

JANUARY 15, 2000

"PAST & PRESENT"

REV. CONNELL MAGUIRE "THANKS FOR THE JJ. 50 YRS AGO ON AUG 14 AT 2:00P.M. I PERFORMED." THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY OF JOHN & MARGARETE LEZOCH. ON AUG. 14, AT 2:00 - 50 YRS TO THE MINUTE, WE RENEWED THEIR VOWS AT ST. JOSEPH'S WARRINGTON. WHAT A DAY! MSGR. BUSCO WAS THERE AND MANY EX PARISHONERS OF ST. MARY OF THE ETERNAL. THEY HAVE 6 GROWN WONDERFUL CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND ONE GREAT GRAND CHILD. SEE YOU IN OCTOBER."

NANCY BACON, "MY MOTHER HAS OFTEN TOLD US OF THE WONDERFUL TIMES SHE HAD WHILE GROWING UP ON JUDSON ST. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF YOU COULD TELL ME HOW I CAN GET HER ON THE MAILING LIST. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP." NANCY, WE WROTE TO YOU AND ASK YOU TO SEND YOUR MOTHERS NAME AND ADDRESS TO THE JJ, BUT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR RESPONSE.

THOMAS "JEFF" BELLO, 2117 INDIANA. "YOUR MEMORY & WRITING ARE A MARVELOUS GIFT. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES. CHECKS ENCLOSED ARE FOR THE REPLICA, DOOR PRIZE, POP AND THE BALANCE FOR THE JJ."

THIS LETTER WAS DATED NOV. 16TH. SADLY, JEFF PASSED AWAY ON DEC. 12TH AT HIS HOME IN THE POCONOS. HIS BROTHER RAY WAS WITH JEFF WHEN HE DIED. JEFF IS SURVIVED BY HIS BROTHERS RAY & JOE; HIS CHILDREN LAURA, LUCY, MARY AND THOMAS; HIS 9 GRANDCHILDREN AND ONE GREAT-GRANDCHILD NICHOLAS. AT THE MEMORIAL MASS FOR JEFF HELD AT IHM IN ROXBOROUGH ONE COULD PERUSE THE PICTORIAL COLAGE PLACED ON EASELS IN THE MAIN AISLE OF THE CHURCH. ALL THE PICTURES WERE VERY TOUCHING, BUT MANY OF THE ATTENDEES REMARKED ABOUT ONE IN PARTICULAR. THIS WAS A PICTURE OF THE FOUR BROTHERS AT A FAMILY OUTING WEARING TEE SHIRTS IMPRINTED WITH "THE BROTHERS FOUR". JOE & RAY BOTH EXPRESSED THAT JEFF AS WELL AS THEIR

BROTHER NICK WHO PASSED AWAY OVER TEN YEARS AGO WILL BE ALWAYS REMEMBERED, LOVED AND DEEPLY MISSED.

ADELE MARINELLI BRUN, 2952 24TH ST. "I ENJOY READING THE JJ AND SHARE IT WITH MY FAMILY. EVERYTHING BRINGS BACK SUCH FOND MEMORIES. MY OLDEST BROTHER LEO WORKED FOR LIPSCHITZ HABERDASHERY ON 22ND ST. MANY YRS. AGO. HE LIVES IN MICHIGAN AND ENJOYS THE JJ ALSO. USE MY DONATION WHERE YOU SEE FIT. THANK YOU AGAIN."

JOSEPHINE LOSCHIAVO DESIMONE, 3032 21ST ST. "EXCUSE THE HANDWRITING MY EYE SIGHT IS FAILING. I LIVED ACROSS FROM DELONG HOOK & EYE. I MARRIED JULIO ON JAN 5, 1946 AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH. MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY FEB. 26, 1995. I DO HOPE TO ATTEND THE REUNION. I WAS AT THE LAST REUNION IT WAS A GREAT TIME. I SAW A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OUR OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. I LOVE TO TALK, SO I HAVE A GOOD TIME WHEREVER I GO. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR A DOOR PRIZE. I JUST HAD MY 76TH BIRTHDAY ON 10/14/99."

DONALD FALSO, 3010 BONSALE ST. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT MEMORIES. SOME THINGS I DO NOT REMEMBER, BECAUSE OF MY AGE. ALSO I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A ST. MARY'S COLLECTABLE. I ENJOYED THE LAST REUNION AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT ONE. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR THE REPLICA KEEP THE REST FOR WHATEVER."

