

# ST. ANTHONY'S BLUES & GOLD

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2  
WINTER 2009

NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As Christmas nears, my thoughts return to the most often reprinted editorial of all time, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." Written by veteran newsman Francis P. Church for *The New York Sun* in 1897, and unsigned at the time, it has been translated into many languages, and appears on countless posters and stamps. If you do a Google search on 'Yes, Virginia,' you will get some 97,300 hits about this classic in half a second.

The famous response to 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon comes to mind with particular humor this year as the American Humanist Association, oblivious to irony, launches their second annual campaign against religious belief. Their Metro subway posters include a man wearing a Santa Claus hat!

Santa Claus is of course St. Nicholas, his famous hat is a bishop's miter, and his legendary generosity only makes sense in the light of his faith in Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, whose birthday is the reason for the season! If they only knew!

St. Anthony Catholic School exists so that the next generation of children will be trained in "the most real things," things invisible to sight and physical sense. It exists so that by the gift of faith in Jesus and by training in the good, the true and the beautiful, students can be lifted up to the hope of heaven, and equipped to help others in their lives have this same experience.

It exists, in a word, that we might become, like children, and, by sharing the eternal light of faith one heart at a time, "bring the day of Pentecost to completion." This St. Anthony himself has charged us to do. This is nothing less than the adventure of life!

How, then, to accomplish this goal but by asking for the sons and daughters of St. Anthony not just to believe in Santa, but to imitate Santa in generosity!

When the Board of Directors of the Consortium of Catholic Academies (of which St. Anthony's is a charter member) set its fundraising goals this year, it included a goal of 20 "Angels" for each of the four schools. Taking a page from the very successful "Angel Program" in the Archdiocese of Detroit, "Angels" make up the difference between the tuition cost and the accounting cost of educating each child. That difference is about \$3,000.

At St. Anthony's we want the mainstay of our fundraising effort  
*continued on page 6*



## St. Anthony Students Visit House Republican Leader

Two eighth graders from St. Anthony Catholic School joined six other Consortium of Catholic Academy students for a Nov. 17 birthday celebration at House of Representatives Minority Whip Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio), a longtime supporter of Catholic education.



Thomas Burless

St. Anthony Catholic School teachers selected Thomas Burless and Oluwaseun "Seun" Balogun to represent the school at Rep. Boehner's office because they wrote particularly strong essays about

why they wanted to meet the House Republican leader.

A Catholic known for his steadfast support of Catholic education, Rep. Boehner began teaming up with the late Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.) to put on the annual Kennedy-Boehner Dinner to support the Center City Consortium in 2003.

In 2008, former District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams began teaming with Rep. Boehner, as Sen. Kennedy battled cancer. The dinner was renamed the Boehner-Williams Dinner. It has raised more than \$5 million since its inception to support D.C. Catholic schools.

On Nov. 17, a Rep. Boehner staff member gave the eight Catholic school  
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Oluwaseun Balogun

## Urban Farmer Alumna Honored as Philadelphian of the Year

More than 10 years after venturing forth with a partner to farm a Philadelphia block property covering less than an acre, *Mary Seton Corboy G.S. '71/H.S. '75* finds herself running Greensgrow, a 19-employee business with more than \$1 million in annual revenues.

The third of eight Corboy siblings, she has not lost the sarcastic and sometimes profane sense of humor that she brought with her to the City of Brotherly Love when she enrolled at Villanova University as a graduate student. She intended for her stay in Philadelphia to be relatively short, but she eventually purchased a farm and later a house.

In 2008, *Philadelphia Magazine* named Mary Seton Corboy Philadelphian of the Year, in part a recognition of the growth of the “buy local” and organic food movements. “I thought it was a mistake, naturally,” that she received the award, she quipped.

She launched Greensgrow with partner Tom Sereduk after working as a professional chef and being dissatisfied with the quality of tomatoes and other produce she would find. They leased a former factory site in an industrial section of Philadelphia’s low-income Kensington neighborhood, across the street from a chemical plant.

Although she didn’t have business experience or an urban farming background, Corboy knew a good deal when she saw it: \$150/month rent on the lot from the New Kensington Community Development Corporation, which purchased the lot at her urging and gave her a long term rent locked in at that low rate.

