

## "PAST & PRESENT"

TOM DEPASQUALE, 27<sup>TH</sup> & CLEARFIELD STS. "I WANTED TO SEND A DONATION TO THE JJ. IT IS VERY ENJOYABLE. THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU PUT INTO IT."

ANNA DIBENEDETTO, "WRITING TO LET YOU KNOW THAT JAMES, (JIM), DIBEBEDETTO DIED ON JULY 5, 2001. HE WAS THE HUSBAND OF ANNA AND THE FATHER OF IMMACULATA, ANTOINETTE, JOHN, MARYANNE AND THERESA. HE PLAYED BASEBALL FOR THE CASINO TEAM WITH MIKE DILEONARDO, ANGELO PACIFICO AND OTHERS THAT I HAVE FORGOTTEN. JIM COACHED THE SAN MARET CYO BASEBALL TEAM AT ST. MARY'S FOR YEARS. HE WAS STILL COACHING BASEBALL FOR THE CYO TEAM OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH UNTILL HE DIED. HE LOVED GETTING THE JJ AND READING ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD. PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED CHECK AND KEEP SENDING IT TO ME! THANK YOU!"

JANET DILACQUA GREEN, 23<sup>RD</sup> & CLEARFIELD STREETS, 1963. "JUST AN UPDATE...SINCE MY LAST NOTE TO THE JJ. WE HAD A MINI REUNION-CETTA PICARELLO, MARIANNE MCDADDE, RICHEL D'AMBRA AND MYSELF. WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME WE HAD. WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN CENTER CITY AT THE BELLEVUE, HAD A WONDERFUL DINNER, LOTS OF TALKING AND GREAT MEMORIES. MARGIE CRESTANI AND JACKIE ZITO WERE SUPPOSE TO COME, BUT COULD NOT MAKE IT THIS TIME...BUT THERE WILL BE MORE REUNIONS TO COME. ALSO, THE BROTHER'S HAVE SINCE GOTTEN TOGETHER: JOHN AMICI, JOHN DILACQUA

AND TOMMY D'AMBRA. JUST A QUICK NOTE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE JJ...ALSO SINCE MY ARTICLE I HEARD FROM PAT LAVANGA AND TONY CUCINOTTA, (THE DOCTOR'S SON),...KEEP THOSE EMAILS COMING. HOPE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER ST. MARY'S REUNION LIKE WE HAD IN OCTOBER 2000." [jtg91@aol.com](mailto:jtg91@aol.com)

Someone reported seeing you girls downtown that night. They mentioned that you were literally "Monkeying" around!

ANITA SAULINO FAHY, 2960 N. 25<sup>TH</sup> ST. "MY DEAR MOTHER, CATHERINE NICASTRO SAULINO, HAD THE ENCLOSED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES SAVED WITH HER TREASURED MEMORIES. I HOPE THEY BRING YOU A NOSTALGIC SMILE, JUST AS YOUR JJ DOES FOR EVERYONE. THE 5&10 CENT STORE ON 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET WAS A FAVORITE WITH SO MANY. LITTLE DID I REALIZE HOW LONG IT HAD BEEN THERE. PERHAPS YOU ALREADY SAW THE ARTICLE ABOUT FATHER O'MALLEY SINCE IT WAS IN THE CATHOLIC STAR HERALD. IT WAS A REALLY A NOVEL IDEA, AND HOPEFULLY HE IS STILL AROUND TO RECALL THIS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. AS I MENTIONED AT OUR CHANCE MEETING AT THE RAMS HEAD INN, I APPRECIATE ALL THE TIME AND EFFORT AND DEDICATION GIVEN BY YOU, PAT AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN PUBLISHING THE JJ. IT HAS BEEN GREAT HEARING FROM SO MANY OF OUR CLASSMATES OF 1958. MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR ON 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET, JOHANNA PULEO, SENT ME HER REGARDS THROUGH THE JJ, BUT UNFORTUNATELY I INADVERTENTLY DISCARDED THAT ISSUE. I TRIED CONTACTING HER, BUT SHE IS NO LONGER AT THE ADDRESS

AND PHONE NUMBER I HAD. PLAEESE USE THE ENCLOSED TO HELP KEEP THE MEMORIES FLOWING. WITH MY GRATITUDE AND FOND MEMORIES!"

