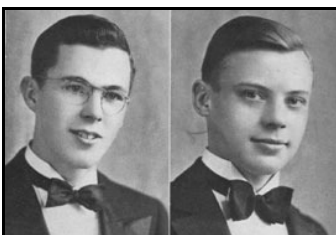


Reflections

James Allen Callaghan

How Are the Valiant Fallen! (2 Samuel 1,21)

On a crisp Autumn Veteran's Day at the Sunday, noon Mass, all our veterans were honored with a special prayer of blessing and gratitude. On this special day, just before the final prayers, Monsignor Kelly told the congregation that the name of a deceased parishioner, James A. *Bud* Callaghan, a fallen soldier, had never been placed on our World War II memorial plaque in the front of our Church. After sixty years it was finally added just in time to be acknowledged and honored by his fellow parishioners on this Veteran's Day, 2007. "Through the research of his niece Monica Reilly and the Larchmont Historical Society," noted Monsignor Kelly, "it was discovered that Bud Callaghan's name was missing from not only our plaque but also all the memorial plaques in Larchmont."



Msgr. Harry Byrne (left) and James A. Callaghan (right) — Iona Prep

Monsignor Kelly then introduced Monsignor Harry Byrne who was on the altar and had just concelebrated the 12:00 Mass. Monsignor Byrne was a special guest because he had said his first mass at St. Augustine's

over sixty years ago and was a classmate of Bud Callaghan's at Iona Prep. "I remember Bud well," noted Monsignor Byrne, "he lived on Larchmont Avenue and went to the St Augustine Academy and then we were classmates at Iona Prep where he was on the yearbook and the prom committee. He was a great guy and I am glad to see that the parish has added his name to the plaque. It's a mystery to me as to why it was left off in the first place. Those were confusing times."

Monsignor Byrne fondly remembered his days as a youth at St. Augustine's as well as the other parishioners whom he had known who were listed on the plaque. He drew attention to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country especially "Kay Cullen who was killed in Belgium while serving as a Red Cross volunteer."

Then, of course, he told us about his good friend, Lieutenant Callaghan who had been a bombardier on a B-29 named the Dixie Darlin' which was lost off the coast of Iowa Jima in December 1944. Neither the plane nor any member of the crew was ever found. After these reflections, Monsignor Byrne appropriately closed his remarks with this passage from the Second Book of Samuel 1:18-21:

Consider, O Nation, those that are dead, slain on the high places.
Those illustrious of the people are slain upon the mountains:
How are the Valiant Fallen!
O ye mountains of Gilboa, let neither dew nor rain fall on you.
Be desolate, for there was destroyed the shield of the Valiant.
For they were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.
I am desolate for you.
How are the Valiant Fallen!

Monsignors Kelly and Byrne then blessed the World War II plaque and Monsignor Kelly thanked Miriam and Tom Curnin for arranging to have the plaque engraved.

(continued on next page...)



Monsignor Kelly, Rosemary Ridder, Deidre Curran, Lisa Dailey and Monsignor Byrne.

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James Allen Callaghan *continued...*

After the Mass, several parishioners went forward to get a better look at the bronze plaque and to chat with Monsignor Byrne. He reminisced with Deirdre Curran, Bud Callaghan's niece, who had come to the Mass to witness this final tribute to her uncle. Monsignor Byrne also spoke with Lisa Ridder Dailey and other members of the Ridder family who surmised that their father and uncles were very likely at the Prep with Bud Callaghan. "I am sure they must have known each other," noted Lisa; "It is amazing to think of Monsignor Byrne celebrating his first Mass here sixty years ago. We are so fortunate to have these links to the past."

Finally this small group who had gathered at the plaque made their way out into the sunshine. As they left the Church, with thoughts of those who had given their lives at such a young age, they noticed a crowd of St. Augustine's youth organizing themselves to march through Larchmont Manor for a fundraiser on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. From out of the Bud Callaghan group came the remark, "when will the time come when this is the only type of marching our young people will be required to do?"

For more information on Lieutenant James A. Callaghan, please visit the Larchmont Historical Society Virtual War Memorial at <http://memorials.larchmonthistory.org>

A Night to Remember

By Diane Andersen

Each Wednesday, the 8th graders of St. Augustine's parish spend their evenings in their religious education classrooms, studying scripture, church history and Catholic doctrine, as well as enjoying projects and the occasional film. But the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, the students of Diane Andersen and Liz Fitzgerald's class decided to put what they know about living a Christian life into a service project that really lived the Gospel of Jesus. In Diane's kitchen, a group gathered to cook and package Thanksgiving meals for the needy. In response to Anne Avenius's emergency appeal for extra meals, this class peeled and boiled and mashed potatoes, baked breads and pies, prepared stuffing, and put together an enormous green bean casserole. With the help of their two teachers, and mothers Cindy Habig, Eileen Gerspach, and Betsy Nunez, the kids then packaged the sides with cooked turkeys.

