

## "PAST & PRESENT"

REV. CONNELL MAGUIRE, "THAT SEPTEMBER PICTURE IN THE CALENDAR SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. THIS OCCASION WAS A PICNIC AT A POPULAR LAKE. PEOPLE THERE INCLUDE SPERA'S, BORGIONE, SABATINI, DIBENEDETTO, VINCIGUERRA, DATTLO AND MANY MORE. THAT IS CONNIE BILARDO, (NOW D'AMORE), IN FRONT CENTER. IT WAS THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WE CELEBRATED LAST OCTOBER. THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN BEFORE HER MARRIAGE. FR. BUSCO IS PROMINENT THERE AND I AM ON THE BACK ROW LEFT. BILLY DAY, (TRIGINANI), IS ON MY LEFT. HIS FUNERAL WAS THE OCCASION OF THE ET CUM SPIRI "220" THAT WON THE PRIZE. BEST WISHES."

RITA CATRINI AUTIERI, 3020 BAMBREY ST. "PLEASE ACCEPT THIS DONATION FOR THE JJ! THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GREAT MEMORIES! IT'S WONDERFUL TO LOOK BACK AND REMEMBER JUST HOW GOOD LIFE WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD."

BILL BASILE, JR. 2044 W INDIANA AVE. "YOUR STORY ABOUT THE RAT WAS REALLY FUNNY. WHEN YOU MENTIONED JOE NICASTRO, IT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF WHEN I WORKED FOR HIM. IT WAS BECAUSE OF GUYS LIKE JOE, AS WELL AS VINCE TARABBIO AND HARRY CUCCINOTTI, THAT I BECAME A PHARMACIST. HARRY LIVED UPSTAIRS FROM HIS PHARMACY, SO HE WAS AVAILABLE AFTER HOURS TO FILL AN EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION OR TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. IF ANYONE COULDN'T GET TO A DOCTOR, THEY CAME TO HARRY AND HE

PRESCRIBED SOMETHING OVER-THE-COUNTER FOR THEM TO USE. VINCE WOULD ALWAYS TREAT TO LUNCH. HE WOULD BY STEAKS FROM CURCIO'S FOR WHOEVER WAS IN THE PHARMACY AT LUNCH TIME. IT WAS A GREAT PLACE TO HANG OUT. HE WAS ALWAYS DOING FAVORS FOR PEOPLE. IT WAS LIKE HAVING AN "EXTENDED FAMILY" WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IN FACT, MY DAD WOULD ALWAYS TEASE AND SAY THAT HE HAD THE LARGEST "EXTENDED FAMILY IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. ANY TIME SOMEONE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS STOPPED BY A POLICEMAN OR WAS ARRESTED AT THE 39<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, THEY WOULD SAY THAT THEY ARE A RELATIVE OF BILL BASILE THE COP. MY DAD WOULD BE BUSY TRYING TO GET A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE TO LET HIS "COUSIN" OR "UNCLE" OFF THE HOOK. HOW MANY OF YOUR READERS REMEMBER THE PARTIES THAT WERE GIVEN TO ANYONE WHO FINISHED COLLEGE AS A DOCTOR OR LAWYER? BACK THEN IT WAS AN HONOR TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD IF YOU GRADUATED COLLEGE. USUALLY THAT PERSON OPENED A PRACTICE IN THE AREA AND HE WOULD HELP OTHERS. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! I ENJOY READING THE JJ."

HARRY BOCK, "THANKS FOR THE REPLY! NOW I REMEMBER YOU BETTER. I SPENT LAST SUNDAY WITH THE ALTENBERGERS AND YOU WERE THEIR YOUNGER BROTHER RONALD'S GOOD FRIEND. MY WIFE HAS HER OWN EMAIL ADDRESS IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED.  
[rosemariebock@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemariebock@hotmail.com)

HER MAIDEN NAME WAS CANNATARO. TAKE CARE!"

