

#1 2/7/86 And in the beginning.....

①

Starting this ROUND ROBIN in anything but Robin weather. One thing this snowstorm has done; its kept me "holed-up" - but unfortunately I have very little news to start off with. One thing tho - I have sent in my reservation for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land; which, if all goes well, will start from Kennedy on April 15th - to 27th. Whoever has this letter by then, please a little prayer for a safe journey. If, on the other hand I don't make it you have my permission to sell the ornery story to the networks for a good fee (al la Klingerhoffer.)
Guess I had better sign off here - and look forward to the letter coming back to me. Lots of love 000 XXX

Auntie Anna

2/12/86 Greetings to all from the Dreheres!

We're all well except for the predictable winter ailments. We've just gotten another 4" dusting of snow to recover the roads, but the schools remained open ... much to the annoyance of the kids. George continues to teach Chem and Computer Science at Malverne Public HS, as well as Comp Sci at the community college. Ian is finishing up his elementary school career (6th grade) and plays guard on the CYO basketball team. Kate is in second grade and will turn 8 next week. Her interests run to reading, arts and crafts and "creative" writing. Matt (3) is content playing with his trucks, tools, sports and soldier stuff (a typical young man!). In my "spare" time, I teach Kate's CCD class and edit the parish CCD newsletter.

*** Three cheers to Nana for initiating this family letter!***

Let's keep in touch - Barbara, etc.

2/17/86 - Hello! from Virginia ...

We're in VA 3 months now, do like it, but it has been about one of the craziest ^{WINTERS} weatherwise...what a way for the state of VA to welcome us! It was 80 on Thanksgiving, near 70 on Christmas, and during the cold snaps the weather was 15+° below the norm for this time of the year. We've had snow, but it doesn't last long and the roads are cleaned rígh away. No more do I have to worry about shoveling or can I get my car in my driveway. No problems here. I'm getting to know the roads better - only got lost once, wound up in William & Mary College - found my way out, tho! I have my annual laryngitis and Monica has a cold.....We'll be getting the last of our furniture probably next week. About the only things we'll want is a lamp or 2 and a rug in the entryway, plus pictures to brighten up these walls..... We are both taking it easy, not doing any work. We've volunteered at church, haven't heard anything yet. I am on the choir, sounds promising. Monica will be taking a computer course at W & M College. I wanted to visit the hospital to see about volunteer work - well, I visited the hospital, the emergency room. I have a lump on my leg, sore to the touch and can't stand pressure on it..never had anything like it - so why not see what the doctor says. It is a traumatic cyst or hematoma...nothing to worry about - no blood clot - take arthritis aspirin (I'm allergic to motrin & clinoril) and unless the lump gets bigger, see the doctor in 2 wks. That's one way to find a doctor to go to ... now we know. Enough for now - hope you all answer this letter fast; the earliest I can get it back is approximately 6 months. Love to all - Do WRITE!

Paemay & Monica

Dearest Lee,

(1A)

Feb 21, 86

We hope you all have a Blessed Easter. Everything here is at a stand still due to Chad's eye surgery. Nona is in first grade and doing very well. Drew starts school this Sept. and can't wait. The same with Wayne & I. Will keep you all up to date with Chad.

Love,

Kathy, Wayne & Sam.

20 FEB 1986

GREETINGS,

SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BUT MAUNA KEA GOT UNDERWAY FOR A 7 DAY TRIP THE DAY AFTER I RECEIVED THIS. I AM ALSO GLAD TO SEE THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS LETTER. MY CURRENT ADDRESS WILL ONLY BE VALID UNTIL JUNE 1, WHEN I LEAVE THE SHIP AND TERMINATE MY NAVAL CAREER. I'VE DECIDED THAT I AM NOT CUT OUT FOR IT AND LOOK FORWARD TO FINDING A JOB IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY. THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT I WILL RETURN TO THE EAST AND GIVE UP MY STATUS AS THE FAMILY WEST COAST REPRESENTATIVE. TAKE CARE AND MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU SOON.

