

12/27/92

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Holiday greetings to all. We'll start this next round with appropriate Christmas green. Hope everyone has had the chance to experience some true Christmas peace 'midst the hustle-bustle. We Dreherers are all doing well. Ian is home recovering from the first semester of college work at Albany. It's a bit different from the "fluffy" senior year schedule he had last year! Says it's impossible to go to sleep until after 2 am because of dorm noise ... and he's following the same schedule here, even tho' all the rest of us are "morning" people. Kate's keeping plenty busy with school, track, music, shopping, telephone calls, etc. Matt helped his team win first place in the soccer league (G coached). G and I plug along at work. Aunt Rosemary, sounds like you should go for your MLS with all the librarian work you're doing for the choir. Isn't cataloging fun?

Just had the Clines Christmas party. G and I were happy to have all the older cousins who didn't need diaper changes, etc.! Brief Clines news: L'il Joe is really a big Joe (22lbs at six months) and a big smiler. Michelle is coming along and doing well with her therapy. Kristen threw a BIG cog in the wheel when she fell down the stairs in some crazy fashion and managed to cause a spiral (!) fracture to her right femur (top leg bone). Hopefully, she'll be out of her elaborate cast in early January and cooperate with her therapists. The past six weeks have been pretty crazy for the Zirkels. Brian and Emily Lynch are fine, but Eileen needs ideas for protein foods to feed Emily because she's allergic to dairy products and she has a finicky palate to boot.

1992 has certainly been a mixed year. Some nice highs and some sad lows for us Mays. Hope 1993 brings health, happiness and God's blessings to all. We especially remember Uncle Charlie and the example and fun times he gave all of us.

Happy New Year -  
Barbara, George, Ian  
Kate & Matt

The FIRST DAY of 1993

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Yes, we've had our highs and lows in '92 - hope '93 is a good year for all of us! In '92 Monica has had 3 visits to the hospital: her arthroscopy in March, her colonoscopy in September and an overnight stay in October when abdominal pains were acting up again. She still has problems: she is walking with the aid of a walker since the arthroscopy, has pains in both knees at times. Since arthritic growth was cleaned out of her left knee, the Dr. thinks it won't be long until she has to have an arthroscopy on the right knee. Most of the pains are arthritis-based. And the colonoscopy: she was fortunate that the Dr. in NY was able to untwist the doubly twisted colon without any problem (he did have a surgeon 'on call' just in case the colon was punctured in the procedure which could very easily have happened because of her stretched-out colon). She is still having problems in that regard - so she keeps taking Metamucil, stool softener every day and Milk of Magnesia when necessary. Of course, in back of her mind is the fact that both Drs. here and in NY say that once you have a twisted colon, it can, and usually does, happen again - and when it does, they then go in and cut out the stretched part of the colon. This does help the situation. But, that is major surgery and Monica would rather not have that done unless it is absolutely necessary. And ... her eyes: the eye Dr. almost said to have the cataract operation, but opted to wait another 6 months...we him him again in May! With me - I have a dropped bladder, and I'm to see the Dr. in 2 weeks. I've had this problem 2 yrs. - maybe it's time to have something done!

Sorry we had to miss your wedding, Steve and Gina! It would have been nice to meet my new niece - and to see everyone who attended.

Eric and Alan and families are all well. Chris will be taking drivers ed. this semester and Claudine will be a "teenager" in April. Those are my big grandchildren. My little grandchildren Billy and Gillian are getting bigger and bigger and getting into new things. Gillian has 3 teeth as of this writing ...and as Alan wrote, loves to climb the stairs

she was  $\frac{1}{2}$  way up when I found her one day back in early October....always with a big smile and her beautiful big eyes dancing around...my heart was pounding until I grabbed her. Billy had a 'first time' experience of travelling by bus and subway with his daddy to the office for the Christmas party. He got to see Santa and got a present.

Glad to hear that all the little ones are doing well - that Michelle is showing progress and eventually will 'catch up' - and Kristen, only a little more time and you'll be out of the cast and back in the swing of things again! Joe, Jr. is doing very well! (I would have loved to have met you at the wedding, Joe, Jr.) Emily and Brian, too, doing well... (sorry about your allergy to dairy products - hope you'll outgrow it). And all the bigger ones are doing well in college, high school, elem. school, learning to drive, or working. Everything is going well with all of the May family - pray God it continues that way! Hope you get a job, Augie.

