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Greetings to All!

December 29, 2016

This RR reads like a "rated G" soap opera! With all the ups and downs of our lives, one minute I'm smiling and the next I'm all choked up! All the new babies are such a blessing! I must say that I received this letter at the most difficult time possible, right before Christmas! However, on the bright side, I can be the FIRST to wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed 2017, and on a selfish side, since you've all JUST received my Christmas letter, I can just write a synopsis!

John – Celebrating his first year as Maintenance Supervisor at the Frost Valley YMCA camp in the heart of the Catskills. Praise God, he LOVES his new job!

Lorraine - 5 kids, 3 dogs (one of which is my "grand-dog"), 2 cats and 37 chickens, sub at the school (now reduced substantially), CCD and minister at Church! The biggest change, as Ray mentioned, is that Mom moved in permanently in late summer. She turned 86 on December 26th! God bless her! Please pray for me!

Arianna - Graduated from HS last June, still "finding herself" but keeping busy working at the general store up at the Frost Valley YMCA and flitting around with friends.

Kaylin - A junior in HS and still involved in tennis, theater, FFA (Future Farmers of America) 4-H, singing at church and of course, her beloved chickens! She's taking a full honors academic schedule including 3 college classes! The college search will shortly begin in earnest as she's still intent on going into the field of animal sciences.

Matthew, Mark and Luke - Now in 6th grade! They're still involved in theater, sports, and all three are Altar Servers at church. So stinking cute!

Family vacation - Niagara Falls in late June (minus Arianna who unfortunately had to work)! We enjoyed the whole nine yards including the Corning glass Museum on our way home!

That's the abridged version from Lackawack! God bless! Only good news accepted for 2017!

Glad to be moving on to 2017 after a "Yuletide from heck". Everyone including the grandkids got sick — most from a nasty stomach bug over a 10 day period. Luckily we gathered in health on Christmas Day and also on Jan. 1 when Joe hosted the Clines party. The Kleins, Aunt Claire, Kenny and Ray joined us as well. Fear of "gifting" germs prevented several other holiday visits. Our grandson, Nate, battled a serious RSV (respiratory viral) infection last week and luckily Aunt Kate was still stateside to go help care for him. Her reward: an 8 hour delay at JFK when she was flying back to Mexico during the Jan. 7 snowstorm.

Oh — yes - **Nate (Nathaniel Roland Dreher)** was born April 20 (3 weeks early). He's a blonde bruiser with a sweet smile and a mind of his own. He refuses to crawl so we get to wreck our backs as he staggers around holding on to our fingers. At 20 lbs, he is hefty to carry too. Claire (turns 3 on Jan. 14) is a patient, helpful and entertaining big sister. She is tons of fun to play with — good imagination and willing to put up with grandparent "silliness". We get over to Maplewood almost every week to play and help out. **Matt and Carolyn** do the home/work juggling act quite well even with double the challenges. Both earned work promotions this year.

Ian has had enough of the southwest and has moved back east. The crazy heat and a meh job led to that decision. He's checking out opportunities along the east coast. He likes the four season concept — even though it's been weird getting used to the cold again. George and I did get out to AZ in October so we finally saw the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Sedona and cacti galore. Truly GRAND!

We were happy to have **Kate** home for 2+ weeks this year. In a few weeks she'll be off to San Diego, and then Morocco, Uganda and Kenya for her job with the agricultural research organization. She's the *adventurous* Dreher! She could be in Mexico another 3 years. Praying for her safe travels, of course.

I have no retirement plans and George still does his track coaching — same old for us same *olds!* As 2017 comes with its uncertainties and challenges, we send our best wishes for peace, hope and serenity to all of you, our country and our world.

1/23/17

Greetings to all,

Our love and prayers are with you Monica, Eric & Danie, Alan & Deanne. Remembering all the good memories made in Richmond Hill.

It is kind of an eerie feeling though to be bumped up to the #3 spot in the age order of our family!!

We continue to be blessed by our growing family; baby August has taken center stage at all family gatherings. Arriving 6 years after Tyler, we all enjoy showering our attentions on a baby again, especially by his older cousins.