LOVE,

Ray

3/29/86 Hi Folks!

Happy Easter everyone! Just got this and decided to fill in and send on fast - paying some bills so I have to pass the post office. Sending in my check to travel agent for Aunt Nona's and my reunion trip to Hawaii in August. We're getting together with 2 folks we met on our first trip 11 years ago. Our choir has been putting in a lot of practice time for Holy Week and tonight is the big night - after the Easter Vigil we sing (or try to) the Halleluia Chorus. I wonder if anyone will stay to listen since we have 2 adult Baptisms and 4 Confirmations during the service and I don't expect we'll come in under 3 hours. Still working at the Rel. Ed. Center at St. Thomas - but now have a week off. Hooray! Keep this missive rolling - it's a great idea.

Love - Aunt Helen

2 April 1986 Hi everybody,

I think the letter is a great idea too, but I won't say any more on the subject because I couldn't improve on "Keep this missive rolling". I am writing from Ann Arbor, MI where I've been living for about a year and a half. My husband and I are both postdoctoral researchers at the University of Michigan--he is in the Pharmacology department and I am in Microbiology. I work on the genetics and molecular biology of microorganisms. I do not clone people or cure diseases through biotechnology, but I do use things like "recombinant DNA" in my research.

For the most part, we are enjoying our time in Ann Arbor. It is very much a college town, but there is a greater variety of things to do here than in other towns of the same size. This past week we've had the same beautiful weather that the East Coast has had. We especially appreciate it because winters are long and hard here, and Spring brief.

There are minor changes that should be made to my address as printed on the official list. My apt. number was left off--Apt. 106. Also my phone number is (313)663-2129. Hopefully I'll get the next letter before I move again!

Love to all, Eileen

Dear All,

After one full week of rest, I am ready to face 4/7/86 the "lions" again in school. This first year as principal has certainly been a busy one. Besides suspensions, broken windows and injured students, two of my teachers decided in mid-term to "change their career". Can you imagine that? Now with only ten weeks left (what joy!) we're cramming the material for exams.

As of the beginning of March, we have been appointed a new delegate from Rome. She will be living in Cherry Hill, N.J. (our mother house) for a three year term. She's quite experienced and full of new ideas. We see her as a great asset for the community. Please keep us all in your prayers -

Hope all had a great Easter and vacation!

With love and prayers,

Theresa

16 April, 1986

Dear One and All:

Coming up to my second anniv. as a priest, and looking forward to this one ending! It has been a busy one, especially losing December and most of January to a bout with Mono. But most of my responsibilities are soon ending for the year, as many of them deal with the kids in the grade school. Though summers here are just as busy, at least there is some change of pace. I could use it.

Aside from the parish work (chaplain at school, director of CCD, youth group moderator, etc...), I also am director of 3 postulants living here, and the local vocation director (know anyone...).

Then there are the little things that clog up the rest of my time! That's why I got Mono! (No, it wasn't all that kissing!!!)

So, with a few adjustments, next year will come on with much the same things. Hope I survive that year better! We'll see..

Love - Alan

P.S.: on the address given on the round robin list, please add:
"110 Shonnard Place" under Sacred Heart. The Post Office doesn't like incomplete addresses, though I got this letter!

Alm

April 20, 1986

Hi to Everyone!

I'm glad I received this on a weekend, so I have a chance to sit down & send ^{our} greetings right away. I'm back to work as of April 2nd, after five weeks "on vacation" because of abdominal surgery. The surgeon removed (hopefully) all the scar tissue & adhesions that were remaining from my previous illnesses & operations. I feel fine now & am already very involved in the usual spring/summer busy season where I work, for Northwest Orient Airlines. I work on the Groups & Tours Desk. My Orient Tour programs are keeping me busy with hundreds of extra bookings - China is IN! - but my Europe programs are keeping me just as busy with hundreds of terrorism-inspired canceled bookings.