I will publish both articles of the articles. They are fantastic! Fr. O'Malley passed away in either late 1984 or early 1985.

ROSE FERERE, 3105 N. TAYLOR ST. "THIS IS JIMMY FERERE'S MOM. YOU GUYS ARE DOING A FANTASTIC JOB. KEEP IT UP!"

FR. JOHN KEANE, 2944 N. BONSALL ST. "I ENJOY THE JJ! YOUR STORY ABOUT THE RAT AT THE 2900 BLOCK OF 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET IS A CLASSIC. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO HELP PAY FOR POSTAGE."

ALMA SALVATO MCBRIDE, FOX & TORONTO STREETS. "I WAS VISITING MY BROTHER IN CHEERY HILL IN OCTOBER, ALFRED SALVATO. OUR HOUSE WAS THE BIG GRAY STONE ONE THAT HAS SINCE BEEN TORN DOWN. MY PARENTS OWNED THE HALL ON THE SAME BLOCK ON FOX STREET WHERE MANY PEOPLE HELD THEIR WEDDING RECEPTIONS, ETC. I LEFT PHILLY IN 1949 WHEN I WAS MARRIED AND FOUR YEARS LATER I WENT TO GERMANY, AS MY HUSBAND WAS A JOURNALIST. WE LIVED THERE FO 27 YEARS. MY HUSBAND JOE MCBRIDE WAS FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> AND LEHIGH. HE WORKED IN GERMANY FOR THE MILITARY NEWSPAPER STARS & STRIPES. HE DIED JULY 6, 2001. WE ADOPTED A BOY AND GIRL IN GERMANY AND THEY BOTH LIVE NEARBY HERE IN SAN DIEGO. WE RETIRED HERE IN 1981. MY COUSIN IRENE SALVATO SHOWED ME THE CALENDER. PLEASE SEND ME ONE . A DONATION IS ENCLOSED!"



MARY OLIVASTRO, 22<sup>ND</sup> & INDIANA. "THE DEODATI FAMILY AND THE OLIVASTRO FAMILY WERE BORN AND RAISED IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. A DONATION IS ENCLOSED. GOOD LUCK FROM ALL OF US!"

RONALD ROCCO, 2018 W. TORONRO ST. "ALWAYS ENJOY READING THE JJ AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING IT. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! ENCLOSED IS SOMETHING FOR EXPENSES."

ERNEST SCHILIRO, 3043 N. JUDSON STREET. "I HAVE ENJOYED THE JJ OVER THE YEARS. I KNEW MANY OF WHOM YOU WRITE ABOUT, AND ASSOCIATE MANY OTHERS BY NAME. I WAS IN THE CLASS OF '45 AT ST. MARY'S. I MARRIED DOLLY FEDELI OF STELLA STREET IN 1955. WE HAVE 5 CHILDREN ALL LIVING IN N.E. PHILLY. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ADD TO YOUR MAILING LIST JOE & MARIE INSALATA, TONY & ROSE BONINO, AND MARIO & MARGE GREGOREO. MARIO WAS ALSO KNOWN AS MATTY. HE WAS YOUR SCOUT LEADER AT ST. MARY'S. MARGE AND DOLLY WERE VERY ACTIVE AT THE CHURCH WITH THE WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY DANCES AND FRIDAY BINGO. THAT IS WHERE MARIO AND I MET THEM AND LATER MARRIED. MARGE AND DOLLY WENT TO DOBBINS TOGETHER AND GRADUATED IN 1953 AND HAVE REMAINED THE BEST OF FRIENDS SINCE THEN. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO COVER SOME OF YOUR EXPENSES. THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL JOB!"

