From The Pastor’s Desk

Dear Alumni and Friends,

He is risen, risen indeed, alleluia! The more things change, the more they stay the same! It is Easter Season again, and as we celebrate Jesus’ victory over sin, Satan and death, and our newfound freedom in him, we await the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost who equips us for the work of ministry, our share in Jesus’ own mission! Here at Saint Anthony of Padua a major part of our ministry is our beloved school, which equips our students not just for high school, college and graduate school, but for life beyond that in every sense, “life on high with Christ Jesus,” as scripture calls it. It begins with an event, an encounter with Jesus through the school and the Church “which gives life a whole new horizon and a definite direction,” as Pope Francis reminds us in “The Joy of the Gospel,” and it never ends! Everything we do here is to facilitate this encounter with love, so that our children might be awakened to the fullness of life now and forever.

To paraphrase Pope Pius XII: as the Easter Season comes round each year, the message of the risen Jesus echoes once more in the hearts of Christians with an ever new freshness of joy. It lights up with heavenly truth our world, plunged in darkness by fatal errors. It infuses exuberant and trustful joy into mankind, torn by the anxiety of deep, bitter sorrow. It proclaims liberty to the sons of Adam, shackled with the chains of sin and guilt. It promises mercy, love, and peace to those in suffering and tribulation who see their happiness shattered and their efforts broken in this vale of tears. It proclaims hope, a consoling reality of the present, a reality eternally young, living and life-giving; and which knows no setting.

Before the Kingship of Christ crucified, and now risen from the dead, we must decide. We all want a saner world, but reason and human effort alone cannot achieve it. Will we accept God’s gracious gift of new life in Christ this Easter, for ourselves and for our children? Will we beg for the gift of the Holy Spirit that we might, as St. Anthony of Padua exhorts us, “bring the day of Pentecost to fulfillment”?

As we journey towards Pentecost, again let me close with what St. Pope John Paul II, taught: “The future for us remains an unknown quantity, which we now accept without anxiety. Love has overcome anxiety. The future depends on love.” Thank you for all that you do for our children. God bless you!

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Fred
Dear Alumni, Parishioners, and Friends,

At this point we are nearly halfway through the fourth and final quarter of the school year. This is a time to reflect upon the challenges and joys of this school year and to plan for the 2016-17 school year. I feel truly blessed and am grateful for all of the good work that we have been able to accomplish. Despite limited resources and an aging facility our faculty, staff, and parents are making this corner of the kingdom a bit brighter for another generation of children. Our work is possible because of your generous stewardship and prayers.

We have much to celebrate. A short list of highlights include: greeting Pope Francis, successfully completing nearly a dozen service projects, fabulous science fair projects, winning of the Junior Sodality Essay contest, an excellent band performance at the Archdiocesan Band Festival, launching of Kindness Challenge Week, and of course maintaining our tradition of 100% of graduates accepted into private high schools. However, our most joyful celebration was the coming together of the community to support the Molina-Cruz family. Mr. Cruz, the father of two students, has terminal cancer and wished to be married in the church and have his boys baptized. Thanks to the generosity of so many a beautiful liturgy and reception were planned making his desire a reality. To me, this is what it means to be a Catholic community. We support one another through prayer and action. This memory will always be one that our community will cherish.

For St. Anthony students, spring means a calendar full of fun activities—Science Fair, Princess Ball, Spring Concert, Field Day, Career Day, Night of the Arts, and the Children’s Fair. These events and activities have become St. Anthony traditions. In addition to providing a rigorous academic program we also have a lot of fun at St. Anthony. These “labors of love” are another example of what a committed faculty and parent body can accomplish for our children. As you browse our website and/ or follow us on Facebook please know you are always invited to join the fun. In a special way I would like to welcome you to attend a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, June 11th in Margot Hall. This is your opportunity to tour the school, attend Mass, and enjoy a delicious meal. Please join us. You are always welcome home to your Alma Mater.

Let us continue to pray for one another. May God bless you and may God bless our school.

Peace,

Michael Thomasian
Principal
From the days of wearing an Afro and hot pants when she grew up in Michigan Park at the corner of 12th Street and Sargent Road, it is entirely possible that one could have overlooked Charlene Wade H.S. ’75 if one were compiling a list of alumni most likely to succeed.

She was quiet and not a particularly good student, even failing Mr. Pressley’s Algebra class. Her social circle consisted of her three close friends, the late Donna Washington H.S. ’75, Rosalind (McElroth) White H.S. ’75, and Sharon (Holt) Teasley H.S. ’75. Her only noteworthy activity was being a cheerleader as a senior.

