

4/18/97

Dear all,

Sorry to have to start a new page, but the last one bled thru beautifully. I'm back to feeling OK after my October hospitalization episode, which still remains a mystery despite CATs, MRIs, X-rays, breathing intubation, spinal tap, Lord knows what other devilish experiments during my 2-day unconsciousness, an ongoing correspondence with Medicare, 12 LIJ doctors, insurance co., neurologist. After LIJ released me, I suffered for a month with lightheadedness, nausea, persistent diarrhea, weakness in my legs causing me to fall down and a persistent cough --all of which I finally attributed to LIJ's experimentation. Some therapy sessions, faithfulness to mandated exercises, and just plain old TIME have taken me back to where I started before all this nonsense erupted. Many thanks to all for your prayers & concerns.

En route to visit Raleigh and Charlotte around the holidays, we stopped to pay a surprise visit with the Williamsburg Mays. To OUR surprise, we had picked just the day when Rosemary was taken to the emergency room for one of her episodes. How's that for poor timing.

In Jan., we enjoyed a day's visit with the Capuchin Recollects in New Bedford en route to an elderhostel in Wood's Hole to learn all about squiggly little sea creatures, DNA and Cape Cod ecosystems. In Feb. we spent a week driving thru snowstorms in northern Arizona to visit Canyon de Chelly, Meteor Crater and numerous Nat'l parks, then did a week's elderhostel in Scottsdale, learning all about the Indians of the S.W. and a terrific course on Fr. Kino, a Jesuit missionary who established many missions in the area.

Now it's back to farm projects and summer chores, and, I hope, many visitors from the family.

*P.S. Missing from archives -
Page - 2-13/14*

I've got it! Eric

*Love to all,
Aunt Claire*

5/15/97

Cool May greetings from LI. The lilacs are blooming, but we've barely hit 70 degrees so far! Glad to read the latest from everyone. Will have to commit it all to memory so that I can repeat it to Kate and Ian (who are still at school). We pray that all medical challenges are on the rout, and we're happy to see so much good news as well. Enjoyed the press coverage of Joanie and Theresa, too. God bless them, and their work!

The Drehers are doing well, and we count our blessings. I'm getting used to full-time work, but it just seems that some things just don't get done in a timely fashion anymore. Luckily I enjoy my work. (You never know what question is going to come your way at the reference desk!) George's year of teaching and coaching will slow down in June, and he'll just have his community college courses by the end of June. Ian will be working at the import firm again (to support his upcoming senior-year lifestyle) and is looking for an internship to fulfill graduation requirements. Matt will be able to "laze" away the summer but will probably spend some time painting at Grandma's since she had all her falling plaster ceilings repaired recently. Kate will be the busiest. She's doing a summer internship in biology research at Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh. We're not happy that she will be away for ten weeks, but it is something she has to do to find out if the research life is for her as a career. She's also planning on taking her fall semester in Galway, Ireland (too good an opportunity to pass up). Stop by and see her, if you're in the Emerald Isle this fall! Happy spring! God bless -

*Barbara George
Ian, Kate, Matt*

Dear Family,

June 6, 1997

Greetings to all. It is so wonderful to hear of everyone's news. Congrats on all the new arrivals - our great family is growing in leaps and bounds.

All is well at the Kiefer household though things are getting quiet. Andy and his new "bride" Patti are living in Holbrook now. Our Patti moved out in Sept. to an apartment in Manhattan and in Nov. Paul moved into his own apartment nearby. So it is just Karen and Mike at home now. Karen is attending NCC and next week our "baby" Mike graduates from HS. Time sure is marching on.

Since I last wrote there has been another addition to the Krause branch of our family tree. Jimmy and his wife Debbie had a little boy, Hunter James, on Dec. 13 (the feast of St. Lucy). Also, Michael Krause has become engaged though no definite date has been set.

We hope everyone enjoys a wonderful fun filled summer - if it ever gets here!!!!

Lots of Love to all, *Roxie + Augie*

P. S. By the way, next time around Augie and I will be known as "Grandma & Grandpa" - Andy & Patti are expecting their first in November.

Hi Everyone,

June 16, 1997

So glad to hear all the family news! All are always in our prayers! Congratulations to all of those with new additions!