CAROLYN FERRULLO KERNAGAN, 2916 JUDSON ST. "I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY LEFT, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR A ST. MARY'S PLAQUE. I LOVE THE JJ. ENCLOSED IS A PICTURE OF THE 1997 GRADUATING CLASS IN 2ND GRADE (1962). ALSO A CHECK FOR THE PLAQUE AND EXPENSES."

MICHAELINE DAVINO LODISE, 2957 JUDSON ST. "THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HARD WORK YOU DO IN PUTTING THE JJ TOGETHER. YOU

DO A GREAT JOB. MY MOTHER ANN DAVINO, MY AUNTS AND OUR WHOLE FAMILY ENJOY READING THE JJ. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TOWARD THE EXPENSES OF PUBLISHING THE JJ. PLEASE SEND THE JJ TO JOHN PATULLO."

MUFFIE FONTINA MELILLO, 2918 22ND ST. "I ENJOY READING THE JJ. IT BRINGS BACK MANY MEMORIES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ST. MARY'S. MY PARENTS OWNED THE FRENCH & ITALIAN BAKERY ON 22ND AND THEY WERE ALSO KNOWN FOR THEIR GREAT PIZZA. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR YOUR EXPENSES AND HARD WORK. GOD BLESS YOU ALL."

JOANNA GIANNETTI MEYER, 2948 JUDSON ST. "BLESS YOU! I AM SO HAPPY TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE. MY HUSBAND DOUGLAS AND I WILL BE THERE WITH BELLS ON! DOUGLAS IS TEACHING JROTC AT CRESTON HIGH IN GRAND RAPIDS. WE BOUGHT A LOVELY 3 BR BRICK HOUSE IN A QUIET, GORGEOUS AREA. WE ARE ALL WELL AND OUR CHILDREN ARE ALL MARRIED AND DOING WONDERFUL. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH TWO GRANDCHILDREN. MY MOTHER IS IN A NURSING HOME, BUT DOING WELL. SHE IS 89 AND STILL SHARP AS A TAC. YOU KNOW FANNIE! GOD BE WITH YOU & YOUR FAMILY."

RALPH MOSCOLONI, 2758 24TH ST. "I HAVE LOTS TO SAY. YOU MIGHT SAY I COULD WRITE 10 BOOKS. WILL YOU BELIEVE ONE BOOK? WHERE I LIVE TODAY AND FOR THE PAST 45 YRS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHOM MY NEIGHBORS ARE. I DON'T KNOW THEIR NAMES AND THERE ARE ONLY 10 HOUSES ON THE BLOCK. THIS IS WHY I MISS THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, EVERYBODY KNEW EVERYBODY. I HAD TROUBLE WITH MY HEATER IN OCT. SO I CALLED AAA HOME SERVICE. THIS FELLOW RICH SAID HE WOULD COME OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN HE CAME HE TOUCHED SOMETHING IN MY HEATER AND IT WORKED. HE DIDN'T CHARGE ME A PENNY. GUESS WHAT? HE IS FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. HIS NAME IS DEGREGORIO AND HIS FATHER IS A BRICKLAYER. A LOT OF THE GUYS WERE BRICK LAYERS,

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STONE MASONS, POINTERS OR CEMENT FINISHERS. WE HAD THEM AND DON'T FORGET WE HAD MUSICIANS. RICH IS ON 1210 AM RADIO ON SATURDAY MORNING. THE RICH & ART SHOW IS ON 8AM TO 10AM. ALSO AROUND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR 1120 COMES OUT ON THE PICK FOUR. I HAVE MORE TO SAY, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TAKE UP ALL THE SPACE OF THE JJ. SO I'M GETTING ALONG SINGING A SONG. BYE FOR NOW. HERE'S A TIP FOR THE JJ."

ANTHONY PASSAMANTE, 2913 VANPELT ST. "I HAD A PLEASANT SURPRISE THE OTHER DAY. I HAD A BUSINESS MEETING WITH A COMPANY IN WARMINSTER. WHEN I WALKED INTO THE LOBBY I HEARD SOMEONE CALL MY NAME. I LOOKED AT THE RECEPTIONIST, BUT I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER. AFTER STARING FOR A FEW SECONDS, SHE SAID I'M DIANE MARINO. I THEN FELT SO BAD THAT I DIDN'T KNOW HER; SHE IS SUCH A NICE LADY. DIANE SAT NEXT TO ME IN EIGHT GRADE. WHAT A COINCIDENCE. HAPPY HOLIDAYS."