Over a three-year period, Greensgrow made the critical business transformation from being a wholesaler company that primarily sold to restaurants to one that now does 95 percent of its business by selling directly to the public through farmer’s markets. As the land around Greensgrow’s main farm has increased in value, the company was wise enough to purchase it to help insulate it from increases in property values.

Now operating three farms and a profitable business, Greensgrow harvests asparagus, corn, Maryland tomatoes, peaches, pumpkins, salad greens, strawberries and other produce from the Spring until the first frost in November each year. Corboy jokes that bees serve as a primary security system for her farms.

In addition to offering produce that she considers to be of “far superior quality” than that found in most supermarkets, Corboy wants to do more than just appeal to “food Yuppies” and Cappuchino chuggers. She’s trying to bring healthy food to socially

disadvantaged populations, such as Latinos and seniors. Greensgrow accepts food stamps and senior coupons. It’s also part of the Women, Infants and Children program, a supplementary food program for low income women and children funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the states.

“It’s not only good for me,” she said of the increase in business. “It’s good for them.”

Greensgrow also operates a co-op with 80 food producers that includes free range chickens, locally made bread and homebrewed beer. Greensgrow has one retail farm and four growing sites, including one outside of the City of Philadelphia.



“I can still get up from the desk and pick my own lunch,” Corboy said. “That’s the payoff for me.” Sereduk supplies cut flowers for the Farmers Market.

She boasts of having set the school record for longest detention in the history of St. Anthony High School, telling a story of her father picking her up at 12 Midnight due to an infraction. She also struggled academically at St. Anthony High School, but Corboy said that her test of wills with the late Sister Aedan Butler, O.S.B., then principal, was a good thing for her.

“She did me a favor in the long run,” Corboy said.

She grew up across the street from the Brooks Mansion, which then served as the convent for the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth (N.J.). Detention usually involved folding napkins, and she jokes that she folds them as well as anyone. Corboy’s parents worked in the Peace Corps, with her father later serving in the State Department.

She stays in touch with Sister Dorothy, her sixth grade mathematics teacher from St. Anthony School. Despite her lengthy stay in Philadelphia, Corboy finds herself homesick when she visits her native city and the Brookland neighborhood.

Corboy also credits a racially-integrated St. Anthony’s and Brookland with helping to prepare her to work effectively with a broad range of people. In a typical day, she might interact with rural farmers, city government officials, urban consumers, city trash workers and members of the Union League, where she sometimes eats lunch.

Her goal is to make Greensgrow an operation that could employ its entire staff year-round. Greensgrow is also launching a Community Kitchen, which gives food entrepreneurs a stand and access to a fully licensed kitchen and the ability to cut down on start-up expenses associated with launching such a business and establishing a customer base.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Friends of St. Anthony,

Back in the day – actually during the 1960's – I was in college. My parents were older and had already retired at the Jersey Shore. I was a student at St. Peter's College, the Jesuit School of New Jersey in Jersey City.

I committed two hours each way by train everyday. My dad drove me ten miles to the station to catch the 6:28 a.m. train. My mother would give me a "daily dollar" each day to have as I traveled. When I arrived at Journal Square I had to walk about eight city blocks or take a bus for a quarter. When I headed home, the aroma of the pizza coming from Boulevard Drinks in the Square was hard to resist. A slice was a quarter. It was the good ole days.

Many mornings I walked and many evenings I rushed past the pizza window in order to keep my daily dollar. My mother would never ask if I spent the dollar or not and faithfully gave me my daily dollar the next day.

The money that I kept helped me take my girl out on Saturday night. She is still my best friend and wife of 43 years. Looking back forty years, a dollar was a good chump of change: ride the bus and get a few slices of great pizza and a drink.

You may have seen the commercial that's running now on TV that asks, "What can I get for a dollar?" The answer turns out to be a double cheeseburger at McDonald's. Well, you can't get much today for a dollar. However, if we put our dollars together, we can do a great deal.

If you are receiving this *Blue and Gold* newsletter, you are one of the 4,000 alumni and friends of St. Anthony Catholic School who receive the Blue and Gold quarterly.

If each of us would give a daily dollar as my mom gave to me, the school would have \$1,460,000.00 to

support our work. Again, a dollar a day doesn't sound like much. However if all of us were to give; there would not be many financial issues for St. Anthony Catholic School.