Well, John & I have now been in Charlotte for 2 1/2 years, and we are celebrating our 3 year anniversary one month from today! I don't know where the time went!

There is not much exciting news on our end. Both our jobs have been keeping us very busy - too busy. John works so much OT I hardly see him during the week, which leaves me time to feel more homesick than ever! Now they're making him get his passport, so he can hand-deliver packages to Europe whenever necessary! I wouldn't mind if I could go with him!

We spend most of our weekends on house projects, although we did manage a lovely few days in the mountains when some friends came down to visit, and a quick weekend in Manhattan back in March.

We are looking forward to a weeks vacation up in NY ^{in July} with a stop-over at Rays on the way.

All else is well. Love to all!!!

Louanne + John

July 4th!

2-37

Greetings from Milwaukee!

Nothing major to report from here. Enjoying the summer, especially because my apartment complex has a terrific outdoor pool. Working nights on the newspaper gives me plenty of time to do a half-mile or mile swim in the morning, then loll around and read and talk to the pretty lifeguards. And then it's off to sports journalism for the night.

Mom (Aunt Helen) was out for a weekend recently, arriving right on the heels of a huge rainstorm that dumped as much as seven inches in less than 12 hours. We got out to the annual Rose Festival the next day, and unlike last year, there really were a few roses out despite our usual crummy Milwaukee spring.

Next on the agenda for me is a trip East to go in pools and oceans with all my nieces and nephews. Then it's back here for me (ugh) 25th anniversary college reunion. I just passed that big silver date at my newspaper, and I can't imagine how they made such a mistake, giving me credit for 25 years when I'm still just 25 years old (at most).

Anyway, that's how things are in the Great Midwest. It's great to see everybody's news.

Love,
Zach

Dear Family,

July 11th, 1997

Since her last entry in this letter, Mom spent another couple of days in the hospital in early December when she came down with a urinary tract infection and resultant fever. Her doctor wanted her in as a precaution until they could culture and identify the bacteria involved. Once they did, and confirmed that it was not the same as the bacteria that caused her meningitis, they gave her standard antibiotics and sent her home. Her recovery process, which was moving very slowly, finally started picking up steam in February. Since the beginning of the year, she was straying more and more from her walker. In mid-February, she asked me to bring her car down to see if she could maneuver into it. Not only did she get in, but she drove several miles for the first time in seven months! So, three weeks later, we returned her car for good. Since then she's been terrorizing Williamsburg again. Every week she's doing a little more. First it was just doctors appointments, then it was some light shopping, and on Easter Sunday, Mom & Monica went to Mass for the first time at William & Mary Hall. Later that afternoon, we took Mom and Monica to a restaurant for the first time in nine months. Mom is determined to get a life back! Currently, she is walking around mostly on her own and sometimes with a cane, and most of the time she's only carrying it. She has a full schedule of activities and has come up to visit us twice.

Claudine was "tapped" into the National Honor Society this Fall. She played in her school's Spring production of Pippin. She *unselfishly* helped to keep Grandma's car "limber" while Grandma was out of commission by driving it just about every day. Since Grandma got sick just after she received her license, Claudine was able to start out driving with the Camry's automatic transmission. Once the car went back, she was faced with the choice of either learning to shift the VW or take the "Big Cheese" to school. She chose the former, but very begrudgingly!

The college search is on now that Claudine is entering her senior year. She's interested in theatre arts and would love to be a successful actress. While I fully support her dream, I'm teaching her the most important words she will need to know as an aspiring actress ... "you want fries with that?"

Claudine received Confirmation this Spring. As part of their preparation, all of the candidates attend a weekend retreat at a nearby motel. Chris once again served as a peer leader for the retreat. An interesting sidelight . . . Claudine's sponsor was Pat Schweitzer. So, you ask, who is Pat Schweitzer?? The answer is that she's the "Pat" in the Reynolds Wrap TV commercials and magazine advertisements that have been out since last summer. Pat really is a Home Economist at the Reynolds headquarters here in Richmond. She and her family are members of St. Mike's and Claudine has babysat for her two children for several years.

