

Dear Alumni and friends of St Rose of Lima,

100 Year Anniversary Celebrated by St. Rose Grammar School

On Sunday, October 1st, the Saint Rose of Lima Alumni Association (SRLAA) kicked off the beginning of a year-long celebration recognizing the 100th Anniversary of our former grammar school. The school, has been in continuous operation since being built in 1906-07. The SRLAA board members were on hand to welcome former students, parishioners and others to the affair. The day began with Mass celebrated by Monsignor Linder and con-celebrated by alumnus and SRLAA board member Fr. Tom Rainforth, class of 1961. Former board member Joyce Fernicola Deutsch '60 delighted us with her singing, and our pioneer Chairperson Susan Schick Kemka presented a reading. Following mass there was a reception that took place in the school auditorium.



Our school has helped build a life-long foundation for thousands of people, and our association decided to honor that by celebrating this landmark anniversary”.

One of the most touching stories shared with me at the Centennial Celebration came from a very special lady who was flooded with emotion at the experience of revisiting the church and school that held so many memories. During the sign of peace at Mass she embraced me and with tears in her eyes, thanked me for bringing her home again. This lovely lady that I am speaking about is Theresa Bracken Ganley. Theresa was born November 21, 1926 and grew up at 108 North 13th Street in Newark. She was Baptized, received her first Holy Communion, and Confirmation all at



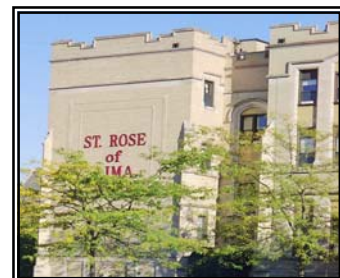
St Rose of Lima. She graduated from St. Rose of Lima Grammar School and was also a St. Rose Commercial School graduate in 1941. On November 29, 1952, Miss Bracken married Edward Ganley of Larganboy Ballyhounis, County Mayo, Ireland in St Rose of Lima Church. How wonderful to have been able to share this wonderful day with the Ganley’s and others who had the opportunity to ‘come back’ to St. Rose of Lima School”.

In this picture you can see Edward and Theresa with their sons Rev. Tom Ganley and Ed Ganley .

I was also touched when approached by a graduate from the class of 2004. “This young man wanted to know if he could join the alumni association even though he was still in High School”. He also let me know what Project Graduation meant to him. It was wonderful to hear that the kindnesses shown to the students of St Rose of Lima by the SRLAA remain with them and will hopefully inspire future acts of kindness. The Centennial Celebration was a wonderful reminder that whether you graduated over 50 years ago or less than 5 years ago, it’s nice to be able to go back home again”.



The association did some research on old grammar schools still operating in New Jersey and could find none older than St. Rose. “Our school building is in remarkably good condition, given its’ age and the wear and tear that comes from the hundreds of children it serves. But like any other older building, some items are in need of repair.



That is where the SRLAA is focusing its attention. This year we helped upgrade the school library, provided more sports equipment, refurbished all the windows in the school and most recently had fans installed in the auditorium to help provide some relief from the summer heat. We are now committed to a project that involves all those associated with the future of SRL school, the Legacy Walk. When we first introduced the 'Legacy Walk' just a couple of months ago, our members immediately embraced this idea. The Legacy Walk provides supporters the



opportunity to purchase a 4"X8" or 8" X8" red bricks that can be engraved with names, messages, or other long lasting personalizations. All proceeds after expenses will go toward restoring the sidewalk by the main school entrance on Gray street. The first few shipments of bricks were on hand to be blessed by Monsignor Linder, though there was a special blessing made to all those who support this huge undertaking. We are beginning to review possible layouts for the project and are accepting names of contractors interested in being part of this great and worthwhile endeavor. In addition to the 'Legacy Walk' project, we unveiled a 'Plaque of Honor' acknowledging the many generous benefactors to the SRLAA who have donated \$1,000 or more. Through their contributions, our organization continues to sponsor projects that benefit St. Rose of Lima's school children. Mr. Wilson has agreed to display this Plaque in a prominent location in the school.

I want to express my gratitude to all those who came to help celebrate and especially those who worked so hard to make this 100th anniversary possible. They include events chairperson Liz Rowe Chosich , Legacy Walk chairperson Susan Schick Kemka, refreshment committee members Carol Monahan Caufield, Peggy Egan Kauffman, Claire Kane Colonna & Joyce Fernicola Deutsch. Also, Charlie Kauffman for his acquiring and setting up of the "Imperial Lancers" display, Lester Brown, for his assistance in researching the history of SRL, Webmaster Jeff Schick, for his constant care in keeping our web-site updated and interesting, and Fr. Tom Rainforth, for his sharing in the celebration of the mass, his kind words and boundless enthusiasm for SRL. My deepest thanks go to Candida Esposito who coordinated all the days events at the school, and providing us with the eighth graders who served as tour guides for the day. Without the time and effort of all these dedicated people the wonderful day of shared memories would not have happened. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart".

I am currently working on a presentation for some local politicians, business and well know celebrities from the Newark Area. I will keep you posted on that.

For information on ordering a brick for the Legacy Walk, or if you are a contractor interested in helping out please contact me at carol@srlaa.org.

"With your help and support it will happen".