JOHN PETRUZZELLI, 2935 24TH ST. "FLORIDA IS GREAT! WEATHERS FINE, ALLS WELL. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE MY ADDRESS TO ANY OF THE OLD GANG WHOM WISH TO VISIT US. WE WOULD BE MORE THAN PLEASED TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. I HAVE TALKED TO BEANS AND BALLOONS AND HAVE PENCILED THEM IN FOR A VISIT. I AM ENCLOSING A CHECK FOR THE DOOR PRIZE COMMITTEE. I HOPE I CAN MAKE IT BACK TO PHILLY SOON. WHEN I DO I'LL BE IN TOUCH."

MARIE BASILE ROBERTO, 2044 INDIANA AVE. "READING THE JJ HAS BROUGHT BACK SO MANY GREAT MEMORIES. MY FAVORITE AS A TEENAGER WAS THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DANCES AT ST. MARY'S. MY COUSIN, ROSE DELEO, (21ST ST.), AND MY FRIEND, RITA PACIFICO, (INDIANA AVE.), WOULD NOT MISS THE DANCE FOR ANYTHING. MY FATHER, BILL BASILE, AND YITY LIGNELLI WOULD SOMETIMES GO DOWN TO SCIOLI'S CAFÉ AT 5TH AND PIKE AND BRING BACK WHOMEVER

WAS APPEARING THERE AND THEY WOULD PERFORM FOR US TEENAGERS. IT WAS GREAT! I SAW JOAN DELACQUA MENTIONED IN THE LAST JJ. I HOPE I SEE HER AND SOME OF MY FORMER CLASSMATES AT THE REUNION. ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR A COLLECTIBLE, PLEASE USE THE BALANCE FOR YOUR EXPENSES. YOUR EFFORT WITH THE JJ IS GREATLY APPRECIATED."

ANNA DAMBRA SABATO, 3008 BONSALL ST. THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN FOR ANNA BY DAMBRA SABATO:

"1947 WAS A GOOD YEAR IN SWAMPOODLE. THE BOYS WERE HOME FROM THE SERVICE; THE GIRLS HAD GROWN UP; BANDS WERE SWINGING AND CROONERS CROONED. THE FIRST GENERATION OF ITALIAN AMERICANS HAD COME OF AGE, PURSUING THE AMERICAN DREAM WITH AN ITALIAN PASSION. IT WAS A GOOD TIME FOR DRESSMAKERS, BAKERS AND THREE-PIECE BANDS. ROSE DAMBRA SPENT 1947 MARRYING OFF HER CHILDREN. TONY GOT MARRIED IN NOV. OF 1946, CONNIE IN JAN. OF 1947 AND JOSEPHINE IN MAY. IT WAS AN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE, A FORTUNATE SITUATION AND A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE THAT WOULD SEND BOTH ANNIE AND CELIE TO THE ALTAR ON NOV. 8TH, 52 YEARS AGO. THE GIRLS RAN INTO FRANK AND A COMPANION ONE AFTERNOON ON INDIANA AVENUE. CELIE AND FRANK WERE ALREADY SEEING EACH OTHER. FRANK INTRODUCED TONY TO HIS GIRL AND HER SISTER. SOON AFTER, ANNIE AND TONY DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP. WITH BOTH DAUGHTERS ENGAGED BY SPRING, AND STILL IN A MARRIAGE MODE, ROSE PLANNED A YEAR-END DOUBLE CEREMONY. FIVE IN ONE YEAR, HER LAST FIVE. 2938 N. 23RD STREET WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME. MEANWHILE, ON WOODSTOCK STREET, THE SABATO FAMILY PREPARED FOR NOVEMBER NUPTIALS. FOR THEM TOO, THERE WOULD BE ONE WEDDING DAY WITH TWO WEDDINGS. COMPANIONS ONCE AGAIN, FRANK

AND TONY WOULD WALK THE AISLE TOGETHER, SHARING THE ALTAR AND THE ANNIVERSARY. MOREOVER, THEIR BRIDES WOULD SHARE THE SAME LAST NAME. ON NOV. 8TH, IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY OF THE ETERNAL, BROTHERS TONY & FRANK WED SISTERS ANNIE & CELIE DAMBRA. FRANK & CELIE LIVED ON 23RD ST. AND EVENTUALLY MOVED TO THE NORTHEAST. THEIR CHILDREN, TERRI & FRANK, HOLD EXECUTIVE POSITIONS IN THE CORPORATE MARKETPLACE. CELLIE DIED ON JUNE 29, 1981. TONY & ANNE SPENT 20 YEARS AT 3008 BONSALL ST. BEFORE RELOCATING TO ROXBOROUGH. THEIR SONS, DAMBRA, (NEE ANTHONY), AND WAYNE, ENJOY SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN THE ARTS. TONY PASSED AWAY ON AUG. 3, 1993. LIKE SWAMPOODLE, NOTHING LASTS FOREVER."

