

FALL 2011

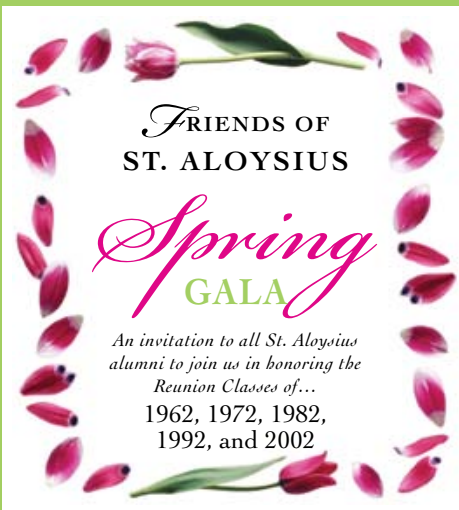
ST. ALOYSIUS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY AND FRIENDS OF ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL, NEW CANAAN, CT

Celebrating the Friends Roaring Twenties Gala



SAVE THE DATE
You don't want to miss next year's event!
Saturday, March 10, 2012



WOODWAY COUNTRY CLUB, DARIEN, CT

A Great Place to Meet God and His People



History is boring! No matter what your experience, it can be just a continuation of an uneventful time, or it can awaken challenges and open new doors for living.

St. Aloysius School has been around for almost 57 years. Walk through the building for an experience that is anything but boring — the place is alive and filled with ideas and opportunities. Whether it is the innocent enthusiasm of the Kindergarten little ones or an encounter with the maturing upper school students, our school offers a wonderful atmosphere for growth and development of mind and spirit. As the spiritual father of St. Aloysius, I get great satisfaction from being involved with our youngsters. When days get boring and routine, a quick visit to our school brings about an instant change which is so refreshing and healthy.

Continue to pray for the school and support it in any way you can. It has done so much for so many over its years of life-changing history. With our alumni to support us, we will continue to produce wonderful graduates.

God bless you and your family,

Msgr. William Scheyd

Msgr. William Scheyd, Pastor

A Message from the Principal



In October 2010, Saint Aloysius School was selected as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education because for five consecutive years our students scored in the top ten percent in the nation in reading and math. We are honored to have been awarded

the blue ribbon because it recognizes the efforts and motivation of our students, the support of our parents and the dedicated work of our teachers.



Saint Aloysius has always been a blue ribbon school of excellence, but now it is official. The school has grown and developed over the years and has enriched the curriculum, built a “state of the art” technology center, developed an exceptional and high quality faculty and staff.

Our academics are strong and competitive, but more important, we are a Catholic school and our mission includes the spiritual and moral development of our students. We teach the Gospel Values and help our students to understand and practice our Catholic Faith.

We invite you to come to the school and see what has changed and what has remained the same. We want you to meet our students and our teachers who are anxious to see you. We know you will enjoy seeing your school again.

Dr. Donald A. Howard

Dr. Donald A. Howard, Principal

Teaching — A Pleasure and a Gift

By Mrs. Jody Shine

Teaching in Catholic school is a pleasure and a gift. I always said that I hoped that everyone loved their job as much as I did and had their faith strengthened by their job as much as mine was.

It has been almost four years since I was privileged to step into the St. Aloysius Kindergarten classroom and be called Mrs. Shine by some of the sweetest and most adorable children I have ever met. I think about my 12 years at St. A's often. The people I met there will always be counted among my friends.

I started as a long-term substitute for Mrs. LaPolla when she took maternity leave. That class had 18 boys and six girls. When I came home the first day, I said to my husband, “I am going to have to learn something about basketball because these boys are too full of energy and all they want to talk about is playing basketball.” I watched ESPN Sportscenter and memorized scores and names. In class the next day I'd drop my tidbits of knowledge and worked basketball into the lessons. It was the winning ticket. The boys and I were in sync. I still



Mrs. Jody Shine with Ian McPeake '13.

have a note from Nick Fessler telling me what a great teacher I was because I knew all about Notre Dame sports.

