



# *Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School*

## *Newsletter for our Alumni & Friends*

### *Spring -Summer 2009*

## **CORPUS CHRISTI AND HOLY ROSARY SCHOOLS MERGE**

### ***A SCHOOL WITH THE NEW NAME, BUT THE SAME SALESIAN VALUES***

By Paul Zaccagnino, HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL Alumnus

The merger of Holy Rosary and Corpus Christi Schools has been smooth and successful. The students have blended seamlessly since the very first day of school. This first year of CC-HRS, students are permitted to wear their uniforms from last year. Lots of Holy Rosary blue and Corpus Christi red can be seen. Next year, all students will adopt a new uniform combining both colors into the patriotic red, white and blue. The Holy Rosary after-school programs in reading and dance have moved to the new combined school and attracted many more students. Every day after school in the school library, at least twenty-five children participate in one hour of supervised reading with certified teachers and one hour of homework help. The Youth Center oversees flag football and soccer in addition to CYO basketball and baseball programs.

So far this year, students have been involved in lots of special activities. Students marched in the Columbus Day parade. There were two Christmas plays. The junior play (Pre-K through Grade 2) put on "Jubilate", and the senior play (grades 3 through 8) presented "Mayhem in Bethlehem". Both were rousing musicals with the common theme of Jesus as the reason for the season. Salesian spirit is a big part of both schools, so when Don Bosco's feast day came along at the end of January, everyone was ready to celebrate. Eighth grade students hosted the parish 9:00 am Sunday Mass with readings in both English and Spanish and a skit on Don Bosco's life, "This is Your Life, Don Bosco", as part of the sermon. The Confirmation class hosted a "Don Bosco Fun Night" with games and prizes for young children. Holy Rosary Church sent the youngsters from their after-care program and a great time was had by all. Thanks also go to the Salesian novices from Holy Rosary church who assisted the teachers of the Confirmation program. The novices work at CC-HRS every day and the children adore them. During this same week, students and teachers celebrated Catholic Schools Week with an Open House and displays of student work. As the one Catholic school in Port Chester, CC-HRS sets an example of school spirit, Christian values and the Salesian joy.



We wish to thank a dedicated group of students from the Southern Catholic College of Georgia who spent their Spring Break with us here in Port Chester.

These students performed apostolic actions both at the Holy Rosary Church Outreach Program and at Corpus Christi - Holy Rosary School. They demonstrated Christian values through a variety of games and activities geared toward different age groups. The children had a wonderful time while learning more about being a good and loving Christian, and the college students enjoyed themselves while doing God's work.

## A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Alumni,

It is my honor to greet you in this first newsletter to our Corpus Christi school graduates from all the years dating back to 1959. (Yes, we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. More news about some scheduled events will be forthcoming).

Most of you do not know me, since I am rather new on the scene. In August of 2007, I succeeded Fr. Jim Marra, who served here for nine years and whose 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination Mass we hosted at Corpus Christi this past May 25, 2008. We also hosted Fr. John Masiello' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination mass on October 5, 2008. I know both of these former pastors would want me to extend to you their greetings, blessings and love.

For us Salesians of Don Bosco, our alumni are a very vital part of our world-wide Salesian family. We pray for you, we care about you, and we want you to live out our Salesian spirit wherever you are and whatever you do. This spirit consists of many things, some of which are a trust in God and in His Divine Providence, a love for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, a mature devotion to Mary and the performance of our daily duties in union with the Lord, who is present in our every situation. Our families, our church and our world need the spirituality of Don Bosco and his love for youth. By simply being an alumnus/a, you help to spread his spirit. And for this we thank you.

I would ask you to please keep in touch with us and to become an active member of our alumni association. Please come to visit our school any time. Please continue to support your alma mater with your prayers, with your good example and yes, even where possible your financial support. We need your help us to keep Corpus Christi School, now Corpus Christi Holy Rosary, alive and running well as a Catholic Salesian school offering the children of Port Chester and the surrounding area the same excellent education that you received.

May Jesus Christ always be your best friend,

Fr. Tom Ruekert, Pastor

## SAVE THE DATE

Bring your family and friends and join us at the annual **Corpus Christi Parish Carnival** **between August 10 and August 15** to enjoy lots of fun, friends and reconnecting with classmates. Visit the Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School booth and see photos from your time with us. Update contact information for friends and family so that we can send them news of your alma mater an reunions or events that you will want to attend. The Sisters, Priests and teachers would love to see you all again.



