

Greetings from the Drehers! Thought I'd start the next round with a new color paper to make it easy to keep track. We're all eagerly awaiting winter break next week (being married to a teacher ensures plenty of vacation time). No travel plans, but it's a nice change. Of course we're in the midst of our basketball season - Ian on the 8th grade CYO team, and Kate playing for the first time (with moi as coach). Matt is impatient for soccer to roll around in March. I'll be coaching his Kgtm team ... they are a lot of fun, and you don't have to worry about winning. Ian is finishing up 8th grade and will go to public HS next year. After much negotiating and prodding from us, the grammar school principal has allowed Kate to accelerate into the 5th grade. She wanted this and put in much time to get the work done, so we're very proud of her. Of course, it'll take time for her to find a niche with the new class. To my surprise, Matt loves school (especially the school bus trip). Now I'll start worrying about his adjusting to a full day in 1st grade! George keeps himself busy. He is the 30 second clock operator for all the Malverne girls home games (for which he's paid ... public schools are different from Catholic ones!), and he's running a state-funded science enrichment for minorities program after school. I'm still teaching RE and doing the newsletter; also considering going back for my MLS to work parttime in a few years. I try to get in walking at the local park for my exercise. Was great seeing everyone at the reunion, and hope that spring comes for us all real soon. Take care -

Barbara + the gang

(And it's great reading about everyone in this letter!)

Hi y'all, it's St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 1988, my brother John's 65th birthday. All of his children and grandchildren helped him celebrate the day. Speaking with him today on the phone he says he sometimes feels like 100. . . . Well it's good to see the Round Robin letter again, it's been a while! It's good to hear all is well with y'all! My last message was re. Easter Sunday, the choir and folk group singing together in William and Mary Hall. Well, we're now rehearsing to do the same thing this year. . . . Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday. I'll be distributing ashes again at the noon Mass. It seems like only days ago I was thinking about Christmas presents. Time is going by much too fast. . . . Monica is still registered with the Rehab. Serv. Dept. She spent 5 weeks being evaluated in the Rehab. Center in Fishersville, VA in Sept. (time of the reunion). She came home Oct. 9 - her counselor here in Wmbg. got the reports of that evaluation the second week of January (all that time!) . . . All of this did not turn out as we thought it would. They will not train her in bookkeeping or computer - and she knows all other office work. The only thing we found out is that she can probably use hearing amplifiers and probably learn to drive a car. Re. a job . . . ???? in the meantime we volunteer to keep in practice. . . . Maybe we'll get to see y'all if a second reunion is held when we can make it. Alan sent pictures of the reunion. We can't make out 1 adult and the children . . . from Dana on down we can't tell who they are or who they belong to.

Love to all,

Barbara and Monica

2/17/88

20A

Dear all,

Nothing new with the Shornells. The children have just gotten over their winter pneumonia, and now that Lent is upon us, we are looking forward to Easter and the warm weather of spring. We also enjoyed the reunion and catching up with the latest from everyone. (would love to do it again!)

Love,
Kathy, Wayne, & children

3/2/88

Greetings 1988!

The winter in San Francisco is supposed to be cloudy and rain filled, but we've been having great golf/baseball weather over the past several weeks. Not much is new. I've been promoted to "District Manager" with First Investors and so do a lot of training and interviewing, besides working with clients. I still work long weekdays, but there's not much else to do anyway without a family to worry about. Weekends are currently for singing in the choir, learning tennis finally, and staying out too late. I'll be in NY in late December for my annual re-acquaintance. Love always,

Ray

3/13/88

Hi all - Things are pretty quiet around here, thank god! - Still working at St. Thomas Religious Ed. Center (current name for CCD) and still "singing" with the choir. At the moment I'm trying to work on my tapes. Doesn't that sound exciting for a Sunday evening? I really think the government has gone bonkers, or else they just want to give

all the accountants more work. The rest of my time is taken up by occasionally going to dinner with friends - all ladies - no old, rich Jewish men seem to be available (I guess maybe working in a convent has something to do with it), occasionally sitting for the Brehee kids, and usually meeting Auntie for lunch on Saturdays. I'm looking forward to visiting Frank in Milwaukee later this week, courtesy of a special ticket from Bernadette. Will probably stay in a hotel since Frank's 4th floor walk-up might be kind of hard on the old bones more than a couple of times. Hope their snow has disappeared - I'll let you know next time the letter comes around -

Love to all - Aunt Helen

20 March, 1988

Dear All,

I'm afraid that Mom may have gotten a chilly reception in Milwaukee-- here in "Southeastern Lower Michigan" we have a dusting of snow on the ground and temperatures in the 20's and 30's. This is quite unpleasant after the thaw we had in the beginning of the month!

