

2/11/05

2-157A

Happy Valentines Day, everyone.....

2005 looms as a very special and exciting one for us. While "on call" for the March arrival of John and Lorraine's Triumvirate, we're keeping busy with the Battle of Lackawack Hill, as ever an increasingly long list of projects that all seem to qualify as #1.

Meanwhile, we are both feeling well (we HAVE to). Ed's shoulder surgery has proven successful and I'm honing up on my alternate diapering/tree planting skills. Should anyone care to ~~apply to~~ either chore, feel free to "apply".

Join in

Much love,
Uncle Ed + Aunt Clari

2/19/05

Greetings to all from the Drehers.

We remain scattered hither and thither. Ian has started a new job with a group home agency in Baltimore, having suffered a layoff due to budget cuts in December. He hopes to settle in for a longer stay here and will help out with coaching group home teams. He is our first 30 year-old! Kate has added the "experience" of teaching to her quest for her PhD. She is a TA this semester and consulting with George regularly on tips for composing quizzes, marking tests and preparing review classes. She also manages to find time to do volunteer work and some traveling around beautiful northern CA. Kate and I (Barbara) took a 3 day trip to the Big Sur coastline south of Monterey in November and we found it truly spectacular. Don't miss it if you are out in CA! Looks like she'll be working into 2006 to get that pesky degree, but the stay in CA is fine with her. Matt will be in NJ for the foreseeable future but will be looking for a smaller apartment in the Madison area for mid-May.

George and I (aka the "empty nesters") are filling plenty of time with work so we don't notice the silence too much! Although retirement is a possibility for George in a few years, he most likely will not take the earliest exit possible. I have no plans to retire, and the planned construction of the new library building will have me hopping. I'm finally going to get my own office!!! But the competition for building materials sparked by China is already inflating the costs significantly. Luckily, I am only second in charge, so those worries are not my direct responsibility.

Otherwise, things are status quo here - and we count our blessings. We're hoping that all are well - especially Lorraine. We pray for a safe delivery, good health for all her little ones, and stamina and sleep for all who will watch over them!

A special message for Theresa and Joan - the wife of one of our friends knows you quite well from St. Michael's. Her name is Fran and she says she made a trip to Italy once with you to discern her vocation. Sorry - I can't remember her maiden name (it's Italian), but she is married again (after widowhood) and living in Massapequa. She says HI!

On to spring and the renewal it brings! Easter joy to all!

Barbara & George
3/10/05

Greetings to all

Our family has grown in leaps and bounds in this last year. Our immediate branch of the tree has added Aiden Jared born 1/22/05 (just prior to the blizzard of '05) to Patti & Seth (their first). Three weeks later Justin Patrick was born on 2/12/05 to Karen & Mike (their second). We got to meet Aiden when he was just barely one hour old and then scooted home before the snowstorm. We had to wait a week to meet Justin since we had to travel to NC to see him.

Andy and his family & Karen and her family are in NC now and Paul & LeeAnn are moving to SC in April so we decided to head south ourselves. While staying with Karen in Feb. we saw a house in Mooresville, just north of Charlotte. We signed a contract on it on 2/24, just as our house in Levittown was going on the market. Two days later, 2/26 we had a very good offer on our house. Things are moving so fast and there is so much to do. We are very excited about the move yet we go with some trepidation leaving our home of 30 years. Our son Michael will also come with us which means only Patti, Seth & Aiden are left in NY. We are working on convincing them also to head south.

We keep Matthew, Mark and Luke in our prayers now and will continue to keep Lorraine & John in our prayers for the next 18 or so years !!!

Love, Ronnie & Angie

2-159

11/18/05

Dear Family,

Things have been pretty hectic around here lately. As many of you have been following on the <http://stillconnected.com/klein> website (that Ray set up) Matthew, Mark and Luke were born at Duke University Hospital on February 26th at 12:34, 12:35 and 12:36 AM, weighing in at 3.10, 3.8 and 3.9 pounds. They were born at 32 weeks gestation. They have all since been transferred to Rex Hospital where they are currently maturing enough to come home. They still need to fine tune their breathing, gain weight and learn how to eat. It's a lot of work for them to coordinate breathing, sucking and swallowing which usually comes naturally to a full-term baby. Overall, they're doing great!

I'm recovering nicely from the C-section and now my life is spent pumping every three hours and playing "milk maid" to the babies in the hospital. We're hoping that this routine of running to the hospital will be short lived and the boys will be coming home soon. Then the fun will really begin. Volunteers, anyone???

John's company (formerly Emery, then Menlo) has been purchased by UPS, so for the time being (until my disability runs out on April 6th) we are working for the same company. Needless to say, I won't be going back to work for quite a while and now my official title is "domestic engineer" or full time "mama" whichever way you want to look at it. We're hoping that the UPS buyout will prove to be a positive change once the dust settles.

