

St. Dominic's Alumni Association

VOL 23

SPRING 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Alumni Association is sharing a website with St. Dominic's Family services. See copies of last newsletters and photos on the site: <https://sdfs.org/take-action/get-connected.html>

Please share a story, memory or Shout Out for the next newsletter. Contact: Joseph Olano (951) 660-9463 or Pamela DiMaio (516) 840-3008. Or email stdominicalum@gmail.com. We will respond as quickly as we can. Check out the page 7 for details on the reunion on Saturday, Sept 27 at the convent and to RSVP.

Editor's Note

Greetings to all Alumni. I hope that your Memorial Day Holiday was a good one and as you spent time with family and friends, you had a chance to reflect upon the military service persons who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Over the years there have been many service members who have been part of the St. Dominic's Alumni Family and have not been recognized for their sacrifice. To properly do so, let us do so next Memorial Day 2026 and proudly acknowledge them.

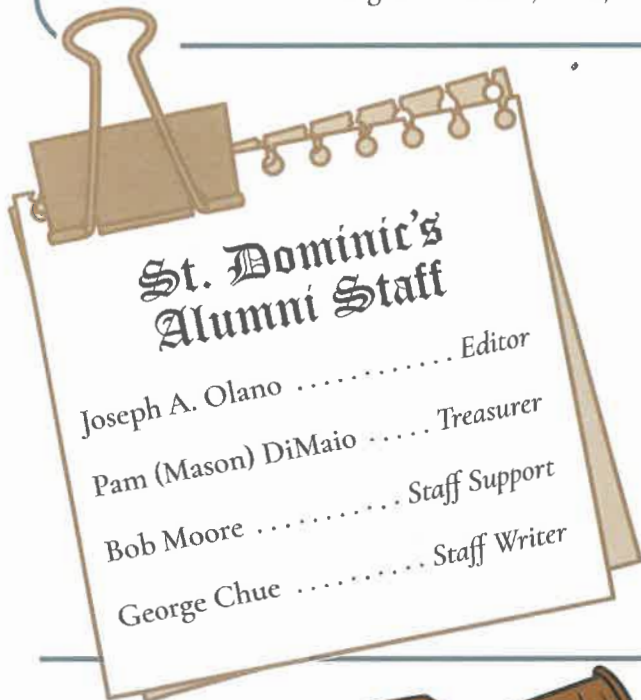
We can start with our members sending in the following: their name, rank, branch

of service, the conflict they fought in, their job or MOS, their hometown dates of service, the date of their ultimate sacrifice, and a photo of them in uniform (if possible).

We have a whole year to prepare the honor and acknowledgements. You can send all questions and inquiries to me, Joseph A. Olano cell 951-660-9463, josephaolano@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, enjoy the newsletter and a fun summer.

Respectfully, *Joseph A. Olano, Editor*

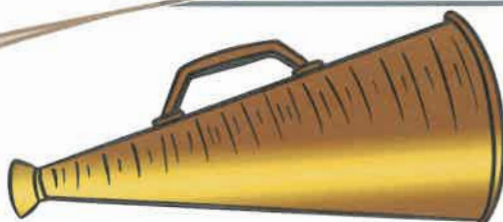


Contributing Writers

Vincent Oppenheimer: *My First Paying Job*

Sr. Margaret Ann Martin:
St. Dominic's Home - The Door is Always Open
What it Must have Been Like to
Come to St. Dominic's Home?

Carmen J. Gonzalez:
Memories



**SHOUT
OUT TO:**

BRETT STANLEY

Happy Birthday May 22

GEORGE CHUE

recovering from a foot injury



HEARTS AFIRE GALA

Hosted by the Sisters of St. Dominic

On a bright but windy Sunday, April 27, over one hundred and thirty guests assembled at The View on the Hudson in Piedmont, N.Y. for the Hearts Afire Gala hosted by the Sisters of St. Dominic to honor those who have shown a "spirit of faith and deep commitment to caring for others." This year St. Dominic's Home Alumni Association was chosen for our continued support of the Sisters and their missions since our group's inception. The alumni able to attend were Peter Borgia, George Chue, who made the trip from Washington state, Pamela Mason DiMaio, Jeannette Borgia Earl, David MacMillan, Patti Borgia Mazzella and Bob Moore. Coincidentally Bob and George realized they were with their second grade teacher, Sr. Joanne Faillace (formerly Sr. Leonard Therese) - what a joy to be able to thank her for her work over 60 years ago!

Kerrin Kissel, Director of Development for the Sisters worked tirelessly to make the gala a success organizing journal ads, creating a

Bob, Sr. Joanne, George, Pamela

poster of the founding and current board members of the association, and welcoming guests.