Chris spent four days ending on New Year's Day in Baltimore attending a *Campus Crusade for Christ* Christmas Conference. He spent Spring Break at a CCC conference in Panama City, FL and is now in Orlando working for the summer at the CCC headquarters, preparing brochures for the various mission activities sponsored by the organization. He's still struggling with his Computer Science courses at Virginia Tech, but he's working hard. He is looking to branch out into Computer Graphics and is therefore taking some art classes now.

Softball season is once again drawing to a close. In dramatic contrast to last year, both the K of C and St. Mike's teams that I play on are doing very well. Claudine rejoined the St. Mike's *Defenders* with me this year and with just three games to go, the team is in *First Place (!)* in the Coed Church League. At the end of regular play, the K of C team is in *Third Place* in the Henrico County Men's League. Playoffs start next week!

The 1996 re-engineering of the Nuclear Business Unit of Virginia Power is over and I still have my job. (It helps when you're on the re-engineering task team!) Two engineers in the Mechanical Engineering groups lost their jobs and one was transferred to Surry Power Station. The two who left asked to be let go (each walked out with a hefty severance package), so there weren't any tears shed in our groups. In other groups, things were different. There were those who didn't want to leave who were "severed" and those who *wanted to leave*, but were kept. Some in the latter group decided to leave anyway, presumably toward greener pastures. Naturally, as soon as all of the personnel moves were completed, a significant amount of unplanned work was identified (OK . . . we knew it was coming, it just wasn't planned or budgeted for) and we now have permission to hire more new employees than we eliminated last year and a bunch of contractors to augment our staff. *I never would have suspected . . .*

What was an office building behind our property is now an office "built" and the construction of the last two homes in the neighborhood, in the lots next to us and across the street, is also complete. After 1 1/2 years of construction noise, dust and debris, activities have ceased and quiet has returned . . . with one exception. The trash collectors come at 5:30 to empty the dumpsters behind the office!

Last week I took my "old" computer to Mom's house to see if she and Monica could actually do something productive with it. So far, Mom has learned how to keep track of her checking account and may soon be able to produce letters from a word processor. Of course, most of the time the computer is on, it's running games. Once I get my hands on a modem for the computer, Mom may just become a *Web Surfing Duette*.

By the way, if anyone has a computer that runs Windows 3.1 or Win95 and a modem and does not already have access to E-mail, I can send along software for a free E-mail service called JUNO. The service is indeed free to users as it is paid for by advertisers whose ads are displayed on a banner in the program window. Let me know and I'll send along a disk. If you have no clue what I'm talking about . . . never mind!

Love,
Eric, Danie, Chris & Claudine

8/1/97 2-39

Dear Family,

I had planned typing this letter on my word processor but - believe it or not - I couldn't get it to work. I hit & forgot to push a button that said type or something, so I got angry and you're stuck with my hand writing.

The weather has been beautiful lately but I'm sure had a number of "wicked" storms with much rain. Since retirement I've been kind of vegetating getting in a lot of reading. I did go to Milwaukee to visit Frank - his treat - and he just completed a 9 day visit here. He flies to Philadelphia where he rents a car and visits Eileen and family before coming home - when he goes back to Wisconsin he drives to Philly again, visiting the Lynches before returning the car at the airport. I guess I'm about the only person in the world who doesn't like driving and doesn't have a car, at least not having to support a car keeps me solvent. Besides I get plenty of exercise walking to church, stores etc. I get an education taking buses for big shopping trips to a mall - the people who ride them are really enlightening - it's fun but sometimes hectic. With other reasons for getting around I've been fortunate in having 3 of my kids living close by so if I'm really in need of transport I can usually get a ride - especially if they need me for help with their offspring. Today is Joseph and Kira's birthday. She is a beautiful red head and all of 1 year old. All of the other grandchildren are doing well and I'll let their parents tell you all about them.

I'm still working part time at the library and my boss is Barbara - she's head of the pages! I get a charge out of meeting many of the parents of kids from Religious Ed. - they look at me and are startled to see me pushing a book cart. I don't know them all by name but I sure could spell it if I did. One of the pages is a "kid" who was in the 2nd grade when I started at R.C. and I do remember his name. After four years Basil Briguoglio a zillion times over the years you remember it - and the fact that he has very thick glasses doesn't hurt. He still does.

I haven't planned a vacation "yet" but I'm still thinking about it. I guess I'm a procrastinator in my old age. The big excitement now is George, Barbara and Matt are painting my living and dining rooms for me - I thank God for them. It has been a long time since it was done.