Arianna (7) is doing well in first grade at Heritage Year-round Public School and Kaylin (4 ½) is enjoying Pre-K at our parish school. Kaylin will be joining Arianna at Heritage in July (the beginning of their school year) when she starts kindergarten. It will be so much easier when they are both at the same school, on the same schedule! As you can imagine, they are thrilled when they get to hold their brothers in the hospital and can't wait for them to come home. Of course, they have no idea what they're in for.

Overall, I must say that although the whole idea of having triplets has shocked, overwhelmed and rocked our world, we do feel truly blessed. I can't help but wonder what Grandma and Grandpa May and Auntie Anna's reactions are up in heaven?

Congratulations also on all the new additions in the fourth generation! Our family truly has a lot to be thankful for!

We appreciate all your prayers and good wishes.

Love,
Terri, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark + Luke

Some
journalistic
clutter

Write byline

Write body

3/23/05

Greetings from Milwaukee!

No exciting news to report here—certainly nothing as wonderful as triplets!

Just getting ready for another summer of Milwaukee fun—baseball games to watch and sometimes cover; lots of ethnic festivals at our nice lakefront and in downtown streets; and of course the fabulous outdoor pool at my apartment complex.

Best of all, three trips east coming up in April, June and August, to see all the nieces and nephews in their athletic events and pool/ocean splashing!

Happy spring and summer to everyone!

Frank

March 29, 2005

Dear Family,

Here's what's going on in beautiful Glen Allen, Virginia!

Our home of 16 years was "treated" to a complete exterior makeover at the end of last year. First, several trees were cut down and others were trimmed to let more light onto the lawn and into the house. Then, the leaking roof was replaced and new glass skylights took the place of the old, fogged Plexiglas "bubble" ones. Next came the vinyl siding, and finally, new vinyl windows. Now I'll have to work ten more years to pay for all this stuff!

Danie & I went on vacation the week that ended with the Family Reunion in August. We traveled to Niagara Falls (Danie had never been and I last visited thirty-some years ago), and the Finger Lakes area (*so many wineries, so little time!*). We enjoyed seeing all who attended the reunion.

Claudine is currently living at home and working at a bridal fashion store nearby. She has been doing well and seems to enjoy the work most of the time. She took all the necessary training to become a "Registered Bridal Consultant" (*hey . . . it's worth \$0.50 per hour!*). Several weeks ago, she had her 5 seconds of fame when a local TV station did a report on a new line of risqué prom dresses that her store is selling. She was in a few video clips and had a 3-sentence soundbite in which she suggested that some of these dresses were not practical if the wearer planned to dance.

Both Claudine and Danie were models for bridal fashion shows in January and February. Danie modeled mother-of-the-bride fashions, while Claudine wore wedding and brides maid gowns. Seeing Claudine walk down the runway in a wedding gown brought tears to Danie's eyes . . . but we don't expect Claudine to don one for real any time soon.

In December, Claudine was called back by the Northern Stage Theatre in NH to help bail them out of a tough situation. One play that was being performed and another that was being set up were both costume intensive and they couldn't find reliable stitchers nearby. So Claudine took a week off from the bridal shop (during a very slow time) to come to the rescue.

Claudine got very tired of driving my '85 VW Jetta (*OK . . . it is kinda ratty*) and acquired a *purple* (actually called *dark plum*) PT Cruiser, that could only be described as a "match made in heaven". While trying to narrow down her choices for entry-level sedans at CarMax, she spied this Cruiser and fell in love. The price was inexplicably much lower than the "Blue Book" (maybe *because* it is purple), so "Roxie" came home with us. Now, I've started driving the Jetta for my 2-mile





commute to work again (don't you feel sorry for me?), simply because that trip is very bad for any car's health, so I'd rather preserve the newer cars. (Of course, it would be much better for *my* health to simply walk to work!)

Claudine joined our K of C Bowling League team this year. Only one member is now a non-May. Our team is doing OK, with a "middle-of-the-pack" performance, but we're considered among the most fun teams to bowl against as everyone loves to watch Claudine's dramatics when she rolls the ball. Chris didn't want to commit to the weekly schedule, but signed up as, and has become, a favored substitute; because, like Claudine, he's fun to be around.

Chris' world has been stable since he started working as a Graphic Designer in the Corporate Communications section of Estes Express last year. At work, his boss and internal clients are very happy with

his work and have therefore given him free reign to develop brochures, web sites, and the company newsletter. Most of his work is accepted with little revision. This is quite a change from the place where he worked before, where everything he did was criticized and revised. The effect of the change in the work climate has made a profound change in Chris' self-confidence and outlook on life.

Danie continues to focus on her quilting, quilt guilds, quilting retreats, etc. I'll just never understand the concept of taking perfectly good fabric, slicing it into little pieces and sewing them back together again.

