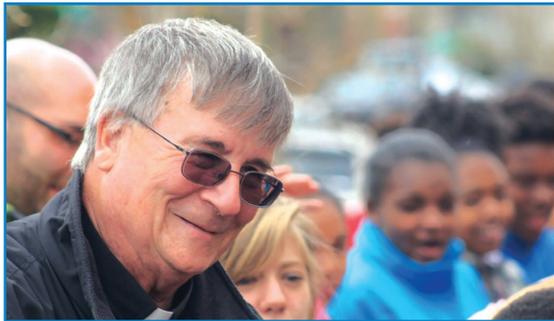


From the Pastor



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we journey to the fire of God's Easter love at Pentecost, my thoughts go to our Benedictine roots of Stability, Obedience, and Conversion of Life. It is all about God's faithfulness!

The fire of love is the Blessed Sacrament. The Most Holy Eucharist, always complete and perfect in itself, does not transform us at once, but "inch by inch," so to speak. We don't love "every nation and race and people and tongue," except in and through each and every child in the great St. Anthony's family.

As "Little Rome" changes and grows, we now have a once in a lifetime chance to launch the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd here at St. Anthony of Padua Parish for our littlest ones. It is our most pressing need, and we ask your "Amen" to this opportunity of grace. Please donate some multiple of \$1.25 (125th Anniversary) to make this happen!

"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 Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, to you all!

Peace and Love,

Fr. Fred

St. Anthony Legacy Foundation turns the page



Bob Wassmann G.S. '64/H.S. '68.

When Bob Wassmann G.S. '64/H.S. '68 and three of his classmates got together to form a foundation to support tuition assistance at his alma mater, the bylaws of the organization called for board members to step down after three years.

Nine years later, in 2017, Wassmann, Elsie Mulvey Weistling G.S. '64/H.S. '68, and James "Artie" Washington G.S. '64/H.S. '68 departed from the St. Anthony Legacy Foundation, leaving Barbara Betsock G.S. '64 to continue to

provide pro bono legal assistance to the new SALF board.

The idea of the foundation was born from Artie Washington's desire to memorialize late classmate Michael Bennett H.S. '68.

Many alumni of that era were concerned that their St. Anthony donations might get absorbed by the Center City Consortium, according to Barbara Betsock, rather than go to support their alma mater. St. Anthony was a member of the Consortium until 2008, when it joined the newly formed four-school Consortium of Catholic Academies.

The close-knit Class of 1968 group, which graduated 77 students and has 45 people on an email list, including some who solely attended the grade school or did not graduate from the high school, and other alumni and friends supported the 501(c)3, which raised more than \$24,000, enabling it to give between \$2,000 and \$4,000 a year in financial aid support to St. Anthony Catholic School.

"We knew someone was being helped," Wassmann said of the group's efforts. "I feel comforted that the foundation is in good hands."

In the initial years, SALF held two fundraisers a year at Zio's Pizza in Gaithersburg, owned by John Beard H.S. '68. "It was initially a celebration of 'hey, we're turning 60,'" said Elsie Mulvey Weistling. "Word got around about how good the food was, and more people started coming," she said. Within several years, members from a range of years participated in the fundraisers, from St. Anthony High School Class of 1954 to the Class of 1979.

At one of the early fundraisers, Fr. Joseph Kleinstuber, former associate

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From the Principal's Desk



Dear Alumni, Parishioners, and Friends:

Spring isn't the only thing bursting with color this time of year. I hope you enjoy our first full-color issue of the "Blue & Gold" and its more concise format.

The last few months have been exciting ones. St. Anthony celebrated Catholic Schools Week, our first African-American Speaker Series, the 100th Day of School, and a Faculty Retreat at Washington's newly opened Museum of the Bible. I encourage you to visit our website and Facebook page to appreciate our students' smiles and engagement at these featured events. We're also very proud of our "Class of 2018" and their acceptances into the top Catholic high schools in the region. Lastly, it's hard to believe we're now preparing for our Science Fair on March 19 and Career Day on April 24. We gladly welcome you to serve as a Science Fair judge or Career Day presenter. Contact the school office if interested. Your active participation means a lot to all of us.

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of St. Anthony Catholic School. As Easter draws near, may you be blessed with abundant joy, happiness, and peace.