That's the beauty and challenge of kindergarten. Those precious children believe what you say and watch everything you do. One of my favorite memories is going to Father Les' Mass on Friday mornings. He taught us that it was our job to participate, sing, say the prayers, and pay attention. He didn't realize that this would mean that every time he came to the “Our Father” he would have to slow way down because the Kindergarten would say the prayer at about quarter speed and twice the volume. And

(Continued on page 4)

How do you make God laugh?

Make a Plan.



By Mrs. Ramona Foran

That old saying pertains to the most carefully prepared lesson plans. I humbly submit a few plans that I wish I'd never considered.

A "Soap Opera" Christmas Carol

One December I thought it would be a wonderful idea for my then (dear) Eighth Grade class to present "A Christmas Carol" to the student body, as a sort of soap opera. We would perform a portion each of the five days at lunch break, using the public address system in the school office.

We read the story, divided it into five parts and wrote a script for each day. We chose the cast and rehearsals began. The props crew found some huge chains for sound effects and a clock to clang out the midnight hours.

The Monday before Christmas Break arrived. Excitedly we went down the hall with our scripts, ready to go on the air. We waited patiently at the door to the office while Mrs. Kelly finished making an announcement. Now you know the size of the office, so I don't have to tell you how it was with a cast of twenty-six of us crowded about one microphone. The announcer was ready to begin.

Then it started. No, not our production. There were runny noses, hacking coughs, earaches and tummies with jitters. There were teachers waiting to make copies of worksheets for their afternoon classes. There were kids wanting to call home to change their after-school plans. There were parents trying to get their children released early.

The kids looked at me and I nodded toward the door. With as much dignity as possible, we returned to our classroom. After we got over the disappointment, we agreed that it actually hadn't been a good idea, but that we had had a good time hoping to make it all work and had learned some good skills. Then we laughed along with Him!

An Advent Liturgy Lemon

Another laugh-provoking grand idea happened in another December. One of the many St. A's traditions I dearly love is the Advent Liturgy. Marie Crispi and I inherited the production of this project... Marie could do performances without me – as has been proven – but I could never do them without her!

That year I thought it would be a terrific idea to prepare a slide show of the sacred story, instead of using the students in person. So we designated the parts – Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, the inn-keeper, kings, and narrators.

We poured over St. Luke and decided which slides we would need. We even had a live baby, who is now probably close to being a boomer. I wish I could remember who that baby was.

We went "on location" to a wonderful old stone arch up on Brushy Ridge – we never asked permission – we just went up and shot the slides of the inn-keeper telling Mary and Joseph that there was no room in the inn. The rest of the slides were shot behind the curtain on the stage.

Marie, in the meantime, kept busy preparing the classes with the hymns she had chosen. So far so good...

The night finally arrived for the Liturgy. After the Mass, the Eighth Grade went quietly to work setting up a huge screen in front of the altar and positioning the slide projector and plugging it in with a very long cord.

So we had a slide show. The narrators read the scriptures eloquently, and the students gathered around the screen and sang their hymns at the appropriate times.

Then it was over, and the equipment was put away. I guess there was a smattering of applause; after all, they were our precious children. But it was so flat – there was definitely something missing. I was truly humbled as I realized that nothing can replace the watching of our real live kids portraying Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, the inn-keeper, and kings. Another lesson learned.

A Sore Sign of Peace

The last item might have produced a wince rather than even a smile. It happened during a Religion Class many moons ago. During a discussion of participation at Mass, I strongly emphasized the importance of a good strong handshake at the peace greeting, instead of a limp offering.

The next day was a First Friday and we went off to Mass. When the time of the handshake came, I heard soft gasps and little whimpers a few rows behind where we were sitting. When I looked back I saw two small, elderly parishioners wringing their hands in pain and in front of them two embarrassed students. And then there was me – I was wringing my hands in embarrassment.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Msgr. William Scheyd
Chairman

Tracey Masella, Jim McPartlan
Co-Presidents

Michael LaMagna
Vice President

Roberta DeCicco
Treasurer

Dr. Donald Howard
School Principal

Chris Hussey
Parish Trustee

Leo Karl, Jr.
Parish Trustee

Kristin Meyers
H.S.A. President

Marie Pascale
Director of Religious Education

Jenny Craco

Mimi Flynn

Lina Furnari

Elaine Lanzillotti

Lorraine O'Halloran

Vicky Sullivan

Christie Tully

"Friends of St. Aloysius" sowing the seeds for Catholic education



Since its inception in 1999, the mission of **Friends** has been to keep Catholic education strong by supporting St. Aloysius School, and the Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs at St. Aloysius Church.

