

THIRD EDITION
SUMMER 2010

Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School Newsletter for Alumni & Friends

The Salesian Elementary School of Westchester

Corpus Christi School Celebrates 50 Great Years

On April 25, 2010, Good Shepherd Sunday, South Regent Street was buzzing with activity and excitement. Alumni, parishioners, clergy, faculty and friends of Corpus Christi and Holy Rosary Schools and parishes gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school.

The day began joyfully as hundreds assembled in Corpus Christi Church at a mass concelebrated by over a dozen priests, past and present. The children's choir lifted their voices with a beautiful rendition of On Eagles Wings that filled the building with a glorious sound. Surrounded by saints and the Stations of the Cross, mosaics and murals, alumni worshipped alongside their parents and their own small children. Graduates of Holy Rosary School which celebrates its 65th anniversary this year also proudly gave thanks for the education provided by the Salesian brothers, fathers and sisters.

Fr. Tom Ruekert, pastor of Corpus Christi parish asked the congregation to "be Christ's hands, be Christ's voice," and to "give thanks for 50 years of the church, school, catechesis and those who have taken part in the journey" that lead to this milestone in the history of Salesian education in Port Chester, NY. Father also asked those gathered for their prayers for the future of the school. The church echoed as the school song was sung during the mass, along with several songs and hymns that underscored the values and community that has been the signature of the Salesians for decades. "I would love to be all that you ask of me. Fill me with your presence every day," resounded.

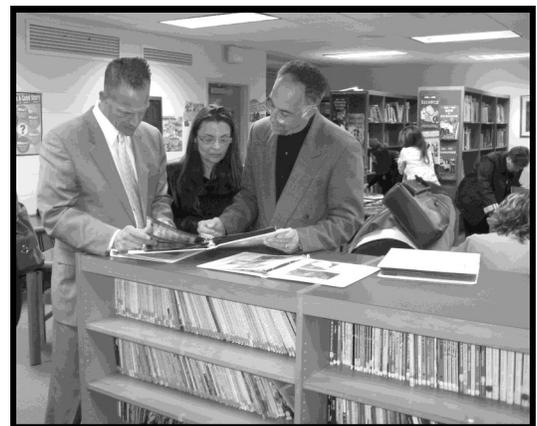
Following the mass, guests entered the school building and enjoyed an Open House where they reconnected with old friends, including former faculty and clergy. The Library-Media Center held many happy memories as alumni poured over yearbooks, photo albums and journals from special events held years ago.

Over three hundred guests attended a gala dinner to mark the anniversary later in the evening. The school's gymnasium was transformed into a glittering ballroom where the attendees enjoyed a fantastic meal served by the teachers of Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School. Students of CCHRS, Port Chester High School and other talented community members provided a wide variety of entertainment that will not soon be forgotten.

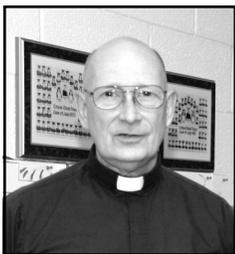
The visiting Salesians were thrilled to meet up and mingle with their former students and stories and memories were shared throughout the evening. Those who were no longer with us were remembered with fondness, and for people who did make it to the event, connections rekindled will surely be fostered for years to come. This anniversary event will undoubtedly live vividly in the memories of all who enjoyed this very special day.



Sr. Lise Parent, Sr. Frances Gumino and Sr. Susan Bagli were thrilled to see their friends the Scala family (l. to r.) Anthony III, Vicky, Mary Ellen, Anthony Jr., Christopher



Michael Russo joins Frank Christiana and his wife in taking a trip down memory lane



A Reflection from the Pastor

Fr. Tom Rueckert, SDB

This year 23 Eighth Graders will graduate from Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School. As I reflect on what encouragement, prayers and advice I might share with them as they make the transition to high school, Ephesians 6:10-17 comes to mind. St. Paul writes:

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power. Put on the armor of God. Stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield...and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

As we bid farewell to our graduates, we pray that these virtues and values expressed by St. Paul with the image of a suit of armor, enable and empower them to do good and avoid evil in our world. What are these virtues?

Strength or Courage: We pray that they will have courage to say "No" to illicit drugs, acts of violence and pre-marital sex, especially amidst peer pressure.

Truth and Righteousness: We pray that they will always seek and adhere to the truth about God and about the dignity of others, and always make correct moral choices.

Peace: We pray that in our violent and war-torn world, they will be instruments of God's peace. Further, we pray that they will maintain interior peace through daily prayer.

Faith: We pray that they might remain strong in their belief in a personal God, who loves them unconditionally amidst a materialistic, relativistic, narcissistic and secular society.

Salvation: We pray that they will be happy on this earth and ultimately happy forever in heaven because they have listened to God's Word and followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

In short, we pray that together with their diplomas, our graduates take with them the suit of armor recommended by St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians.

May God bless each of you, now and as your future unfolds before you.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Rueckert, SDB

Fr. Tom Rueckert, Pastor



Good News Abounds at Corpus Christi- Holy Rosary School

The 2009-2010 school year has been a great year for CCHRS. And blessings continue to flow almost daily.

We began the year by participating in the Catholic Alumni Partnership program which is helping us reconnect to many of you for the first time in decades.

Tuition covers approximately 65% of the cost of educating a child at CCHRS, and must be kept affordable for our families. Yet sometimes, parents need assistance. The *Guardian Angel* program launched this year at the 50th Anniversary Gala and a number of generous donors have helped us keep the dream of Catholic education alive for struggling families.

