



HOPE IN THE HEIGHTS

A Newsletter for the Alumni, Parents and Friends of
ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL
Washington Heights, New York City
Summer 2004

“Reunion 2004” Welcomes Over 400

The excitement began around 11 am. Alumni and friends started arriving back on 187th Street, waving to old friends, taking pictures in front of apartment houses and anxiously awaiting Reunion 2004. Despite the traditional parking challenges and a small threat of rain, the long-anticipated event on March 27 proved to be one that will be remembered fondly for years to come.

Ten priests, both alumni and those who had served as pastors and parish priests, concelebrated with Father Joseph Sanches, class of 1953.

In his moving homily, Father Sanches said “My first taste of the kingdom of God, my first acquaintance of the stories

of Jesus that have framed my life happened in these very pews. We return here today from our separate lives with a bit of bravado gathering with book, with bread, with wine and songs and memories that hold our faith together.... Today we honor and remember especially God’s ‘chosen ones, holy and beloved,’ who have left a lasting impact on our lives and who bore with patience our growing up.” (*The entire homily can be viewed on our website at www.steliznyc.org.*)



The beautiful young voices of the St. Elizabeth School Choir led the celebration and St. Elizabeth alumni participated as lectors, gift bearers, and eucharistic ministers.

Then the crowd, led by a bagpiper, made its way up 187th Street to the school auditorium, where they were greeted by the teachers, student ambassadors and music from the six decades represented. Beloved guests included longtime staff members Mrs. Isabel O’Connor and Mrs. Margaret McGrath, and over a dozen Sisters of the Holy Child.

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Photos from Top: Father Joseph Sanches ‘53, and the priest concelebrants. Middle: Theresa Martin Frawley and Loretta Farrell Dente, both from the clazs of 1948, exchange a welcome hug. Bottom: The crowd begins filling the gym.



Principal Comments



The 2003-2004 school year is now part of the history of St. Elizabeth School. It was a wonderful year filled with many blessings and memorable events.

One of the most memorable was "Reunion 2004," a day that will be remembered fondly by all 426 alumni, clergy, religious and lay faculty and staff, and student ambassadors who attended. It was such a tribute to all who, since 1936, have been a source of inspiration and support, enabling the legacy of St. Elizabeth's to continue to this day.

We also congratulate our pastor, Msgr. Gerald T. Walsh, who will be ordained a Bishop on September 21, 2004 at St. Patrick's Cathedral by John Cardinal Egan. Ad Multos Annos, Msgr. Walsh!

Once again, thank you so very much for your ongoing support. You and your loved ones are in our prayers. God bless!

Sincerely,
Sr. Noreen Nolan, O.P.

Hope in the Heights
A Newsletter published by
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Editor: Jenny Kaepfner, Director of Development



Sixth grader Brian McMahon gives John O'Connor, Jr. '66 and his wife Kathryn a tour of the fifth floor chapel.

Reunion Continued

Current students and faculty offered tours of the school, so that alumni and former faculty were able to visit their old classrooms and see all of the changes that have taken place at the school. They were intrigued to see the fourth floor convent transformed into the Reverend Mother Mary Celsus Technology Center and a newly-automated library.

The event continued long after the last guests lingered in the gym. Members of the classes of 1969 through 1975 got together with neighborhood friends from other schools at the Marriott Glenpointe in Teaneck. The class of 1955 gathered at the Springhill Marriott in Tarrytown. Other individual classes got together over the course of the weekend, and some planned for future events. Please see the website at www.steliznyc.org for information.

Pictures of the events are currently posted on the school website. Copies of the school photos can be ordered.



Reminiscing are Kathleen Brady Liss, Catherine O'Brien Fallon, Terry Lamb Murphy, Ann Ellicott Newman, and Stephen J. Donohue, all from the class of 1951.

School Welcomes Middle States Evaluation Team

March 30 marked the culmination of two years of work by the entire St. Elizabeth School community in application for Reaccreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The school was first accredited in 1993.

Students and faculty presented the project proposal "Bridging the Islands of Communication" at a colloquium. Pictured are, from left to right, Associate Pastor Fr. Eric Cruz, Middle States Evaluation Team Mr. Vincent Spadoni,



Chairperson, Ms. Martha Accordino, Ms. Donna Carolan, and Mr. Jack Schulte. Standing behind is Principal Sr. Noreen Nolan, OP.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through eight presented performances and discussed displays that they had created. The team also met with administration and faculty members to discuss their progress and recommendations for the school.