At the end of the evening, a family meal for 6, and 17 complete individual meals placed in cheerful, decorated bags lined the kitchen counters. All the hard work also yielded two enormous crates of side dishes, desserts and beverages. These meals were delivered to St. Augustine's the following day, and some of the students and their families were able to help with the deliveries. The kids worked so diligently and happily, and still had enough energy for a rowdy game of basketball to round out the evening.

The kids had a lot to say about the service project. Megan Gerspach said, "it felt amazing being able to help people who aren't as fortunate as I am." Catherine van Eyck remembered, "looking at the many containers stacked up and then put in bags; I thought of the families who would feel the joy of having a full Thanksgiving meal." Katie Habig was one of the students who delivered to hungry people and said that "seeing the smiles on their faces made me feel great." Meaghan Fitzgerald summed up what a group of young people can do by later "reflecting on all of our hard work and cooperation and team work."

Diane Andersen expressed the joy of seeing these kids at work. "With a minimum of supervision, these kids were able to accomplish so much in one evening. Even those who couldn't make it dropped off food that day or cooked at home with their own families. I am most proud about the fact that each and every one of them has already committed to participate again next year." We should all be proud indeed.



Multiplication of Turkeys

By Anne Avenius

St. Augustine's has always had a strong mission to serve the hungry and the poor. That is what drew me to St. Augustine's when I moved to Larchmont many years ago. So many thanks are needed to go to Joe Gryzlo and Aileen Ferrick who worked hard for many years with so many others coordinating the Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. When Joe couldn't do it this year, there was talk of dropping the program because no one wanted to step up and do it. Realizing that hundreds of people would miss out on the love generated through receiving a Thanksgiving meal, Margaret Paganini, Tom Livaccari and the writer volunteered to coordinate the drive. Posters went up, agencies were contacted, notices went into the Bulletin and were announced from the altar. Labels for the meals were prepared. However, after the few couple of weeks of the posters being up, sign-ups were slow. This year, there were more requests than ever for meals, with fewer signing the posters to prepare meals.

Other parishes were approached to see if they could join us to fill the needs but they all had their own programs of giving. A week before Thanksgiving, we barely had enough signed up for meals to cover one agency's list. After many prayers, I realized that we had to get the kids involved in the program. In the middle of the night, I turned my computer on and sent an urgent request to the Religious Education classes. The response was immediate and overwhelming. Some explained the challenges they were going through but realized that should not stop them from preparing a meal. Others signed up for meals for six and eight, some for two meals. Several called to say they were going away for the holidays. Rana Baladi, who was going out of town, ordered a meal for twelve at Boston Market and asked someone to pick it up and deliver the meal on Thanksgiving morning. Others asked if they could bring the food somewhere since they were going away for Thanksgiving. Diane Anderson was coordinating several classes to cook and volunteered to receive food from those going out of town and cook and deliver them Thanksgiving morning. So many stepped up to the plate, it was heartwarming.

The night before Thanksgiving, we were still short a few meals for three and four, but calls continued to come in. We did what we could and placed the rest in God's hands. On Thanksgiving morning, so many who have given their time and effort over the years came again and helped. The meals started coming in. And they came and they came. Margaret reminded us of the gospel where the bread and fish were multiplied and said this was the "multiplication of the turkeys". All the labels, providing meals for 440 people, were filled and delivered to one hundred and seven homes. A meal for 14 was delivered by Betty McSherry to the Youth Shelter in Mt. Vernon. Meals were delivered to Fr. Groeschel and to the Men's Shelter in Valhalla. The balance was delivered to the homeless shelter, also in Valhalla, who serves over 150 women and children. They cried when we arrived with the food. Their donations were down this year and they didn't know what they were going to do. Our food allowed them to feed their people with a true Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks go to so many who helped; I hesitate to name any because there are so many. Thanks to Sr. Clare, Tony Mauro, Diane Crowley, Rae and Phil Gaita, Ed McGuire, Rich Dupree, Diane Anderson, Santos Pineda, Steve Waugh and Nick Simone. Thanks to the cooks who prepared such delicious meals. Thanks to the Confirmation kids who helped carry and deliver the meals. And thanks to all the drivers who delivered the meals to the homes so that the families could enjoy the meal in their own homes. Your love and generosity made this a true Thanksgiving for so many. Thank you.