I'm in the middle of sorting and filing the music we used for Advent and Christmas - and then getting another batch of hymns ready for now to Lent - and then Easter. What always throws a problem in the works is: at Christmas and Easter we have other people from the parish to help us out because some of our members go away at these times and leave us with a smaller count than we like to have. For Christmas we would have had 21 members, but with the help outs we were 31 strong. For Easter it is necessary to have more people because we sing in W & M Hall - a huge hall that could easily swallow us up if we didn't have the extra people. I have to get folders for them and provide them with all the hymns they need. The problem is that you really don't know how many will join us. Some people say they'll join us - and never show up ... and then you have some people who show up who never said they'd join us! Aggravation and Frustration!!! But in the long run, I like to do the job!

Well, I guess I've written enough -- time to close.

All of you -- keep well, keep happy and keep this RR going as fast as you can! It's so good to hear from all of you.

Love

Rosemary and Monica

1/9/93

Dear growing Family,

The past few weeks have finally brought several decent rain storms, so the News headlines are constantly reporting the hopeful end of California's 6+ year drought. I had a super 2 week visit in NY surrounding Steve + Gina's wedding, enjoying the party immensely. A highlight was meeting Joe Clines Jr. briefly. He seemed to be there to represent all the youngsters in the Family whom I haven't met. I also spent a good deal of "quality time" with all in my immediate family.

The new year finds me between roommates again -- maybe I'm becoming unbearable to live with! Work is OK, (I even got an un-expected year end bonus!) Over the past 2 years I've become involved in putting out a Diocesan Young Adult newsletter, and may try to start a group (activities, bible study, etc.) at my current parish -- home of Heisman Trophy winner Gino Torretta. Have a wonderful year!

Ray

Jan. 22, 1993

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Dear All,

Whew! You guys are great in keeping things going. Someday if I ever get up to Napanoch, I hope to read all the copies of this letter since it's inception -- here's a scoop for you -- Aunt Claire's address is NOW 100 Lackawack Hill Road, Napanoch NY 12358. I made the correction for Eric (and thank you so much for all the work keeping these things current, Eric) so make sure the rest of you change your own lists. And make your own list of who gets the letter when, please!!

The Clines tribe was all together for our Christmas party and we now have a picture of the 8 grandchildren gathered around Kristen laying on the floor (because of the BIG cast on her legs up around her hips). Good news, though -- the cast came off January 18.

I'm glad 1992 is over. The last 3 months were so hectic with ups and downs. Had a great weekend visit with Frank in Milwaukee in September, and the following weekend, along with 3 "girlfriends" visiting a fellow high school graduate and her husband who have just bought a Mobile Home in the Lancaster, PA area. Did I mention Ed. & Eileen Burns have 12 children? (Don't know what they do when they all get together. Hire a hall, maybe?) The following weekend was Steven & Gina's wedding, which was a great Mass and party, even though the weather was so miserable. Then, the downer, with Uncle Charlie's death. Please remember him and Aunt Betty in your prayers--it is very hard for her right now. As I was leaving to go to his wake I received the news that the gentleman with whom Aunt Anna and I often took Tauck tours, died the same night as Uncle. What a miserable time. The next weekend it was a Clines wedding -- my niece Georgia Arbuiso was married with another Mass and lavish reception. The next weekend my sister-in-law Irene died. And Thanksgiving Day was spent visiting Kristen in hospital.

So 1993 is welcome with hope and prayers for all of us -- good health and continued blessings.

With Love to All,

"AUNT HELEN"

8 February 1993

Dear Everyone,

I guess that Mom was in such a hurry to get the letter moving that she didn't have time to sign it! I wouldn't attempt to forge her signature - it's enough of a strain to try and get my own handwriting to be neat... We are doing well in PA - Emily is now 14 months old and Brian is 4 years - but we have been keeping close to home. By my count we made 12 round trips in 1992 between our home and LI or Baltimore and we need a bit of a rest. Of course, Brian has already started asking when we're going to visit Grandma in New York or Grandma in Baltimore!