DONNA TRAITZ VADURA, 3038 22ND ST. "I AM THE DAUGHTER OF JEAN & PAT TRAITZ. MY MOM, THREE BROTHERS AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE TRIBUTE TO OUR DAD THAT YOU PRINTED IN THE JJ. HE WAS A WONDERFUL DAD AND POP-POP TO US AND OUR KIDS. WE ARE PROUD OF HIS BELIEFS IN GOD, COUNTRY AND FLAG AND HIS LOVE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HE LEFT US A BEAUTIFUL LEGACY. WE MISS HIM TERRIBLY AND THANK GOD WE HAD HIM. MOM & DAD LOVED READING THE JJ. WE KIDS WISH WE COULD HAVE EXPERIENCED THE STORIES THEY WOULD TELL US ABOUT ST. MARY'S CHURCH & SCHOOL, AND THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOW EVERYONE WAS SO CLOSE. WE LOVED WHEN FAMILY AND FRIENDS WOULD COME FROM UP NORTH TO VISIT AND RECALL TIMES AND EVENTS WHEN THEY WERE OUR AGE AND ALWAYS THERE WAS LAUGHTER. THEY WOULD SAY, "THEY WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!" MOM COULDN'T WRITE BECAUSE SHE FELL AND BROKE HER WRIST. WE PRAY THAT THE NEW MILLENIUM HOLDS GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR YOU ALL."

PHIL VISCONTO, 23RD & INDIANA AVE. "I WENT TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH & SCHOOL. A GENTLEMAN OF "SONS OF ITALY"— GREATER ROXBOROUGH LODGE 2217 GAVE ME YOUR ADDRESS. I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE JJ. THANKS."

PHYLLIS DEMORA WALL, MAYFIELD/ GARNETT STS. THANK YOU FOR THE JJ. I REALLY ENJOY THEM. KEEP THEM COMING. HERE IS SOMETHING FOR POSTAGE."

REPORTS ABOUT MONTECORVINO:

PAT NICASTRO - CLASS OF 1954

I am writing to inform the readers of the JJ about a web site where they can search to see if any people, with a Surname that they are interested in are still living in Montecorvino Rovella, or any other town in Italy. The site is ln-119.infospace.com
l_1_152389258_info/index_ppl.htm

Also, I would like to share some historical information with the readers that I recently acquired.

I met a Dr. Philip J. DiGiacomo, Jr., who told me his great-grandfather immigrated from Montecorvino Rovella, Italy to our neighborhood in 1870 & his great-grandfather and grandfather help build St. Mary's Church & School. I was also told that the Philadelphia Kelly's, (John B. & Grace's family) were the ones that brought the great-grandfather from Italy, because at the time there was a need for draftsman and stonemasons in Philadelphia. The Doctor said he is the nephew of Louie DiGiacomo, the Funeral

Director. I hope the readers enjoy this information and I wish your family and the readers Happy Holidays.

MARIO AMICI – CLASS OF 1958

Many families from the old neighborhood emigrated from this ancient town located at the foot of the Picentini Mountains in Salerno, Italy. The town is named after Franciscan Father Giovanni da Montecorvino, who in 1291, was Papal Legate to the Great Khan of China. He lived in China for 34 years and was appointed Archbishop of Peking. He is considered the founder of the Catholic Church in China.

The sanctuary in Montecorvino is named "Madonna dell'Eterno" which in English is St. Mary of the Eternal. So it seems some of our ancestors carried that beloved name over with them to America.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS:

If you are in the vicinity of 9th & Christian Sts. on any Saturday night you can dance to the sounds of Joey Pal (Ray Antonelli, 27th St.) & Mickey and possibly see "Mystic Terry" at "Kathleen's". You will remember her as Terry Marzano from Toronto St. "Mystic Terry" might predict the future for you! She also writes horoscopes that appear in the South Philly Review, a weekly publication.

DON'T FORGET THE REUNION!!

OCTOBER 29, 2000
 TICKETS WILL BE
 AVAILABLE AFTER THE
 APRIL 15TH EDITION OF THE
 JJ.

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

RAE & ANTHONY AUTORI
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 RALPH MOSCOLONI
 JOHN PETRUZZELLI
 MARIE BASILE ROBERTO
 ANNA DAMBRA SABATO
 NOREEN GIARGIARI STENGEL
 DONNA TRAITZ VADURRO
 FILOMENA DEMORA WALL

PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR A ST. MARY' PLAQUE NOW! SEND YOUR CHECK FOR \$17.00 ASAP! WE NEED 50 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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