

APRIL 15, 2000

"PAST & PRESENT"

FR. JOHN KEANE, S. A., 2944 BONSALL ST: "MY BROTHER, MARTY KEANE, SHOWED ME THE JJ SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. ALTHOUGH I AM A FRANCISCAN FRIAR OF THE ATONEMENT FROM GRAYMOOR, GARRISON, N. Y., I AM ON CONTRACT WITH THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO TO WORK ON PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS COOPERATION. RECENTLY, I MET STEVE KOZAK WHO MARRIED MARIE SERPICO OF 2948 BONSALL ST. THEY LIVED ON BONSALL FOR ABOUT A YEAR, (1947-1948), BEFORE MOVING TO REDDING, CA. HE REMEMBERS THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF KIDS ON THE 2900 BLOCK AT THAT TIME. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, MARIE WAS KILLED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT IN REDDING, CA. I VISITED STEVE THIS PAST SUMMER, AND HE HAD A CHANCE TO TELL ME ABOUT MARIE. WE RECALLED THE STRENGTH AND VITALITY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. STEVE IS MARRIED AGAIN. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, "JJ"! YOU DO IT WELL!"

BARBARA & BILLY "PENNBROOK" ALLEN: "THANKS FOR INCLUDING US IN RECEIVING THE JJ. BILL ENJOYS READING ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD. I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT SOME OF THE PEOPLE, BUT BILL KNOWS MORE. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR THE ST. MARY'S PLAQUE. BILL & I WERE MARRIED IN ST. MARYS CHURCH. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WERE AWARE OF THAT, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, 35YRS. THIS AUGUST. IT SEEMS ONLY LIKE YESTERDAY. HA! HA!"

STEVE BORGIONI, 2229 INDIANA AVE. 1958: "IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...ABOUT 40 YEARS! I USED TO HANG WITH TONY PICARELLO A LOT AND FOUND HIM AFTER ALMOST 30 YRS. USING THE NET. I REALLY APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE JJ. AND HOPEFULLY WILL ATTEND THE REUNION IN OCTOBER. ITS BEEN GREAT READING YOUR ACCOUNTS OF THE PAST. YOU HAVE ONE HELL OF A MEMORY! HOPEFULLY MORE OF OUR CLASSMATES HAVE E-MAIL ADDRESSES. I SPEND A LOT OF TIME

ON THE NET ON MY OFF DUTY HOURS. MY WIFE AND I ARE BOTH DEPUTY SHERIFF/CORRECTIONS OFFICERS HERE IN FLORIDA. SHE WAS MY TRAINING OFFICER WHEN I STARTED AND DECIDED TO KEEP ME. HOPE TO TALK TO YOU ON LINE AT SPIAFLPRES@AOL.COM."

DON CARDELLI, 3000 BLOCK OF JUDSON ST. 1958: "THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SEND ME THE JJ. I ENJOY READING ABOUT THE TIMES WE HAD GROWING UP IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. I HAVE RECENTLY RETIRED AND HAVE MOVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO ASSIST WITH THE EXPENSES OF KEEPING THE JJ GOING."

PHILIP COLANSANTI 2906 24TH ST. "I JUST RECEIVED THE 1/15/00 JJ. I COULD NOT BELIEVE MY EYES, I SAW MY NEPHEW JOE BETACCHI IN THE PICTURE OF ST. MARY'S, GRADE 7, 1954 CLASS. HE'S THE FIRST BOY STANDING NEAR THE BLACKBOARD. I'M SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT JOSEPHINE LOSCHIAVO DESIMONE'S HUSBAND WHO PASSED AWAY 5 YRS. AGO. JULIO AND I GREW UP TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER ETTORE. I LIVED ON WOODSTOCK ST. AND THEY LIVED ON MAYFIELD ST. THEY WERE THE DAYS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION. ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU FOR THE ST. MARY'S REPLIC. ENCLOSED IS SOMETHING TO COVER THE COST OF THE JJ. SALUTATIONS AND FELICITATIONS TO ALL WHO READ THE JJ."

ANTHONY COSSA, 2016 INDIANA AVE: "JUST A SHORT NOTE TO TELL YOU THAT I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE JJ. YOU DO SUCH A GREAT JOB AND THE MEMORIES YOUR WORDS AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD LETTERS CONJURE UP IN MY MIND ARE SO WONDERFUL. LIKE SOMEONE SAID RECENTLY IN ONE OF THE LETTERS TO YOU, HEAR IN THE BURBS OF PHILLY, I KNOW SO FEW PEOPLE, EVEN NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS. BUT IN "SWAMP POODLE" I KNEW EVERYONE FOR BLOCKS AROUND. WHAT A GREAT PLACE IT WAS! HERE IS A DONATION TO HELP

DEFRAY YOUR EXPENSES, AND THANKS MUCH."