Major Capital Improvement Grant to Replace Gym Floor

The gym floor was replaced this summer, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from Project YESS (Young Executives Supporting Schools) of Inner-City Scholarship Fund and the Archdiocese of New York. The gym, which also serves as the lunchroom and auditorium, is used for performances, physical education classes, the After School Program and for the CYO Basketball Program. The gym is also used for parish meetings and activities.

Technology Grants Awarded

For the eighth year in a row, St. Elizabeth School has received a New York State Department of Education Learning Technology Grant. Sharing the \$30,000 grant with PS 32 in the Bronx, students will continue an ongoing project of utilizing robots, maintaining an aquarium, planting, and projects integrated with our Peace Garden.

Additionally, the two schools also received a Title IID Grant for which they will work with the Hudson River Project and other sponsors for improvement in math, technology, reading, science, literacy and social studies. They will also mentor seven other schools.

CYO Basketball Recap

Congratulations to the boys' and girls' basketball teams for their success this past season. The girls reached the first round of playoffs, but were defeated in round two. The boys ended their season with a nice .500 record but lost in the first round of playoffs.

Several of our students represented the school in the All-Star games. These included Luis Garcia, Juan Hernandez, and Jose Carchi for the Boys' Varsity; Brian McMahan and Al Mally for the Boys' Junior Varsity; and Stephanie Santiago, Grace Apolo, and Lisa Rodriguez for the Girls' Varsity.

A special thank you goes to our coaches Justine Clifford (Boys' Varsity), Michael O'Boyle, Rick Solis and Yamel Elias (Girls' Varsity); and Kieran Traynor and Mario Guzman (Boys' Junior Varsity).

Correction

The priest who appears in the fall newsletter picture of the school mural is Rev. James F. Jones, pastor of St. Elizabeth Church from 1950 to 1959. The mural is truly a hallmark of the new school and was a gift of Rt. Rev. Philip J. Furlong.

Alumni News

Florence Swinyard McCoy '41 has 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She is twice widowed and lives in Florence, AL.

Anne McMahan LaSala '43 of Scottsdale, AZ, is retired, has 19 grandchildren who live mostly in Colorado, and she and her husband enjoy swimming and golf.

Patrick Fennell '45 and his wife Peggy celebrated their 50th anniversary in Ocean Pines, MD, in November, 2003. Their 5 children and 7 grandchildren attended the mass and party.

Therese Charbonneau McNicholas '50 is a widow and a psychotherapist working with emotionally disturbed, learning disabled children in New Rochelle, NY. She has four children, two of whom graduated from the school. Her brother **Arthur Charbonneau '52** died in 1991, and was the father of four children. **Connie Sullivan Elliot '50** lives in Vero Beach, FL, where she substitutes teaches, handknits items for sale across the US and gives knitting lessons. She has four grandchildren.

Patricia Hanafin Cassels '51 is retired since 2000 and very active in her parish, St. Denis in Hopewell Junction, NY. She has been married 47 years and has three children and six grandchildren.

Irene Olds Mahoney '53 lives in Oceanside, NY, and has four children and 11 grandchildren.

Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick '55 lives in Manhattan and has been an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals for the last ten years. **Martin Hughes '55** lives in Cobleskill, NY, has been married 40 years, and is the father of three sons and grandfather of two grandsons and a granddaughter. **Mary Ellen McDonnell O'Connor '55** of Bowie, MD, has been married for 47 years, with 4 daughters, one son and 7 grandchildren. She retired in June and looks forward to traveling.

Noreen Sullivan Garry '56 of Valley Cottage, NY, has two daughters and a son, and now works as an auditor for Oxford Health Plans following retirement from 30 years with Verizon. **Sr. Elizabeth Graham '56** is the principal at Cathedral High School in Manhattan.

Paul Spennrath '57 retired to the Jersey Shore in 1998 after 32 years in the NYPD. He is now a summer guest house landlord and free-lance photographer.

Constance Lynch-Rigert '58 of Deer Park, NY, has been working as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the New York State Education Department-VESID for 25 years, and is married with two children.

John Murphy '58 Bentonville, AR, has a wife and three children, and is the VP of Loss Prevention for Wal-Mart stores, following 27 years in the Air Force, where he retired as colonel.