After sampling a delicious array of appetizers, we went into the dining area where Sr. Terry Rickard said the blessing and Sr. Mary Flood gave introductory remarks about the honorees. David accepted the award for our group and spoke about lessons learned from the Sisters:

- living simply and sharing with others
- following daily routines that promote discipline like giving thanks at every meal
- forming lasting friendships with others in the home
- holding on to faith and belief in the goodness of others though difficult times

(continued on next page)



Sr. Joanne
(formerly Sr. Leonard Therese)
60 years ago with her class
*Do you recognize
Bob and George?*



Sally Chue-Tompkins
died
September 19, 2024

In Memoriam

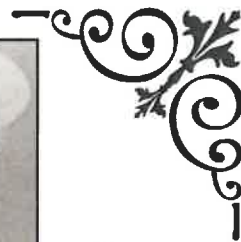
ALUMS

Elizabeth (Liz) Ali DeLeonardo
died March, 28, 2025

Jim Thompson
died March 3, 2025



Eddie Sanchez
died
April 9, 2025



SISTERS

Sr. Caritas Wong, OP, died January 23, 2025

Sr. Madeline McGill, OP, died November 29, 2024

Sr. Margaret Mary Gleeson, OP, died January 5, 2025

Sr. Mary Jo Lynch, OP, died January 12, 2025

Sr. Mary John O'Brien, OP, died October 20, 2024

Sr. Ursula McGovern, OP, died December 24, 2024

Sr. Theresa Lynch, OP, died November 30, 2024



REUNION! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Last Saturday in September always meant a Festival at St. Dominic's. Alumni would come to see the Sisters, former cottage mates and the grounds. The Alumni Board decided to hold a reunion this year on the last Saturday in September to remember the good times we had at those annual festivals. Meet us at the Convent in the Huston Room, the room adjacent to the Sisters' dining room, at 12 noon until 4 p.m. No need to bring any food. Sandwiches, iced tea, soda and water will be provided (no alcohol). For dessert we will have fruit and cookies.

Please RSVP by August 30. Having a head count helps us plan how many alumni and family members will attend. This enables us to know how many tables and chairs to set up and how much food to order.

Our last chance to come together was at the Fall Family Fun Day September 24, 2022.

For those who have been requesting a reunion, this is your opportunity. Please inform any alumni who are not on our mailing list.

You can RSVP:

- 1) by filling out the tear off sheet below and returning it to:
St. Dominic's Alumni Association
PO Box 362 | Malverne, NY 11565-0362
- 2) by calling 516 840 3008 (Pamela) to RSVP
- 3) Or you can email stdomalum@gmail.com

RSVP

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Will attend Reunion Saturday, Sept 27

☐ Unable to attend Reunion Saturday, Sept 27

Our Membership

The following represents only those members of the St. Dominic's Alumni Association who have authorized publication of their name in the Association Membership List. Release of a member's address and/or phone number will be made available as per member's instructions (call Pamela 516 840-3008.) Names listed are in alphabetical dorder of the first name and as we knew the member while at St. Dominic's. Current name usage appears in brackets and bold type, followed by the years the member was at St. Dominic's.