Once again I bring want to your attention and hopefully your action to the Washington Opportunity Scholarship Program (please don't call them vouchers). This program provides school choice to 1,700 students in the District who could otherwise not afford a Catholic education, including 51 here at St. Anthony's. The loss of this program would have major consequences on our school. We do not have all our eggs in the Opportunity Scholarship basket. For years now we have asked for your financial support and your prayers, and you continue to do so.

Please contact Senator Dick Durbin at 202-224-2152 and Representative Jose Serrano at 202-225-436. Tell them that additional students should be allowed into the Opportunity Scholarship Program. Your calls will make a difference.

The fate of this program rests with the politicians. However, the future of our school rests with us. St. Anthony Catholic School is proud of its 87-year tradition and accomplishments, and we are excited for our future.

On November 19th we had our Second Annual Grandparents Day Celebration. More than 100 grandparents attended.

All of us have a great love for St. Anthony's and the education and experiences we received. I ask that you try to make an effort to support our Dollar A Day Plan and I always welcome your support and ideas.

Let's plan on attending the 90th and the 100th anniversary of our great school.

God Bless you and have a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Bill Eager, Principal

## Economic Stimulation Act of 2008 and Tax Benefits of IRA Distributions to Charities

The Economic Stimulation Act of 2008 allows individuals aged 17½ and over to transfer as much as \$100,000 from a Traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a 501(c)3 charity such as St. Anthony Catholic School claiming the transfer as income. The transfer has to come from

the IRA account administrator and has to be made by December 31, 2009.

For further information or to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact your financial advisor or St. Anthony Church's pastor, Fr. Fred Close, at 202-882-



# ST. ANTHONY HAPPENINGS



Fr. Fred Close, pastor, with representatives from each class that met its Thanksgiving canned food drive goal this year.



Students praying the Our Father in St. Anthony's Church.

Thanksgiving Food Drive's harvest.



Early Thanksgiving Feast at St. Anthony's.



Advent and Christmas Greetings from the St. Anthony Catholic School staff.



Halloween carving.

# ALUMNINOTESALUMNINOTESALUMNINOTESALUMNINOTES

## FR. BRIAN P. CULLINANE, O.F.M.

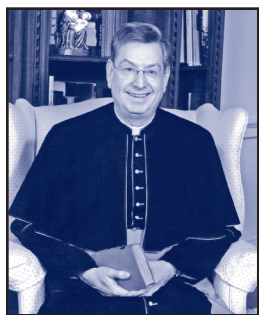
**G.S. '58**, serves as pastor of the Church of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady of Wood Ridge, N.J., which also has a parish school. He is a member of the first order of Franciscans, the *Ordo of Fratrum Minorum* (Order of Friar's Minor).

**JOHN J. (JACK) CELLA H.S. '58** is an executive vice president for international for DHL Express in rainy Seattle.

**ROGER T. CULLINANE G.S. '60** is a partner with Deloitte & Touche LLP in Cincinnati.

## MSGR. WILLIAM H. CARR H.S.

**'60**, pastor of St. Bridget Catholic Church, a bustling parish in Richmond, Va., since 2005, celebrated his 40th anniversary of priestly ordination in May 2009. He serves as chairman of the Diocesan Priests Council for the Diocese of Richmond.



## JOSEPH (JODY) E. CAMARDESE

**JR. H.S. '65** is a certified public accountant and chief executive officer and founder of The Alliance Education Group of Laurel, Md. He is a former Partner In Charge of the client education services division for Ernst & Young for several years and founded the Alliance Education Group in 1991.

Jody is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the District of Columbia Institute of CPAs. He has spoken at conferences sponsored by the World Trade Institute, Financial Managers Society, the Bank Administration Institute, the EDP Auditors Association, and the Institute of Internal Auditors on a variety of financial, internal control and leadership development topics.

**RAYMOND CLAUDE H.S. '65** has five grandchildren now, with the youngest, Corbin, born on October 16.

## SANDRA (VAGNONE) CARACOFÉ

**H.S. '66** is chief operations officer for Potomac Partners Group LLC.

## BRENDAN P. CAIN G.S. '72

is a management and program analyst in the Office of Human Resources at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In June 2007, he was awarded an NRC Meritorious Service Award at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

**BORIS CHEEK H.S. '77** and wife Michele Cheek are carrying on the proud basketball tradition of St. Anthony High School. They are the parents of Joy Cheek, a senior 6'1" forward on the Duke University women's basketball team in Durham, N.C.