Mrs. Chicciello's class celebrates Mardi Gras in festive style.

CORPUS CHRISTI—HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL  
**1ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**  
*Griff Harris Golf Club* 1300 King Street Greenwich, CT  
**Monday, August 31st**

\$170.00 per person  
 includes lunch,  
 dinner and  
**PRIZES!**

Dinner only: \$50 per  
 person, held at Corpus  
 Christi-Holy Rosary  
 School



**SCHEDULE**

11 am Registration  
 11 to 12 Lunch  
 1 p.m. Shotgun Start  
 7 p.m. Dinner,  
 Raffles and  
 Golf Prizes

**Sponsorships:** Hole Sponsor \$100 Prize Sponsor \$ 50

Mail Reservation Form to: Fritz Falanka, Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School Advisory Board  
 Member & Chairperson of the Golf Outing Committee at the address below.

**Foursome Leader** \_\_\_\_\_ **Company** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORSHIP:** Hole Sponsor \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Prize Sponsor \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

**GOLFERS** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$170 **FOURSOME** @ \_\_\_\_\_ \$680

*Please provide name, address, phone number and email addresses of foursome members.*

I cannot attend, but please accept my tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR TICKETS AND FURTHERS INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Fritz Falanka (914) 760-0874  
 Mike Borrelli (914) 715-5044  
 Kathy Zaccagnino (914) 843-3225

**R.S.V.P. before August 17, 2009**

Please make checks payable to: *Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School*  
 c/o Fritz Falanka 34 W. Glen Avenue Port Chester, NY 10573

## A Letter from the Principal

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I welcome the opportunity to greet you with this newsletter. I've had the privilege of being here for 12 years and it is truly a happy experience to meet so many of you as you come to church or attend the carnival where we have a school booth to welcome you. We invite you to come back and visit your alma mater and hope you will register your own children here, like the Fox family, featured below.

This year, Holy Rosary School has merged with Corpus Christi at the Corpus Christi building. The students have blended seamlessly since the first day. We have tried to keep the identity of each school, especially the Salesian way, while incorporating the best ideas and activities of each school.

In September, 2009, our Corpus Christi School will be starting its jubilee year. Fifty years ago, on September 2, 1959, Sr. Ida Ossi, the first principal, Sr. Theodora Carabin, Sr. Frances Gumino, and Sr. Concetta Ragusa arrived at Corpus Christi Convent to prepare for the beginning of the school. They were welcomed by our renowned Pastor, Fr. Peter Rinaldi and people of the parish. Following benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, there was a reception for the Sisters. Believe it or not, our dear Sr. Frances Gumino is still alive and well. On September 14, 1959, school started with 223 pupils for grades K to 4. Sr. Ida taught the 4<sup>th</sup> grade while also serving as the principal. Sr. Frances taught gr. 2; Sr. Concetta taught gr. 1; two lay teachers - Miss Mary Whalen taught gr. 3 and Miss Marion Richards taught Kindergarten. Every year after that, one more grade level was added on until 1964 when we had our first graduation.

We all look forward to seeing you at the carnival, at mass or at the jubilee in the Fall. Until then, God bless you all.

With our love and prayers,

Sr. Agatha Cosentino, FMA Principal

When Corpus Christi School first opened in September of 1959, Mary and Eugene Fox sent their three children to the school. Margaret started the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and Kathryn started Kindergarten. In 1961, Clare came to Kindergarten. Margaret graduated in the Class of '67, Kathryn was in the Class of '68 and Clare was in the Class of '71.

As the years passed, Margaret married Victor Diaz. In turn, they sent their children to Corpus Christi School. Their children are Ann Diaz-Harnett, Class of '91, Christina, Class of '94, Mark, Class of '96, and Victoria, Class of '99. Margaret Fox-Diaz is currently the Coordinator of Religious Education at Holy Rosary Church, Coordinator of the Learning Center at Don Bosco Oratory and the registrar of the Salesian Summer Daze Camp. Ann Diaz-Harnett received her undergraduate degree at Manhattan College and earned her doctorate at Hofstra University. She is currently a school psychologist. Christina received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Special Education at The College of New Rochelle and is currently a teacher at Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School. Mark works for a major delivery carrier. Victoria received her undergraduate degree from Manhattan College and is working as a medical assistant.