Abe Escobar, '59-61	Judith Salinas, 70s
Ana Pizarro (Bracero), '52-58	Kitty Barber (Scadura), '48-59
Anthony (Tony) Fontaine, '53-62	Leo Cintron, ??-58
Antoinette Koklas (Barbarino), '42-50	Linda Ludwig, '63-67
Bernard Matos, '51-59	Louis Malave, '70-74
Betty Stephens (McKee), '41-51	Lydia Matos (Olano), '58-72
Bob Moore, '62-67	Margaret (Peggy) Alvarez, '43-55
Carol Reda (Cavaluzzi), '61-65	Mark Griffith, Counselor, '74-77
Carol Steiner (Kingan), '48-56	Mario Claudio, '63-66
Catalina Santiago,	Mario Miraldo (Roche), '42-49
(Cathy Rodriguez), '49-52	Marisela Ramirez (Marti White), '56-62
Charlie Clavijo, ???	Mary Ellen Stephens (Graham), '42-53
Charlotte Guarine (Schumann), '43-55	Michelle Reyes, '75-77
David MacMillan, '41-51	Millie Izquierdo (Stanton), '67-71
David Ramirez, '57-62	Nick Reginella, '47-53
Diane Boo (Bartley), '58-62	Nieves Rivera, ???
Dianne Thomson (Borg), '48-56	Pamela Mason (DiMaio), '59-64
Dora Echevarria, '45-50	Patricia Mason (Kubinski), '59-64
Edwin Corniel, '66-79	Patrick (Pat) Moriarity, '48-51
Eileen Ogden (Mary Eileen Tolve), 45-51	Patsy Borgia (Patti Mazzella), '48-56
Elsa Gonzalez (Rojas), '55-65	Patsy Smith (Faunce), '40-50
Eric Hansen (Burns), ???	Peter Borgia, '48-57
Francisco Albarren, '59-63	Priscilla St. Paul (Anderson), '64-72
Gerald (Jerry) Merna, '42-44	Reinaldo Olano, '64-67
Gerard (Jerry) Rogers, '52-56	Richard Gherri (Road Kid), '45-53
George Chue, '57-68	Richard (Ritch) Ryan, '45-54
George (Happy Hooligan) Jacek, ??-54	Rocky Pizarro, '52-63
Ginger (Gysella) Cordova, '64-73	Rosemary Barber, '48-54
Gladys Echevarria (Felice), '45-50	Seán Corrigan, Counselor
Harry Perez, '59-63	Sean-Lean Chue (Tompkins), '57-72
Haydee Rivera, '59-62	Sonia Vasquez (Jimenez), '51-55
Hector Malave, '69-74	Sr. Jo-Anne Faillace, O.P.
Irene (Margaret) Moore (Morris), '62-67	Sr. Liz Engel, O.P.
Isabel Arce, '59-69	Steve (Tommy) Casey, '75-77
Jeannette Borgia (Earl), '48-56	Tazewell Thompson, '58-62
Jim Rooney, '47-59	Teddy (Ted) Mason, 59-66
Jim Thomson, '49-57	Thomas (Tom) Murphy, '44-54
John Cataneo, '53-56	Tyrone Ludwig, '61-74
(Rev.) John Lundberg, ??-44	Victor Matos (Dino Rivera), '51-59
John Scannell, '44-49	Vincent Oppenheimer, '55-67
Jose Bracero, '52-58	Virginia Synan (Swartz), '47-51
Jose Pizarro, '52-60	Vivian Merna (Rendes), '42-51
Joseph Kubrick (Joe Mastro), '50-53	Wanda Rivera, '59-62
Joseph A. Olano, '64-67	William Maldonado, '49-59
Joseph Orlando, '49-56	

(continued from previous page). We dined on chicken francese, grilled salmon, pasta dishes and all types of salads and vegetables while watching the digital journal with the congratulatory messages on a monitor. Seated behind our table were Sisters who had been cottage mothers and teachers in former years. Maybe you recognize some of them.

We would like to thank the Sisters for this honor. The Sisters served others without thought of compensation and played a huge role in our education as well as our physical and spiritual development. St.

Dominic's Home is always in our thoughts; this day too will live in our memories. To see additional photos of this beautiful celebration go to: <https://sdfs.org/take-action/get-connected.html>



Borgia siblings - Patti, Peter and Jeannette



*Bottom row: Sr. Monica Paul, Sr. Celie, Sr. Alice Kirk,
Top row: Sr. Pat McGinty, Sr. Joan McKenny, Sr. Bernadette Burke*



David MacMillan and his wife Pat

My First Paying Job *by Vincent Oppenheimer*

When it was time for me to graduate from 8th grade at St. Dominic's, Mr. Dumpson tried to communicate with my father from January 1967 until June 1967 about the choices available for high school. My father was born in Puerto Rico and he spoke a kind of Spanish that only tribes in his native Puerto Rico spoke; it was difficult to find someone to translate for my father. I had three choices: I could go home and attend high school in the Bronx where my father lived, I could go to St. Pius or I could go to St. Vincent's in Brooklyn. My father did not want me to go home because he felt the area was not safe. My father also refused St. Pius and St. Vincent's. Mr. Dumpson suggested I attend Mount Loretto, the largest orphanage in the United States, located in Staten Island. There were lay teachers and a few brothers who taught

there and I went to visit the school during the summer. September came and still my father had not given permission for me to go to Mount Loretto. Then there was a teachers strike in New York City so I could not go to Mount Loretto yet; I stayed at the convent under Sr. Bartholomew's care and she gave me a job as a sort of handyman around the Home. I would sweep up, rake leaves or paint as needed. When the strike ended and my father finally allowed me to go to Mount Loretto, Sr. Bartholomew drew me aside and said she had something for me that was not food. She gave me my first pay check for thirty dollars. I had no idea what a check even was. Imagine, Sr. Bartholomew was a sister, my cottage mother and also my boss.

From the Memory Book started at the Annual Picnic

St. Dominic's's Home - The Door is Always Open What it Must have Been Like to Come to St. Dominic's Home?

A memory shared by Sr. Margaret Ann Martin

I'm a little person, three years old. My name is Larry. I have been taken from my home by strangers and brought by car from the city to St. Dominic's Home in Blauvelt. Those, strangers, Social Workers, kept telling me the place was nice and there were lots of kids there to play with.

When we get there, I am brought to a house/cottage. When they open the door there is a lady, Sister, all dressed in white down to the floor and her head is covered in something black. She smiles and shows me where I am going to live. She opens a door to a huge room, 45X33 feet, filled with 25 small beds and just as many small dressers by each bed.

