

THE KERY



News from St. Peter's School in Yonkers

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL WITH YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION





A year, and a century, in the making....St. Peter's School's one-hundredth anniversary. And what a century it was.

From humble beginnings, the school of St. Peter Parish began in the same building as the church. The original school is long gone to accommodate a growing parish, but both have been staffed by the Sisters of Charity and now, mainly lay teachers. St. Peter's School has always remained the forerunner in academic excellence in the South Yonkers community, propelling its graduates to success.

The centennial celebrations were also a rousing success. Led by co-chairs, Bob Burns and Terry Tobin, both from the class of 1965, the Anniversary Committee planned an ambitious schedule, highlighted with a weekend of events held at Empire Casino in Yonkers. The celebratory affairs, and a commemorative journal, served to garner support to initiate or enhance programs benefiting the current students. Alumni, past parents and a bevy of friends of the school turned out for the main celebrations during the weekend of November 4th and 5th, 2011.

"A Night at the Races" on Friday the 4th hosted scores of guests who enjoyed a sumptuous buffet, memorabilia and a race named to honor the school. The Anniversary Committee posed for a photograph in the Winner's Circle after the race, and a sneak preview of the journal, printed exquisitely by Rich Martinelli of Gazette Press was a hit with those in attendance.

The following day was jam-packed with events. An Open House tour of the school opened the day and graduates, parents and former faculty enjoyed displays of photos and memorabilia, as well as walking through the halls of St. Peter's School once again. A Mass of Gratitude was held at the church, with many Sisters of Charity and alumni packing the pews reserved to recognize them. Msgr. Robert O'Connor, who spent several years at St. Peter's, concelebrated this mass with pastor, Fr. Joseph Espaillat.

Then it was off to Empire Casino for a gala Dinner Dance filled with good food, awards, dancing and reconnecting with friends, some last seen decades ago. Alumni, including whole families, parishioners, faculty, supporters and many connected to the long history of St. Peter's School were in attendance. The ballroom was abuzz with laughter, humor and memories of the good old days. The night was enhanced by a fantastic slide show created by Bob McCarthy '66, comprised of photos sent in by graduates.

The evening provided an opportunity to honor the Sisters of Charity who were recognized for 100 continuous years of dedication and service to the children of St. Peter's School. Sr. Jane lannucelli, President of the Sisters of Charity accepted the award on behalf of all the sisters, as well as a proclamation presented by SPS alumnus, Bill Regan '61, who was the Deputy Mayor of the City of Yonkers at the time of the Dinner Dance (shown above.) Cecelia O'Boyle Favareau and her brother, Tom O'Boyle, representing the Classes of '34 and '37 respectively, were honored for their commitment to the school. It is important to note that Mr. O'Boyle, who passed away suddenly in May, served as the Chairman of the Financial committee for the anniversary, keeping us all on track.

Gratitude is due to so many special people who made this fabulous year of celebration a great success, including our principal, Dana Spicer and Fr. Joseph for all their support and encouragement. Thank you to our sponsors, Rafael Toro and Goya Foods, Silvio's Italian Restaurant and Catholic Charities, and to the many businesses, alumni, parishioners and friends who supported the event with time, talents, and gifts for the Silent Auction.

Photography by John Raiola Studio More photos on pages 2 and 3.**

From the desk of our principal, Mrs. Dana Spicer



Welcome to a new edition of the St. Peter's School Newsletter. It has been a while since you've heard from us because we were so busy with plans for the centennial celebrations, as well as increasing enrollment, acquiring funding for scholarships and programs for our students, among other things. It was all worth every moment of effort to provide the best education for our students.

We created a great new Summer Program that the children enjoyed immensely. The rise in Technology within the school grew to include SMART Boards in every classroom, a mobile computer lab, and eight iMac computers for use by Grades 3-8. Our 7th Graders received graphing calculators that enhanced their Math and critical thinking skills. Students in Grades 5-8 have returned to school to find that they'll be using a new series, *Interactive Science*, Grades 7 and 8 will enjoy an exciting new Social Studies series entitled *American Journeys*, our Kindergarten and Second Graders will have a challenging Math series by Pearson. All students, K through Grade 8 will be using *Math Buddies*, an

online program that augments the classroom instruction by providing online coaching and assessment tools that benefit the individual.

Why is all of this online learning, technology and new programs so important to us? Simple. 48 states in our nation have adopted the Common Core Standards which will elevate instruction in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The aim is to instruct students so that they become greater equipped to compete at the highest levels in education, and in the job market of the future. And within a few short years, all of the formal assessments and state exams will be taken online, so our children need to be very tech-savvy to achieve, and to demonstrate the knowledge that they have gained. St. Peter School students will rise to the challenge and they will excel as they always do.