Kathryn Fox married Philip Abenavoli and they also sent their children to Corpus Christi School. Their children are Rachel, Class of '99, Stephen, Class of 2003. Rachel received her undergraduate degree from Fairfield University and now works at the University of Pennsylvania. Stephen is currently a junior at Fordham University and is pursuing a degree in Physics.

Clare Fox, Class of '71 has greatly distinguished herself in a law career.

Thank you and Congratulations to all members of this *pioneer family* who truly gave so much help to our first Sisters who began Corpus



## *“NIGHT OF THE STARS” - Talent Show 2009*

The Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School gym was transformed Friday night May 1, for the second annual Night of the Stars, a gala talent show organized by Fr. Vince Paczkowski, SDB, Youth Center director. The excitement of the contestants was palpable as the audience took their seats. The stage, complete with a runway, was decorated with gold and silver streamers and large sparkling stars.

The show consisted of twenty-two acts judged by professionals: two playwright/actors from New York City and Port Chester’s own Pat Rinello, singer, performer and drama director of Rye Neck High School. Contestants were talented kids from all over the area, including a cellist, Lucas Saur, from Dobbs Ferry. They ranged in age from 8 to 18. At stake were three cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100. While the show included adult performers, those over 21 were not included in the judging.

Fr. Vince opened the show with “Praise” and he got the audience singing along with him. Individual and group acts followed. There were pianists, a saxophonist, the aforementioned cellist, guitarists, singers, dancers, a piper, and even a poet! Besides local Port Chester schools, Iona Prep and Archbishop Stepinac High School were also represented.

Top honors went to a dance group: Chris Scucato, Daniela Zambrano, Ann Marie Loper, and Sara Cole, of Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School. They rocked the house with their original choreography complete with strobe lights and smoke! Second place went to George and Jimmy Mitchell, winners from last year. Impersonating Jan and Dean from 1963, the twins had the audience swinging to “Surf City.” Third prize went to Ally Del Monte for her rendition of Taylor Swift’s “Our Song” – a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll. Every performer went home with a shiny gold participation medal.

A good time was had by all, and this writer has it on good authority, that contestants are already planning next year’s acts!



(left) Jimmy and George Mitchell, as Jan and Dean, wow the crowd.

Mrs. Zaccagnino , author of this article, with Talent Show winners after the performances.



### *Catching Up: Mark Dorazio – Class of 1982*

#### **Memories of CCS**

Clip-on ties marked C.C.S, playing dodge ball and kickball in the parking lot, having my brother and several cousins attend the same school at the same time. Everyone knew each others parents so it felt like a family, Using a #2 pencil and later a pen instead of a computer, Mrs. Springer’s taught us Algebra without the use of a calculator, the smell of the “ditto paper”, Miss Parent in Kindergarten and Sr. Rose in the first grade, Sr. Rena’s class trip on the Circle Line



#### **Life after Corpus Christi School**

I received a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Iona College in 1990 and an MBA in Marketing from Long Island University in 1999. I have been employed by UPS for 22 years. I began my career working part-time during college and after gaining some experience as a Driver I went into management. I held various assignments in sales and marketing. I have worked and lived in Westchester, the Bronx, Manhattan, Atlanta, Cleveland and Miami. My current assignment with UPS is a Director of Sales and I responsible for all sales and marketing activities for our Florida District. My work has provided me the opportunity to live in several parts of the country. I have met a lot of great people and have learned to adapt to many different sub-cultures and environments. I have traveled throughout the USA, Europe and South America. My most recent trips include Italy, Brazil, England, Dominican Republic and Czech Republic. I also enjoy working out and have completed the New York marathon three times. My last long distance race was a half marathon in Cleveland, Oh last May.

## ALUMNI CONTACT INFORMATION

*Please send us contact information for other alumni of Corpus Christi or Holy Rosary Schools at Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School, 135 South Regent St., Port Chester, NY 10573 or fax to (914) 937-6904*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Class of 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Class of 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Class of 19 \_\_\_\_\_

We're interested in hearing about your memories of the school, classmates and teachers, seeing photos, yearbooks and memorabilia or having your visit your alma mater. Please share them with us.



## **CORPUS CHRISTI - HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL**

**135 South Regent Street**

**Port Chester, NY 10573**

**(914) 937-4407**

**WE'RE SALESIANS!!**