Work at Dominion can only be described as getting more interesting. The acquisition of the Kewaunee plant in Wisconsin was delayed by the denial of the transfer by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The PSC was the last regulatory body that needed to approve the transfer and it is believed that the commissioners needed to "flex their muscles" to show that they were not in the pockets of the utility companies. With that done, we made some additional concessions, petitioned for a new hearing and on March 17th were approved to take over the plant. Now comes the question of how we are actually going to provide "fleet" support for Kewaunee (and Millstone in CT) operations from Richmond, when we don't have enough people to support our existing plants in Virginia. Oh, wait . . . the accountants say we DO have enough people . . . silly me . . . problem solved!

It's payback time! My mom typed many a school report for me back in the pre-word processor days, so I am happy to fill her request to type up her Round Robin message for her. Mom weathered the winter pretty well - no major illnesses and plenty of willing hands to shovel snow. Her emphysema is a nagging problem, and she may be facing cataract removals, but she still gets up and around. Her companion, Leta, is completing her third year of assistance and remains a great help.

The big news, of course is that Mom will turn 80 on May 30. There may be multiple mini-celebrations since it will be hard to impossible to get all the children and grandchildren together at one time. Frank is visiting in mid-April and mid-June this year so he'll miss the big date.

With the final arrival of spring, Mom can be found sitting on the porch most days enjoying the fresh air and keeping an eye on Lindberg St.

She has enjoyed reading this latest round robin edition and sends you all her love and prayers.

4/15
2-161a

I'm getting a bit old and "crochety" these days, but I really feel fine and enjoy sitting on the porch watching the folks passing by. These days I'm hesitating to walk around the area because I'm really not "as good as I used to be".

Good luck and happiness to all.

I love you all. Love from "Grannie" Cline.

Dear Family,

April 25, 2005

I received this letter the day before heading up to the Christensen Farm to plant 500 trees! This is the 4th year in a row we have been involved in a "replanting program" and will have planted 1200 hardwoods (Sugar Maple, White Oak, Black Walnut, Cherry, Butternut) by May 1st. The current barn renovation work was on hold during the cold winter but will start up again soon. It should take about 16 large Hemlock trees and some fun on the sawmill to complete that project. A new cement mixer has also come in quite handy for footings, etc. Anyone interested in volunteer work, please contact Aunt Claire!

Nicole and Megan are doing great in school and continue with Art and Hockey respectively. Nicole plans on joining track this spring and Meg is considering basketball. Completing 6th grade in Junior High Nicole has made Honor Roll the last 2 marking periods. Meg is also doing well in 4th grade although her concentration could be better. She is the queen of spelling though!!!!

I'm doing pretty well and have spent lots of time at the Farm. It's a great stress reliever from the pressures of work...and things always seem to get a little tougher here at the Times. We're now the sole owner of the International Herald Tribune based in Paris and attempting to support their infrastructure from NY is difficult at best.

Everything else is fine...Lorraine's triplets are progressing well at about 7lbs. Each. Ken is on a ship making a run between the west coast and China.

Joe, bring the kids back this summer, and maybe your brother Frank when he's in NY on one of his trips. Love to all...feel free to stop on up this summer. Ray, Ken and I will be around most weekends and Lorraine plans on being there in late August.

Love,



5/6/05

Greetings from one of the few families that are not moving off of Long Island! Seems as if everyone - including several friends of ours - is heading south. Congratulations and best wishes to all who are moving and/or having grandchildren, and of course to the Klein/Christensen families on their new additions. By my calculations, Matthew, Mark and Luke are #48, 49 + 50 in their generation, the great-grandchildren of Joseph and Rose (Hahn) May. "50" is quite a number to reach! Not that I'm discouraging any of the younger members of my own generation from still adding to the list. (But I have a feeling that Lorraine + John won't be volunteering!)

We Zirkels have been doing OK, and we're now fast approaching the milestone of having our youngest, Danny, move out of elementary

school and up to the Middle School. With everyone on early starting times in September, I'll be hoping to find a good part-time job. Kristen has only two more years of high school left, and those college tuition prices are really starting to worry Bill and me. While many of you are retiring or thinking about it, we have many years of child support left!

Danny kept us busy this winter doing All-County Orchestra on the violin, and then NYSSMA competition on the saxophone (using his cousin Kate's saxophone, which she generously has lent to him). Now with the good weather, his instruments have gone by the wayside for now, and most of his free time is spent on soccer & baseball. Kristen added tap dancing to her "repertoire", as she had to take lessons to prepare for her school's excellent production of Gershwin's "Crazy for You" ("I've Got Rhythm..."). She was featured more this year than last year, and now she's working more on her voice and preparing for Chorus competition in Hershey, PA next week. And then we come to Michelle... Adolescence in general, and 7th grade work in particular, have not been good for her. She has fallen down so badly in her schoolwork and changed so much in her attitude, behavior and ability to pay attention, that they are actually looking into alternative placement for her out of district. Apparently this kind of setback is not uncommon for neurologically-impaired children when the teenage hormones hit them. We have quite a lot of stress and anxiety, always wondering if we're making the right decisions for her, so we could certainly use any of those good May prayers that aren't already accounted for!