Thank you to everyone who made our centennial a huge success by their attendance, donations and their prayers. You are important to our school and be assured, you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Philanthropic giving provides St. Peter's School with a regular and sustained amount of annual financial support for both unrestricted and restricted gifts.

In the 2011-2012 school year, gifts made to the Annual Fund and Anniversary enabled us to

- increase financial assistance support by 17% over the previous year
- implement our Technology plan one year ahead of schedule
- resurface the childrens play area and install ceiling fans in our classrooms and cafeteria/auditorium

In 2012-2013, gifts to the Annual Fund will

- begin capital improvements to the front of the school building and repair the convent steps
- enhance safety and encourage energy efficiency by improving lighting in our hallways
- support professional growth and development opportunities for our Faculty

100th Anniversary Spotlight



SPS Advisory Board member, Sr. Lily Butler is joined by former principal, Sr. Maureen Dunn and Sr. Florence Mallon.



The Anniversary Committee takes a moment to savor the fruits of their labors. John Phelan, Sr. (I.) was joined by four of his five alumni children that night.



Emcee, John Elliott, Dana Spicer, Dr. & Mrs. Chuck Slivinski and Fr. Joseph celebrate!

Farewell to Our Beloved Fr. Joseph

Just five short years ago, Fr. Joseph Espaillat came to St. Peter's Parish as its new Administrator. It was clear from the start that this dynamic young priest was making positive things happen in a parish where change was much-needed. Eventually he was named pastor of St. Peter's, and with enthusiasm and boundless energy he worked in God's name and in His service.



Under Fr. Joseph's leadership, the church and community was revitalized. A parish-wide initiative to fortify the individuals and collective community through *Living Your Strengths* brought about transformation that fired up the people, creating positive change. He built up the Parish Council and Youth Group, revamped the sacramental program and managed several major capital improvements to the church and school. Fr. Joseph lead us through the Middle States Accreditation process and 100th anniversary year. He facilitated the formation of the School Advisory Board and has been a driving force behind increasing parent involvement. Fr. Joseph's love for the school, and especially his concern for the students, has proven that he is not only a dedicated spiritual leader, but that he's been a true friend to us all, with kindness and a little tough love at times.

We are sad to see Fr. Joseph leave, but we also know that as the Director of the Office of Youth Ministry, the Archdiocese has chosen the man with the precise skills to ignite the fire in the young people who are the future of our Church.

Fr. Joseph's impact at St. Peter's will be felt for years to come. We are grateful that he is leaving us with a safer school, a deeper spiritual understanding and love of God, and memories that will last a lifetime.

In the words of Fr. Joseph, "Can I get an Amen?" Amen!

We wish you the very best in the future, Fr. J., and send you off with our love and admiration.

St. Peter's Welcomes Fr. Lino Otero

St. Peter's Parish and School learned of the good news in July that Fr. Lino Otero, L.C. would be appointed as pastor, and excitement filled the community.

A native of Managua, Nicaragua, Fr. Lino's family left their homeland to come to Miami, FL in 1981. The exceedingly bright young man never missed a step, graduating from high school in '85 with a



3.86 GPA and was named to the National Honor Society and participated in Future Business Leaders of America.

Hard work allowed him to earn his Associates degree in Business Administration in only one year, while he worked at Burger King and delivering newspapers. He also conducted lab research under a mentor engineer for the Cordis Corporation.

In 1986, Fr. Lino entered the Seminary where he earned his Bachelors degree in Philosophy Summa Cum Laude with a Minor in Psychology in three years. In 1989 he joined the Legionaries of Christ where his first assignment was teaching in an elementary school for one year. He resumed his studies in Cheshire, CT before heading off to Rome, where he received a Masters degree in Philosophy Summa Cum Laude. Fr. Lino returned to the U.S. once more to serve as the Administrator of Everest Academy in Michigan for three years.

Father departed for Rome once more to obtain his Bachelors in Theology. While there, he was the Administrator of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He came home in 2002 to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Sacramento, CA where he was named pastor in 2008, growing their academic and religious community through progressive approaches.

Hard work, faith and drive has served Fr. Lino well, and no doubt, he will share his motivation and wisdom with the students of SPS, inspiring them to fulfill their potential, spiritually, academically and in service to our Lord.

And so we extend a very warm welcome to Fr. Lino Otero and look toward a future filled with continued growth and excellence.



The Van Slyck Family, such a strong presence through the years, came out in force to mark St. Peter's centennial.



Fr. John Duffell and John Phelan, Jr. enjoyed seeing so many old friends.