ADELE MARINELLI BRUN, 2952 24<sup>TH</sup> ST. "ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR EXPENSES FOR THE JJ. I ENJOY READING IT SO MUCH AND PASS IT ON TO MY FAMILY. I MAY NOT KNOW ALL THE PEOPLE YOU WRITE ABOUT, BUT THE AREA I WILL NEVER FORGET. WE MOVED AWAY BEFORE 1950. THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

DON CARDELLI, 3024 JUDSON ST. "ONE OF MY FONDEST MEMORIES OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD WAS THE LITTLE MOUND OF TAR AND CEMENT AT RINGOLD STREET BETWEEN MAYFIELD AND ELKHART STREETS. WE SIMPLY CALLED IT "THE SQUARE." OUR IMAGINATIONS TRANSFORMED IT INTO EVERYTHING FROM THE ALAMO TO MOUNT EVEREST, AS WE WOULD ACT OUT THE ROLES OF LEGENDARY HEROES. RETURNING TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF IT RECENTLY, I REALIZED IT IS MUCH SMALLER THAN I RECALL, HOWEVER, I WAS TWO THIRDS SMALLER WHEN I USED TO PLAY THERE AND MY IMAGINATION KNEW NO SPACIAL LIMITS. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO KEEP THE JJ GOING."

LOU DATTLO, 2824 22<sup>ND</sup> ST. "I WAS A 1949 GRADUATE OF ST. MARY'S. MY MOM USED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH FOR FR. BUSCO AND MY DAD RAN A BARBER SHOP AT CROSKEY & CAMBRIA STREETS. I AM RETIRED NOW AND LIVING IN THE NORTHEAST. MY ONE SISTER WAS MARRIED TO CARPY LAURENZI. SHE SADLY PASSED AWAY SIX YEARS AGO. JUST AS SADLY CARPY PASSED AWAY ON JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> OF THIS YEAR. KEEP UP THE GOOD



WORK. I INCLUDED A CHECK FOR EXPENSES."

JANET DILACQUA GREEN, 23<sup>RD</sup> & CLEARFIELD STS. 1963.

"FINALLY, HEARING FROM A CLASSMATE - RICHEL D'AMBRA...IT WAS SO GOOD TO READ WHAT SHE HAD TO SAY. RICHEL, MARIANNE MCDADE, CETTA PICARELLO AND I SPENT MANY DAYS/NIGHTS TOGETHER GROWING UP. TODAY I STILL SEE MARIANNE AND CETTA, BUT I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH RICHEL. IT WOULD BE FUN TO MEET FOR LUNCH/DINNER AND TALK ABOUT OLD TIMES. MY PHONE # IS 609 266 3236, EMAIL [jgtg91@aol.com](mailto:jgtg91@aol.com), PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL ME. I AM SURE MARIANNE AND CETTA WOULD ALSO LOVE TO JOIN US. MAYBE WE COULD WORK ON GETTING A 1963 ST. MARY'S 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REUNION STARTED. ALSO IF ANY OF THE GUYS FROM 1963 ARE READING THE JJ, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME ALSO. I KNOW BOB GATTO, PAUL'S BROTHER IS INVOLVED WITH THE JJ. BOB, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL YOUR BROTHER. THANKS FOR PRINTING THE JJ, IT IS A WONDERFUL LIFE LINE TO OUR PAST!"

GENE LUCARINI " PLEASE PUT WILLIE TACCALOZZI ON YOUR MAILING LIST! HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE GABRIEL D' ANNUNIZO CLUB ON CLEARFIELD STREET FOR A FEW YEARS. MY BROTHER ERNIE AND I MET HIM AND HIS BROTHER RAY AND TONY MOLANI FOR BREAKFAST ONE MORNING. WE HAD A NICE TIME TALKING ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD."

BUD MARVEL, 2959 25<sup>TH</sup> ST. " I ENJOY READING THE JJ AND OFTEN SEE FAMILIAR NAMES. I MARRIED CATHERIN BRESLIN

THE COUSIN OF REV. CORNELIUS BRESLIN. HE WROTE A LETTER IN THE 5/15 EDITION OF THE JJ. I ALSO REMEMBER JOAN BENDER AND LITTLE MARIE. I AM STILL FRIENDS WITH BILL DILLION OF 2900 STILLMAN AND BOB PANELLA OF 3100 25<sup>TH</sup> ST. ALSO SEND ME A CALENDAR. THE BALANCE IS FOR EXPENSES. KEEP THE JJ COMING!"

FR. MICHAEL OLIVERE, 2023 INDIANA AVE. "MY FATHER WAS MIKE, (PIKE). ALTHOUGH I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN WE MOVED IN 1969, I HEARD A LOT OF STORIES AND NAMES, (ESPECIALLY NICKNAMES), FOR YEARS LATER. I LOVE READING THE JJ. I AM PRESENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF ST. JOHN NEUMAN HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN SOUTH PHILLY. I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A PLAQUE AND TWO CALENDARS. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WORK!"