I won't be living in Michigan for too much longer because Joe has accepted an offer to be a pharmacologist for a drug company (Merck, Sharp, and Dohme) located in Pennsylvania north of Philadelphia. He is going to start there in the middle of April, but I am planning on staying in Michigan through the summer. I want to finish the project I am working on here at U of M.

Joe and I made a trip to the Philly area a few weeks ago and picked out an apartment. I'm afraid that we have been spoiled by living close enough to walk into work at the University; it will never be that convenient for us again. I can understand Eric being happy about moving closer to work. At least we can give up the 12-hour car trips/2-hour plane trips we had to make to visit family.

Prior to our annual trek East for the holidays, we did get a chance to take a short vacation in southern California. Joe had a meeting in Anaheim (home of Disneyland) in November, and I flew out after it was over. We enjoyed it, but things were quite hectic as we didn't have much time. I'd like to go back with more money and more time!

love,
Eileen

Hi!

3/30/88 21A

Happy Easter to one and all! I'm happy to see that things are going smoothly with the big class. Joan and I expect to go home for our annual visit sometime during mid-July. Will we get a chance to see some of our long lost cousins? - Recently the life of a principal has kept me hopping. Since one of my teachers quit on me (for a higher paying job) I was forced to teach for the month of January while searching for a teacher and acting as principal at the same time. Our Lady came through for me in the end and now all is settled and going smoothly for me too. There are many lessons to learn in life but perhaps the biggest (and hardest) is to trust in God totally!

Have a good summer if I don't see you and let us keep each other in our mutual prayers -

Love,
Theresa

4.15.88

Dear One and All,

I recently took a trip down memory lane. I was in Brooklyn for a meeting at St. Michael. Going early, I toured around to see Miller Ave, Jerome St, the shop, as well as Mom's family's funeral home, as well as the Church itself. While not all the memories were pleasant, it was a good thing to do, and all the sites looked well preserved (esp. the Church!)

Two events brought me there. One was the memorial Mass for Fr Antonine Zimmerman, with whom I worked on Guam. Coming originally from the neighborhood, the family was invited back to pray for Antonine with the Friars, since he was buried on Guam.

The second reason for my being there was to meet with Fr Jack Rathschmidt, the new Provincial, to discuss my status in the Order and priesthood. With friends and the best advisors to assist, I have decided to begin the process for a formal dispensation from vows and the obligations of ordination. I am aware that this disappoints or saddens many of you, but it is the way I have chosen, the only way I feel I can really go. The process is parallel to an annulment, but is handled by the Pope personally. More than that, I can't really say right now. Hopefully, by the next letter, more can be said, and perhaps I will have seen some of you. It is also important for me to reiterate at this time that my leaving in no way reflects on the Capuchins (or anyone else). If I felt I could continue, I would wholeheartedly return to the Caps, and even now retain good relationships with many of the Friars.

In other areas, I am still taking a course at Pace U, one at Bear Stearns, and am working in the same dept at the Company as before. I am overdue for a transfer to another position, but that was delayed by the crash(es). We're shorthanded in my area. So, O.T. is plentiful, which is why people generally can't reach me at home during the week. And, of course, on weekends, I don't wait around, either. I do my studying, write letters, pay bills, do laundry & shopping, and try to party a bit!

The rest of the Southern Mays are scheduled to head this way in June for Danie's brother's wedding. I also hope to visit them in May. They are all well. The new house in Richmond seems to be coming along nicely for Eric & Danie. They'll fill in more in their turn on the round.

Take care, everyone!

Love
Alan

Dear Family,

4/30/88

Well, six months after our last Round Robin entry (with all of our plans for the move to Albany), we are still here in Bethpage! Would you believe the original proposal Bill's company made with the state is still pending! (No wonder nothing ever gets done in government.) The final deadline is now June 15th, but actually Bill is now working in a new area of the company (after being promoted to manager), & is pretty satisfied with his new work so far. So even if Grumman gets the contract in the end, we're not so "up" for the move anymore.

Meanwhile, there is now a good chance that my office will be moving to New Jersey before the end of the year! Although, I couldn't consider moving with the company on a permanent basis, I sure would like to stick it out until my pension is vested under the new law coming into effect Jan. 1st. So I might have to be commuting as Eric was (as long in time, if not in distance) for a few months. Or do you take in boarders at Woodbury Heights??