Mary Reilly '59 has been an endoscopy nurse for 17

years at St. Luke's hospital in Newburgh, NY, and has three children and three grandchildren. They are planning a Mediterranean cruise next year.

Eileen Felske '60 of Bergenfield, NJ, is currently the director of financial aid at Dominican College, and is planning a large 50th birthday party for this June. **Victoria Lynch '60** relocated to Deer Park, NY, after 29 years in the Midwest, and recently graduated as a medical billing specialist. **Maureen Murphy Nutting '60** of Seattle, WA, is married and has four children. She is history chair at North Seattle Community College, and serves on the Council of the American Historical Association.

Bernadette Cafaro Vicki '63 is a social studies teacher who has been married for 31 years, with two daughters. She lives in West Nyack, NY and recently started teaching a graduate course.

Sabina Block Wank '64, who has been married for 31 years, has three children and lives in Huntsville, AL, where she is a pre-k teacher and was recently named Early Childhood Teacher of the Year for the four-state region. **Mary Cafaro Loeser '64** lives in Maplewood, NJ, and is a YMCA aquatics exercise instructor with two children and a husband Peter. **Cathy Mirinda Fagan '64** of Rockville Centre, NY, just completed her doctorate in English literature, and works as a college professor while raising three children with her husband Jim. **Franco Meladossi '64** works in the construction business in New York City, and has been happily married 25 years with four children. **Marie (Mimi) Veit '64** and **Beth Mullen McCool '64** have remained friends since grammar school, and now live in the same condominium in Jensen Beach, FL, where their husbands are friends too.

Mercedes Galup Vidan '66 stays busy as a complex litigation paralegal, while teaching at the local college, managing political campaigns, and serving as director of children's ministry.

Stephen Hastie '69, of Baltimore, MD, has been married for 9 years and has 3 boys: 6 years, 3 years and 8 months old. **Luis Tornes '69** of Miami, FL, is married and has one daughter. He works for BellSouth and is the First Vice President of the local union.

Cathy Santomauro Monzillo '70 has been a property manager for a real estate development company for 13 years, and lives in Carmel, NY, with her husband and two children. **Jesus Vega '70** moved to South Florida with his parents at the beginning of eighth grade in 1969. His last teacher at the school was Mother Delamore.

Paula Dory '72 lives in Orange County and works in West Point Military Academy. She is widowed and has a 13-year-old daughter.

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(Alumni News continued)

Elizabeth Caram '73 of Miami, FL, works for ClubMed and has one son, 18 years old. **Glenn Fajardo '73** is the grandfather to two beautiful boys. He lives and works in Miami, FL, with his wife and two children. **Isabel Fuentes Nichols '73** of Marietta, GA, and her husband Ladd have a son and a daughter. She says that she sees **Denise Torres Rancour '73** as often as possible.

Howard Rosas '74 lives in Manhattan and has a podiatric office in Inwood.

Debra Boria '76 is married with three children, and works as a New York City public school special education teacher in the Bronx. **Noemis Martinez Garcia '79** moved to Miami, FL three months after graduation, and is now an agent for Allstate Insurance. She married in 1993 and has three children. **Maria Ortega '79** of Westchester County is the President/CEO of Security Works, Inc., the first Hispanic-owned approved training school by New York State Division of Criminal Justice.

Edward DeJesus '80 recently became the manager of reimbursement for St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, NY. **Rita Escobar Fachine '80** has been living in Miami for 15 years, where she has a husband and a daughter in high school, and works for the Sheriff's Office as an accountant for a drug prevention grant. **Karen McAlary Higdon '80** lives in Sparta, NJ, where she is the mother of two children. **Joel Rodriguez '80** works at the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton in NYC as a conflicts administrator. He and his wife have one daughter.

Odeyette Perez '81 is a Century 21 realtor in the Bergen County, NJ, area. She is married and has a son and a daughter.

Ingris Ramos Morillo '82 has been working as a paralegal in Fort Lee, NJ, for 13 years. She has been married for nine years and just obtained custody of three children.

William Rahilly '84 lives in Rockaway Park, NY, and currently serves with the United States Air Force.

Peter Palijo '85 lives in Redondo Beach, CA, and is a toy design manager for the Walt Disney Company in Burbank, CA.