Bill is very busy at work, finishing a night course at St. John's (toward his MBA), and constant repairs/renovations on our house. (He had bought the house 2 years before we got married as a "handyman's special" & he's done a lot of work on it, but it still needs more.) He's also busy working out an itinerary for our vacation in June. Our original plans to take a cruise to Alaska (on my airline discount, of course) fell through when the cruise ship we had booked on was sold & put in dry-dock!!! Now we're thinking of taking full advantage of my discounts & going to Australia & New Zealand. That's quite a way to go on a standby basis - we'll let you know when the Round Robin comes our way again whether we ever made it!

Love to all, Bunny & Bill

P.S. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, Happy Father's Day to all the fathers, & Happy Good Weather to all!

4/24/86 Hi Everyone

VOL. I (3)

It's great hearing from everyone thus far.

All of us here in Valley Stream are fine in spite of the weekly visits to the H.I.P. center for ear infections for this allergy prone family. It's nice to hear so many of us are somehow involved with CCD because in May I will finally be getting my Basic Catechist certificate from the Diocese and it will make my teaching legal. I still teach the Confirmation class on Wed. evenings and trying to enjoy this Jr. High age. Jason is in my class. I have 4 in school now and only Marc is home with me each day and you can imagine how a 20 month old keeps you going. We are thinking of taking the children to Washington D.C. in June for a mini-vacation and then the summer will be here. Hope all is well with you - Keep in touch

Love Always
Maria, Alex + 5

April 26, 1986 ← 4:10 pm

(It could of been Alice's 44th birthday!)

As you can see I'm the only one not sure enough of myself to write in pen or type - HA!

Actually Ralph & I plan to leave in a few hours (after Mass) for North Carolina for a few days "alone" as my in-laws will watch my nest & "chicks".

We are all well, kids remaining all over w/ all their sports/scouts activities. Brand will graduate to H.S. & was Conferred in Feb. Helen goes into 5th & Janmac 1st. Mom helps out at school c/c cafeteria, teachers' aide etc. & LOVES IT! Wish I could help

Sister Theresa (Theresa, still my favorite saint when I had a rose bloom mid-August last summer when I needed a sign to hang on!) I'm thrilled to be on the address list - Love you all - Helen
Make Ralph Brand Janmac

May 1, 1986

Dear relatives, far and wide,

My turn...and thrilled at the positive response so far. Why didn't we do this sooner? We sure did talk about it long enough!

I hate to have to add a sour note to this otherwise uplifting (so far) Letter. But first some good news! Ed, Lorraine and I took a one week cruise aboard the Bermuda Star beginning March 29th. We flew to New Orleans, then sailed to Key West, Cancun and Cozumel, Mexico, returning April 5, then spent another day in glorious New Orleans before flying home. The weather, food, entertainment etc. were great, and the entire vacation was relaxing, interesting and fun.

Now, the bad news! The following Saturday, April 12th, our farmhouse burned down. The story we're told is that our tenants retired about 10 PM and were awakened about midnight by smoke and/or heat. By the time they had gotten themselves and their 2 children out the window and down via the porch roof, the entire house was engulfed. Vol. firemen worked on the disaster for 8 hours. End result..the "old" house where our tenants lived is completely destroyed - nothing left but rubble. the "new" house - ours - still stands, at least on 3 sides, but is gutted and completely destroyed. What the fire didn't consume was ravaged by water, smoke and zealous firefighters. No need to elaborate on how devastated we are--our 25 year commitment to the Farm is obvious.

For now, we're "camping out" in the barn, and working on getting phone and electricity installed there. We are not even allowed to set up a temporary trailer in which to live - zoning laws. We are also dealing with the insurance co., broker, lawyer, town officials etc. and are "babes in arms" as far as experience along these lines goes. More next time.