Brian seems to have matured a lot in the past few months. He still has jealousy problems with

Emily, but he's been doing quite well in preschool. We started sending him to nursery school last year (even before he turned 3) because we ~~just~~ felt that he wasn't going to develop social skills unless he was "on his own" - that is, separated from me. It was a major problem getting him to go last year, even though he did fine once I had managed to get him in the room and me out of it. But this year he really enjoys going and gives me no problem at all. He's still pretty shy at the school, but he's moving in the right direction. He's also gotten over his Mommy-clinging to the point that he won't have anything to do with me if Dad is around!

Emily is now walking and talking - a bit. She attempts a lot of words, but most of them sound alike the way she pronounces them; for example, shoes, juice, nose. She has been really cranky since December. I'm hoping that's because her 1-year molars have been coming in & that soon she'll be her usual cheerful self. She is still a picky eater. I get ~~no~~ no sympathy on this issue from Mom; it's always "you were exactly the same way!". I think that she tell Joe (Clins) the same thing about his baby! love to all, Eileen

February 16th

A heartfelt "thanks" to you all for all your love and support during the darkest day of our life, Dad's death. I ask your continued prayers for me and the family. All is doing well in the Bronx. Love,  
 Janie

P.S. Thanks for your kind words and beautiful letter to me Eileen - It was greatly appreciated! - Hope all is well!

Dear One and All...

March 6, 1993

We have to admit that we have held up this round a bit, but we were awaiting more news to add in. Since her eventful visit here last September, for Steve's wedding, Monica has continued to be plagued with intermittent pains in her abdomen, and was hospitalized once in Virginia. Well, last week, the pains got severe enough to land her in the hospital again. As warned by my doctor here last September, CP patients' colons are more elastic than others', and in most cases, have to be surgically shortened to bring long-range relief to the patient. Well, on Tuesday, Monica had a 5-foot section removed. (While in there, the surgeon did not like the way her appendix was looking at him and took it, too!) But Monica is now on her way back to health, and, pray God, an end to future abdominal stress and painful episodes. Mom, too, can then get back to a normal schedule without having to worry about what condition she will find Monica in on her return home.

Throughout the ordeal, Monica has been a cooperative patient. Hopefully, that will continue when she gets back home. We still don't know the long-range prognosis, but she is already drinking and eating semi-solids, a quick return to some normalcy. Keep her in your prayers . . .

We here in Yonkers have survived the winter's ordeals rather well. The usual sniffles were short-lived, and thank God, nothing more serious developed. Billy & Gillian remain happy and healthy. Unfortunately, Gillian has returned to the routine of waking up wanting a snuggle in the wee hours of the AM. Not that we don't like to give them to her, but the bags under our eyes are darkening each passing day. Billy, too, has taken to jumping into our bed in the middle of the night, disturbed by nightmares or whatever. But since these are the worst of our problems with them, we count ourselves blessed.

Billy now can name any capital letter we point to as well as numbers through ten. He loves to sing songs from his favorite show, Barney (as well as some others). Gillian shows signs of being right behind him, and we presume she'll outpace him soon enough, even in the potty division. Both are charmers, but Gillian, with her red hair and dark eyes, has Daddy completely wrapped around her little fingers.

Deanne continues working from home, selling Tupperware and Fuller Brush, and doing marketing for local businesses, as well as billing for one. She's also involved with a Mother's Network, arranging locations for meetings and forming a network of pediatric doctors. No idle time wasted.

Alan continues to trek to Brooklyn every day for work (a hassle), and work has gone to 11-12 hour days and then some. Once a week, it's off to school for Finance. Weekends are about the only time I see the kids awake (and vice-versa). What we have to do to make ends meet . . .

Love to all

God continue to bless us all!

Happy Easter!

Alan, Deanne  
Billy + Gillian

3/25/93

Dear Family,

I'm writing this a few days after attending the wake for my father's aunt, Angela Clines, & that experience really brought me back to the "old days" in Brooklyn. At 94 years old, she was not only the last of that generation, but also (along with one son & one daughter who lived with her) our last ties to East New York & St. Michael's Parish. (They still live on Hale Ave., for those of you who would remember.) I also understand that her late husband, Harry Clines, was a debating buddy of your father, Madeline & Ronnie. It's interesting how all the families "overlapped" back then!