The founders of the **Friends** organization recognized that the long term sustainability of our school depends on the retention and attraction of quality educators for our children. For the past eleven years, **Friends** has delivered grants and development awards (\$734,000/\$54,000 respectively) to our teachers for their commitment and dedication. In 2010 our school was one of 350 schools nationwide to be recognized with the Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence, reflecting the achievements of our teachers through their students. **Friends** also has remained committed to promoting all Catholic education in our parish. The grants given to Religious Education and Youth Ministry (\$144,000/\$73,000 respectively) have allowed these groups to provide additional programming and scholarships for the youth in our parish.

Our founders also recognized the need to establish an endowment (currently \$275,000) for **Friends** which can be used to withstand challenges or difficult economic times. Therefore, for the past three years, a Tuition Financial Aid grant (\$40,000) has been added to assist families with current tuition needs.

Over \$1.3 million in grants have been distributed over the past 11 years. The 2011 Annual Statement is available on the website and reflects the cumulative sum of time, treasure, and talent from all our donors throughout the years who remain committed to the mission of **Friends**. Please know that your generous support has yielded many fruits and we promise to remain faithful stewards of **Friends** and pray for its continuing and long-lasting success.

— Tracey Masella and Jim McPartlan, Co-Presidents of Friends of St. Aloysius

Teaching — A Pleasure and a Gift

(Continued from page 2)

the "Sign of Peace" was anything but peaceful. My kids wanted to shake hands with all their classmates. It took a long time to convince them that climbing over the pews was not necessary. My apologies to the daily communicants trying to get to work.

I will never forget the lesson of Robert Newman. Robert had lost most of his front teeth quite early in his Kindergarten year. This greatly affected his speech but didn't keep him from talking pretty much constantly. Sometime he needed time away from the group to refocus. Mrs. Foran and I would tell him to just say a few prayers and whenever he felt in control, he should just return to the group.

Once while Robert was refocusing, I heard him quietly chanting this prayer, "Come howy spiwit, bwing me sef contwoll." Try saying that aloud and you will know how hard it was for me to keep from smiling. Nobody told Robert to say this prayer and nobody else could say it in quite the same way. To this day, whenever I need to refocus myself I say that prayer in just the same way — it works wonders.

I miss my St. A's friends and am grateful to the social network of the internet for letting me stay in contact with quite a few of my former students and colleagues. I will always be grateful and proud to call myself a Catholic school teacher.

Alumni Notes

1960s



Ann Cotoia '64 is a 3rd generation New Canaanite and was a member of the first 1st Grade

Class in 1956 (pictured on the back cover!) Ann has worked at the Bank of New Canaan since it was established in April 2002. Ann continues to be active in the Saint Aloysius parish as a lector and has been a tremendous treasure trove of historical information about the School.

Sister Lorraine Tiani '67 first met the Sisters of Notre Dame at age 6 at Saint Aloysius and continued to be educated by the Sisters until receiving her B.A. in Elementary Education from Emmanuel College in Boston, MA.

Sr. Lorraine has ministered internationally with the Sisters at the "Istituto Giulia Billiard, Rome, Italy where she developed practical methods and a curriculum for a foreign language program in English. Since her return to the States,



Sr. Lorraine has worked in a variety of ministries: volunteered as assistant to the Coordinator of

Health Benefits for the SNDs of the CT Province; taught First Grade at Holy Cross School in Springfield, MA.; became part of the support staff in the Safe Environment Office for the Protection of Children of the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT. She is currently a member of the staff of the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich, MA.

Four ways to become a Friend

CONSIDER THE WAY YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

1 Annual Giving Fund

The Levels of giving are:

Principal Circle	\$ 5,000 +
School Sisters of Notre Dame	\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999
Saints & Angels	\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499
Blue & Gold (Our Colors)	\$ 500 - \$ 999
Bull Dogs (Our Mascot!)	\$ 100 - \$ 499
Friends	up to \$ 99

2 Saint Aloysius Scholarship Fund

This fund is designed to benefit students and families. Gifts can be targeted to support specific academic criteria over an extended period of time. Gifts larger than \$25,000 can be named in honor of parents, clergy or alumni and will be displayed on the Wall of Honor.