ANN DAVINO, 2957 JUDSON ST: "ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR A ST. MARY'S PLAQUE AND A DONATION. PLEASE SEND ME THE JJ."

MARY PADULESE DEANTONIUS: "COULD YOU PLEASE PUT MY NAME ON THE LIST TO RECEIVE THE JJ. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT GOES ON. I WAS FROM ST. MARY'S MANY YEARS AGO. I DID ATTEND THE LAST REUNION AND HAD A GOOD TIME. THANK YOU!"

AL DONATO, 2205 INDIANA: "I REALLY ENJOY THE JJ. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR YOUR EXPENSES."

LOU FRATINI, 3010 23RD ST: "I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THIS ARTICLE FROM THE N.E. TIMES(21ST & LEHIGH: PG. 57, Nov. 24, 1999.). THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS. WE USED TO SELL THE DAILEY NEWS IN THE BALLPARK. ONE TIME PRES. ROOSEVELT CAME FOR THE MARCH OF DIMES. HE LET A FEW OF US CLIMB ON HIS OPEN CAR. THE SS DID NOT LIKE IT. I WAS JUST A KID AND I ASKED THE PRES. TO BRING MY FATHER HOME FROM WAR HIS REPLY WAS "GOD'S SPEED!"

NICOLENA PANICO FUSELLARO, 2900 BLOCK JUDSON ST: PLEASE SEND ME A ST. MARY'S PLAQUE. I'VE BEEN SICK WITH THE FLU THAT'S WHY I WAS SLOW SENDING IN THE CHECK."

GRACE & VINCENT GAGLIARDI, 2934 RINGGOLD ST: "ENCLOSED IS A CHECK. PLEASE SEND THE JJ TO SAL DILEONARDO & SCATS MASCARO BOTH LIVING WITH THEIR WIVES IN FL. WE'RE HOPING TO MAKE IT FOR THE REUNION. THE LAST ONE WAS WONDERFUL. WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN FL. FOR 17 YRS., BUT STILL THINK ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD & THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE THAT LIVED IN N. PHILLY. WE HAVE 5 CHILDREN AND HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR 56 YRS. SEE YOU IN OCT."

ANTHONY & EVIE GUIDOTTI, 2916 JUDSON ST: "JUST LETTING YOU KNOW WE ARE ENCLOSING A

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CHECK TO COVER THE COST OF A ST. MARY'S PLAQUE AND DONATING THE OTHER TO YOUR EXPENSES IN PUBLISHING THE JJ THAT WE ALL ENJOY SO MUCH. TONY, (AKA SQUID), AND I HOPE TO BE A PART OF THE REUNION IN OCT. IT'S ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN TO SEE EVERYONE AND REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST. THE OLDER WE GET THE HARDER IT IS TO BELIEVE THAT SO MANY YEARS HAVE GONE BY. WE COMMEND YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN KEEPING THE MEMORIES OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD ALIVE."

THERESA MANGINI LEX, 2118 STELLA ST: "I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT MEMORIES. I HAVE ATTENDED ALL THE REUNIONS AND INTEND TO ATTEND THE ONE IN OCT. 2000. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR THE PLAQUE AND EXPENSES."

JACKIE VIOLA LUCKY, 2927 23RD ST. "I AM A BARTENDER AT THE TRUMP PLAZA CASINO. I BRING MY JJ TO WORK WITH ME AND MY CREW LOVE IT AND TELL ME HOW LUCKY I AM. (NO PUN INTENDED). HOW ABOUT SOME UPDATES ON THE DANCES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT! ALSO THE SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES AT ST. JOE'S BOYS SCHOOL. REMEMBER FR. WALKER & FR. MAGUIRE MOVING TO THE BEAT! DANCING IN THE SCHOOL YARD ALL WEEK AND LEARNING NEW STEPS, SO WE COULD DANCE LIKE THE KIDS ON BANDSTAND. THE JJ TAKES ME BACK TO THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE AND ALWAYS GIVES ME SOMETHING TO DO ON MY DAYS OFF—LOOKING AT OLD PICTURES AND RELIVING MY YOUTH. I AM LOOKING FROWARD TO THE REUNION AND BEING ON THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE, AS I HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO AN ENTERTAINER FOR 42 YRS. WE RECENTLY BURIED MY SISTER MADELINE'S HUSBAND JAMES HARVEY."