In January, Steven started working for the NY Times as a tape librarian in the computer room. An excellent job he likes, with lots of opportunity Ken Has been pumping gas for the past few months, soon will end that "career" to do some travelling etc. for the summer. He is due back at KP in October. Lorraine completes her Jr. year in HS this June. She has been on the gymnastic and swim teams, worked 4 mos in a bakery and today starts a new job as cashier in a local drug store. We're anxiously awaiting Ray's return on his retirement from the Navy. Haven't seen him since last Oct. and miss him.

Ed is awaiting another possible strike at con ed. in July. But hopefully, a new contract will offer sweeteners for early retirement. He would jump at that chance. My own plans on quitting my PT job of 10 years in order to spend much of the summer at the farm have been abruptly terminated. So, we have lots of reorganizing to do with our thoughts. Keep watching! Aunt Anna has been designated the Historian of THE LETTER. When it comes around to you and you are the last one on the page, send the old portion to Auntie to keep in her archives. May make a great soap!!!

Love you all-

The Christensens

Aunt Anna

May 13, 1986

Dear Family,

Sorry for the delay in writing. I'm new at this. Mary Jo and I recently celebrated our first wedding anniversary. Last year at this time, we were preparing for our trip to Paris and Nice. This year, we'll have to content ourselves with Jones Beach.

Mary Jo is wrapping up her first year at Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead, where she teaches Latin and handles Alumnae Relations. (Yes, the same Sacred Heart which Eileen, Barbara and Bernadette attended.) She has also served as a coach for the Speech and Debate team and is preparing for a trip to the National Tournament in Baltimore.

Since January of '85, I have been working at WGLI-Radio in Babylon. I'm a newscaster and sportscaster. I enjoy the job, because of its many perks-- such as going to hockey games, but I'm not terribly fond of the hours. My alarm is set for 3:45 a-m.

Love,
Joe & Mary Jo Clines

Greeting!

The end is almost here - last day of school is June 13th! I have yet to take care of 2 graduations (music and all) before this wonderful day of the year! This "Round Robin" is a fantastic idea! It is really nice to hear from everyone!

This year has been so very busy for me (the cry of every teacher) with papers, exams, parish functions, etc. I'm looking forward very much to the pounds of summer! Hope to see everyone (ahem!).

Love to all,
Joanne

Greetings to all in this wonderful family,

June 6, 1986

(4A)

Am I the only one dreading those final words, "School is out!"? Not only do I have to look forward to the 5 familiar voices saying "I'm bored", there is also my "job" of watching my neighbor's children, ages 3+9.

An update on our family... George is kept busy with work, of course, and is now in the middle of his softball season (2 teams no less). He has also joined our local Kof C and has been helping a lot with community work. Andy, 15, is "petering" from the paper route and will work this summer doing lawns and then hopes to land a regular job in the fall when he'll be 16. He is aiming toward college and shows a special talent for mechanical drawing (he currently has 2 drawings on exhibit at the public library). Patti - our newest teenager (13) was recently confirmed and is becoming quite a young lady. She will be launching her babysitting career this summer. Paul, now 12 has had a very busy spring. Aside from his paper route every day, he also has baseball games & practices and last night performed in his school's spring concert with the band (drums - lucky me) and also with chorus. Loren, 9, was also in a spring concert on Tues. night. The 3rd grade chorus was just formed this year and they did quite well. She also played the recorder. Michael, 7, is also a little leaguer. He is in his 3rd year of T-Ball and next year graduates to pitching. He sometimes helps Paul out with papers, practicing for when he gets his own route. Mom is doing fine too. She keeps herself busy with being, card games, cooking class, etc. She also keeps me busy with laundry, shopping etc. As Aunt Anna said in her original letter to me, Mom would love to hear from you. As for me, I recently saw a saying which sums it all up - "If a woman's place is in the home, why am I always in the car!"