LUCILLE SPERA, 3019 N. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET. "WHEN BILL BASILE WROTE ABOUT VINCE TARRABIO IT BROUGHT TEARS

TO MY EYES, AS HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON WHO NEVER TURNED ANYONE AWAY, EVEN WHEN HE WAS SO DESPERATELY ILL. WHEN MY SISTER, MARY DIBENEDETTO, WHO LIVED ON INDIANA AVE. HAD A PROBLE, SHE WOULD GO OR CALL VINCE AND HE WOULD HELP HER WITH MEDICATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR HER DAUGHTER, DEBORA. VINCE WOULD APPEAR ALL JAUNDICED AND YET HE WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO DEBORA WHO WAS ONLY A BABY AT THE TIME. WHEN WE WENT TO HIS WAKE, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH ALL THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS THERE AND THE MOOD WAS ONE OF UNBEARABLE SORROW. I REMEMBER MY COUSIN, ALBERT SPERA, ALSO A PHARMASISTS, WHO GREW UP IN THE APARTMENT ABOVE US ON 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET, SITTING IN FRONT OF VINCE'S COFFIN AND NOT SAYING A WORD, BECAUSE HE WAS OVERCOME WITH SORROW. I KNOW THAT VINCE IS IN HEAVEN. GOD REST HIS SOUL. HE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. IT WAS SUCH A PLEASURE MEETING YOU ON VETERAN'S DAY WHEN ALL OUR HEROES WERE HONORED FOR MAKING THE SUPREME SACRIFICE. PAT TRAITZ, WHO WAS THE HUSBAND OF REGINA SERVED IN WWII. HE WROTE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AND CAME TO ST. MARY'S TO TELL US KIDS ABOUT THEM. HE WAS SO DEVOTED TO THE BLESSED MOTHER THAT HE SAID THE ROSARY CONSTANLY WHILE IN A FOXHOLE. HIS DEVOTION TO SAYING THE ROSARY MADE A FELLOW SOLDIER CONVERT TO CATHOLOSISM. ALSO A MAN WHO WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN BY ME OR THE REST OF US IN OUR WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD."

JOSEPHINE & PETER TARSI, 2121 W. CAMBRIA ST. "ENJOY THE JJ IMMENSELY. RELIVING OUR OLD TIMES AND FRIENDS FROM ST. MARY'S BRINGS A LUMP TO MY THROAT. MY TWINS PETER AND ANITA WHO ARE ALSO ALUM'S OF ST. MARY'S WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO YOUR MAILING LIST. ANITA AND HER FAMILY WERE HERE FROM HILTON HEAD FOR THE HOLIDAYS. SO HAPPY TO HAVE THEM, BUT SO SAD AT FAREWELL. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR YOUR EXPENSES!"

FRANK VIOLA, 2119 W. INDIANA AVE., 1963. "ANOTHER ENJOYABLE ISSUE OF THE JJ!. I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO SEE A NOTE IN THERE FROM MY DEAR CLASSMATE JANET DILACQUA. I WORKED ON OUR LAST 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REUNION WITH HER AND MARIANNE MCDADE. WHAT A GREAT GROUP OF FOLKS. I HAVE BEEN WORKING AS AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS, AND A COUPLE TIMES A MONTH I FIND MYSELF DRIVING THROUGH THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. RECENTLY, AT THE OFFICES OF MY MAJOR CLIENT I RAN INTO JOHN PATULLO, ANOTHER 1963 GRAD FROM ST. MARY'S. ITS ALWAYS A TREAT TO SEE ONE OF THE GANG. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES." [fiviola@aol.com](mailto:fiviola@aol.com)

JACQUIE MATTHEWS WILLIAMS, 3120 N. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET, 1976. "I CAME ABOUT THE JJ BY JOHANNE BOCCI PALERMO. I MET HER THROUGH CLASSMATES. COM WHEN READING THE HALLAHAN MESSAGE BOARD. I ATTENDED ST. MARY'S AND WAS IN THE LAST GRADUATING CLASS. I NOW LIVE IN CAPE CORAL, FL. I WAS RECENTLY HOME TO VISIT MY MOM WHO STILL LIVES ON 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET. THIS TRIP, I