Easter Eve I had an accident before going to sing at the Resurrection Mass - left my music home, went back to get, tripped over my own feet and fell flat out on the sidewalk. I was really in sorry shape for well over a month and still have scars on my knees and hands - nothing broken but still giving me a little trouble - or could it be old age?

Sorry I don't get to see you all but know that you are in my thoughts and prayers - Love to all - Aunt Helen
P.S. So happy that Rosemary is coming around again and now able to drive again. You had us all scared to death!

8/10/97

2-40

Hello from Floral Park,

All is well with the Christensen family. The girls will be celebrating their birthdays (Nicole's 4th and Megan's 2nd) next month and they're both doing great. Nicole finished her 1st year of school (2 days a week) and Megan is growing rapidly and already potty training.

Gina and I took Nicole on a cruise to Bermuda while Mom + Dad watched Megan. They both had a great time apart but did miss each other alot. Things are pretty good for me at the Times and Gina is back to being a full time mom. Love to all,

8/25/97 Stan and Jung

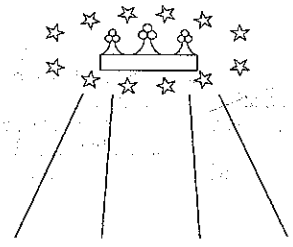
Dear Family,

So glad to see that this time around most of the news is good, and all are well - or at least better. We are all fine also, but life is beyond "hectic". Bill & I now being on the downward slide to age 50, we find that life with 3 children as young as ours is basically a day-to-day test of ENDURANCE. (Especially in the summer with the long days & all the outdoor activities.) While most of you around our age are reporting college plans, weddings & even upcoming grandchildren (!), our highlights for the year were First Communion (Kristen), preschool graduation (Michelle) & potty-training (Danny)!! Our kiddie-centered vacations were to Hersheypark, PA, & to visit friends (with kids) in Vermont, where we toured the famous Vermont Teddy Bear factory. No, we didn't buy any \$75.00 teddy bears!

Our love to all! Bernadette, Bill, & Kids

Sept. 1, 1997

Dear Everyone ~



God Who is Mighty Has Done Great Things for Me. Holy is His Name. LK 1:49

No - we are not starting another Community!... All of us are doing well and are very busy! Hope the Lord is pleased with our work. Glad to hear that things are going well now with you all. Know that very special prayers are said for all of you family members! Keep us in mind as well! Thanks for the compliment Madeline ~ the Lord keeps you young!! Peace & blessings to all ~ Lovingly Joan & Thomas

Compliment Madeline

September 5, 1997

Greetings to All from VA,

This letter is being typed on my computer. Yes, Monica and I have the computer bug. So far, I have typed 8 letters I do my MoneyCounts and, of course, games. I hope to learn more. Eric brought a modem to hook me into E-Mail via Juno. He tried and tried, but could not get me accepted. He'll keep trying again and again until he does.

I am trying to get back into activities again. I have started with the Parish Life and Fellowship committee. We had a welcoming for all the new parishioners...over 220 families in the past year. About 3 weeks ago there were 27 new families in one week. We try to have a welcoming every 4 months. The last one was June 2, 1996, right before I got sick. So, with me being out of commission, another woman having a hip replacement and the head of the group was nursing her daughter back after a car accident, nothing was done until 2 months ago we decided to have a big one with as many of the 220 families (new parishioners) would attend. The next one will be a small welcoming in November...and I am heading the committee. Next week we start choir rehearsals and then we start to sing at the Sunday Mass in October. When Monica and I attend Mass, usually in the parish center, we sit throughout the whole Mass...and on the choir I would have to attend Mass in the church and stand up when singing, etc. We'll see how that works out. My right leg is the problem. It is a combination of nerves and muscles. I'm still not very sure of myself on my feet... I can't stand too long or walk very far. The chiropractor, to whom I now go every other week, said that this problem was a long time in coming and it will not go away quickly. If it were not for the chiropractor, I don't know how I would be now.