ADRIENNE GAJ ROMA, 1958. "STEVE BORGIONI GAVE ME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. HE GOT MINE FROM [classmates.com](http://classmates.com). I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATES TO GET A REUNION GOING FOR NEXT YEAR. FROM ST. MARY'S I WENT TO DOBBINS AND THEN TO PENN STATE AND THEN TO TEMPLE. I TAUGHT 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE IN PHILLY FOR 4 YEARS, TOOK MATERNITY LEAVE AND JUST RETURNED TO TEACHING 2 YEARS AGO. I'D LOVE TO KNOW THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO WERE IN OUR CLASS. I DON'T REMEMBER TOO MANY OF THEM. YOUR NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR. STEVE'S DID NOT. MY BEST FRIEND WAS BARBARA MINGHETTI AND THE ONLY BOY I REMEMBER IS PAUL BLASETTI, BECAUSE HE WAS THE FIRST BOY I HAD A CRUSH ON. I WAS A LATE BLOOMER. RONALD

ALTENBERGER AND LUIGI ROSICA WENT TO DOBBINS, SO I REMEMBER THEM - BUT MORE FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAN 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMENTOS OF ST. MARY'S EXCEPT MY CLASS RING. I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM MY FORMER CLASSMATES MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS [momlook@aol.com](mailto:momlook@aol.com). THE NUNS CALLED ME ADRIENNE, EXCEPT IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. SISTER MARY STELLA CALLED ME ADRIANNA-HOW I HATED THAT. TO DATE, FAMILY AND THOSE WHO KNEW ME AND MY HUSBAND, AS REAL ESTATE AGENTS, CALL ME ADRIENNE. EVERYONE ELSE KNOWS ME AS JERI. AT THIS STAGE IN LIFE, IT DOESN'T MATTER AND I HAVE NO PREFERENCE."

BILL SAULINO "GREAT ARTICLE ON THE RAT. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK I HAVE RETIRED FORM UNISYS AFTER 34 YEARS OF SERVICE. I AM NOW FULLFILLING A LIFE-LONG DREAM OF BEING A CAR SALESMAN AT THOMPSON TOYOTA IN DOYLESTOWN. THE PHONE NUMBER IS 215 345 9460 EXT. 2152. THE ENCLOSED CHECK IS TO DEFRAY YOUR COST."

CARLO SAVINI, 3012 HEMBERGER ST. "BUD & JOE MEGLIO GAVE ME A COPY OF YOUR PAPER. IT BROUGHT BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES. I HAD 3 SISTERS WHO HAVE ALL PASSED ON. THEY WERE EDA, MARY AND JENNIE. PLEASE PUT ME ON YOUR MAILING LIST."

RON TUCCI, 2654 JUDSON ST. "THE EDITION OF THE SUMMER OF 1960 WAS GREAT. AS I THINK BACK TO THAT TIME, CHASING A RAT WAS A LOT OF FUN. THANKS FOR THE PICTURE OF THE 1956 ST. MARY'S BASKETBALL TEAM!



# "HOW CAN WE EVER FORGET?"

By Vincent Pongia

Pat Croce Sr., myself, Mario, (Gooch), Dell'Aguzzo, John Lorenzo, my cousin, and Nick Scarnera were very close. I first met Pat when we were about twelve years old. He and his brother Dominick had run away from an orphanage. Pat had two broken arms having fallen from the 17<sup>th</sup> & Indiana bridge. We bonded quickly probably because of our common red hair. Thankfully, in our largely dark and swarthy culture, Pat and I were not treated as outcasts, but were perceptibly different. There were few other red-haired Italians that I can remember, but I will try to name them. Besides me and Pat there were John Giarocco, Frankie Marmaro and Beppo Ludovici. There could have been more, but I don't remember. Anyway Pat and I were wrapped pretty tight . . . almost like brothers. We spent much time together, messing up all week then going to confession on Saturday and receiving Communion at Mass on Sunday. After Mass we went to my house, where my mother would be in the process of preparing Sunday dinner. Invariably, she would flatten a few meatballs and fry them with an egg for our breakfast. Pat, having lost his mother many years earlier would address my mother as Mom. He missed having a mother very much and would refer to mine, my Aunt Minnie, (John Lorenzo's Mother), and my mothers sister, Antoinette, as Mom. Unquestionably, he revered the memory of his mother and sought to replace her with others he loved. As a matter of interest, when he learned that his mothers' gravesite was threatened by water, he promptly had her coffin relocated to higher ground. As time went on Pat decided to quit high school and join the Navy. He got his diploma later while on Naval duty. He spent six years in the Navy and then went on leave. I made my 1938 Pontiac available to him. About the