Sincerely,

Michael Thomasian

Michael Thomasian
Principal



A handful of St. Anthony classes attended The Catholic University and National Catholic Educational Association's annual St. Thomas Aquinas Mass at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on January 25.



Our kindergarten class dressed up as classroom patron saints during Catholic Schools Week as student representatives from each class shared a few facts about their saint and their classroom service project.



Fr. Fred and Mr. Michael Thomasian pose with Mr. Justin Silvers, president of Catholic Business Network-DC, and Ms. Marguerite Conley, Executive Director of the Consortium of Catholic Academies. Each year the CBN-DC awards scholarships to DC Catholic schools.



Our faculty and staff won their annual Catholic Schools Week game against the eighth grade.



Everyone loves the Reptile Alive show.



Students in grades 1-8 are enjoying the new technology at their fingertips. Photographed are Tori Davis and Brianna Stallings, two eighth graders, practicing their recently learned coding skills.



Go Tigers! Girls Varsity won second place in their division! Boys Varsity are once again division champions!

Continued from page 1

St. Anthony Legacy Foundation turns the page

pastor of St. Anthony's who had also taught Chemistry at St. Anthony High School, offered Mass with the group. Bishop Mark Brennan, an alumnus who was then a priest assigned to St. Martin's Parish in Gaithersburg, also came several times.

After the eatery closed, Bob Wassmann and his wife *Mary Wassmann* G.S. '64/H.S. '68 hosted fundraisers at their Berwyn Heights home. A former baseball player at St. Anthony, Wassmann likes talking about retreats and what he calls his "plant-based diet," which most people would call veganism.

Betsock, whose legal practice focuses on estate and trust probate law, hopes that Fr. Fred Close, pastor, and Michael Thomasian, St. Anthony principal, can achieve their goal of having the SALF successfully apply to the Combined

Federal Campaign, through which federal workers could support SALF.

Thomasian helped personalize SALF's giving by providing a photo of the student who was being assisted. Students helped were called "angels," and usually could not have attended the school without the help. "That part makes me feel good," Weistling said.

Wassmann, who had already retired from being a high school English teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools, called time in June retired in June 2017 from his second career, teaching at Washington Jesuit Academy, where he had worked for 15 years as a founding teacher. Initially, he served as a reading specialist, and in his final years served as a fifth grade Religion teacher and coordinator of Ignatian spirituality.



A team of St. Anthony middle school students competed against 14 other Catholic middle school teams at the January 28 DeMatha Academic Challenge. Mrs. Teresa Fitzgerald, middle school language arts teacher and sixth grade homeroom teacher, prepared the students to answer questions that involved Geography, History, Math, Pop Culture, Religion, and Science. Well-done, team!



St. Anthony proudly recognized Ms. Mary Sklencar, a parishioner and strong supporter of the school, and Mr. Francis Washington '71, a longtime St. Anthony art teacher, with the 2017 Servant Leader Award. The honor was bestowed at the Donor Appreciation Reception on December 3.



Dr. Jem Sullivan, the Archdiocese's Secretary of Education, cheered students on at our February Spelling Bee. Here Dr. Sullivan and Principal Thomasian pose with Spelling Bee champions-Adrian Cabrera (1st place), Ariana Wright (2nd place), and Nathan Kidanemiram (3rd place).

IN MEMORIAM

Martha Darden Middleton
H.S. '54

Julian Dickerson

Patricia Anne Hally Aldave
G.S. '51/H.S. '55

Mary Lynott Guateri H.S. '54

Joseph Marean H.S. '48

Tom Rooney

Francis Ricci Blevins
G.S. '52/H.S. '56

Please pray for the faithfully departed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Career Day

St. Anthony Catholic School
Tues., April 24

Night of the Arts

St. Anthony Catholic School
Thurs., April 26 at 6:00 p.m.

First Holy Communion

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Sunday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.

Spring Concert

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Thurs., May 10, 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Sat., June 2 at 2 p.m.

Baccalaureate Mass

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Thurs., June 7, at 10 a.m.

Graduation

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Friday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner

Margot Hall
Saturday, June 9
at 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

For more information, go to www.stanthonysschooldc.org or call 202-526-4657.

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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.