Unfortunately, the last time we saw any of the extended May family was right after a funeral also. We weren't able to attend Uncle Charlie's services, but Bill & the girls & I did stop at Aunt Betty's the week after. We had a very nice lunch with Aunt Betty, Charles, Kathy & Maria, & were able to meet for the 1st time each of the girls' youngest, Christie & Robert. It was so unfortunate that we hadn't been able to see Uncle Charlie one last time, but we certainly felt his presence with us all.

1993 has been a better year for us here so far. As my mother mentioned, Kristin's large cast was removed on Martin Luther King Day ("Free at Last!"), with the help of a good orthopedist & some physical therapy, she's now back to all activities, including nursery school. We only wish Michelle's problems were as finite and able to be resolved in 3 "short" months. They now use the term "cerebral palsy" for her, although she doesn't fit the stereotypical case, and seems to have a mild form that can be worked with. We're thrilled with the progress she has made: she's off all medication, sees better with the help of little eyeglasses, sits up well & can feed herself, play by herself at the normal level for this age, & is beginning to talk. The area she is not making steady progress in is that of gross motor skills or locomotion - at 15 months she still can't crawl, stand or walk. But that's the area her therapists are targeting now, & they tell us we should be optimistic she'll start improving there, too.

Bill is still hanging on at Grumman, thank God. And I'm staying very busy just being a full-time mom. Happy Spring & Easter to you all!

Love, Bernadette & Bill, Kristin & Michelle

Dear Family,

April 2, 1993

All of us here in New Jersey are doing well after the long cold winter. It has been 6 mo. since my father passed away and I still feel as though he will walk through my door. We all miss him so very much. He sure was my mentor. Thank you to those who wrote such kind words!

Next Week is Easter and all of us are looking forward to the nice weather and the opening of our pool in

Mary. Stephanie is graduating High School with Honors and will be attending Rutgers in September. She was fortunate to receive a few scholarships which surely helps this pocket book. Everyone else is doing OK and I still have my part-time job in the pediatric office (Will I ever get away from the screaming kids!)

Looking forward to the coming months of Sweet 16's - graduations and maybe a vacation.

Stay well Everybody!

Love  
Alex, Maria + Family.

Apr 5<sup>th</sup> 1993 Dear Family -  
(Happy mutual Birthday Chae)

I get chills when I read "The Letter" I'll never get over how lucky I am to be part of our uniquely loving family. Thank you, Maria, for your nice little extra notes to me. You don't know how much I would love to see you all again. That's why I enjoy my "visits" in the R.R. I feel "connected". It's been a rough year for many of you, I hope Monika is 100% better now. Can't believe all you've been through.

I've become active again in our Parish Respect Life Committee - now that we love the Clintons! Got some special news today - Jasmoe was chosen to assist in the May Crowning which means next year in May she crowns the Blessed Mother. She's so happy she's shaking. Brant will be home for Easter weekend only, as he had Spring Break in March. Jaleen + I have this week off + Jasmoe will have off next week. I often "call on" Auntie Anna + now made Charlie so as far as I'm concerned, they're already canonized!  
Love you all - Madeline

Dear all,

Good news can't wait! For those of you who haven't heard already, Steve and Gina are going to present us with our Numero Uno Grandchild sometime in September. Since we received the happy news via fax while on our New Zealand-Australia adventure, we've been referring to the little one as "Kiwi". And so the Christensen branch of the May family picks up the torch.

Our trip was adventurous, interesting, fun and a real learning experience. I wish I could retain even SOME of what we learned - everything from politics, farming, geology, art to Maori and Aborigine cultures. Some 200 plus photos and a lengthy diary will help us remember where we were and what we did.

We managed to attend mass all 6 Sundays we were 'down under', even the getting there proved difficult at times (by the bye, the Church is alive and well in both countries if attendance is the litmus test). Then we returned to NY, and our second Sunday here we were marooned by 2-3' snow and higher drifts by the Great March Blizzard of '93. The snow is finally gone, and, in sequence, the floods, the mud, and the wind. Next will come THE BUGS (right, Helen???) as again Spring bypasses us.