We had the incredible "luck" of landing in Japan on Monday, Oct. 18th - "Black Monday", the very day of the Stock Market crash! We couldn't believe the difference in how many yen we got for our dollar in those first few days. But, though the trip turned out more expensive than we expected - at least till we got to Hong Kong - it was all fascinating, & we got home safely, which is the most important thing.

Mom, Aunt Anna & I also took a tour of the old neighborhood recently when we were at St. Michael's for a 90th birthday party for my father's Aunt Angela Claes. We were pleasantly surprised at how well it's kept up. Best wishes to all! Love,
Barry & Bill

5-9-88

22A

Dear Family,

Everyone here in Valley Stream is doing fine. Nothing new here except the daily task of raising a "brood". Saturday Adrienne receives First Holy Communion and right now I am in the midst of all the preparations. (4 down 1 to go) Jason, now 15 has a part time job at a nearby Japanese restaurant and is doing pretty well. The rest of the clan is eagerly waiting for summer vacation next month. I have quit working, and will probably resume when Marc starts school.

Hoping all of you are well and have a restful and enjoyable summer! Love to all
Mario, Alex and kids

May 12th 1988

Dear Family - When I was up in N.Y. two weeks ago Ronnie & I discussed how we haven't seen the "robin" letter. I was feeling a little down (re: the date) until I saw "the" letter & now feel much better.

Unlike most of you, I again have news regarding Ronnie's health that is unpleasant. It seems Ronnie has inherited the "may heart" = it's golden, but fragile. She's recuperating nicely though & therego my reason for a week in N.Y. Also, my mom was moved from the Health Related Facility to the Nursing Home Section (same address #344) & will take time to adjust to a roommate etc -

In Seminali however, the "pen is shering" & James received her 1st Holy Communion May 7th. I'll have a Communion Breakfast for her & friends on Sunday.

Ralph hasn't been sent away lately & I'm so grateful. Grant will be working this summer & start on the Swim Team in August. He dives & does pretty well at it. Ileen turns 13 in July & I'll find out what it's like to have 2 teens in the house. I'm looking forward to being off come June for 2 mos but I'm not looking forward to the heat - HA! & x x x
Love, Ralph, Madeline & kids

May 26, 1988

Dear All:

I'm disappointed that this letter has taken so long to come round again. Even allowing for moves, vacations, family crises etc. it seems 8 months is a pretty long time to be a-comin. And we all enjoy it so - it's great to hear of the activities of our ever growing family.

Ray has been here with us for a few days while attending a seminar for First Investors in Westchester. He still enjoys Californiaa living. Who wouldn't, give the terrible weather we NYers have had this May. Steven is still at the Times, and inching up the corporate ladder. Right now he is girlfriend-less and enjoying his "bachelorhood". Ken graduates June 20th and is job hunting now (but not too strenuously). Lorraine has completed a very successful first year at Queens College. She wants to major in primary education. She still has two P/T waitressing jobs which are very lucrative.

And now for the question you've all been asking - how is our new house coming along. Well, to look at, it's great. Almost completed outside and very impressive. The carpentry work is excellent. Unfortunately, we're still in big trouble with the foundation. Both the basement and garage floors have to be repoured due to cracking, the basement walls have to be waterproofed and reinforced, and, now that we have a problem of water seeping up inside the basement floor, that has to be drained off somehow. All in all, big jobs, big expenses, and much difficulty in getting the builder to assume the responsibility. It looks like this will be another "long, hot, summer" for us.

Ed is feeling OK and is back at work again after his prostate surgery, and his mom is doing as well as can be expected after her double knee replacement operation.

Much love to all of you from the Christensens.

Clara

Dear Family:

Hope all is well with everyone. We're doing fine. In April, over Easter vacation from Mary Jo's school, we spent a week in Milwaukee visiting Frank. We got to see all the sites, including the Milwaukee Symphony and a Bucks game! I had not been to see Frank since 1983 and Mary Jo has never been, so it was a long overdue trip. We stopped in Chicago for three days on the way home and had a great time there too.

Work is still extremely hectic for me. In addition to WGBB, I am now the Long Island Correspondent for WOR in NY. I have also recently started writing news for the Channel 5 "10:00 News" on a freelance basis. As you can imagine, this leaves little time for sleep or anything else! I'm looking forward to just relaxing for a while sometime this summer.

Take care!

Love, Joe & Mary Jo Christens

Dear All -

(23A)

July 15

Greetings from Highlands! I'm here this summer with another sister, and we'll be making home-visitation to the poor in neighboring cities around us. I find this to be such rewarding work. Every day our future postulant and myself will be out on the streets! I can't wait!