I know I have gone way over the paragraph I'm allowed but, if you can bear with me just a little longer...

We don't hear too often from the Krause's but the most recent info I have is that Kathy (22) has her own apt. with a friend and is happy & doing very well at her job. Johnny (31) is in the Army and stationed in Texas. He has someone special there and may stay after his discharge. Krisay (19) is finishing up her 2nd year at the U. of Ct. and will transfer back to the island next semester due to expenses. Michael (18) is finishing his 1st year at college in Pa. From what I've heard, he's having a ball!

All in all, the above dozen people are well. It's sooo nice to hear from everyone. Our love & prayers for everyone, especially Chad. Love, Mom & Dad

Hi All,

VPL I (5)

June 11, 1972

I see it's now our turn (#17) from #117. And I better get this off before the vacationers start coming in! Si. Christine stays with us first (she has school (ugh!) this summer) then Chay. will be home from the cool Schwein for nearly a month! And then it'll be Theresa + Joan for their 10 days vacation. But we look forward to their visits even more than they do. In Sept. we hope to visit Patty again, in Colo Springs. In the meantime it's almost every weekend or so at Kottay's in New Jersey. So you could say, we're getting to see the grandchildren a lot. But Betty says it's so nice to have other wiping their "dypas" in a change! In May we visited Betty's sister Helen or Tamya for 2 weeks - took advantage of the \$69. plane fare and rented a car. Very depressing to see her husband almost like poor Bill was. But she does a fantastic job of caring for him. Was so glad finally to get to see Madeline and enjoy her great hospital stay too. Was happily surprised that both Betty and I managed so well to see all of Epcot Center and Busche Gardens. Even the 82° pool water felt great! (doggie paddle only match!) How I think of Bill when I see those waves along the Jersey shore! Given the problems, it's good to see that we're up to #18 already in just 4 months. Keep it up gang!

Love from Betty & Charles

July 5

There was a bit of a delay here, gang--- I was back on Long Island for vacation when Uncle Charlie and Aunt Betty told me the letter was in Milwaukee waiting for me. Got a chance to see Tina that day, too.

As it turned out, my vacation couldn't have been timed better, because the day after I arrived was the day my mother decided to have a nice, very mild heart attack. With Barbara, Bunny and Joe already on Long Island, and Eileen coming in for a visit later in the week, we were all around to make sure "Grandma" didn't get lonesome and didn't go off on long walks around the neighborhood after the hospital let her go. The damage to the heart was quite limited, and she and Nana are off to Hawaii in August as planned, at this writing.

As for me, I'm in my 15th year at the Milwaukee Journal, and in my 5th year as national and world editor (basically, in charge of our coverage outside Wisconsin, from the wire services and our own traveling reporters). In December the paper sent me to the Philippines to do a series before the Marcos-Aquino election, and it turned out quite well. I got to ask Marcos a question at a press conference that got him angry (although the ~~xxx~~ question had nothing to do with his wife's ~~xxx~~ shoes).

Otherwise, I'm trying to hold back the hands of time, trying to keep playing softball and basketball despite the little things that tell me I'm over the hill (the most recent reminder being a broken thumb). And I returned to Milwaukee with explicit instructions from Aunt Betty to "find a nice girl and marry her." But on that score, I can hold out at least as long as Charles can.

love to all,

Frank

Greetings —

(57)

All is fine and busy here in Colorado. Jeff is working for GTE as a System Design Engineer. He likes it alot. Jeffrey, now 5, starts school this year and is so excited. Between Christine (4) and Charles (3) I really have my hands full (but loving it)! Well, I hope this finds you all in the best of health.

Our love to all
Patty, Jeff, & children

Hello All...