Monica and I were secretary/treasurer for the summer bowling league. I did not bowl, of course, but it was good to get back into the sport, doing the work we like to do and being with all our bowling friends. I have nothing to do with the winter league because they elected another woman to be secretary when I was sick...and I don't know how I'd ever get the job back again. But I wouldn't want to be secretary and not bowl in the winter league. The winter league runs from September to May and I would have to be there every Thursday whatever the weather would be. But the chiropractor still says that I'll be back bowling again. If I don't, it will be no big deal, I haven't bowled for over a year and I don't really miss it. Maybe I don't miss it because I know that I can't do it. I will know when I can!

Monica started volunteering at the Olde Towne Medical Center during the summer. She goes every Friday and was told she could stay there from 9 to 11 or 10 to 12 noon. Well, Monica being a late to bed and late to rise person, started going there around 11 or 11:30 but then stayed until 4 p.m. These hours worked out well and she's been working these hours every Friday. She loves the work...it is on the computer! Too bad she cannot go more often, but Friday seems to be the only day the computer is available for the volunteers.....Monica had to get new hearing aids...\$850 for 1 hearing aid...and she needs them for both ears...and Medicare doesn't pay anything toward them. That was out of her own pocket.

We had visitors back in May. Since we couldn't go to NY to see Alan and family, especially the newest addition, Shannon Rose, the Alan May family came to see us. It was great to see them all again. Shannon is a delight, always smiling...a very happy baby. Billy and Gillian are no trouble at all. They play together very well or by themselves...and then come and show you what they've done. We had a nice visit...and they sang 'happy birthday' to me right before they left. This trip they drove down on Rt. 13...never did that before...and loved it. The trip was a breaking in of their new car, a Mercury Villager van.

Chris is back at VA Tech starting his 3rd year. Last week Eric and Danie drove Chris back with the car packed full with his belongings. That is a project! Claudine will be deciding where she wants to go to college. If she decides to go to VA Tech, Eric will have to rent a UHaul..... Chris spent the summer at the Campus Crusade for Christ in Orlando, FL doing graphic arts work for them and he loved it. It was great for him getting a feeling of working five days a week from 9 to 5. Claudine did baby sitting, even cat sitting...did not get a job, tried to, but nothing. Now they're all back to school...Danie is not teaching yet, her school starts a little later.....Billy and Gillian are in school...Billy in 2nd grade, Gillian in 1st. Deanne is teaching Math at Mercy College and Shannon stays with a very good baby sitter...otherwise Deanne would not be teaching. We keep telling Alan to fax Shannon down to us.

Everyone keep happy and well.

Love, Rosemary and Montea

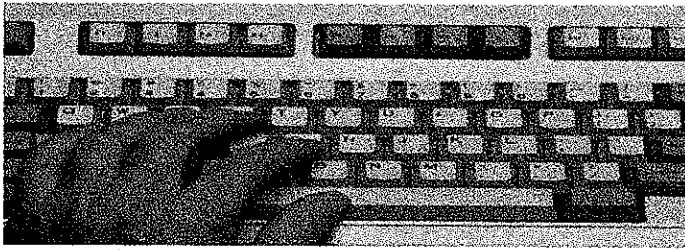
10/25/97

Dear All,

Although I don't have any "hard news" to share with you, life has hardly been dull. Not when you have a very efficient three-person wrecking crew on hand. Joseph, Terence and Kira are available for all your demolition needs, at no charge; Truth is -- KIRA at 15 months old -- may be the most destructive of the bunch. Behind her blue eyes and curly red hair ~~lurks~~ lurks a creature not unlike the TAZMANIAN DEVIL. I have often heard that girls are supposed to be much better behaved than boys, and I think of that often when I see Terence (2 1/2) calmly playing with his Choo-choo train while KIRA is bashing the TV set with a toy car. Joseph is now 5 and attending full-day kindergarten, as well as playing soccer. Soon he will sign up for basketball and he's already played a season of baseball.

So, Mary and I have weekends planned for the next 18 years or so, ferrying kids to and from games. If you happen to pass by exit 17 on the Southern State Parkway, drop in! But, I have to warn you, we are in constant motion, so you have to catch us "on the fly."