Love to all, Bernadette, Bill, Kristen, Michelle, Danny

Love to all! You all remain in our prayers!

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JOY MIGHT BE THEIR MIDDLE NAME

by JOSEPH PRONECHEN

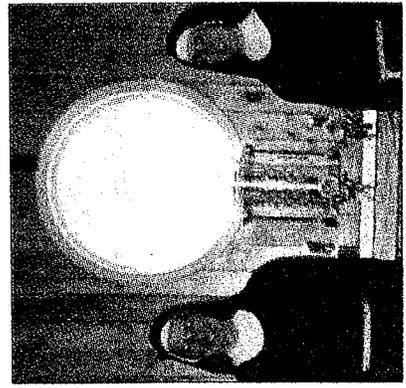
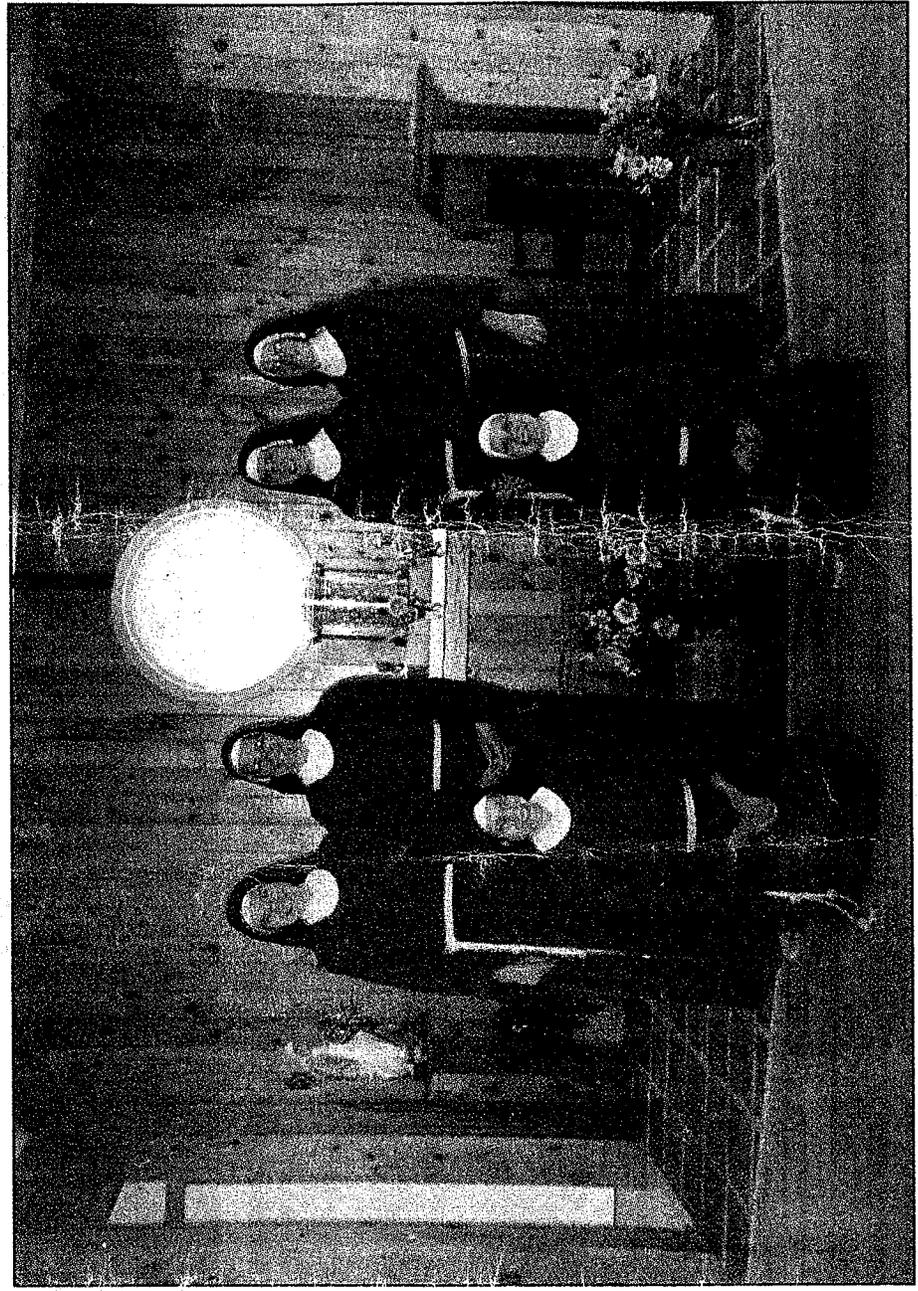
Talk to anyone who's met the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock, Pa., and you're certain to hear a certain three-letter word: Joy.