No other news here except that the ocean is as blue as ever!

I do hope everyone is well!

Peace and love to all,

Josanne

July 26, 1988

Dear Family

I had to find out the hard way that I am truly a May right to the heart. I had 2 little setbacks very recently but thankfully they were minor. Augie has proven to be quite capable as Mr. Mom though it's a job he would rather do without.

Mom was also back in the hospital recently. We still aren't sure exactly what her problem is but for now she is back at the home and doing okay.

The children are all well and enjoying their summer. Andy will be starting at Farmingdale College in Sept.

On July 10 we had a little "reunion" with the Krauses. We got the chance to see all of them, including Jimmy, who was in from Texas. They are all doing well including Irish.

With love from Lenittown and a great big thanks for all the prayers & they're working.

Love, Ronnie ^{and} ^{Augie} ^{children}



HOTEL
MERIDIEN
NICE

(Stationery courtesy of Chaz.)

(Pg. 24)

Again greetings after 8 months! July 30, 1988

As the wonderful Marian Year is coming to a close it is good to reflect on the many blessings Mary has continued to be instrumental in bringing to our family group, both collectively and individually--as stated in the continuing saga of the enclosed accounts from each one. For our own family's part, Mary has been spectacularly evident to all of us this past year--most notably in the extraordinary grace to Theresa in arranging for her to lead a new "shoot" of religious women for the good of the Church. She is already somewhat settled in the s. Bronx, allied with the group of Capuchins who, under the guidance of Cardinal O'Connor have started a spiritual "renewal". And she is wearing her own adaptation of the grey Capuchin habit of the Friars, which has already been approved by the Chancery of the Archdiocese. A grace and a challenge!

Our intention of moving to N. Jersey has changed from "on hold" to "the back burner"! Ironically one of the main reasons for moving has been Betty's health all along (climbing the stairs, extra work etc.) but as of now her health has also put it to the back burner. Ever since the early spring she's been bothered with a severe lung problem, i.e. hard to breathe, and a constant annoying cough that even keeps her up at nights sometimes. Our internest doctor has tried everything along the medicine and anti-biotic route, coupled with X-Rays, Mamogram etc. but to no avail. Just recently we've finally taken the advice of Theresa and Joan who both have severe allergies, to visit an allergist. So far, with only half the tests done to date, sure enough Betty is highly allergic to many things (dust, wool, etc.) But even though we've taken that route, her lungs--bronchial problem seems no better off. And there is real suspicion of asthema. So besides her arthritis, emphasema and heavy coughing, we have hardly been able to go anyplace for quite a while. So until we can get to the bottom of things, moving is the last thing on our minds. We have really put a damper on the children's vacations at home this year. They have jokingly referred to home now as the "geriatric ward". I would even go further and perhaps liken our home to what is commonly referred to down in Florida these days--as "God's waiting room!" Perhaps too, this is Mary's special gift to us also, during her Marian Year!

Best regards to all, with all our love,

Betty & Charles

9/5

hello again from milwaukee----

summer highlights have included a trip to atlanta for the democratic national convention and a visit from young Mr. Ian Dreher, who thought it was super-cool to hang out with swinging bachelor Uncle Frank. part of that visit included a historic event-- we saw the first night game ever held in Wrigley Field (that is, the first attempt at a night game, which was rained out after 3 innings.)

autumn highlights will include a major change in my working life. After we get the campaign finished, i'm going over to the Sports Department as a feature writer. It's a six-month trial for both me and the sports editor, but it looks like it will be fun, although it is radically different from what I've done for 17 years. By the next go-round of this letter, i'll have a progress report.

Love to all,

Frank

Dear Everyone and Greetings from Connecticut,

September 17, 1988

The Sharp family is finally settling in after just over a year back on the east coast. It's taken a little getting used to, but we are finally starting to feel "at home". It's been an action packed year with everything going on. There has rarely been a week or weekend when there wasn't something special happening. It's kept our family very busy, but we love making up for lost time (*away from family and friends*).

Even with all of the family gatherings, we did manage to take a few trips of our own this year. In April we flew to Florida for a couple of weeks and visited all the sites (*including DisneyWorld for the kids*), and also spent a week in Boston (*saw the USS Constitution*) and a week in Washington, D.C. During the Washington trip, we visited Jeff's parents and attended his family reunion in Richmond, Virginia. Patty and her two sisters, Kathy and Maria, also were able to squeeze in a four day luxury cruise from Miami to the Bahamas. So overall, it was a very busy year and summer.