Love,
Joe Cline



Dear Family,

11/17/97

I'm happy to be starting a new page using the latest edition to my "family"—a PC. That makes us the perfect nuclear family of four (including my two roommates). The computer is my main outside-of-work activity for the next few months as I try to gain proficiency in a hurry. The primary reason for acquiring it is that I'm searching for a new career and the only job that still doesn't require computer skills (yet) is washing dishes. The secondary reason for the investment is to keep track of my growing beer bottle collection (contributions strongly encouraged). I now have a list of 250 which I can sort four different ways. With that in mind, the next thing on my agenda should be to "get a life".

Besides a computer class, I'm involved in choir again and also am a literacy volunteer, tutoring a Spanish speaking lady. Work remains bearable for now, my house remains liveable, and my social life remains non-existent. Hey, but how 'bout John and Lorraine expecting a little one! (... and how 'bout them Jets!!) Life can't help but to be interesting and precious. Be safe and be happy!

Love,

Rory

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Dear Family, I received this on my 28th Wedding Anniversary 11-22-97 & let me tell you youngsters the good thing about turning 50—you qualify for AARP. I get 15% discount "Senior Citizen" in some stores. How INSULTING! HA! Janice's Senior year in H.S. started w/a 102° fever for 2 weeks. After a blood test we found out it was mono. Since her HS just started a 4x4 program (1 1/2 hr of class instead of 45 mins = course completion in 1/2 term) the policy here is 5 days absent + repeat semester. She was out 4 days by Sept 1st so we arranged for her to be home schooled. The worst for her was giving up running Cross Country. Just when she was getting good at running Boon-mono! Well she survived the 2 mos of homebound & began HS on Oct 27th so hopefully she'll graduate on time in June. Tileen is working for an allergist in front & back ofc. It's so busy the day flies by for her but she gets to see all the kids she used to babysit for! Brent is still in Ft Lauderdale working for the US Environmental Group. There's a lot of yucky stuff spilling on the ground & in the water for him to figure out how to clean up. Ralph worked 7 days a week all summer on a Medfly project right here in Tampa. The good thing it wasn't Miami this time. I did alot of lawn mowing in 96° weather but I'm still here so I guess it didn't hurt me. Thank you all for taking the time to write your news family. I feel so good to see the "Robin" love M address

P.S. One of three things I like on the computer & when I write when I comes to machines

Dear Family,

2-44

16 December 97

Merry Christmas! This letter arrived at the busiest, most stressful time of the year for me - in between Thanksgiving week and Emily and Brian's birthday. There seems to be no end of shopping and travelling and special obligations during those few weeks. But once we pass Emily's birthday (Dec 4th) and Brian's birthday (Dec 13th) I can finally enjoy the holiday season.

Speaking of B+E, they have just turned 9 and 6.

Brian is in the third grade this year, and Emily started kindergarten. She made a very good adjustment to school, which we expected because she has been there so many times to pick Brian up or drop him off. She also has Brian's old kindergarten teacher, whom she remembers very well.

We parents have also had to make the adjustment to having two children participating in extracurricular activities at once. Emily was on a "pee-wee" soccer team this fall in the same league as Brian. So we did a lot of running from game to game and for the first time Brian had to accomodate himself to Emily's schedule. He cooperated with that, but he cannot adjust to walking up to school with Emily this year. I tag along to make sure that Emily arrives OK, and Brian doesn't want to be seen with me. I was hoping he would be a teenager before he developed that attitude!

Colin has just turned 20 months and has been a very happy baby so far. He's also very easygoing, which is quite a difference for us. Change is on the horizon, however, because he's starting to become more mischievous + volatile as he moves toward the "terrible twos".

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas season this year.

Eileen + family

December 23, 1997

Greetings from snowy, slushy Yonkers!

We received this just three days before Christmas, and I was determined to respond and get it out to ride the wave of last minute (late) Christmas cards. Since we're scheduled to take off the day after Christmas for the warmer climes of Virginia, it was either do it now or it wouldn't get done!

We're relatively well set for the Holydays; Deanne did all the shopping and I did the cards. (I helped wrap, but maybe that isn't really help!) Now all that's left is the tearing of paper! The Landy family is due to converge on the Matriarchal house tomorrow, an event which everyone seems to apprehend, but it keeps happening anyway. It's not the getting together so much as the fact that everyone buys present for everyone, and once the frenzy begins, it can get ugly. Then we all go off to Church and try to convince the kids that what just happened wasn't the most important thing about Christmas, but instead, what is being celebrated at Mass. That goes over like the proverbial lead balloon.

