significant role in our mission. As always, thank you for your loyal support of our school.

**In Christ,**

*Michael Thomasian*

**Michael Thomasian**  
**Principal**

# From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Alumni and Friends,

**Thank you for your continued support for St. Anthony Catholic School! As Michael Thomasian relates in his letter, the school is off to a wonderful start, with noticeable improvements in faculty, students and facilities. Our school theme this year is: "Be who you are and be that perfectly well," from St. Francis De Sales, and this we strive to pass on to our students. Students who learn to love themselves correctly find friends who are like themselves and become the servant leaders of the next generations. This is what it means "to be fruitful and multiply."**

St. Anthony of Padua Parish has anchored this Brookland neighborhood for 123 years, and in its schools have prepared men and women who live not for themselves, but for God and neighbor, for 93 years. Catholic education and worship gives stability in a constantly changing world by faithful witness to the truth and faithful presence to those in need, come what may. It's a wonderful life!

St. Anthony's greatness consisted in being who he was, and being that perfectly. He knew himself to be a beloved son of the Father, and disciple of Jesus. He imitated Jesus the Beloved Son of the Father, particularly in his childlike dependence on the Holy Spirit, and so he is well known for his miracles. When he said "actions speak louder than words," he was speaking of actions prompted by the Holy Spirit, actions putting justice into practice, in preference to empty words never acted on. By helping our students to encounter Jesus as a true friend who speaks honestly about the most important things, we hope to inspire them to be like St. Anthony, and therefore like St. Francis De Sales too!



Pope Francis challenged us, like St. Junipero Serra, to go, "Always forward, never back," and to share the joy of the Gospel by, "Actions that speak louder than words" like St. Anthony. St. Junipero, after all, founded a mission named for St. Anthony in 1771. So as we answer Jesus' call to go forward and "Rebuild my Church," one heart at a time, please pray 10 minutes a day for God's blessings, and if possible, pledge 1% of your income to support it. If this is not possible, \$1 a day is requested. Class of 2015, a cent a day (\$3.65 a year) is asked, and 2 cents a day next year, etc., because 100% participation is our goal! Finally, remember Antoinette Margot! We build on the foundation of her donated house!

**Thanks again for your continued support, and may God reward your generosity a hundredfold!**



Peace,  
**Fr. Fred**

## Donor Appreciation Reception

**Dec. 5 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. / St. Anthony Catholic School**

**3400 12th Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20017**

Please RSVP to Mr. Michael Thomasian, principal, by Dec. 2

to **michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org** or **202-526-4657.**

**Thank you!**



# Librarian Joan Nolte retires after 21 years at school

When she started working at St. Anthony School in 1994, Sister Mary Elyse, O.S.B. was Joan Nolte's aide, one of three Benedictine sisters assigned to the school. Regrettably, within a few years, the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth, N.J. had to end their long association with St. Anthony Parish.

In June 2015, another significant transition occurred. Mrs. Nolte, St. Anthony's librarian of 21 years, retired. She has passed on oversight of the 6,000-volume library to Mary Ann Welter, who was hired by Michael Thomasian, principal, to replace Mrs. Nolte.

**"Children used to use the library a lot more for research," Mrs. Nolte said. She remembered how the late Ms. Lorraine Ferris required that her eighth grade students write a research paper and permitted them to only use one Internet source, with the rest of the sources being books. Students would conduct their research in the library.**

Regardless of whether students use the Internet or books to do research, Mrs. Nolte said that it is important that they learn how to properly cite their sources in a research paper and also avoid plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which has become an increased problem. Librarians, therefore, have a role that goes beyond providing Internet access and cataloguing books.

With the ubiquity of high speed Internet and relatively inexpensive computers, students can now do research in the computer lab, in they classrooms, at the public library and at home, but they need to have the knowledge of what a research question is, what constitutes a credible source, and how to summarize, quote and paraphrase from credible sources. While the library had a bevy of computers for a number of years, Mrs. Nolte said they became outdated over time, and it made more sense to remove them to free up the space they had occupied to put books in their place. Now the library just has one computer and a printer for student use. The library occupies two former classrooms on the second floor of St. Anthony Catholic School. Mrs. Nolte continues to come to the school each week to volunteer for a day, helping Ms. Welter with her transition to being the librarian.