Typical is Father Roger Landry of St. Francis Xavier Church in Hyannis, Mass., who first encountered the sisters while they were living in New Bedford.

"It was 99 degrees and they were still wearing their coarse woolen habits," he recalls. "As I was overheating, I was amazed at the radiant joy flowing from the most important part of their habits, which is the smile on their faces. From that day forward I knew there was something special about them."

The source of this radiant joy for the six Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth is surely their intense prayer life and their strong devotion to the Eucharistic presence of Jesus.

Sister Theresa, the community's mother superior, describes *continuing on page 15*



Spreading joy back page

2-164

JOY MIGHT BE THEIR MIDDLE NAME

continuing back page story

the sisters as "apostolic contemplatives." Their main ministry is praying for the intentions of the people who contact them with requests. That she says, is an idea today's action-oriented society doesn't readily understand.

"Usually," she says, "people will ask us, 'What do you do?' We say we're contemplatives. Prayer is our main work. They'll smile and say, 'That's nice, but what do you do?'"

After a few go-rounds, she says, "If any of you have a mother or husband who is ill, would you come to say, 'Sister, would you do some charitable work or feed the poor for my mother?' No — you say, 'Sister, would you pray for my loved one?'" At that, she says, people understand. And the results? "Our phone rings very often for prayer inten-

tions," Sister Theresa points out. "We take them seriously."

Teresa Wall of Lake Winola, Pa., knows firsthand. People give her prayer requests to bring to the sisters. She vividly remembers the 30-year-old woman bedridden with a digestive disease and scheduled for major surgery. The advanced illness was devastating the woman and her husband.

"It was causing problems in their marriage," says Wall. "I asked the sisters to pray for her and, in two weeks, she found a nutritionist who could help her." Wall says there was a major turnaround in the woman's condition, the surgery was canceled, and she and her husband were even able to go on a vacation.

The sisters pray daily for peoples' intentions before the Blessed Sacrament in their chapel, and once a week have a Mass said for these intentions.

The Eucharistic presence of Jesus is their center — not only in their daily life, but also in the retreats and missions they conduct for youth, married couples, women and men. "That's the highlight of our life," says Sister Theresa.

Diana Charrige, a student at the University of Scranton who met the sisters through a women's prayer group on campus, is grateful for the Eucharistic devotion she learned from the sisters.

"They introduced me to adoration in general," Charrige says. "I didn't know what it was beforehand. It defi-

nately changed my life. They opened my heart to prayer."

Franciscan Flair

Bishop Joseph Martino, ordinary of the Scranton diocese, has prayed with the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth more than once.

"In 2003, in my first few months here, I visited them," he recalls. "We had this wonderful holy hour. I was moved by the stillness, the beautiful music and the silence — the interplay of those three things."

The sisters' life blends Franciscan devotion to poverty, prayer and contemplation with Mass, adoration, spiritual reading, gardening, vegetable canning and missions. They chant all parts of the Divine Office, even rising at 2 a.m. for prayers. Explains Sister Theresa: "All hours of the day we turn in prayer to Our Lord."

It was prayers and divinely inspired encounters that led her and Sister Joan — also her blood sister — to begin this community in 1995 in New Bedford, Mass., under the auspices of Archbishop Sean O'Malley, then bishop of the Fall River diocese. Both were nuns in other Franciscan communities where they were schoolteachers and principals. Sister Theresa understood God was calling her to a more contemplative life.

When Father Landry was a high school chaplain, he invited the sisters to give a day of recollection to students generally not especially receptive to spiritual talks. He says

Sister Kelly so moved the students they were repeating that message 2½ years later.

For retreats, the sisters base everything on Pope John Paul II's documents on the Eucharist and the teachings of the Church. For married couples they incorporate the Holy Father's documents on marriage, family and laity.

"Our main focus is to bring people to the Eucharist, to Christ," says Sister Theresa.

Normally they have the Blessed Sacrament exposed during the retreat. "It's not we who draw people," she adds, "but the power of the presence of Christ."

Youthful Spirit

The sisters often work together with Franciscan Missionary Hermit of St. Joseph Father Pio Mandato on the missions. He makes clear the reason for the sisters' effectiveness.

"When you stand before the Real Presence in Adoration, Christ makes us real," Father Pio says. "They're doing this every day, day in and day out. Obviously that flows out before people. They're real women deeply rooted in Christ, and it's his presence in the individual that touches people."

Father Mandato also sees beauty in having the man-woman complementarity for retreats. "Certainly that feminine bridge is powerful, and I've seen it work many times," Father Pio says, describing how Sister Theresa

had been talking to young a woman who hadn't been to confession in a long time.

"Coming to me during lunch, Sister said, 'So-and-so is coming to confession. Now you be kind and gentle,'" he says with a chuckle. "It's that feminine-masculine bridge, that complementarity, which was so big with our Holy Father."