time he came home from the Navy and married Delores, I left for Korea. Eventually, they had four sons Pat Jr., Vincent, Joseph and John. I married later and had two sons Vincent Jr., and Tod. My wife now deceased, and I, decided if God could get along with one "d", so could Tod instead of Todd. I think most people are familiar with Pat's first son, Pat Jr., via his writings (newspaper column and now books), TV appearances, but mostly his highly visible position as President of the 76'rs. I believe he is also energizing the business community as a Motivational Guru. Anyway, many years ago Pat Sr., Adam (Junior) Paoni, Lou (Skinny Louie or Louie Ha! Ha!) Altimuria and I were standing on the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and Stella St. across from Cali's Grocery (Mary the store). A very young Pat Jr. wanted to join his father. He darted across 21<sup>st</sup> street and narrowly missed being killed by a car, which screamed brakes as it stopped. He came up on the curb somewhat frightened and white of complexion. Pat Sr. was so upset and enraged that he backhanded him full across the face and then proceeded to chew him out. The boy never cried, or for that matter, even whimpered. The only outward sign was a bare trace of a tear. What was most discernible was his concern for having disappointed his father. Pat Sr. soon collected himself and hugged Pat Jr. I knew then there was something exceptional about this youngster and time has certainly borne that out. The epilogue to this story is that, following my wife's death I was reviewing all the photos we had accumulated over the years. I found many of Pat Sr. and myself when we were young. I visited Delores and exchanged photos with her. She spoke proudly of Pat Jr. as did Pat Sr. when he was alive. I'm sure this is just one person of the many in our neighborhood that thrived despite his modest beginnings. Some years ago, Harry Golden, the son of Jewish immigrants wrote a book entitled, "Only in America". It recounts his neighborhood

experiences growing up in New York's lower east side. Certainly, much of what happened in our neighborhood, as partially recited here, could happen "Only in America". We have so much to be proud of, and grateful for. I recently visited Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to attend Americo (Moe) Brascetta's funeral mass. While there, I viewed the plaque honoring the memory of our boys that died in World War II. I choked at the sight of my cousin John Gregorio's name. While on a business trip to Dillegan, Germany I was able to visit the cemetery in Luxembourg. (This is where General Patton is buried) I looked over all the crosses and stars of David and wondered if John's was there. But, it is because of them and we who followed (my war was Korea), that we can have the many beautiful things possible and that actually happen here "Only in America". Ernie Lucarini, Mario (Gooch) Dell'Aguzzo and my self are ex-paratroopers. We meet about once a month and have breakfast. Yearly, we visit Ft. Bragg during "All American" week. This is an event held by the 82<sup>nd</sup> All American Airborne Division to honor all paratroopers (I was with the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, as was Fred Antonucci and Caesar Midora) that fought the wars from North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Germany, the South Pacific, Korea, and Vietnam. The big event among others, is when all these out of shape, pot-bellied but still rugged ex-paratroopers march in review for the Commanding General. Needless to say, we have a ball and are rightfully proud of those now taking our place to keep it still possible, "Only in America". You asked for stories and "long winded me" has, I am sure, gone overboard. But, everyone I talk to says, "Someone should write a book about the old neighborhood". While it was unique to us, it probably was also to others about their particular place of upbringing. I'm sure you know that Mario Puzo wrote many other books besides the famous Godfather Series. And, when he plied

the tools of his trade for literature and not money, his work was outstanding and beautiful, I'm sorry if I get this wrong, but I believe he wrote a book called "The Founding Pilgrims". Largely, my recollection was that it very nearly recalled incidents and life much like our Italian neighborhood.

**TO BE CONTINUED!!!!**

## 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

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Frank Cervone is a 1971 graduate of St. Mary's. He is the son of Mario, (now deceased) and Rita Cervone. Mario was a prominent Real Estate owner from the old neighborhood.

This article was sent to me by his cousins Mike and Betty Ann Cervone. The article begins,

## BEING THERE FOR KIDS IS CERVONE'S JOB

*Villanova Honors Child Advocate*

Frank Cervone is an attentive man. Children don't slip through the cracks of his agency. They all get his full presence, and they remember it, too. Several times a year, Cervone gets a phone call from a former client as he or she embarks on a new part of life—heading to college or getting a GED.

"We let little kids get on with growing up," Cervone said. "By removing the destruction of abuse, the child doesn't have to think about it."