Born in Philadelphia, Mrs. Nolte came to Rockville, Md., at the age of five. She attended Academy of Holy Cross for high school and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, majoring in History. She later earned a Master's in Library Science from the University of Maryland. "I didn't see myself teaching middle school language arts," she commented on her career choice.

She has been married for 46 years to Bill Nolte, and they have a daughter and two grandchildren. Mrs. Nolte came to St. Anthony after working for the Montgomery County Public Libraries as a part-time librarian, and she became concerned about the future with the county laying off library employees in the early 1990s.

She volunteered at the library of St. John the Baptist School in Silver Spring, her parish school, and through attending a quarterly Catholic school librarian meeting, she met Rita Zito, who announced during a meeting that she planned to retire from St. Anthony Catholic School in June 1994. Mrs. Nolte was hired by the late principal, Sister Alice Kelly, O.S.B., to replace Mrs. Zito.

Of retirement, Joan Nolte said that she recognizes the need to get more organized and live according to a schedule. She has "fond memories" of working at St. Anthony Catholic School and is happy to come back each week to help with the transition to the new librarian. A well-attended retirement party in June at St. Anthony seemed proof that Mrs. Nolte is well loved at St. Anthony.

# Middle School English teacher brings a world of experience to St. Anthony



After more than 20 years away from the classroom, Teresa Fitzgerald came to St. Anthony Catholic School during the Summer 2014 to teach middle school English, Reading and Spelling.

It's hard to fathom how a person who has served in the Peace Corps in Armenia for three years, worked in a refugee camp in Macedonia, helped rebuild the educational system in Angola after a civil war, and worked with the Christian Children's Fund in Afghanistan after the downfall of the Taliban and on Native American reservations in Montana and North Dakota would yearn to teach American teens how to read more critically and write more effectively. Fitzgerald, however, appears to have vanquished the wanderlust and found purpose in her Brookland classroom.

"It's a fun life," she said of her experience working with the Peace Corps and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), which included Save the Children. "It's also a hard life."

Her interest in refugees and international relief and development led her to earn a Master's in International Management from Brandeis University.

Part of her changed perspective is that Mrs. Fitzgerald got married 10 years ago. She met her husband while both were working for NGOs in Afghanistan in 2002, and getting married and getting older were factors in her coming back stateside.

**"I'm excited every day to come to school, to work,"** she said of St. Anthony. **She called it "very special" to teach in a Catholic school, where discussions involving faith and values are infused into the curriculum. "There is an amazing joy in that,"** she said.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," said the native of Garland, Texas. She remembers play teaching her brothers while they were growing up, and her routine included assigning fake homework and fake grades to them.

She presents a very rigorous, demanding program of studies for her students. During the second week of school, her eighth grade students were presenting oral reports on genocide, researching events in countries such as Cambodia, Germany, Haiti, Mexico, Rwanda, South Africa, and Turkey. Her eighth grade students prepared for the school year by reading *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, a novel set during the Holocaust by John Boylan. By the end of the year, the students will read *The Diary of Ann Frank*, also set during the Holocaust, but she joked that the middle part of the year will be focused on happier subjects.

She wants to teach her students to "slow down" and think more critically. "They want to learn everything quickly," she said of her students, who are generally 12 to 14 years old. Through questioning their assumptions about the Holocaust and genocide, they can learn more, she said.

Interviewed in September, Mrs. Fitzgerald said that her responsibilities include preparing the eighth grade students for the High School Placement Test for Catholic schools but that her students do not take daily practice tests. "We prepare for the test (also) by actively reading and (through) classroom discussions," she said. The HSPT is part of the admissions decision, but it is by no means the only consideration. "Teacher recommendations count a lot," in applying for Catholic schools, she said.

Teresa Fitzgerald has found a home on Twelfth Street in Brookland, in a building over 90 years old teaching the middle school students of St. Anthony Catholic School. One can only hope that her stay will be long and prosperous.

# Congratulations to Sr. Mary Ann

We congratulate Sr. Mary Ann Harren, SHCJ, our former third grade teacher and office assistant, on the 60th anniversary of her profession to the religious life in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.



## Fifth Annual Gala a success



Over 125 friends of St. Anthony Catholic School gathered at Margot Hall on June 13 for the Fifth Annual Gala & Silent Auction for dinner, dance, and a silent auction.



We presented our Servant Leader Award to Rev. Msgr. Jack Macfarlane of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church of Rockville, an alumnus, and to the Benedictine Sisters of Elisabeth, N.J. Sister Dorothy Huggard, O.S.B., and Sister Ursula Butler, O.S.B., received the award on behalf of their congregation.