A few years ago, our parish began a program at the 10AM Mass where the kids K thru 6 grades are invited to go to the Church Hall where "Tellers of the Word" lead groups (K-2, 3-4, 5-6) in the Liturgy of the Word on their level. Guess who two of the Leaders are? Of course, that doesn't stop Gillian from whining "I hate Church!" But we are satisfied when she and Billy say grace at meals and pray before bed and generally talk about how much God loves them! Something's sinking in! Religious Education helps, but the hour per week just doesn't cut it. For some reason, though, we have to fight with Gillian during the week NOT to take out her religion folder and do more homework. Between that and her tendency to read books late at night make Deanne and I laugh when we hear ourselves saying things like "Stop reading!, or "Don't look at your Religion work!" Taken out of context, that sounds like the wrong message to send. We just wish the timing was better.

Aside from the Christmas madness, we are also in the midst of buying a new house. We've had three kids and three houses! The apartment was where D and I thought we would spend our pre-children time (a few years). When Bill came right away, followed by Gillian 22 months later, we looked for a place we could afford with some of the things we wanted. Now, with Shannon, while we could still fit in our house, we are faced with losing the den to becoming a bedroom, and there's really not much more useable space. In addition, we have watched D's Mom lose some of her mobility to bad hips, knees and ankles, so, we had begun looking for a mother-daughter setup. We had looked at a bunch, but were not impressed. Came close to making an offer at one house, but it just wasn't right. Then, a friend from Church who lost her husband a few years ago decided to sell her home. Both of us had been in it, and we loved the place. We took another look at it two weeks ago, got D's Mom in to look at it, went home and called in an offer on the house, and it was accepted on the spot. So, we will soon own three residences. Add to this the fact that we will also have to sell D's Mom's house, as well as that D's brother recently moved a few blocks from us, and the family accounts for most of the Real Estate market in Yonkers these days. We believe that this will be a great house to raise the kids and proudly welcome friends and family. Sometime in April, our address will be 626 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10703. Don't change your address books yet!

We just celebrated Gillian's sixth and Shannon's first birthdays, and after New Year's will be Billy's eighth. B & G just finished soccer, but are not signed up for any winter activities. We've had other things on our minds, I guess. They really are so good individually and with each other. B & G love to play with Shannon, who kind of likes to be the center of attention. People come up to us in stores to say, "She's beautiful!". With her cool blue eyes and red highlighted hair, she is! She's also very petite. We just love watching her run around after B & G! I keep telling D that we don't need a dog: Shannon begs at the table, loves to play with water in the tub (or elsewhere), and keeps exercising her incisors on any object unfortunate enough to get near her mouth!

D's work schedule remains hectic (I don't think she'll do H&R Block this year), plus her chauffeuring the kids around. They agreed to take a bus to/from school this year, so that helps. I have less pressure from work, having changed departments. It looks like I will stay with Deutsche Bank for a while. I'm scheduled to fly to London in January sometime or a project. We're still active in Sacred Heart: D teaches Religious Ed, is a Eucharistic Minister, is on committees, and while I'm no longer on the Council, I will be running a Scripture course and other odds and ends. Keeps us going!

Hope we all have a blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

with love,
Alan, Deanne, Billy, Gillian + Shannon

2-46 Jan 6, 1998

Dear Family,

Happy New Year! All here in Middletown, NJ are doing well. This year for us will bring a couple of events. Jason's wedding in Sept and before that lil Robert's First Holy Communion May 2 - People are always amazed at the age gap of Jason + Robert and we always respond with our submission to what the Lord has in store for all of us. Stephanie has relocated to Portland Oregon and has a few last classes before her BA. Krista has her Asso. degree and will look to finish somewhere. Adrienne is her Senior year at H.S. still dreams of pursuing a career in Nursing. Marc, my 8th grader excels at school and has joined the wrestling team. Robert in 2nd Grade is still lining up the lord of giants. I'm still working as head nurse in the Pediatric office and teach 2nd grade Rel Ed. Alex is working night and hating it. So happy to hear from all of you. Wishing you all of wonderful 1998 - Would be so nice to see you. Now who could we get to organize a reunion?

Love to All
Alex, Marc + Family