She remembers her favorite teacher as Sister Christine, but Charlene can’t recall what the Benedictine taught.

After graduating from St. Anthony High School, Charlene left the school known then as Bowie State College after one semester because she had compiled a 3.0 grade point average even while missing a lot of classes.

“I didn’t feel challenged,” she said.

Perhaps not a great student or a college graduate, but Charlene Wade is riding a five-year wave of success as a government contractor, winning more than a dozen support services contracts with various agencies, including U.S. Coast Guard, all but two of them set aside contracts for her 8(a) small disadvantaged business, Workforce Resources Inc. of Hyattsville, Md., which she founded in 2008.

From an initial career as a legal secretary, after she completed a nine-month certification program at the Washington School for Secretaries in 1976-1977, Charlene worked for five years in law firms and unsuccessfully tried to establish a legal services support contracting business.

Observing that there was a major gulf between attorneys and support staff in law firms, Charlene decided to shift to a human resources career in 1982-1983, and this move eventually led to her successful entrepreneurial path.

She rose from serving as an office manager to benefits manager and then received a certification in Human Resources from the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) in 1992. She then became director of human resources, a position she held in two successive jobs for 8(a) small disadvantaged government contractors.

At the second company, she noticed that the owner dedicated a lot of resources to winning contracts but placed less emphasis on customer retention. Charlene successfully appealed to him in 2004 to make her the Director of Administrative Services, a position which gave her oversight over human resources and contracts management. She therefore had responsibility to hire and fire employees and also owned customer relationships.

Charlene decided that it was essential to the company’s contracting business to meet with customers at least every three months. Her faithfulness to this schedule and follow through in meeting customer needs and interfacing with company employees working onsite endeared her to both groups.

In June, the company won its second contract at the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Center in Elizabeth City, N.C. While the contract was being transitioned from the previous contractor to that which Charlene worked for, the company’s owner refused to visit Elizabeth City for the “on board” transition meeting to launch the new contract. Charlene went in his place, and she decisively met urgent issues having to do with employee job certifications and corresponding pay.

In less than two years, she built such a strong relationship with the company employees and Coast Guard officials in Elizabeth City, that the company she owns quickly captured three sole source contracts beginning in March 2011, just two months after she notified her customers of her newly founded company’s admission in to the Small Business Administration’s 8(a) program.

Revenue has increased from more than $1 million in calendar 2011 to more than $3 million in 2012, more than $15 million in 2013, and $4.7 million in 2014. In December 2015, she expected her company to record $6.2 million in calendar 2015. She explained that the steep revenue increase in 2013 had to do with her company winning a one-year, $10 million services contract.

Through her success, Charlene has kept her family and friends close. Her mother, Elizabeth Wilson, works part-time at Workforce Resources, while her sister, Lisa Braswell, works full-time at Workforce Resources, as does Rosalind McElrath White.
Charlie (GS ’66), who is newly retired, HS ’62), Mary (GS ’62/HS ’66), and Marion (GS ’56), Florence (GS ’58/’61/HS ’65) passed away at age 39. My four surviving siblings, (Patricia GS are my seven grandchildren. Likewise, some time now and are doing well, as all have been ‘off the dole’ for quite a while. Jay also reported that “My five children were away from Holy Name College one day from Grade 1 through 12. In this photo, she is visiting with Mr. Michael Thomasian, principal of St. Anthony Catholic School, during a visit to her alma mater.

Cheryl Alston G.S. ’62/H.S. ’66 – was reelected to a four-year term on the DC City Council to represent Ward 5 in November 2015, winning convincingly, after he first earned the seat in 2012 in a special election. A Democrat, he is chair of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Government Operations, which oversees 30 agencies and commissions. He made news in early 2016 for drafting a Crimes Bill, the “Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Amendment Act of 2016” that would pay a stipend up to $9,000.00 a year for as many as 200 people identified as likely perpetrators or victims of violent crime, provided they stay crime-free and participate in behavioral therapy.

He serves on the Committee on Finance and Revenue, and the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

During his time on the City Council, Kenyan has moved to expand funding mechanisms to preserve and create affordable housing for District of Columbia residents. He has sought to
increase air quality standards in Ward 5’s industrial areas and spearheaded initiatives to develop a strategic plan for the modernization and adaptive reuse of industrial areas in Ward 5. He has also been instrumental in helping pass campaign finance and ethics reform bills through the DC City Council. Kenyan has also made it a priority to seek increased funding for major retail corridors in Ward 5 and increase funding to Ward 5’s Lead Senior Service Agency, so District seniors have better access to social services and transportation.