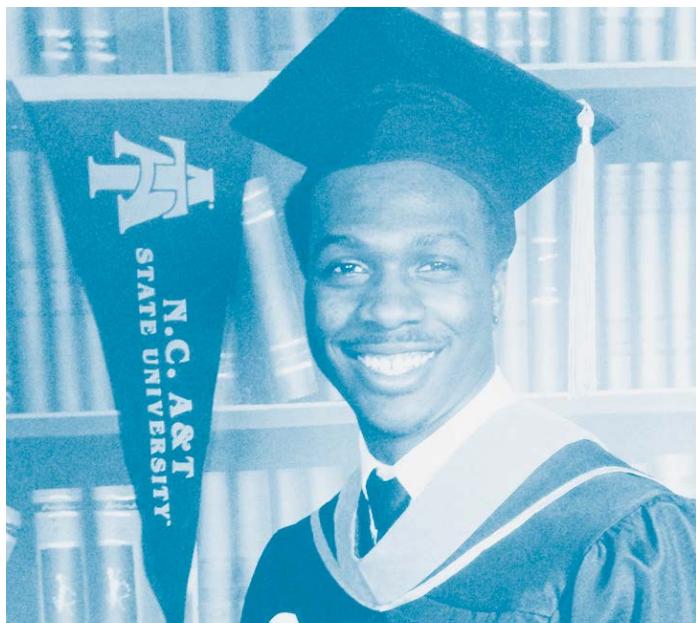


Thank you to the parents, alumni, staff members and other friends of our school who came to this event! All proceeds from the event went to support our school's scholarship fund.

# Alumni Notes



**Dr. Patricia A. (McCann) Cunniff G.S. '51/H.S. '55** continues to give tours at the Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C.



**Damon Childs '07** - graduated from North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, N.C. Like his sister, Kendra, Damon is a second-generation St. Anthony alumnus, since his mother, Stacey (Coles) Childs graduated in 1981 from St. Anthony High School.



**Jolynn Lane '07** - worked on the PALS program this summer at St. Anthony Catholic School, sponsored by the Youth Leadership Foundation of Washington, D.C., to build character and academic skills and area youth.



**Kendra Childs '11** - graduated from McKinley Tech Senior High School in Washington, D.C. She is attending Temple University in Philadelphia and was honored in August 2015 at St. Augustine Catholic Church for serving for 10 years as an altar server.

# Class of 2015 graduates

June 5, 2015

DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, an alumna of Elizabeth Seton High School and parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, gave the graduation speech. Thank you to all who attended graduation to show your support and best wishes to the Class of 2015.



# Hoops for Hope continues scoring for St. Anthony

Tuesday, September 8, 2015  
George Washington University Smith Center  
\$20,000 raised to support St. Anthony Catholic School.

Thank you, Paul Miller, executive director, and all supporters of Hoops for Hope!