FRANK MENNO, 2048 STELLA ST. ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR 8 ST. MARY'S PLAQUES. SEVEN ARE FOR OUR CHILDREN OF WHICH 4 OF THEM WERE BAPTISED AT ST.

MARY'S. THE 8TH ONE IS FOR MY WIFE AND I WHO WERE MARRIED THERE IN 1953. KEEP THE BALANCE FOR YOUR EXPENSES."

EARLE MERCADANTE, 2853 28TH ST: "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!! BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS AND WATCH THE ICE!! ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR YOUR EXPENSES."

LINDA SENESE NASUTI, 2945 RINGGOLD ST., 1966: "ONE OF MY COUSINS JUST TOLD ME ABOUT THE NEWLETTER KEEPING US INFORMED ABOUT OUR OLD FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS FROM GOOD OLD ST. MARY'S PARISH. MY PARENTS NAMES WERE ADELINE & NICK. LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER." EMOLI@aol.com

FRAN NOVIA, 2956 22ND ST: "I ENJOY SEEING THE NAMES OF THE MANY NEIGHBORS IN THE JJ WHO PATRONIZED MY MOTHER'S CARD SHOP. MANY OF THEM I WAITED ON MYSELF. THE JJ BRINGS BACK FOND MEMORIES OF PLAYING HALFBALL AT CROSKEY & INDIANA ALSO PLAYING WIRE BALL, KICK THE CAN, KICK THE STICK, HAND BALL, ETC. WHO NEEDED SPORTING GOOD STORES! I REMEMBER EXPLORING THE "OLD OAKES AND PICKING BERRIES ON THE DOBSON ESTATE. WALKING OUT TO FAIRMOUNT PARK AND THE WISSAHICKON CREEK TO TRY AND CATCH FROGS AND CRAWFISH. WHO NEEDED A CAR OR TRAVEL AGENT. ALSO HANGING OUT AT CUCCINOTTA'S PHARMACY, CROSKEY & INDIANA AND 23RD & INDIANA AND TRYING TO TELL LARGER STORIES THAN THE NEXT GUY. THE EXPERIENCE OF SHOOTING POOL AT "CATS" AND AMBROSE'S BELONG IN A BOOK OF UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS. I NEVER REALIZED UNTIL READING THE JJ THAT THERE WERE SO MANY NICKNAMES IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. BOTH THE NAMES AND CHARACTERS BELONG IN A DAMON RUNYON NOVEL. I HAVE VISITED MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND CHURCHES, BUT THE INSIDE OF ST. MARY'S REMAINS MORE VIVID IN MY MEMORY. I SPENT 31 YRS IN THE PHILA. SCHOOL SYSTEM AS A TEACHER,

COACH, AND ADMINISTRATOR, BUT THE MEMORIES THAT THE JJ BRINGS BACK REMAIN FOREMOST IN MY MIND. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR THE DOOR PRIZE AND EXPENSES. I INTEND TO BE AT THE REUNION."

JOSEPHINE VASSO PISTILLI, 2113 CLEARFIELD ST: "A CHECK IS ENCLOSED FOR 2 ST. MARY'S PLAQUES. IT IS HEARTWARMING TO READ ABOUT THE MANY WONDERFUL MEMORIES FROM ST. MARY'S AND THE OLD NEIGHORHOOD. MANY THANKS FOR BRINGING THEM BACK TO US. SEE YOU ON OCT. 29TH."

CARMEN RICCARDI, 3043 HEMBERGER ST: " MANY YEARS AGO WHEN I STILL LIVED IN PHILLY, MY DAD TOLD ME THAT ST. MARY'S WAS THE SAME NAME AS THE CHURCH IN HIS HOME TOWN OF MONTECORVINO. HE ALSO TOLD ME WE WERE RELATED TO NICATRO, TRAITZ AND A FEW MORE OF OUR OLD NEIGHBORS." rickoc1628@aol.com

ROSE SALVATORE: "PLEASE SEND ME 5 ST MARY'S PLAQUES. MY COUSIN MARIO FILOGRAMA, THEY CALLED HIM "MOP" DIED JAN 7, 1999. OF A HEART ATTACK. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS SON, HIS SISTER STELLA, NIECES AND NEPHEWS."