John Paul's enthusiasm for young people is shared by the sisters, too. As Paul Ward, principal of Bishop Neumann High School in Williamsport, Pa., puts it: "The combination of their dynamism, faithfulness to the Church and her teachings, the Eucharistic focus, and that they are a little bit younger in age, all helps our retreats to be successful."

And may inspire a few vocations. As Bishop Martino observes, "Those who are looking for a contemplative community with an active apostolate for young people and a living out of the Franciscan ideals: That's where they should go."

They, and anyone else looking for a jolt of joy.

Joseph Promechev writes from Trumbull, Connecticut.

Information

Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth
215 Wellwood Drive
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
(570) 836-2737
medugorje.com/sisters

A big "HELLO" and greetings from Williamsburg, VA to all!

(5/22/05)

This time it took 7 1/2 months to make the rounds for the Round Robin! Come on, we can do better than that!

It will be two years this coming September since hurricane 'Isabel' and my house is not fixed yet. I finally signed a contract with a roofer and a siding company - but so far nothing has been done. Of course, all the rain kept the companies behind in their jobs. So maybe by next time I can tell you my house is finally fixed. When done, my house will have maize color siding, gray roofing, and hunter green shutters, garage and front doors. Now it is white, gray and maroon.

Monica just got a different hospital bed. A physical therapist noticed how narrow her bed was and suggested a wider one. What a difference! It is better because Monica can now turn around in bed and sleep on her side. So now she is more comfortable and the mattress is a better mattress, too. She is also awaiting a power chair. She was evaluated and measured for the chair two months ago - and we're told it can take 3-5 months till you get it...so we're waiting. She still has the health aid, Charlayne, who is very nice. We're thankful we have her - have had her since April 2004.

I've had injections in my left knee before and they helped - so now I am in the midst of getting another set of injections (I get 1 a week for 5 consecutive weeks - it is Supartz). My back is still hurting - also the upper legs. The pain doctor still has not come up with anything to help me - I am currently taking a muscle relaxant, Baclofen, and I feel a little better taking that. My body likes to 'make stones'. I've had endoscopies to remove stones in my bile duct and the other day had an eye, ear and throat doctor remove a stone from my neck - I had a lump there. I've never heard of these things - but I sure know now.

My sister, Joan Haarmann, who has had lymphoma for many years and went through chemo therapy, just had another occurrence - started chemo again but had some problems and is now in intensive care in St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, FL. The doctors say it is reversible.....This past week I had a visit from my niece, Kathy Matchekosky from East Meadow, NY. She and her son and his family were here for a week's vacation. Kathy, Monica and I reminisced and looked through photographs. It was so great to see them again - the last time being 10 years ago at the son's wedding.

Alan is doing pretty well - his blood pressure and cholesterol numbers are good. Just the other day he had a nuclear stress test. He says he did pretty well, but has to wait till he sees the doctor next week to find out the results. He said he gained some weight back, but is still 'slimmer' than last Summer. Deanne lost her mother March 9, 2005. She put up a good fight - had many mini strokes which had her in and out of hospitals and nursing homes the past year or more. Deanne still keeps busy at many jobs. Alan and Deanne celebrated their 16th Anniversary by buying a new car, a midnight blue Chrysler Town and Country - touring edition. Shannon just made her First Communion. Gillian was confirmed and will graduate in June and start high school in September. She is still interested in Line Dancing and just had a Recital. Billy is doing very well in high school - is on the principal's high honors list. He was instrumental in starting a band at school. He plays the clarinet. He is also a Boy Scout and was presented with the Ad Altare Dei Scout award at a special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC. He wants to be an Eagle Scout.

Eric and family are fine. Eric keeps busy at work, with the K of C., with his own house and then coming to do things for me. Danie keeps busy with her quilting, which she loves to do and does very well. Chris is doing well at work with Estes Express. The people there like him, he likes them and he likes the work he is doing - and that's very good. Claudine has quit working at Tiffany's Bridal Shoppe. She had been getting bad vibes about Tiffany's and when she heard of a job at Community Neurological Services in downtown Richmond, went for an interview and was hired on the spot. She is a "Front Desk" Receptionist and so far, everything is good.

It was so good reading all the news from everybody: all the babies born or 'on the way' - the Klein's triplets, - the moves Southward, - all the talented young ones into sports and music - graduations, weddings, etc. and the write-up re. Sisters Theresa and Joan, their lives and their work. It's wonderful reading about all of you.

That's it for now - everyone keep well, keep happy and keep in touch. Be assured of our thoughts of you and prayers for you.

Love, Aunt Rosemary and Monica

2-167

DEAR ALL:

GREETINGS from Long Island, where SUMMER HAS FINALLY ARRIVED. There were times during the SPRING when I DOUBTED the WARM WEATHER REALLY WAS COMING.