3 Endowment Fund

The Board of Friends is committed to increase our endowment to \$1 million in order to secure the long term sustainability of our school and maintain the quality of the education. Any size donation can be designated for the endowment, however, we ask you to consider a gift of \$25,000 or more in the name of your family which will be honored on the Wall of Honor.

4 Significant Capital Improvements

Our School building is now over 50 years old and it has been home to more than 1,200 alumni. Over the years, the St. Aloysius School community has worked together to expand, repurpose and modernize various parts of the facility. The former library is now a vibrant classroom for Kindergarten. A distinct technology center and an art room were constructed between the upper and lower schools. Every classroom today boasts a smart board, which teachers use to enhance their daily lessons. And a new playground was installed in the center courtyard, surrounding the original maple tree and flagpole.

There is still much to do in order for St. Aloysius to continue to deliver on its commitment to provide an unparalleled educational and spiritual experience for all of our students now and in the future. We are currently developing a strategic plan that encompasses major projects, including but not limited to building out a modern science lab, the construction of additional classrooms, the development of a comprehensive enrichment program and the refurbishment of the gym/auditorium.

We invite you to join us in helping to make these plans a reality. Please contact Jim McPartlan, Co-President of Friends of St. Aloysius, to discuss opportunities in which your personal giving objectives can be fulfilled and a lasting legacy created at your school. He can be reached at 203-854-9445 or jmcpart@optonline.net.

1970s

Cate (Barada) Pond '70 graduated from Skidmore College.

Upon graduation she worked in the oil business in Houston, TX where she met and married her husband, Steve. In 1995 they returned home to Connecticut and Cate currently works in the Marketing Department for GE Capital's Retail Finance in Stamford, CT. Cate remains active in St. Aloysius Parish as a Lector and member of the Emmaus community, and Steve serves as the Permanent Deacon for the Church.



Joe Karl '78 graduated Sacred Heart University, CT in 1986. He lives in Chester, VT with his wife Kathleen and their 3 daughters. Joe is a real estate agent for Mary Davis Realtors specializing in properties in Okemo Mountain.



Kate (Karl) D'Amato '79 graduated Sacred Heart University, CT in 1987. She lives in Denver, NC with her husband Dan and their 3 children. Kate leads the Faith Formation Programs for Holy Spirit Catholic Parish.

1980s

Mary (Karl) Nosenzo '82 graduated from Trinity College, Vermont in 1990. She lives in Weston, MA



with her daughter, Cassidy. Mary is a Director of Norfield Children's School in Weston.



Kelly (Jensen) Baker '83 graduated Emerson College in 1991 and then completed her Master's in Education at the University of Bridgeport. Kelly taught 5th Grade at Saint Aloysius in 1998-99. She lives in New Canaan with

her husband Andy and their 3 children (and future alumni!) A.J. '14, Emily '16 and Grace '21.

Sara (Karl) Schubert '86 attended Assumption College in Worcester, MA. She married Spencer Schubert from New Canaan and lived for 14 years overseas, mostly in London and Singapore. The Schuberts have recently come home to New Canaan with their 4 children.

Jeanmarie A. (Cehi) Cosgrove, DMD '87 is a board certified pediatric dentist. She is a solo practitioner and owner of a state-of-the-art pediatric dental practice in Avon, CT.

(Continued on page 6)

She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Stamford, CT ('91), UConn in Storrs, CT ('95), UConn School of Dental Medicine in Farmington, CT ('99), and UConn School of Dental Medicine Pediatric Dental Residency Program ('01). She resides in Burlington, CT with her husband Christopher, 4 year old daughter Katelyn, 1 year old son Jackson, and their Great Dane Ben.

Matthew Cehi '89. After graduating from Fairfield Prep in 1993, he went on to obtain a degree in accounting with a minor in marketing from the University of Connecticut in 1997. He is the owner of Small Guy Music, an innovative media marketing/branding company. Matthew has been nominated for eight Emmy Awards and has won two Emmys for his work with music in commercials. He has been the recipient of sixteen Telly Awards for work in advertising, directing, producing and writing commercials and music videos. Matthew recently returned from his 6th world tour through the Armed Forces Entertainment performing his Runway Rock Show for our US Troops in Turkey, Italy and Greece. Matthew is completing his work on a movie entitled Rise of the Unsigned which explores finding success in the unsigned entertainment world. Matthew currently resides in Dallas, Texas.