GERI CARUSO STAUFFER, 2435 ELKHART ST: "I JUST READ THE JJ AND WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I ENJOY IT. I RECEIVED THE PLAQUE OF ST MARY'S AND HAVE IT ON MY WINDOWSILL, I LOVE IT. YOU BRING SO MUCH JOY TO SO MANY PEOPLE FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD BY SENDING OUT THE JJ. I READ IT TO MY MOM LENA DEVISE CARUSO AND LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WE TRAVEL WITH YOUR MEMORIES. MY MOM IS 89 AND DOING WELL. IT IS SO NICE TO STILL BE CONNECTED TO OUR OLD NEIGHBORHOOD BY YOUR MEMORIES. WE APPRECIATE IT SO MUCH. I WISH YOU WELL AND HOPE YOU CAN WRITE THE JJ FOR A VERY LONG TIME."

A MUSICIAN REMEMBERS: BY HARRY VARRONE

I thought I'd sit down on this rainy day and remind myself of some of the excellent musicians and singers our neighborhood produced. The names of these people are the ones who performed on a professional level and beyond. I'm sure there are many others, but I knew this group the best. I also had the privilege of working with most of the following group:

ORCHESTRAS:

FRANKIE DAY (DAIUTOLO)
MARIANO BROTHERS (GUY,
VICTOR & ROBERT)
TOMMY VARRONE
FREDDIE MARCELLINO: An
excellent music teacher.

ALFRED BONVISO: He led the Italian band, was a music teacher and a fine Italian gentleman.

MR. TAMBURINI: Also led the Italian band and was a great teacher.

MUSCIANS:

TRUMPET PLAYERS: JAMES
TAMBURINI, ATILLO (SKELLY)
TAMBURINI, TOMMY VARONE,
PETER VARONE (UNCLE), DOCTOR
DOMENIC CUCINOTTA, AND
ROBERT MARIANO.

TROMBONE: JOE DAIUTOLO AND
FREDDIE MARCELLINO.

SAXAPHONE: JOE VARONE,
WILLIE PARISI, JOHN MASCARA
AND VICTOR MARIANO.

PERCUSSIONS: JIMMY MARRONE
AND TONY PARILLO.

PIANO: TOMMY VARRONE UNCLE
JOE CRAVERO AND GUY
MARIANO.

GUITAR: FRANKIE DAY DAIUTOLO
HARRY VARONE.

BANJO: DR. FRANK CAPAGNA

MANDOLIN: ANTHONY SCATS
MASCARA.

BASS & VIOLIN: DR. JAMES
CUCINOTTA.

VOCALIST: JANET SULLIVAN AND
DICK DAY COULD AND DID SING
ALL KINDS OF MUSIC, SHOW
TUNES, SWING, BALLADS AND
ROCK & ROLL.
OLIVIA PARISI, A BEAUTIFUL
SINGING VOICE. OLIVIA SANG FOR
MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
WEDDINGS AT ST. MARY'S
CHURCH.

THANK YOU! A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

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THERESA LEX
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FRANK MENO
EARLE MERCADANTE
FRANCIS NOVIA
BOBBY HORN PACIFICO
JOSEPHINE PISTILLI
WILLIAM QUINN
GERALDINE CARUSO STAUFFER
HARRY VARRONE
ALFRED VASSALLO
ANTOINETTE FUSCO ZANDER

REUNION TICKETS! SEE ATTACHED FORM.

REUNION COMMITTEE MEETING! THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND:

REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR CLASS
OR OLD STREET.

DOOR PRIZE COMMITTEE

HALL DECORATION AND THEME
SELECTION COMMITTEE

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY MAY 4TH
7PM AT THE RAMADA
IN ESSINGTON.

*PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR A ST.
MARY' PLAQUE NOW! SEND
YOUR CHECK FOR \$17.00 ASAP!
WE NEED 30 MORE CHECKS TO
PLACE OUR 2ND PURCHASE
ORDER WITH HOMETOWN
COLLECTABLES.*

**PRAYER TO SAINT RITA
OF CASIA. MY CONSOLER.**
*GLORIOUS ST. RITA, THOU
WHO MIRACULOUSLY SHARED
IN THE PAINFUL PASSION
OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, OBTAIN THAT I
MAY BEAR THE SORROWS OF
THIS LIFE WITH
RESIGNATION, AND PROTECT
ME IN ALL MY NEEDS.*

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