BROUGHT MY 5 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND I TOOK HER ON A "TOUR" OF WHERE I GREW UP. I TOOK HER TO OLD ST. MARY'S AND LET HER CLIMB THE STEPS. I TOLD HER THIS IS WHERE MOMMY WENT TO SCHOOL AND THE MANY TIMES I CLIMBED THESE STEPS. I THEN STARTED TO CRY. MY DAUGHTER COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I WAS CRYING. I STOOD THERE AND I SAW ALL THE GOOD TIMES I HAD AT THAT SCHOOL. I REMEMBERED TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS, (SR. M. ZITA, SR. M. ALICIA, SR. M. ANGELITA, MS PRATLEY, ETC.), I REMEMBERED SINGING AT MIDNIGHT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND BINGO ON FRIDAY NIGHTS. I AM THE GENERATION AND CULTURE THAT EXISTS IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. MY FAMILY WAS THE SECOND BLACK FAMILY TO MOVE IN THE BLOCK. LOU MORNING AND HIS WIFE JENNY, (3122), WERE LIKE GRANDPARENTS TO ME. IT WAS MS. JENNY THAT INTRODUCED ME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PASTA. SHE EVEN TAUGHT ME TO MAKE GRAVY. TO THIS DAY, I USE HER RECIPE. I REMEMBER SAM'S CANDY STORE, FELECI'S AND GUIFFRIDA'S AND R&S DELI. THROUGH THE YEARS, THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED. THE LAST "NEW NEIGHBOR" TO MOVE INTO THE 3100 BLOCK OF 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET DID SO 33 YEARS AGO. THE FAMILIES ON THE BLOCK HAVE BEEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME. MY FATHER LEROY MATTHEWS, WAS THE FIRST TO DIE, (1991). SINCE THEN FOUR OF THE MEN ON THE BLOCK HAVE PASSED AWAY. MY FATHER TOOK AN ACTIVE ROLL IN THE COMMUNITY. HE WAS A COMMITTEEMAN AND WARD LEADER. HE ORGANIZED THE PANATI PLAYGROUND ADVISORY BOARD. I LOVED

READING THE JJ. SOME OF THE NAMES, PLACES WERE FAMILIAR AND SOME WERE NOT. I EVEN LEARNED THE HISTORY OF PANATI PLAYGROUND. IN COLLEGE, I WAS A HISTORY MAJOR AND READING THE JJ REALLY PUT ME BACK INTO THAT TIME. I PICTURED EVERYTHING AND COULD SEE VIVIDLY WHAT WAS GOING ON. I WOULD LOVE TO BE ON YOUR MAILING LIST. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE A CALANDER AND A PLAQUE."

FILOMENA DEMORA WALL GARNET AND MAYFIELD STREETS. " PLEASE KEEP THE JJ COMING! I ENJOY EACH ISSUE. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR POSTAGE. THANK YOU !"

### GOOD NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!

On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Archbishop Ryan Assembly of The Knights of Columbus is holding a testimonial dinner-dance to honor Walter (TURK) Perillo. Turk was always an active member of St. Mary's, especially with bingo and the dances. The ceremony will be held at Keenan's Valley View Inn, 468 Domino Lane, Roxborough, starting at 6:30 pm with hot Hors d'oeuvres and the entrees choices are Veal Parmigiana and Stuffed Flounder with crabmeat. You will also receive two free drinks. Ticket prices are \$30.00 per person. Dancing will follow the presentations with a live band. If you wish to attend, please call Gus Ludovici, Chairman at 215-482-1152 and give Gus your entrée selection. On his "Special Night", it would be nice for Turk to see some of his old St. Mary's friends.

The Committee

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

MIKE & BETTYANN CERVONE  
ANNA DIBENEDETTO  
ANITA SAULINO FAHY  
BOB FRIES  
REV. JOHN J KEANE  
MICHAEL ENE DAVINO LODISE  
ALMA SALVATO MCBRIDE  
JIM MCHUGH  
MARY DEODATI OLIVASTRO  
DOLLY BONFIGLIO QUINN  
RONALD ROCCO  
ERNEST & DOLLY SCHILIRO  
LUCILLE SPERA  
JOSEPHINE TARSI  
FRANK VIOLA  
FILOMENA DEMORA WALL

### 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.*

#### PUBLISHER:

AARON ROSSI DOMENICO  
P.O. BOX 58  
HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ 08035  
FAX: 856-427-7850  
e-mail [jjeditor@aol.com](mailto:jjeditor@aol.com)