The CUNES Household Remains a Busy ONE. THIS SPRING KIRA WAS ENROLLED in GYMNASTICS & HORSEBACK RIDING, TERENCE PLAYED BASEBALL & SOCCER, while JOSEPH PLAYED on 2 DIFFERENT BASEBALL TEAMS. IN FACT, JOSEPH'S BASEBALL PLAYING HAS taken us to SUCH EXOTIC LOCALS as ABERDEEN, MD, YAPHANK, NY and soon KENNESAW BEACH, DE. (RAY, we'll BE THERE THE LAST WEEK OF JULY.)

Things SHOULD QUIET DOWN a BIT DURING THE SUMMER. THE family SPENDS MOST of their time at the BEACH, while I TRY TO SLEEP AS MUCH AS I CAN. I am STILL WORKING OVERNIGHTS at WNBC TV, and EXPECT TO CONTINUE there FOR SOME TIME. The HOURS are TOUGH, BUT AT LEAST I am HOME FOR DINNER EACH NIGHT.

Recently, the CUNES FAMILY got together for Mom's 80th BIRTHDAY. I think she HAD A GOOD TIME, THOUGH she DID GET a BIT TIRED by the end. We're VERY BLESSED in that she is VERY WELL CARED FOR. Her ASSISTANT, LETA, is TRULY a GOD-SEND.

PLEASE KEEP MOM in your PRAYERS.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Joe, Mary Jo, Joseph, Terence & Kira
Cunes

Dear Family,

Life grows increasingly exciting -- even for a single guy. I've now been with QVC for nearly 4 years, but am on the verge of quitting so I can take the plunge into my own web design (and related activities) business! Watch your mailbox for my brochure. Besides spending 3 adventurous days with the Klein Triplets (<http://stillconnected.com/klein>), the highlight of my year was running the Boston Marathon in April. Please encourage your children to visit our improved family site at <http://stillconnected.com/may>
Take care!
Ray

7/4/05

July 8 2005

2-168

Dear Family - I so enjoyed the Round Robin Letter
Every single letter was interesting to me. I love hearing about
the triplets, the number of grandkids at 48, 49 & 50! The
80th Birthday of their great Aunt. I took photo copies of
Sister Theresa + Sister Joan & my Prayer Group - the news of
Rae's marathon (Jamaal + Stephen did the 26.5 mile Disney
marathon in 6 hrs 13 min but they did it!) the news of another
cousin to make Eagle Scout, the 1200 hardwoods planted by
the Clinic, the children becoming teens (yikes) the new cars, the
musical & artistic ability of the cousins, engagement to Marry,
the diapering of babies, the empty heaters + the cousins turning
30 oh No (Tallen is 30 on July 13th) the moves to a new state,
the diapering of babies, the trips for family events - the "Child"
Support Group (but also the BEST days) the new beautification
of houses, the new web-design business (Jamaal just
made Senior Designer at "Element" + goes to NYC 3 days a
week for the next 2 months.) the diapering of babies
of course Ronnie + Augie are all moved into their brand
new home in NC. + love being close to the grandkids.

Now, do I hold on to this letter till our grandson
is born (due July 18th) or send it off? Patience is not
for me. July 21 - Well Kai Jordan is 4 hours old

10:15 PM

He weighed 7# 9oz. 20" long & although he's just average
looking - to us this is adorable! Everything went well
(Heather had gestational diabetes) & we're all thrilled.
I'll stay here in Orlando for another week + help the
new parents out. I hope Kai calls me "Ma Mamy"
(sort of french for grandmother & I get to use my beautiful
maiden name) Well see, it'll be fun. Love Madeline &
Ralph.

August 3, 2005

Dear Family

I don't think I have ever gotten the family letter in the summertime before. There's not much happening around here in the summer, it's mostly a time to rest and recharge. At least that's the idea. The kids are doing a variety of things, but with less intensity: a week of field hockey camp for Emily, summer strings for Emily and Colin, soccer camp for Brian, and a few other things here and there. I spend most of my time as a chauffeur, with the added treat of bringing Brian along on some of the trips so he can practice driving.

Brian and Emily are coming off of great school years that were years of transition for both of them to new schools in our public school system. They did fine with classes and activities and they made new friends. I figured they'd be really enjoying this summer after the fine adjustment to new schools, but I thought wrong. Both are very moody right now, which I suppose is to be expected of a 16 year old boy and a 13 year old girl. Probably part of the problem is that they miss the friends and activities.

Colin is having a typical, happy-to-be-out-of school, kid summer. He is going into fourth grade next year, which normally would be a "nothing really new" situation. However, our school district has ordered a major redistricting for next year, which will move most of his friends out of his school and change the character of the school quite a bit. Colin isn't worried about the upcoming school year, but I worry that all will not go well for him.

We are off to a beach vacation tomorrow, and for the first year in several years, it promises to be hot and dry. I'm the only one in the family that finds it odd to be spending an entire vacation at the beach. I'm afraid I still think of it as someplace that Dad takes you for a few hours on Sunday afternoon to get you out of Mom's hair.