Born in Hyattsville, the oldest of three children, Joy is a former Parade and McDonald's all-American high school player. Boris is a

business education and computer applications teacher at South Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, N.C., and a National Football League field judge who played college basketball at Morgan State University.

**EMMITT J. MCGROARTY G.S. '79** is project director for the Preserve Innocence Project, which is seeking to catalogue ways in which the U.S. government projects images to children through schools, libraries, textbooks, health programs and other means that can effectively rob them of their innocence by exposing them to pornography,

violence and promiscuity.

The project is part of the American Principle Project, a 501(c)3 in Washington. Emmitt has worked as an immigration lawyer and also worked on human trafficking issues at the U.S. Health & Human Services Department.

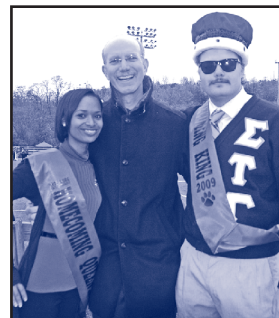
**DRAKE J. CRAIG G.S. '81** is chief operations officer at Atlanta Life Investment Advisors of Atlanta. He is a certified financial advisor, and in May 2009, the Atlanta Life Investment Group announced that Drake and two other principals had received equity increases of 5 percent each to increase their stake in Atlanta Life Investment Advisors to 15 percent each, with Atlanta Life Investment Group remaining majority owner.

**EARL B. COHEN H.S. '81** serves as assistant vice president and general manager for Verizon Federal.

## YOLANDA COUSAR H.S. '85

has worked with the federal government for 16 years after she attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. She's serving as a management analyst with the National Park Service.

**MYAH COLEMAN G.S. '01** is a Georgetown Visitation Academy alumna who is studying at Frostburg State University, where she is a member of Alpha Sigma Tau. Representing her sorority, she was named 2009 Homecoming Queen at Frostburg State and raised \$1,430.34 for Special Olympics in October.



Myah Coleman '01 (left) with FSU President Jonathan Gibraltar, and Sean Blaszczyk, Homecoming King at Frostburg State University.



## From the Pastor

*continued from front page*

to be "a dollar a day" for those who can make this sacrifice, and keep our standard as equality in sacrifice rather than in amount. Still we thought that we should promote this other opportunity to persons who are able, and to classes who might want to join together to make a gift together that is beyond their individual means. Building on the Angel program, we would like to offer opportunities for Guardian Angels, who pay the current tuition cost, about \$5,000.00; and Archangels, who pay the total cost of a student's yearly education, about \$8,000.

Over 100 ago, 8-year-old Virginia was told, "Yes, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would the world be if there were no Santa Claus." The same is true today.


I thank God that the spirit of Santa Claus lives in the hearts of all of our alumni/ae and friends whose generous contributions make it possible for our school not only to survive, but to prosper in these challenging times.

As we enter the Advent Season, and prepare again for Christmas, let me close with the attitude toward the future that St. Anthony's has always imparted to its students.

May we always remain children full of hope, people who say with Pope John Paul II: "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

## St. Anthony CYO Winter Basketball season

Contact Coach Tracey Clay at [tracey.clay@ngc.com](mailto:tracey.clay@ngc.com) to find out more opportunities for male and female players from grades 3 through 8 and volunteer needs.

Parents should register their children at [www.washcyosignup.com](http://www.washcyosignup.com). The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) program is open to parishioners, St. Anthony Catholic School students and young people not affiliated with another CYO program.