YOUTH MASS

Sunday, March 2nd at 5:00 pm

Save the Date!

Teens/High School students and all the young at heart, are invited to celebrate at the Youth Mass featuring:

- **CONTEMPORARY MUSIC** performed by high school musicians
- **PIZZA & REFRESHMENTS** for all high school students in the auditorium following Mass.

Photo Gallery

Woman of Spirit Award Luncheon — October 18th 2007



This year's Sylvia Muldoon Woman of Spirit Award Luncheon, held at the Larchmont Yacht Club, honored Sister Marie Pappas, C.R., the Superintendent of Schools for the NY Archdiocese (pictured far left with Fr. Joseph). Sister Marie's responsibilities include the education of 107,000+ students in the largest Catholic school system in the nation. The luncheon was well attended and the guests were treated to an informative and inspirational talk by Sister Marie.

Fall Fling — November 3rd 2007



Habitat for Humanity Walk — November 11th 2007



Lector Training

A group of volunteer lectors recently joined Monsignor Kelly for a discussion on the role of Ministers of the Word.

From left to right: Carmine Magazino, Stephanie O'Keefe, Paul Lennon, Liz Capuano, Monsignor Kelly

Holly Party — December 7th 2007



Christmas Pageants

Wed. December 19th (left)

Sun. January 6th (right)



Parish Council

Standing, left to right:

Ed Manetta, Tom Livaccari, Jack Callahan,
Mary Margaret Johnson, Kevin Brosnan,
Terry Donnellan, Msgr. Thomas R. Kelly,
Anne-Mieke Smeets, Isabelle Debray,
Sr. Clare Kelleher, Cathy Fugazy.

Sitting, left to right:

Michael McEvily, Anne Avenius,
Sally Robling.

Not pictured:

Bruce Habig, Vicki Rizzo-Nikou,
Jay Romagnoli, Jeff Smith.



What is a Catholic Library?

By Michele Steichen

Have we ever thought of a Catholic Library as an extension of a general library, organized by sections such as: History (of the Church, of other religions), Literature (Holy Scriptures, scholars' writings), Philosophy (ancient and modern thoughts), Sciences (adaptation to the modern world), Biography (saints and great human beings) or even Fiction? What a joy to realize that a little curiosity will help us to stretch our mind as well as feed our soul.

Since the early Church, the human mind "seeks to understand the why and how of the Christian life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2705). Tradition has taught us that the more we know about our Christian faith the deeper our power of meditation and the closer our union with God. Meditation "engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire" (Catechism...#2708). These are the same feelings that we experience with art, music, the wonders of the world.... which are part of God's achievements.

For more than 30 years our Larchmont Catholic Library — located inside the school — has been served by many dedicated volunteers and books have circulated among a great number of parishioners. While the library is located in the school, we have organized shelves in the back of the church in order to make it easier to borrow books. We periodically add new titles to that collection, so do not hesitate to take advantage of it.

Here is the procedure:

- Pick up a book
- Withdraw the card from the folder on the last page of the book
- PRINT the date, your first name, last name and telephone number
- Put the card in the box marked "CARDS" located on top of the shelves (pencils are in the box)
- Take the book home and RETURN IT within ONE MONTH

If you have a problem and/or want a special book please call the Rectory (834-1220)
and you will be directed to the person in charge.

Two Books on the Life of Christ

Jesus of Nazareth by Pope Benedict XVI

A Life of Jesus by Shusaku Endo



Reviewed by Annalea Ricci

In early 2007, Pope Benedict XVI wrote a book published by Doubleday, on the life of Christ called *Jesus of Nazareth*. This book is a brilliant theological narrative which is an expression of the Pope's "personal search for the face of the Lord." It is reflective, intelligent and well researched. The reader must be willing to stop often and meditate on what they have read, for the narrative is packed solid with biblical passages that reflect a theologian's approach to discovering Jesus. This, the first of two books to be written, begins with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and includes his public ministry, Peter's confession of faith and the Transfiguration. It tells the message of Jesus so that we who live now may come to have a living relationship with him. Pope Benedict says, "What did Jesus actually bring? He brought God. He brought the God who formerly unveiled his countenance gradually, first to Abraham, then Moses and the prophets.... He brought God and now we know his face, now we can call upon him. Now we know the path we humans have to take in this world. Jesus has brought God and with God the truth about our origin and destiny: faith, hope and love." Pope Benedict expresses the hope that he will live long enough to write Part II of his life of Jesus. This book will include the infancy narratives as well as the later part of Jesus' life.