Much love to all - and keep the bk coming at a peppier pace.  
Aunt Claire

Hi everyone!

4/22/93

I bet you're surprised to hear from me, but I wanted to be the bearer of GOOD NEWS myself! Your baby cousin has decided to tie the knot.

My new name is going to be Mrs. John Klein - for those of you who are freaking about the name - NO he is not Jewish, but German, Catholic. John & I have been going out for 4½ and many of you have already met him - unfortunately you met him at Auntie Anna's funeral - so, HOPEFULLY the next time we see you, it will be at the MUCH HAPPIER occasion of our WEDDING. As of now, the date is for "some time next year" since the catering hall shopping is driving us CRAZY. (We'll keep you posted.)

It's so nice to hear from everyone in this R.R. I VERY FORTUNATELY get to read it every time it comes around & it's SO wonderful to hear from you ALL! Hopefully this year the letter will be filled with all GOOD NEWS! Love to everyone & I sincerely hope to see ALL of YOU very soon! Lorraine





June 28, 1993

81A

Hi Everyone.

It's so great to hear from everyone, especially all the good news. Congratulations Steve & Lisa on your great news. I'm sure Grandma & Grandpa to-be are ecstatic. It was also great to hear from our "baby" cousin Lorraine. I hope you continue coming to the RR and keep us posted on your plans.

We continue to keep Monica & Michelle in our prayers. So glad to hear Kristen has now moved. Bernadette & Bill, you sure have had your share of worries.

Sharon, we were so sorry we missed you when you were at St. Mary's parish in Waukegan last Dec. I hope you got the message we sent with the Frs. Just how far do you venture to do the missions?

I'm happy to say that everyone in the Kiefer household is now employed. Angie was out of work for 5 mos last year. He finally got a job in Nov and, ironically, it is in the same building in Manhattan but 2 floors up.

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer. Our love to you all.

Love, Ronnie & Angie & family

Hi from Milwaukee!

July 16

The big news here is the same as it always is in summertime: festivals! Milwaukee advertises itself as the "City of Festivals," and they sure have a ton of 'em - including the ever popular German Fest in August. There are fests for Italians, Irish, Poles, Latinos, just about everyone. The best of all is Bastille Days, because it's right downtown, about three blocks from my apartment, so it isn't too tough to stagger home.

One news event not relating to me: Unfortunately, Joe and Mary Jo will have to wait a little longer to buy their first house. The agreement they described on the previous page fell through because the guy who was interested in their place backed out.

Not much else to report from Milwaukee. Still working as national editor of The Journal, working the graveyard shift starting at midnight, and also covering a few basketball games just for fun. Hoping to get a few days off for a Long Island visit in August.

Love to all,

Frank

Dear Family,

We found the RR Letter among the many pieces of mail (mostly bills) awaiting us on our return from Summer vacation. This year, we visited the Smoky Mountains in NC and TN, swung down to Chattanooga, TN, then returned by way of Charlotte, NC. It was a very active week and now I'm *BEAT!* I had to stop by the office today (Sunday) just so that I could go through the mail in peace before being bombarded with "while you were gone" problems tomorrow.

After all these years, I finally joined the Knights of Columbus last November (No one ever asked me before!). Aside from becoming involved in several projects, I have joined their softball team. We have been playing in the Henrico County League since the beginning of April. We are a pathetic bunch of middle-aged men (average age ~45) playing a young man's game, but we're having fun in spite of our miserable losses (average score: ~18-4). After losing our first eleven games, we won the twelfth (8-7). You never saw such a celebration! However, we returned to our previous form for the last two games and finished the season 1 and 13.

The whole family has become involved with our new parish of Saint Michael the Archangel. The parish is led by a very articulate, down-to-earth and dynamic priest who has an uncanny ability to motivate and challenge the community. Besides, he's a really fun guy! Now a year old, the parish has grown quickly to 700 families and we are straining our rented facilities. Masses are being celebrated at a local Methodist Church on Saturday nights and at the new Short Pump Middle School (Claudine's school) on Sundays. Parish functions and meetings are being held in numerous locations scattered throughout the area. The parish owns property about a mile from our house that currently includes a small ranch house, which is functioning as a parish center (for offices and small meetings), and a horse pasture. We are now earnestly beginning the process of planning the church building.