The Sisters of Charity were the first on the dance floor, and the last ones to sit down.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL MOURNS AND CELEBRATES OUR ANGEL, TOM O'BOYLE

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May 2nd, 2012 was a very sad day, indeed for St. Peter's School and Parish. It was the day that the news arrived that Tom O'Boyle had gone to his heavenly reward, leaving the school and all connected to it in mourning for one of its most ardent supporters and vigorous advocates.

Mr. O'Boyle was born in April 1923, and was raised in Southwest Yonkers where he spent all of his 89 years in St. Peter's Parish. Celebrating the diamond jubilee of his graduation this year during the school's centennial was a thrill for him. He was a member of St. Peter's School Class of 1937. At that year's commencement ceremony, he occupied the seat of honor next to then-pastor Msgr. Brown, which was reserved for the graduate who earned the medal for General Excellence.

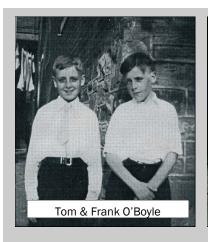
Tom O'Boyle always credited the values of the sound Catholic education that he received from St. Peter's as the foundation for his life and work. Those values included a dedication to the spiritual life of his parish. He served as a parish council member and as parish trustee for many years. He could always be counted upon to assume any challenge. When the second Vatican Council called for more widespread involvement of laity in the liturgy, Mr. O'Boyle responded, becoming the first coordinator of the Parish Lectors, leading this ministry for many years and serving as a lector for over 45 years.

The welfare of St. Peter's School and the betterment of its students were always in the forefront of his mind. Combining his love of family and of school, he generously funded several awards at each graduation ceremony including *The Francis P. O'Boyle Award* for excellence in Religion to commemorate his beloved older brother's dedication to the mission and principles of our Church; *The Anthony A. O'Boyle Award* for excellence in Social Studies to memorialize his World War II hero brother's ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom at Tarawa in the Pacific Theater; and *The Marie C. O'Boyle Terry Award* for excellence in English Language Arts in honor of his beloved sister's success in careers where communication skills were highly important.

Mr. O'Boyle's family has continued this proud tradition and this year added *The Thomas J. O'Boyle Memorial Award* for excellence in Mathematics, in recognition of his distinguished career in banking in the Yonkers community for over four decades.

Tom O'Boyle was a tireless champion for the school even in difficult economic times. He brought his insight, wisdom and humor to the deliberations of the school's Advisory Board for many years and contributed his skills in serving as the finance chair of the school's 100th Anniversary Gala. On that occasion last November, it is fitting that he received a lifetime achievement award in appreciation of his ongoing efforts on behalf of the children of the school. The times that Mr. O'Boyle spent with those students were among his happiest moments. These included special school events and the trips on which he accompanied the students, such as the 8th grade trips to Washington D.C., and the annual birthday and holiday celebrations. He was very pleased that the beautiful park named in memory of his brother Anthony was located diagonally across from the school and available for the enjoyment of the children. Mr. O'Boyle cherished the handmade artwork and cards the students made for him. Handwritten messages such as "You're a cool guy!", "You're smart and you're 'osom' (awesome)!", "You're a wonderful man!" and "You are an excellent man to the school!" conveyed the deep affection the children felt for him. "Thank you for all the help you have given St. Peter's – we appreciate it." said Shareef in grade 5, and Dante in grade 7 added "We will be praying for you." Ashley, a student in grade 5, wrote that Mr. O'Boyle was "a star, the biggest one I have ever seen!" and Heaven is shining a bit brighter now that he is there.

The journalist Tom Brokaw has described Mr. O'Boyle's generation as "the greatest generation of Americans." Unquestionably, he was among the greatest members of that "greatest generation." Mr. O'Boyle's contributions will be long remembered, and the community of St. Peter's will greatly miss him.









New Summer Program Wows Kids

Summer is hot and boring when you can't afford camp. And it isn't always safe for kids to go outdoors when parents work during the day. Well, if you are lucky enough to have been a "camper" at the St. Peter's Summer Program, wholesome fun and enrichment happened daily.



Cecely and Bianca marked Shark Week by enjoying a lively presentation followed by snacking on a watermelon "shark" that snacked on them

Seeing that there was a need in the community, Mrs. Spicer, along with program director, Nerilis Suarez, created an affordable option for parents that would delight the children, ages 3 through 13, who were a part of this inaugural year of summer fun.

SPS Summer Program was open to all of the children in the South Yonkers community for a very nominal fee, and 70 children filled the slots made available. The children enjoyed seven weeks that were filled with new, exciting and educational activities and day trips.



Peggy Taylor, was a hit with the littlest campers, as well as the older kids who had a myriad of questions about the process of writing and publishing a book.