Soraya Altieri DelValle '87 recently moved to Miami, FL, with her husband of seven years and two children. She enjoys the city but misses the old neighborhood.

Omar Llaguna '87 moved to Miami, FL, in 1987, and worked for two years as an orthopedic physical therapist before returning to medical school, where he is now starting a residency program.

Grisel Bodden Ruiz '88, of Miami, FL, currently teaches K-3 ESE students, is married and has two little girls. **Marcella Cano Bonilla '88** works at a construction firm and is married with two beautiful daughters. She still lives in Manhattan and has gone back to college. **Jessica Vargas '88** lives in the Bronx, and is an assistant manager of human resources for L'Oreal USA. She is engaged to be married.

Alicia Torres '89 of Manhattan works for a private trade school in Manhattan as an assistant marketing director, and has a little boy who will begin attending St. Elizabeth in the fall of 2005.

Roberto Pozo '90 lives in Bloomfield, NJ, and works for the Cathedral Healthcare System. He has traveled to many countries.

Juan Castrillon '93 is in charge of the accounts payable department at a public relations firm in Manhattan. He has returned to college to finish his bachelor's degree in psychology, and also recently traveled to Holland. **Michelle Acevedo Rivera '93** moved to Puerto Rico in 1995, married her high school sweetheart Jose in 2002 and, with a BA in psychology, recently went back to school for her BA in elementary education. She is currently a bilingual teacher.

Elena Diaz '94 graduated in 2002 from NYU with a degree in education. She teaches art at a public school in the Bronx and recently went to Italy.

Jordan Bryant '96 is currently in his senior year at the University of New Haven.

Yolandy Ramos '99 is attending Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

† † † †

In Memoriam:

Carol Schusterman, husband of **Nancy McCave Schusterman '43**, December 18, 2003.

Mary Elizabeth McLaughlin, daughter of **Stephen McLaughlin** and **Mary Geary McLaughlin '45** and niece and goddaughter of **John Geary '41**.

Thomas Gross, Jr. '47, September 7, 2003.

Mary Banks Coyle '57, August 2003.

John Fray, father of **Judith Fray Murray '57**, **John Murray '59**, **Christine Fray Keaveney '65**, and **Martin Fray '70**, March 2004.

Catherine Dillon Reilly '60, July 2004.

Mary Staples, mother of **Bill Staples '65**, **Mary Staples Mahoney '67**, **Brendan Staples '70**, **Eileen Staples Ambrosini '73**, **Christine Staples '75** and **Gerard Staples '75**.

Nathaniel (Nat) Trammell III '68

Nora Hoyt '73, March 2004.

Peace Garden Update

The school recently received a \$500 grant from the Neighborhood Fund of New York Presbyterian Hospital, which will be used for landscaping.

Additional funding for the Garden is needed. Please see the website www.steliznyc.org to purchase a commemorative brick, bench or planter for the Garden.



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Monsignor Gerald T. Walsh Appointed Auxiliary Bishop

Pope John Paul II has appointed our Pastor Gerald T. Walsh as an Auxiliary Bishop for the New York Archdiocese.

He will be ordained to the episcopacy by the Cardinal on Tuesday, Sept. 21, the feast of St. Matthew, at a Mass of Ordination at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Also appointed is Dennis J. Sullivan, Parochial Vicar for St. Elizabeth Church in the 1970s.

In addition to serving as Pastor since 1998, Bishop-elect Walsh also serves as Archdiocesan Vicar for Development and as Regional Vicar of North Manhattan. He returned home in April after a long recovery from an injury and surgical complications.

Dear Monsignor Walsh,

Without your visits, masses and talks it hasn't been quite the same. Your homily at each First Friday Mass is so inspirational and we miss them. When you came to our basketball games to cheer us, it meant a lot to us. Knowing that you were interested in what we did really gave our confidence a boost.

*Love,
 The 8th Grade Class*

Wish List for Our School



Computer Printers

10 Classroom - \$100-\$200
 1 Network - \$200-\$300



Digital Camera

with high resolution
 \$600-\$700



Basketball Backboards

For CYO Teams
 \$1,500 (shares available)



Benches

Peace Garden
 3 at \$400 each



Tuition Assistance

\$250 for one month

Other items are listed on the website at www.steliznyc.org. Please contact the Development Office at (212) 568-7291 or officedev@steliznyc.org to see how you can help. Memorial and/or donor plaques will be placed with gifts.