Wherever you are right now, I hope you catch the cool breezes!

Love to All,

Eileen

We received this just as we were heading out for a 2-week vacation. I brought it along hoping to get something written on the road, but here we are back again with the drafts I wrote on the road. We spent a week in our Poconos house, followed by four days in Williamsburg, then back to the Poconos for a weekend. We saw Mom's newly renovated house (*yellowish siding, green shutters, gray roof*). Nice. The project was partially paid for by insurance, but also from an unexpected windfall from the State of NY. It seems there were unclaimed funds in Dad's name connected with some mutual fund in which he invested that no one knew about. Deanne saw it on the NYS website and sent the claim form to Mom. I think she recovered 28k. Not bad. So, she has her house redone and some money left over!

It has been an eventful 7 months since we last wrote. Most important, Deanne's Mom died March 9. Her health had been declining, finally having a heart attack which shut down her kidneys. She did not do well with dialysis. But she died in true form, with constant visits by her children and many friends. She was a trooper to the end, giving her children her instructions about what she expected from them after her death. She was a wonderful woman, and we were blessed to have her with us in our home for so many years.

My health remains the same. I do not experience any difficulties associated with Coronary Artery Disease, and all the tests show that my cholesterol is well under control, and stress test results are good. So, I may be able to stave off any surgery for quite some time. Thank God! Unfortunately, I am relying on the medications to keep my cholesterol in check. I still eat too much, and weight too much.

Upon my return from vacation, I was offered another position at Deutsche Bank. I will now be responsible for the Controlling area that supports the Cash Management business at the Bank. It is a steady income producer, so is not likely to be sold off like so many other parts of the Bank. The change should be good - I've been stagnating where I am. I really did not want to leave DB, as I doubt the grass is much greener anywhere else. Unfortunately, this will keep me on Wall Street (*Lower Manhattan*) for the foreseeable future. Four years later, this is still a depressing area with constant reminders of 9/11. The police presence is staggering, with full riot gear and weaponry. The streets are still being ripped up to replace the labyrinth of cables and pipes that are broken or fried. My old DB building is slated to be torn down sometime - that may help bring more closure to the memories.

Deanne is obviously feeling her Mom's absence. Their lives were so intertwined, and D took such good care of her. With that part of her life gone, it is hard at times to refocus. Getting back to the school routine may help more. D will also be back on Parish Council, and will also be running a parish celebration later this year. There will also be the Brownies (*Shannon's troop*) and dozens of other things to do.

Billy was at Boy Scout Camp for 2 weeks, and then returned to work at the Yonkers summer camp in which all three kids had been enrolled for years. He has a plan for his Eagle Project, a final step to attain Eagle Rank in the BSA. Before that, he has to finish off a few more merit badges. Our troop could have five Eagles this year! Unfortunately, that may well bring an end to the troop, as we do not have any new boys looking to join us. I want to retire from my role as scoutmaster, and no one else wants to take over. Billy is at soccer tryouts now, hoping to add that activity to his music and track activities.

Gillian also worked at the Yonkers Summer Camp this year. Our recent graduate is looking forward to attending Sacred Heart HS - not just because Big Bro will be there, but it should be a quieter, gentler atmosphere. She continues to astound me with her drawing abilities - making cartoons and other drawing effortlessly. She devoured the latest Harry Potter offering and is awaiting the release of the next movie. She'll resume her Girl Scout activities, as well as helping D with the Brownies. We'll see what extracurricular activities she takes to at SHHS.

Shannon enjoyed summer camp, and is looking forward to grade 4. More for the social interaction than for the studies. She's excited about the new year of Brownies as well.

In some ways, though we'd like to see summer remain, it will be good to get back to the routine that school and other activities beginning in Fall provides.

Love to all

Alamy, Deanne, Billy, Gillian + Shannon

Labour Day 2005 (2-1711)

Dear Family -

Great to hear from you all with all the news, Lorraine's etc. WOW Lorraine you are just one behind me! As I write we are just 2 months away from our Krista's wedding on Nov 5. Some of us know what that entails with all the preparations. Martin + Kris have been together for 2 yrs now - and everyone here is excited for the big day. Bronwyn Alex + I are really excited to see our granddaughters from Florida. Family is what it's all about!

Everyone here is doing well - some in school - some not. - Adrienne finished Rutgers last May - Marc in his senior year at Stevens + our Robert will be a H.S. sophomore, playing soccer + part-time job to pay for his cell-phone. My mother is still with Tina and requires constant care with her chronic pulmonary disease and she is very weak at 82. Alex + I seem to be getting tired of the up + down of this split-level home and will be contemplating a move elsewhere when Robert begins College - maybe South Ronnie - Lorraine! Anyway - hope you all are well while reading this Round Robin - Take care + Love from
all the Fields!