# First Day of School Aug. 31

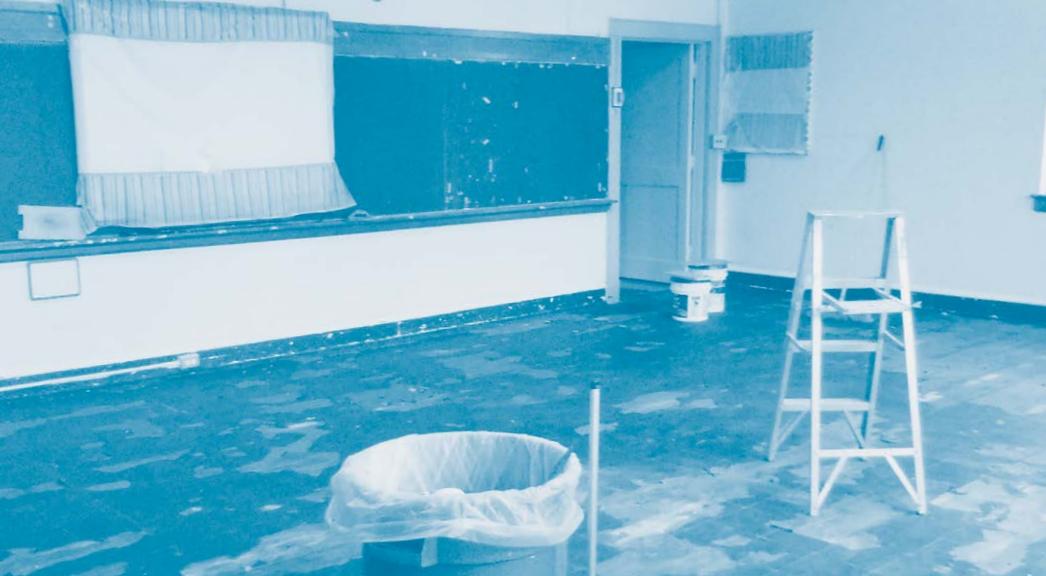
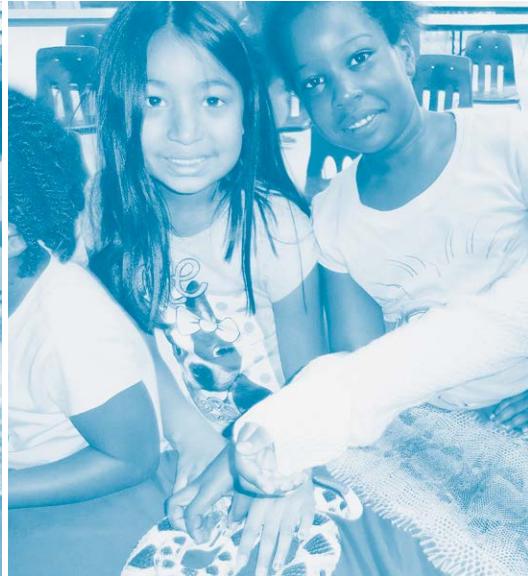
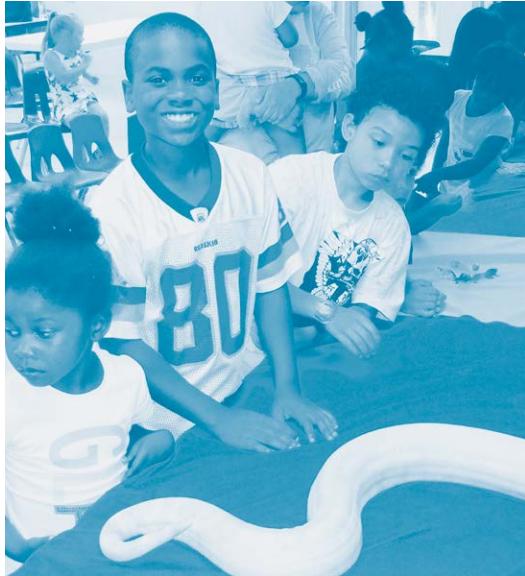
On Monday morning, Aug. 31, our students from PreK-3 through Eighth Grade had their first day of school, many dropped off by expectant parents for the first time.

**Do you remember your first day of school?**



# Summer work

Our six-week summer program offered academic enrollment, arts and crafts, and field trips. **Below are photos from the Reptile Show.** In addition, we spent much of the summer working on our building and getting ready for the 2015-2016 school year. After the completion of the summer program, the maintenance and improvements of the building began.



St. Anthony Catholic School  
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Washington, DC 20017-1793

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## Upcoming Events

### Open House

**Saturday, Dec. 5**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Donor Appreciation Reception

St. Anthony Catholic School

3400 12th Street, N.E.

Washington, DC 20017

202-526-4657

RSVP by Dec. 2 to

Mr. Michael Thomasian, principal, at  
[michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org](mailto:michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org)

**December 16 at 6:30 p.m.**

Christmas Concert

Grades 4-8

**December 17 at 6:30 p.m.**

Christmas Concert

PreK-3 through Grade 3

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

12th and Monroe Streets, N.E.

Washington, DC 20017

202-526-8822

### In Memoriam

Leo T. Chillemi G.S. '38

Catherine Anne (Logan) Battista G.S. '48/H.S. '52

Rosemary Hopper G.S. '50/H.S. '54

Sheila Dee Armentrout G.S. '51/H.S. '55

**Please pray for the deceased**

### Planned Giving Corner

After taking care of your family, please consider making a provision for **St. Anthony Catholic School** of Washington, D.C. in your will or bequest.

**Please contact**

**Fr. Fred Close**, pastor, at **202-526-8822**

or **[padrefred@earthlink.net](mailto:padrefred@earthlink.net)** for more information.

**Thank you!**



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