# Show Your Pride!



**St. Anthony Catholic School**

**White, short-sleeved polo shirts for sale**

**\$25.00 (includes postage & handling)**

**Sizes: S, M, L, XL (larger sizes available, just inquire)**

**Contact: Kathleen Downey, at St. Anthony's Catholic School,  
202-526-4657 or [kathleen.downey@catholicacademies.org](mailto:kathleen.downey@catholicacademies.org)**

**Please make checks out to St. Anthony School and  
send them to Ms. Kathleen Downey at:**

**St. Anthony Catholic School, 12th & Lawrence Streets, N.E., Washington, DC 20017**

## Mardi Gras 2010 Gala

**Saturday February 13, 2010 • 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**St. Anthony Margot Hall • 3400 12th Street, N.E. • Washington, DC 20017**

**Join us for an evening of food, drink and dancing that will include  
school parents, parishioners, alumni and friends.**

***Come back to the Heart of Brookland if you haven't visited us in a while!***

**Tickets are \$30.00 per person**

**Proceeds to benefit St. Anthony Catholic School**

**We welcome auction items. Please contact Mike Thomasian at the school  
at 202-526-4657 or [michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org](mailto:michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org)**

## St. Anthony Students Visit House Republican Leader

*continued from front page*

students a tour of the Capitol. The Consortium students then brought a small giving tree back to Rep. Boehner at his office. They say down with him to eat birthday cake and asked him questions about his work.

The Consortium of Catholic Academies of a group of four elementary schools in Washington that share a central office for curriculum development and academic standards, administration, finance, development and other key functions.

"They asked pointed, direct question," during the 30-minute gathering, said Katherine Haley, policy advisor in Rep. Boehner's office. "They did their homework, and they knew his district," which is located in Southwest Ohio, near the Indiana border. Rep. Boehner is used to such questions, having fielded a barrage of them during a visit to St. Gabriel Catholic School, N.W., before it was closed and converted to a charter school.

While their questions were pointed, several of the students came across as shy when asking them. Some questions had to do with how Rep. Boehner balances his life between being a leader and his family life and what's difficult and what's easy about working in Congress.

"As he said, he's a normal guy with a big job," said Balogun. He asked Rep. Boehner questions about the small business he operated in Ohio, which led him to run for elected office because he thought he could solve some of the concerns of his customers.

Balogun said that he appreciated Rep. Boehner's support of the Opportunity Scholarship Program, which has enabled him to attend St. Anthony.

Burless described Rep. Boehner as "down to earth. He doesn't seem tense about his work." Burless remembered when his St. Anthony fourth grade class visited Capitol Hill and met Sen. John Kerry (D.-Mass.) in passing, who seemed very tense.

The students then got to talk with Ms. Haley and a fellow staff member about the structure of Congressional offices and what it's like to work in one. They also received a tour of the House of Representatives gallery and got observe part of a session for nearly an hour. They learned about the House of Representatives Page program, which they could later apply to enter.

"We were really impressed," Haley said. Some of the students had watched videos on Rep. Boehner's website and asked him why Republicans had walked off the House floor during debate for a budget reauthorization bill.

Balogun said that he learned from Rep. Boehner and his staff members that work on Capitol Hill requires a lot of writing. Both Balogun and Burless said that they are more open to working in politics following their recent visit with Rep. Boehner.

## Upcoming Events

### ***Christmas Concert at St. Anthony Church***

**Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m.**

### ***St. Anthony Catholic School Open House***

**Tuesday, January 5 at 9 a.m.**

**12th & Lawrence Streets, N.E.**

**Featuring Tour of School and Discussion**

***All are welcome!***

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of St. Anthony Catholic School is to prepare its students for lives of service and leadership rooted in the Catholic values of faith, hope and love.*

## In Memorium

*James Warren Dabney, father of  
Aleta K. Dabney-Hordge G.S. '72/H.S. '75*

*James Miller H.S. '53*

Please pray for the deceased.

## CORRECTION

In the Fall 2009 issue of the *Blue & Gold*, in the obituary of Sister Aedan Butler, O.S.B., the gospel choir director for St. Paul & Augustine Church should have been listed as the late Leon Roberts, not Kenneth Roberts. Robert Fryson also collaborated with Sister Aedan in launching the Gospel Choir at St. Anthony in 1975.

**St. Anthony Catholic School  
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**Mr. William Eager, principal  
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202-526-4657**

**Story ideas for the Blue & Gold?  
Address updates for alumni and friends?  
Please contact Bill Murray at  
[billm@developassociates.com](mailto:billm@developassociates.com) or  
301-881-8180**

**Visit St. Anthony Catholic School's website:  
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*A school you can believe in.***