1990s

Kate (Skidd) Cummings '92 graduated Saint Anselm College, NH and now resides in Norwalk with her husband Jim and their 2 children.

Don Gerne '92 graduated Yale University and Harvard Business School. He lives in NYC with his wife Emily and they just had their first child, Finn, in February 2011. Don currently works at a private equity firm in NY.

Peter Skidd '94 met his wife Sarah at Thomas More College, NH and holds an MFA from the New York Academy of Art. They have 3 children and are now settled in Scottsdale, AZ. Peter is an accomplished artist. His steel and metal creations can be seen at peterskidd.com.

Patrick Skidd '94 attended West High School and graduated from Saint Anselm College, both in New Hampshire. Patrick currently works at All Season's Marine in Rowayton.

Meghan Gerne '97 graduated Villanova in 2005. She lives in NYC and plans to be married in December 2011. Since college, Meghan has worked in private wealth management for UBS and now Merrill Lynch in Greenwich, CT.

Jeff Dvornek '98 graduated from Fairfield Prep and Johns Hopkins University. He is the Technology Director at BidCactus in Westport, CT. Jeff recently married Nicha in July '11, whom he met at Johns Hopkins.

Dewey Raymond '98 graduated Fairfield University where he was the captain of the baseball team. He works at RBS as a derivatives analyst. Dewey lives in Shippan with his wife Lynnae.

Ben Vacarro '98 graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University and attended Columbia Medical School. Dr. Vacarro is practicing internal medicine at NY Presbyterian-Columbia Hospital.

Vincent Galatro '99 attended Tufts University and is the Manager of New Media and Special Projects at The American Conservative Union in Washington D.C.

2000s

Daniel Raymond '00 graduated cum laude from Fairfield University and was the captain of the Crew Team. He lives in NYC and works as an equity analyst for Bloomberg LP.

CLASS OF 2011

Our newest alumni!

Joshua Bernstein
Fairfield Prep

Sean Brady
Fairfield Prep

Annelise Butler
Lauralton Hall

Christopher Curiale
New Canaan HS

Sean Geercken
Fairfield Prep

Farrell Granath
Lauralton Hall

Gavin Granath
Fairfield Prep

Cameron Harris
Fairfield Prep

Justin Hufnagel
Brien McMahon HS

Gabriella Manuli
Academy of Information and Technology, Stamford

Cassidy McAndrew
Trinity Catholic

Emily Meyer
Lauralton Hall

Pacino Milbrun
New Canaan HS

Harry Molloy
Fairfield Prep

Hailey Payea
The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, NY

Emily Raymond
Brien McMahon HS

Claire Rudden
Norwalk HS

Hannah Schneider
New Canaan HS

Elle Smyth
King Low

Keywood

Kevin Stone
Fairfield Prep

Adeniji Taiwo
Iona Prep

CLASS OF 2007

Congratulations to the following for receiving their high school diplomas in 2011 and best of luck with their college careers.

Mike Antonetz
Florida State

Molly Barfuss
Pennsylvania State University

Brendan Doran
Fordham University

Anne Gallagher
Rutgers University

Terence Granath
College of the Holy Cross

Kate Hinnant
Loyola University, New Orleans

Sean Ladriagan
Sacred Heart University

JD McPartlan
Gettysburg College

Courtney Meyer
Dickinson College

Michael Mezzapelle
Catholic University

Bill Moran
Saint Lawrence University

Cecelia Morgan
Catholic University

Meghan Raymond
University of Connecticut

Anna Speight
Montserrat College of Art

CLASS OF 2003

Congratulations to the following for receiving their college diplomas in 2011.