For our part, all of us have become Hospitality Ministers for masses. Danie and I are participating in Little Rock Scripture Study Program. Danie is serving as a neighborhood support group co-captain and Chris and I have been helping to renovate the parish center. I have also been asked to take photographs of the many milestone events as they have occurred over the past year for a parish scrapbook. Aside from Religious Ed, the kids have become involved in various Youth Ministry projects. Chris, in particular, has become close to our pastor, Fr. John Leonard, and often performs chores at the Parish Center for him.



Chris has been chosen to attend World Youth Day (and see the Pope) in Denver, CO (August 10-16) along with six other teenagers and two adults from the parish. We have been busy during the past few weeks on fund raising programs to help defray the cost of transportation and lodging.

As of the thirteenth of April, we now have 2 teenagers in the house. My little girl is no longer a little girl!! Claudine has been active in cheer leading and the spirit club at school and Girl Scouting. She went to GS Camp for three days this Summer as a Program Aide. Chris, now 16, picked up a drivers' license five days after his birthday. Since he received an 'A' in Drivers' Ed, he was able to do so without any additional written or driving test. I reluctantly informed the insurance company of Chris' achievement and they promptly doubled my insurance rates! And that's with a Drivers' Ed and Good Student discount! (By the way, the caricatures shown here were done during our vacation and I thought that they really good likenesses, so I scanned them at work and printed them here.)



In other news, Monica was in the hospital briefly again last week for cataract surgery. She had the fogged lens in her eye removed and replaced with a plastic one. While her eye has been bandaged since the operation, she did get a chance to see for a brief time while being examined and reported that her vision was clear, although blurry. My mother will fill in all the details, I'm sure.

Concerning work, the North Anna Unit 1 Steam Generator Replacement Outage was a tremendous success! (Steam Generators are large vessels that transfer heat from the reactor and make steam to run the turbines/generators that ultimately produce electrical power.) The outage duration was 98 days, which shattered the world record of 120 days for a Steam Generator replacement outage by a French plant. And the project came in at \$50 million under the \$180 million budget. I'm sure that most of you don't know or remember, but the reason we originally came to VA in 1979 was to work on the Steam Generator Replacements for Surry Units 1&2. Those were the first ever and the associated outages took about a year each and cost the company about \$300 million each.) This success could have a significant impact on those nuclear plants that are facing steam generator replacements, but cannot tolerate the additional cost burden and might otherwise shut down rather than incur the expense.

While the outage went well and millions of dollars were saved, the push to reduce operating costs at Virginia Power continues. Over the next five years, approximately 180 out of 1500 positions in Nuclear will be eliminated. While I am not particularly concerned about my job, I'm sure that some of the employees I supervise will be affected.

Well, that's enough for now! Take care!

Eric, Danie, Chris & Claudine

82A August 6, 1993

Dear All,

Sorry about this short note, but I'm leaving for a weeks' stay at home and I have just a few minutes to write. On ~~Sept.~~ Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> two more postulants will be invested and come up to the novitiate. A mother's work is never done!  
Love to hear all the family news. Keeping you in my prayers -  
Love, Theresa

Greetings from Floral Park NY,

8/11/93

It's great to hear from everyone...and nice to see the good news is outweighing the sad!!! We'll pray it stays that way.

All is well with the Christensen family here in the middle of a very steamy summer. As you may have read in other notes, Gina is pregnant and due in early September. She worked right up to the beginning of August when the hour and a half travelling to the Trade Center got to be a little too much. She is doing well though and everything appears fine with the baby. We are both very excited, as is Granny and Grandpa to be!!! Been busy with work and getting the house ready for the new arrival. We will keep everyone posted.

Ken had been home since early January, working mostly out of the New Jersey seaport. He has just recently gone south to Norfolk, VA or South Carolina looking for shipping work. If he lands something good he may not be home for 6 to 8 months. Lorraine is also fine, busy with wedding plans. She may soon be included in the letter, so I'll end this here.

Love to everyone,

Ken And Gina