Kenyan lives in his childhood home in Ward 5 with his wife, Princess, and their young daughters, Kesi and Jozi.

Justin E. Fairfax G.S. ’92 – served as co-chair of the successful reelection campaign of Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.). In 2013, he had run for Attorney General in the Commonwealth of Virginia and lost in the Democratic primary, even though he earned 48 percent of the primary vote and gained the endorsement of The Washington Post.

Justin, who lives in Annandale, Va., with his family, is an attorney who serves in the Litigation Practice of Venable LLP in Washington, D.C. He is a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia who served in the Major Crimes and Narcotics Unit of the Alexandria Division, focusing on federal felonies. We know that the late Ms. Lorraine Ferris, Justin’s former English teacher at St. Anthony, would be proud!

Kenneth Jackson G.S. ’11, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, returned to his Alma Mater earlier this spring. Jackson graduated from McKinley Tech and is now studying biomedical engineering. He attributes his perseverance to his time here at St. Anthony.

Alumni! Do you have news to share? Please contact Bill Murray, Blue & Gold editor, at 240-418-5427, or billm@developassociates.com.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

We are proud that 100% of the eighth grade Class of 2016 were accepted into private high schools. The list includes Archbishop Carroll, Bishop McNamara, Bullis, Elizabeth Seton, Georgetown Visitation, Holy Cross, St. John’s, and St. Vincent Pallotti.
Three students receive Sodality essay awards

Three St. Anthony Catholic School students wrote winning entrants in the 2016 Sodality Union for the Archdiocese of Washington Junior Sodality Committee essay contest, according to Mrs. M.H. Brown, head of the Junior Sodality Committee.

More than 80 essay participants competed for eight awards, and Taylor Bosier placed first in the 11-12 year old age group, while Niani Benjamin placed first in the 13 to 15 year old group. Anijah Bond, daughter of St. Anthony Catholic School secretary Atchoi Bond and her husband Tyrone, placed second in the 11-12 year old age group.

In this year’s contest, entrants wrote an essay to answer the following question: What can I offer in sacrifice to help the Poor and help save the Earth? Students aged 8 to 10 years old could submit a drawing as a response to the question.

On Feb. 6, the winners received their award after Mass at St. Benedict the Moor Parish, N.E., where Fr. Andrew Royals, pastor, attended the luncheon ceremony. Mrs. Teresa Fitzgerald, Middle School Language Arts teacher, and Mr. Bobby Rienzo, Middle School Science and Seventh Grade homeroom teacher, from the St. Anthony Catholic School faculty attended the award ceremony.

School Family receives sacramental grand slam in March

On March 5, Bishop Mario Dorsonville of Washington came to St. Anthony of Padua Church to officiate at the wedding of Nelson and Patricia Molina Cruz.

It was a very moving celebration for members of the St. Anthony community. Nelson and Patricia’s two sons, Xavy (PreK-4) and Angel (Grade 5) had been students at St. Anthony Catholic School for three months. Their father has brain cancer, and the family moved within parish boundaries several months ago for transitional housing.

Mr. Michael Thomasian, principal of St. Anthony Catholic School, felt that the Molina Cruz family represented “Jesus in disguise,” a group of people he felt compelled to assist. Although the Molina Cruz family cannot pay tuition, Thomasian accepted them into the school. Since then, the boys and their parents have become part of the school family. The school parents and students showed their love for the family by helping to organize a beautiful and memorable reception.

Anthony Catholic School, Xavy and Angel were baptized, and Angel received his First Holy Communion and was confirmed by Bishop Dorsonville. Thank you to those who responded to our e-newsletter by making a donation. Your continued support for the Molina Cruz Family is needed and appreciated.
Walk for the Homeless, an annual tradition

April 15, 2016

Ms. Niamh and our Third Grade hosted the Walk for the Homeless, an annual event, to benefit Mary House, which provides transitional housing, shelter and support to homeless and struggling families.

In Memoriam

- Bernadette “Bunny” Beales H.S. ’63
- Nick Campanile G.S. ’54
- James C. Kenny H.S. ’55
- Sheila Dee Armentrout H.S. ’55
- William Rapp G.S. ’47/H.S. ’51

Please pray for the faithfully departed.

Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Superintendent

Mr. Bill Ryan visited St. Anthony Catholic School.

Our students played basketball during “March Madness,” the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, played every year in March.

Our sixth grade students practice playing the recorder.
If you have any story ideas for the Blue & Gold or would like to update your address with us, please contact Bill Murray at the email address or phone number above. Thank you for staying in touch!

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Anthony Catholic School is to prepare its students for lives of leadership and service rooted in an encounter with Jesus Christ.