We now look forward to another exciting year ahead. The beautiful autumn in Connecticut, apple picking, and pumpkin picking are all just around the corner. All three of our wonderful children are in school now, which gives Patty some free time during the day to pursue other activities. Jeffrey started 2nd grade, Christine 1st, and Charles entered Kindergarten. Jeffrey and Christine excelled last year, and we, the proud parents, expect the trend to continue. And to culminate the year, Jeffrey will be receiving First Holy Communion this Spring.

We extend our best wishes to everyone for the coming year, and hope to have the chance to see some of you. Until then, take care and may God Bless each and every one of you!

With All Our Love,

The Sharp Family

Jeff, Patty, Jeffrey, Christine, and Charles

Dear Eric & Danielle

There was some mix-up - possibly lack of new address - so this was sent to me. Please continue on - on back of this page - I believe to see Christine. God bless you, love Auntie

October 18, 1988

Greetings one and all!

We have survived our most recent experience with the "M-word" and are now established in our new home outside Richmond. So far, there have been only very minor problems with the house. Most "problems" relate to mediocre drywall work and painting; certainly nothing to compare with the incredible problems facing Uncle Ed and Aunt Claire. Before I forget, let me give y'all our new address and phone number. They are:

**4816 Fort McHenry Parkway
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Tel (804) 270-5308**

Why they call our street a "parkway" is beyond me. Ours is the last house on a dead ended residential street! As I said in my last installment, we're just 15 minutes from Interstate 95, so if you're passing through on that ever popular north-south corridor, please stop by!

Having said that, I learned that Uncle Charlie and Aunt Betty stopped by Mom's house last week after spending several days "doing" Williamsburg. Apparently, a tight schedule prevented them from stopping by our place. Maybe next time.

The timing of our move couldn't have been better. After reducing my daily commute time by 2 hours and 50 minutes, I am now spending an extra 2 1/2 to 3 hours a day in the office! Once again Surry Power Station is in trouble and I'm up to here in work! Fortunately, I was able to take care of most of the necessary work done in the house (ie; unpacking, shelf building, etc.) before the overtime work started. Unfortunately, our lawn is a wreck!

Claudine has had little difficulty making new friends and fitting in at her new school. Chris, on the other hand is not doing nearly as well. He has made few friends in the neighborhood and the new responsibilities of middle school are causing some real difficulties. I'm sure he'll come around soon. Danie is experiencing frustration just getting around town. Roads around here change names three times in less than a mile! It seems that without fail, a street name changes just before you reach the address you're looking for and you must travel halfway across town to find where the street continues. Such is life!

Among the first visitors to our new home in July, were Alan and his guest, delightful woman by the name of Deanne Landy. I must say that it has been a long time since I've seen Alan as happy and at peace as he was during their visit. Shortly after their visit, the two announced their plans to marry next year; tentatively, at the end of April. I wish them the very best of luck! I'm sure that Alan will have lots to say when this letter returns to him!

Mom has recently signed a contract for the construction of a new house in Williamsburg. Without going into much detail (I'll let her fill you in) she wants to move out of a two-story house heated by a heat pump into a ranch style house heated by gas. Currently, the house is scheduled for completion in early April.

Danie's parents will also be moving to a new home in Williamsburg by the end of November. They have had a very difficult time in selling their New York house, but hopefully the contract they now have will be completed soon.

Well, that's it for now!

Dear All,

pg 26

As most of you may know already, I was transferred to our provincial house here in Cherry Hill to finish my studies this year. They had given me a "free year" (no teaching) to finish up so that I may go on to big and better things! Hopefully, we will be opening another house soon and it will be located among the poor. As it has been told to me, I may be going there to work among the poor. I am very happy about that since they are very dear to my heart. So right now all I have to concentrate on is my studies. I also have a lot of time for prayer which is always so important and needed! Keeping you all in my prayers daily ~ let us continue to place our hopes in the Lord, He will never fail us.

With much love —————

God Bless,
Jina

Hi, To ALL,

I CAN'T BELIEVE ANOTHER YEAR HAS GONE BY. MOM WAS RECENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL. THE DOCTOR THINKS SHE HAD A POSSIBLE STROKE. SHE IS NOW BACK AT THE N.H. & SEEMS TO BE DOING THE BEST SHE CAN BE. PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR HER.

I DID GO TO CA. IN MAY & HAD A GREAT TIME.

I'LL BE SPENDING THANKSGIVING ^{AT HOME} WITH MY NEPHEW, HIS WIFE & THE BABY.

WELL UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, MY BEST TO EVERYONE.

Love
Debbie