Courtney Barfuss
Loyola University, Maryland

Catherine Caporizzo
Wheaton College

Daniel Caporizzo
Fairfield University

Kyle Galatro
High Point University

Dan Haggarty
Providence College

Brian Jennings
Case Western University

Lauryn McLaughlin
Bucknell University

Paul McLaughlin
College of the Holy Cross

Elizabeth Moran
University of Cape Town, South Africa

McKenzie Morrison
University of Northern Florida

Laura Leigh Neville
Fairfield University

Emily Purcell
St. Joseph's University

Peter Raymond
Sacred Heart University

Samantha Stanyon
Peace College

Amanda Telesco
Loyola University, Maryland

Courtney Towshend
Colorado College

Jacqui Wiegand
University of Iowa

Milestones

RETIREMENT



Mrs. Ann Kelly who has been school secretary for seventeen years retired on August 1, 2011

to enjoy time with her husband and their wonderful family. We are grateful for the many years of loving care for the school community. Five principals, numerous teachers and countless students and parents have been blessed by her service. Thank you Ann and may God bless you with health and happiness.

BIRTHS

Mrs. Amy Houst, the eighth grade teacher, and her husband Brian welcomed their second daughter, Emma Katherine, on August 2, 2011. Emma joins her big sister Kaitlyn.

Mrs. Erin Dwyer, an Upper School Teacher, and her husband Tim welcomed their daughter, Grace Helene, on June 2, 2011.

Legacy Passed from Mother to Daughter

I am a proud 1984 graduate of St. Aloysius School. When choosing this school, my parents were seeking a safe, secure, loving environment which integrated a rigorous curriculum with spiritual development. I entered the school in the second grade and remember feeling part of something special immediately. Mrs. Bartoli lovingly taught academics and instilled a relationship with God daily as she prepared the class for the Sacraments of Penance and First Communion.

I was blessed with committed Catholic educators who continued to nurture my spirituality and reinforced the Gospel message through the curriculum.

Unbeknownst to me, Mrs. Foran, my seventh grade teacher set the foundation for my future success in life. Her devotion through prayer, faith and academic challenges built self-confidence and strength to pursue any goal. Today I am a nurse practitioner and mother of two beautiful daughters.

In 2010, my husband and I enrolled our daughter Julianna into the Kindergarten class of this Blue Ribbon Catholic community. Our peers asked, "Why St. Aloysius School?" It was simple.



Nina (Cehi) LaMagna '84 and Julianna '19.

We were seeking the same experience I had during these formative years. The benefits of a Catholic education are unending. St. Aloysius School provides a supportive environment for students to achieve spiritual and academic excellence.

On Julianna's first day of school, we were met with a comforting, familiar face...Mrs. Crispi. Mrs. Crispi was a part of the St. Aloysius family when I graduated. I never forgot her jubilant personality and knew immediately my daughter would benefit from her strong love and dedication to student education and enrichment.

On June 10, 2011, Julianna graduated from Kindergarten. This loving child will enter the first grade with self confidence and a continued enthusiasm for knowledge. St. Aloysius School is a blessing. Through my parent's example, we know a Catholic education is a precious gift given in love from the parents.

Have you got a story to share?

Alumni Class News

With the introduction of this annual magazine we hope that our alumni, faculty and friends will reconnect with their past and re-affirm the present positives of St. A's. We are seeking alumni stories and photos from the past to the present. Please bring us up to date with your life, how St. A's education prepared you for the future, or share St. A's memories. We will publish your contribution in the Fall 2012 issue. Mail us at: St. Aloysius School, 33 South Ave., New Canaan, CT 06840 or email at: friends@StAloysiusSchool.net

Name _____ Class Year _____

Spouse's Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # Home _____ Work _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

NEWS _____



ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL
 33 South Avenue
 New Canaan, CT 06840



Become a fan of our facebook page:
facebook.com/StAloysiusSchool

Connect to us via email: friends@StAloysiusSchool.net
 (If the address was incorrect please send us an email.)



Sr. Patricia Agnes



Sr. Gertrude Therese



Sr. Margaret Joseph



Sr. Magdalen



Sr. Anne Paula



Sr. Mary Joan



Sr. Anna Marie



Sr. Marie Owen



Br. Timoney



Sr. Peggy O'Dea



Forever in Our Memories

Pictures from the centennial celebration book
 "Saint Aloysius Church 1896-1996"



1956 First Grade Class



1961 First Graduating Class



May Crowning



1959 First Communion Celebration