Cervone, the executive director of the Support Center for Child Advocates, which provides pro bono services for abused and neglected children, will receive Villanova Law School's 2001 Donald W. Dowd Alumni Association Award for Public Service on Thursday.

"He has the ability to get people to do the right thing," said Ann S. Torregrossa, director of the Pennsylvania Health Law Project and presenter of Villanova's award. "He gets lawyers involved as a positive force in (children's) lives. He has reached out to the corporate attorney and bridged those differences to give pro bono services. He has helped bring out the best in our profession by making those connections."

Cervone's career path has been neither carefully mapped nor meandering; it has unfolded.

When Cervone, 44, started college, he knew only that he wanted to be a lawyer. His attraction to public interest laws has come from many sources—mentors, childhood and spiritually.

"My sense has always been that lawyers think clearly, argue well and make change happen. That appealed to me," said Cervone.

Influenced by his Glenside neighbor C. Leo Sutton of Dilworth Paxson, who is now deceased but who mentored Cervone during his adolescence, and by the daily scene of racial injustice during his youth when he lived in Northeast Philadelphia, Cervone said he had always felt a disconnect for his lack of courage to stand up against racial transgressions when a child. He thought being a lawyer would enable him to provide justice on a one-to-one level to be a "small-pie advocate," he said.

"I got a sense of how small our efforts are," he said. "One at a time is the only way to affect people enough for me."

During his undergraduate years at the University of Pennsylvania, he worked as a messenger for a large firm. HE knew right away that that wasn't the type of place he wanted to practice. During the years, he has considered opening his own private practice and becoming a social worker.

Pivotal to his career was law professor Peter Goldberger's classes in public interest law during his second year at Villanova. (Goldberger, who is no longer at Villanova, was unavailable for comment). They showed him that public service was his future. About that time, he also joined the Christian Brothers religious order.

The order and his subsequent ministry studies at LaSalle have had a lasting and profound effect on Cervone. He began working with children and juveniles through the order and adopted its mission of service through education, which has shaped much of his career.

During his third year of law school and the year after, he worked at Delaware County Legal Service.



Meeting and working with the poor inspired him to create the Centro San Juan Bautista Law Project, a bilingual law advocacy program.

When he settled on public interest law during college, he had not fixed on child or family law. But the hope and potential of young life was a magnet, and Cervone began to seek work with children.

After a year at legal aid, he joined St. Gabriel's Hall, which treated juvenile delinquents, as a teacher and legal counsel. He spent five years living in the community, working as legal counsel and creating moral-development classes for the juveniles treated at the residential program.

In 1989, Cervone left the Christian Brothers in a search for intimacy – a decision he called more difficult than joining the order.

In less than two years, Cervone revisited his law beginnings – working as a staff attorney at the San Juan Bautista project – and carried on his education mission as an adjunct clinical professor of child support and domestic abuse at Villanova. He also married Judith A. Algeo, a Doylestown lawyer and family therapist.

In 1990, he joined the Support Center for Child Advocates as counsel. The move merged many of Cervone's pursuits: He practiced law, served children and educated professionals. Here, he would also become one of the most progressive and dedicated advocates for changes in child welfare law.

Cervone became executive director of the Support Center for Child Advocates which turned 25 this year, in 1992.

Under his direction, the organization's reach has doubled. The center has a budget in excess of \$1 million, and more than 200 local attorneys provide

pro bono services to 600-plus children annually.

The organization recently purchased 1900 Cherry St., which it anticipates moving to in January. Cervone said the organization is one of the few Philadelphia non-profits to own its own building.

Working nearly 60 hours a week, handling leadership, administrative and fund-raising duties, he still volunteers on numerous boards and teaches the public and professionals about child abuse and advocacy.

His resume boasts a long list of awards, honors and committees he leads.

He is widely recognized for initiating reform in Dependent Court during the 1990s. He is working to remove barriers to adoption. He helped research and write the *Court Improvement Project* report and served on the Reasonable Efforts Task Force.

Cervone has been honored by the American and Philadelphia bar associations for the strides he has made in the legal representation of children.

Nationally, he has started child community law programs in El Paso, Texas; St. Paul, Minn.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Honolulu.

Still, most of his pleasure is derived from the 20 cases a year he personally handles and from educating volunteers and guiding them through the Dependent Court process.

"Most legal advocates think their task is limited to the legal needs. These children don't come to us segmented like business cases," said Cervone. "They ask us to see them whole."

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

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## 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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