Our Advisory Board continues to provide guidance and leadership. Our 2nd Annual Golf Outing is being planned (check our website to reserve your spot.)

Among our many blessing this year are:

- First Annual Golf Outing
- New Spanish Language classes for Grades 6 – 7
- Advanced Math classes for Grade 8
- Launch of brand new Corpus Christi – Holy Rosary School website www.cchrs.org
- Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of CCHRS
- Planning Committee meets for the First Annual
- *Fr. Peter Rinaldi Scholarship Dinner* for March 2011
- Corpus Christi – Holy Rosary School wins \$1000 from the *Stop and Shop Principal's Challenge*
- Corpus Christi – Holy Rosary has 6 winners in the Independence Day Essay Contest of Port Chester
- Athletic Program continues to thrive and brings back T-Ball
- Pre-Kindergarten Class sees a renovation
- Air Conditioning is installed most classrooms (just 3 to go!)

... and many more to come for 2010 – 11! Deo Gratias!

Of course, our great blessings are our students, past and present and our friends. I hope that we will continue to be in touch and that you will pray for Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School, as we will pray for you.

God Bless You,

Sr. Karen Dunn, FMA

Sr. Karen Dunn, FMA

With Grateful Hearts We Acknowledge Our Generous Donors

Up to \$249

Patricia Saline, Geraldine Cusumano, Maria Antonelli, Angelo Rubino, Renee Carlucci, Ralph Caccomo, Robert Rende, Barbara Ann Donatelli, Joanna Patafio, John Delvey, Arthur Fasolino, Concetta Bozzano, Joseph Gasparini, Peter Ciccone, Lauren & Dean D'Onofrio, Anne Marie Munnick, Matthew Gliatta, Mary Ann Cikatelli-Amelio, Katherine Lazzaro, Emilia Bellofatto, John Kaczmariski, Edward Legutko, Ajith Thomas, Maria Sabia Harder, Judi DeSouter, Ralph Caccomo, Eva Buccuri, Judy Koller, Annalice Morales, Barbara Ann Donatelli, Louis & Dayse Menick, Emilia Stranieri-Bellofatto

\$250 to \$999

Susan Berry, Michelle Menick, Teresa Tambascio-Fanelli, Michael Fanelli, Nicholas Mecca, Lisa Scinto Ronald V. Grandazzo, Dr. Eugene Cassone, Vincent Marchione, Mr. & Mrs. John Tieng

\$1000 to \$2499

Toni & Bernie Gacka, Msgr. Frank Wissel—St. Mary's Parish, Greenwich, CT, Mary Help of Christians Sodality, Resurrection Parish Outreach, Rye, NY

In kind donations

Angelo "Bosco" Licari and the Sound Shore Veterans Association, Mr. & Mrs. McAleer, Terry Taylor Studio, Holy Rosary Parish, Msgr. Wissel—St. Mary's Parish, Greenwich, CT, Stop & Shop, Greenwich, CT

Foundation Grants

St. Vincent de Paul Foundation, The Sherlock Foundation, The Thomas A. and Agnes S. Carvel Foundation, The Italian American Committee on Education

GRANTS PROVIDE CCHRS WITH TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Thanks to a very generous grant from the *Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation*, Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School will be providing our middle school students with a state-of-the-art mobile computer lab that will enable each student to have the use of a laptop computer at their desk daily along with extended wireless access for the third floor our the building. *The Sherlock Foundation's* funding has already equipped two classrooms with SMART Boards that will enhance the learning experience for the students by providing interactive, internet-compatible instruction.

The immersion of technology into the classroom helps our students to remain competitive with their peers now, and when they move on to high school.

These gifts will also benefit the school overall since having these important resources will allow CCHRS to show prospective parents that we offer something extra for their child, that respected philanthropic organizations trust that Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School and its students are worth the investment of their funds, and that the school works to provide the best educational tools for its students by proactively seeking out such resources.

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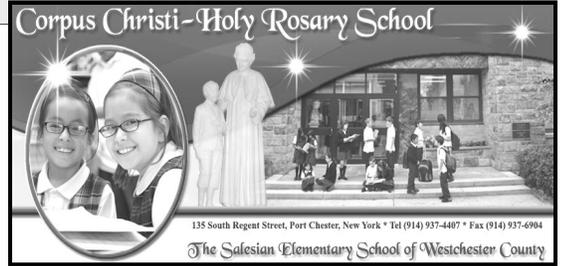
The students of CCHRS delight in worshiping the Lord. As altar servers, many of our students help to bring the school's presence to daily communicants at mass. An Easter tradition continues as pupils participate in the Living Stations of the Cross. Service to others is a cornerstone of the CCHRS experience and our upper grade students help our younger children sharpen their reading and phonics skills by tutoring them before school begins at our *Breakfast Buddies* program.

**We Proudly
Present Our New
Website**

Corpus Christi Holy Rosary School recently unveiled a fantastic new website that allows us to better serve our current families, make a great impression on parents looking at CCHRS for their children and to engage our alumni and friends in a rich and meaningful way. Visit us at www.cchrs.org

More photos from the 50th anniversary celebration....

(Left to right) Former Parish Council member, Sissy Sherlock with principal, Sr. Karen Dunn; Sr. Susan Bagli and Sr. Catherine Altamura chat with old friends; Chris Cassone chats with Sr. Agatha Cosentino after his outstanding performance.



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We're Salesians!

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