Next she shows me where the play area is. It's filled with trucks, building blocks, books and stuffed toys. I start to cry and run toward the door. She picks me up and tries to console me, showing me where my bed is and all the nice clothes and PJs that are in my dresser and she gave me a teddy bear - that was the best. At this point the other boys came in the cottage and I was distracted; it is time for supper. There is a lot of activity to hold my attention after supper. All the boys seem to know what was next. Some were watching TV; others were getting ready to take a shower; a few that went to school were at a table doing something with paper and pencil. I start crying. I want to go home. I tell Sister, "no PJs, no bed." The lady in white says I can leave my clothes on and just lay on the bed like the other boys. I was crying and rocking while Sister rubbed my back. Sleep came and then morning came, as it did for many years at St. Dominic's Home for many boys and girls.

Memories

shared by Carmen J. Gonzalez 9/28/2013

My long stay at St. Dominic's was an interesting journey. But I loved every minute of it. I learned a lot. The Sisters never gave up on me. Even 'til this day I can pick up a phone and call and they are there for me. I love the Sisters. They will always be in my memory for the rest of my life. I was here in 1959 'til 1973. I still come back for the picnics and the festivals. I look forward to coming here to see my family. I consider the Sisters my family. I have to give the most of my heart to all the people. From the Sisters to the people who work at St. Dominic's, God bless you.

P.S. I had two sisters, Elsa and Norma, who grew up with me there. We were all in St. Joseph's Building and they looked out for me as much as the Sisters did. When we get together at holidays -City Island - much of our conversation is about St. Dominic's. Norma and Elsa can't get to St. Dominic's as much as they would like, but they still have fond memories and love the convent.

(On Sunday, September 29, 2013, Carmen called Jeannette Borgia Earl and dictated the above postscript.)

If you have thought of thanking the Sisters for years devoted to the care and education of hundreds of children, perhaps you would consider making a donation for the repair of the front steps leading to the Chapel of the Most Holy Rosary. You can mail a donation or make the donation online.



Sisters of Saint Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Futuring the Charism for the Life of the World.

May 2025

Dear Friends,

I am reaching out to you with an important request regarding a matter that has deeply affected our community. For nearly two years, the front steps leading to the main entrance of the Motherhouse have been cordoned off due to significant safety concerns stemming from extensive deterioration. These steps are the primary entrance to the Chapel of the Most Holy Rosary - a sacred space hosting daily Mass and funeral services for both the Sisters residing in the Motherhouse and those who live elsewhere.

The current condition of the steps, including deep cracks, uneven and broken surfaces, and unstable handrails, poses a serious risk to the safety and accessibility of all who use them. As a result, an alternate, much longer route must now be used to reach the Chapel. The alternate entrance currently in use requires a long and indirect route to the Chapel, creating additional security concerns for the Motherhouse. This detour complicates efforts to monitor guests attending funeral Masses, potentially compromising both the safety and privacy of the Sisters. Addressing these structural issues has been essential to ensuring a safe and accessible environment for our community.

In March, we were blessed to receive a \$50,000 Emergency Grant from SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) to help fund the critical repairs to the front entrance. While we are profoundly grateful for this generous support, the total cost of the project is \$67,000, which left us with a funding gap of \$17,000. During our special appeal to our very generous guests at the Hearts Afire Gala on April 27th, we raised an additional \$10,000 toward the repair.

Today, we humbly invite you to help us close this \$7,000 gap. Your gift, of any amount, will directly support the restoration of a safe, accessible, and welcoming entrance to the Chapel of the Most Holy Rosary. Your support will make a lasting difference in the lives of our Sisters and in the preservation of this holy place.

If you wish to support this important effort, a return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Donations may also be made online at <https://www.opblauvelt.org/annualfund>. Kindly include "Special Appeal" in the comment section online or on the memo line of your check.

With deep gratitude,

Sister Mary T. Flood, O.P.

Sister Mary T. Flood, O.P.
Priorress

496 Western Highway Blauvelt, NY 10913-2097 Tel 845-359-5600 Fax 845-359-5773

*(We know many of you donate monthly.
The Sisters thank you!)*

St. Dominic's Alumni Association
PO Box 362
Malverne, NY 11565-0362

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To Rekindle Old Friendships to Make New Ones

Since 1878, the Sisters of St. Dominic have played a vital role in shaping the lives of thousands of children. Many of these children grew up to become nurses, social workers, police officers, firefighters, and administrators in hospitals, schools, and government agencies. Others served in all branches of the military, worked as postal carriers, construction workers, supervisors and stockbrokers on Wall Street or became business owners. Each alumnus's success stands as a lasting tribute to the Sisters and the values they instilled.

St. Dominic's Alumni Association