A parallel book, which is more of a historical approach to discovering Jesus, is by Shusaku Endo and is called *A Life of Jesus*. It was published by Paulist Press several decades ago. Endo says of his book, "This is the whole life of Jesus. It stands out clean and simple, like a single Chinese ideograph brushed on a blank sheet of paper. It was so clean and simple that no one could make sense of it, and no one could produce its like." Endo takes the reader into the Judean hillside to follow Jesus in his ministry. He places Jesus in the historical context of the time so that the reader understands his message more fully. He writes in the first person, poses questions about Jesus' life and then tries to answer them. The book is readable, profound and perceptive but certainly not a theological treatise.

Both books bring Jesus to life and make us aware of God's presence in today's world. You will find them both in the Catholic library at the back of the Church. I recommend the first for you thinkers who want to love Jesus more and the second for you lovers who want to think about Jesus more.

Special Wedding Anniversaries



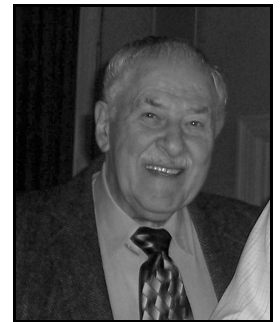
ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

From left to right in front: Steve and Stephanie Piccone (25th); Jack and Bridget Devine (50th); Marianne and Bill Irwin (50th)

In the back row: Jeff and Mary Margaret Johnson (25th); Monsignor Kelly; John and Virginia Irwin (50th); and Father Irwin (brother to the Irwins).

Congratulations Roger!

Congratulations go out to Roger Dufort on his recent second retirement! When Roger retired after 40 years as a financial consultant, he went to help Monsignor Kelly for a few days at the Rectory. Those few days turned into 16 years and somewhere along the line he was finally put on the payroll. Roger has now retired from the Rectory, although he and his wife Marlene are still very involved with the church. Roger enjoyed serving the parish and says they were the best 16 years of his life!



Roger Dufort



<http://www.staugustineny.org>

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

For most of us the fall and Christmas seasons are packed with activity. This is also true of the church, as you can see by the many activities highlighted in this issue. So many in fact, that a few could not make it into this issue! Notably - the once again successful care package drive for our troops organized by Jenny McFarland and the volunteer dinner dance.

We are fortunate to have had so many people, who have taken the time out of their busy schedules, to write for this issue of Reflections. My thanks go out to John Spollen, Anne Avenius, Diane Anderson, Annalea Ricci and Michele Steichen. Special thanks as well to Kate Fleming, who has donated so much of her time over the years, providing us with a wonderful pictorial history of our parish activities. And, to Helen Rauh who has graciously agreed to carry on the tradition. And last but certainly not least, Anne-Mieke Smeets for her on-going support and help.

-- Mary Margaret Johnson, Editor



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Pray for Peace in the Hearts of All People

Parish Ministries

Please join our church community and help others by participating in one of our parish ministries.

To learn more about these groups, visit our parish web site: www.staugustineny.org or call the rectory at **834-1220**.

Adult Education	Food Pantry	Pre-school Religion During Family Mass
Altar Guild	French Community	Prison Ministry
Altar Servers	Habitat for Humanity	<i>Reflections</i>
Angel Tree	Ladies Auxiliary	Religious Education
Baptismal Robes	Larchmont Catholic Library	Religious Education Board
Basketball—Adults & Children	Larchmont Interfaith Council	Retreats
Bereavement Group	Lectors	Rosary Group
Book Group	Legion of Mary	Seniors
Cancer Sewing Group	Meditation Group	Thanksgiving Dinner Drive
Choir—Adults & Children	Midnight Run	Ushers
Christian Social Action	Mother Teresa's Soup Kitchen	Welcoming Committee
Coffee Hour—Family Mass	Parents with Young Children	Young Adults
Cub Scouts	Parish Council	Youth Ministry
Eucharistic Ministers	Prayer Network	

Submissions

Articles may be submitted for publication in *Reflections* by calling Mary Margaret Johnson, Editor, at 833-3900 or the Rectory at 834-1220.