7/28/86

First, let me add my voice to those who have written before me... This letter was a great idea! Let's all keep it rolling!! We have just returned from a combination business trip/vacation in Florida. We spent a week in St Petersburg Beach attending a business conference (during which we had the pleasure to visit Madeline, Ralph and the children) and then spent four days touring Kennedy Space Center and Disney World. The day after our return, Danie was off again to her Mary Kay Seminar in Dallas for four days. All this followed a two month refueling outage at our plant (when Danie becomes a temporary widow) so we are only now settling down to enjoy summer (if one can truly "enjoy" this heat and humidity!). Claudine (now 6) is looking forward to attending first grade in September and has been enjoying gymnastics and swimming. Christopher (9) will be entering fourth grade in the fall, has played softball and basketball this past year and is a Cub Scout. Danie, besides being a dynamic beauty consultant, a chauffeur, a peacekeeper and a "domestic engineer", also acts as a part-time den mother and volunteered at school (helped out in computer class and worked with the kindergardeners to prepare meals to coincide with holidays and foreign cultures they were studying.) For the last year, I have been the supervisor of Plant Engineering at Surry Power Station. (I am now involved in the day-to-day operations rather than construction projects as before.) This year, I am also serving as president of our neighborhood homeowners' association. We all enjoy having Grandma and Aunt Monica nearby once again. (The kids especially like the pool right behind their house and we enjoy the free babysitting!) They are becoming more active, both physically (swimming and "doing" Busch Gardens) and socially (through the Church and volunteer work at the hospital.) I'll let them explain when their next turn at this letter comes. I guess that will have to do for now! Next stop, Sr. Christina!

PS ALAN'S NEW ADDRESS:

OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS

226 E 113 ST

NY, NY 10029

(212) 534-6218 or 6219

Love,

Eric, Danie, Chris & Claudine

Hi Everyone,

I just returned home last night from staying at St Margarets in Woodbury for seven weeks while I went to school. It was some summer for me because I took three very heavy courses. Now back at Rumson, I'll have a week to rest and then on Retreat from the 17th till the 25th. I can't wait for that! After, I return home and get ready for another school year with my kids. I enjoy teaching Kindergarten, I love the little ones. So far, everything with me is the same. I'm so happy to hear from all of you. I think this is a great idea!! Take Care and God Bless.

Love,
Tina

Hi, (AND IN THE END.....)

8/15

LAST BUT NOT LEAST. WELL, I'D LIKE TO START OFF BY SAYING I BECAME A GREAT AUNT (TALK ABOUT FEELING OLD) FOR THE FOURTH TIME THIS PAST DECEMBER. EXCEPT THIS TIME, THE BABY (GIRL) LIVES WITH ME, ALONG WITH MY NEPHEW & HIS WIFE. IT'S SOMETIMES DIFFICULT LIVING WITH TEENAGERS, BUT ALL & ALL, IT'S OK.

ALSO, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO KEEP BUSY WITH WORK & TRAVELING TO OHIO & ARIZONA TO VISIT MY SISTERS. HOPEFULLY, I'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO FLA. TO VISIT WITH MADELINE, RALPH & THE KIDS.

WELL THAT'S ABOUT ALL THAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING WITH ME.

(OVER)

I HATE to be REPETITIONS, but I ALSO 6A
THINK THIS IS A GREAT IDEA. EVEN THOUGH
I DON'T KNOW EVERYONE REALLY WELL, I
LIKE TO KNOW HOW EVERYONE IS DOING.

MY BEST to YOU ALL

LOVE
Debbie

Hi All,

6/4/87

Would you believe another school year
over! Tomorrow my little darlings will graduate
and I'm going crazy with all the preparations, but
after the graduation off to "home-sweet-home". I'll be
home for my 10 day vacation then back for further
studies this summer (like every summer). Our
transfers are out and I'll be changed back down
at St. Margarets in Woodbury Heights. I will be
teaching second grade again. There is never a dull
moment in the life of a Religious.

Hope all is well with everyone. Great
hearing from you. May God Bless You.



Love,
Jina