A professional chef taught the children how to make delicious, healthy meals. Campers were delighted with art and cartooning instruction weekly. A program that trains service dogs gave a presentation, and one lucky dog got lots of attention from the kids. Peggy Taylor, author of the childrens book, A Town Without Socks, brought the storytelling process to life for the children. Printmaking, creating their own wearable buttons, picnics, games and so much more rounded out days that began with a solid academic program, eliminating the "summer slump" that generally results if students truly take a summer off from school work. St. Peter's Summer Program campers are ready to get back into the swing of things at school, without missing a beat, and all while having a blast.

Young Alumni Make St. Peter's Proud

Death and the afterlife, staple themes in the Catholic faith, have always fascinated *Nizarys Vargas, Class of 2004*. Four years ago, following the passing of her grandmother, Nizarys paid special attention to the services provided by the many funeral homes she went to pay respects at, and noted what a comfort the funeral directors and their staff were to the grieving families, and final caregiver to the decedent. The desire to provide such families with as much calm and ease during an extremely tough time is what has lead Nizarys to study to become at Funeral Director. She began her studies at the McAllister Institute for Funeral Services in New York City this September.

Kudos to *Natalie Cruz, Class of 2010*. After being admitted to Our Lady of Victory High School in Dobbs Ferry, the sad news that the school would close was announced. She went on to Saunders High School in Yonkers, easily earning awards on the Principals Honor Roll.

However, the desire to continue her education in a Catholic high school lead her to seek admittance at Sacred Heart High School. So impressive were her grades and transcripts that she was accepted to the school and awarded a 75% academic merit scholarship.

If you or someone you know should be included in our next Young Alumni column, please send your story to St. Peter's School.

PASSINGS

Sr. Ann Reynolds, SC passed on to be with our Lord on July 12, 2012. She taught at St. Peter 's School from 1988 through 1993, and is fondly remembered as a legendary educator. After 37 years in education, she began a second career as an LPN, ministering to the sick. Sr. Ann brought love and light to so many that she touched.

Thomas J. O'Boyle, Class of 1937

Lillian O'Boyle Butler, Class of 1939

Howard "Howie" Kutka, Class of 1955

Tom Bolster, Class of 1964

John Racioppi, Class of 1964

Mr. William E. Griffin, Friend of St. Peter's School

May the Lord grant unto them Eternal Rest

St. Peter's School Thanks Its Generous Donors

St. Peter's School wishes to extend its sincerest gratitude for the generosity and trust that our benefactors and donors have given us during the past year. For those who gave us their time and talents, we thank you with all our hearts.

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CARDINAL DOLAN CONCELEBRATES FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS



Cardinal Timothy Dolan joined the community of St. Peter's Parish and the school's students to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a popular feast day in the Hispanic community, and our 100th anniversary in early December 2011.

The church was filled with flowers, music and reverence as Cardinal Dolan donned a vestment depicting Our Lady, specially made by a talented parishioner. Children processed wearing traditional South and Central American clothing.

A reception followed where the Cardinal mingled with alumni and parishioners.



Alumni Career Day

Join us as a presenter of Alumni Career Day 2013 just like Don Suchy '60. Speak with our students about your occupation at this year's event on February 6, 2013.

Call us at St. Peter's School to volunteer today.

... CLASS OF 1962 TO REUNITE ...

Don't miss out on the 50th Reunion!

A Class of '62 Reunion is being organized for **October 20th, 2012**. Get in touch and spread the word so that we can find <u>everyone</u> in time to reunite and enjoy a wonderful time.

Contact Peggy McCarthy McLoughlin by emailing PeggyAndPeter@verizon.net, or Carol Rusnack Weshnack at CARLLOTTA@aol.com. You may also contact St. Peter's School at 914-963-2314 for details.



Alumni and friends will gather on <u>October 21, 2012</u> for the Annual Alumni Mass & Brunch. Mass at St. Peter's Church at 10:30 a.m., followed by Brunch at St. Peter's School.

Reservations are now being taken. Call St. Peter's School at (914) 963-2314, visit www.StPetersNY.com to download a reservation form or mail your check to St. Peter's School. Tickets are just \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children up to 10.

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St. Peter's Students Give From the Heart

It is encouraging to see that our students, who come from the least affluent area in Yonkers, give what they have to help and comfort their fellow human beings in God's name. In the past year, the children of St. Peter's have helped by:

Participating in the "Feeding Our Neighbors Food Drive"

Sending personal items and snacks to troops serving our country in the Middle East

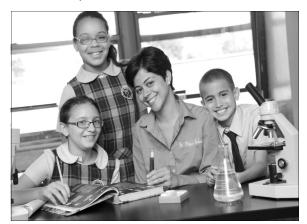
Collecting food, clothing and medical supplies for the St. Peter's

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