Andy & Patti and the 4 girls Ashley 19, college soph, Sammie 16, HS soph, Amber 14, 8th grade & Erin 10, 5th grade are doing well and kept busy with jobs, dance, softball, basketball and church. Patti & Seth and Aiden 12, 6th grade & Chloe 9, 3rd grade keep themselves busy biking, hiking, scouts, swimming and on the move always. Paul & LeeAnn in SC and Ciera 11, 5th grade & Tyler 7th grade, keep active also. Paul is now into paddle boarding (with the dolphins when he can) along with biking & running. LeeAnn does yoga, Ciera, gymnastics & dance & Ty is becoming a natural on his scooter and pogo stick. Karen & Mike keep themselves busy with work when they are not shuffling the boys Mikey 14, HS freshman to guitar or fishing (his passion) & Justin 12, 6th grader to baseball. Baseball has been Justin's life since he was 2 and this year he will get to play in Cooperstown, a once in a lifetime dream. Michael & Kelly are adjusting well to the juggling of retail working and a new baby. There have been some major changes of positions in Michael's job at Lowe's Hardware. After 11 years there he is not too happy about the changes. Hopefully this will be the boost he needs to look elsewhere. Kelly also is in a questionable position with her job. Talk of buyouts and such leaves her wondering also.

Augie and I continue to plod along. We have been watching August during the week. Michael & Kelly try to juggle their schedules so we don't have him too much. There's a reason God stops giving you babies after a certain age!! However, when he comes and his face lights up with his beautiful smile we tend to forget age. We count our blessings every day and I continue to keep you all in my thoughts and prayers on my meditative morning walks.

Hi from lovely, chilly Milwaukee...

I'm sure Aunt Rosemary's passing has reminded all of us how fortunate we've been to have our wonderful parents. She was such a sweet, loving person, totally devoted to her family---everything we knew in our own folks and admired in our aunts and uncles. The fact that we stay in touch this way is a tribute to the values Rosemary and all of them gave us...

Well, gee, what is there to say about Beertown in winter? It's been pretty mild, actually, and now that January is done how bad could things get? Just in case, though, I'm focusing on the fact that it's only about four months until my wonderful outdoor pool opens...

In the meantime, some travel is ahead--- to Mexico to see Kate at the end of February, to Florida to see Danny in mid-March, then up to Long Island for St. Pat's Day. And soon after that, it'll be time for baseball. Just livin' the dream...

February 9, 2017

frank

Dear Family.

The last few months of "Grammy's" life were a very busy time. She had a second week-long hospital stay in early October because of a high fever caused by sepsis (I am highly suspicious that an inept home health care nurse caused bacteria to enter through the open wound that she was rewrapping). After a week of strong antibiotics, she was once again sent to rehabilitation, where she spent another month. During a pre-established follow-up visit with her Oncologist, there was another discussion about her future care. It was decided that she would no longer receive blood transfusions, and would be placed on hospice care. Following that decision, it became obvious that I would have to provide closer oversight of her care plan, and doing so would be impractical from Richmond (58 miles one-way to Williamsburg). We quickly worked with an advisor here, and found a better place for Mom to stay. So, on November 18, when she was discharged from this stint in rehab, I transported her to Richmond and she took up residence in Commonwealth Senior Living, which is only 3.3 miles from my house.

Mom's physical condition continued to degrade, at an increasing rate, as she gave up trying to walk (opting a wheelchair), her weight dropped, even though she claims she is eating well, and pains in her back, legs and abdomen are increasing in intensity. Finally, on January 5, the hospice team ordered her to be put on morphine. Friday, January 6 was the last time I saw mom awake, as a dose of morphine had worn off. During that visit, as she readjusted her position in bed, she pulled the covers up to her nose, and, in what I believe was her way of leaving me with a memory of the way she used to be, peered at me and said "peak-a-boo!" For the remaining four days, she could, at best, only stir when stimulated. We got the call early in the morning of January 10, that she had expired.

We took several exceptions to her extensively prescribed, but outdated funeral plans, (showing at the funeral parlor and Mass at St. Bede's in Williamsburg) as most of her friends and acquaintances had either predeceased her, or moved away. Therefore, we chose to have no showing and the Funeral Mass at our church, St. Michael in Glen Allen. The visitation, Mass of the Resurrection, and reception were well attended, despite the fact that only a handful had ever met mom. We had Monica transported to the church so that she could take part.

Alan took on the plans for the interment and memorial Mass at St. Michael in Brooklyn. The service and following receptions was also well attended. Alan's portrayal of her predeceased family and friends reaching down to bring her home, while we here on earth were lifting her up was especially touching, and clearly true. Thanks to all who came out and/or who sent notes of condolences and encouragement. She had two great send-offs!

The saga of **Monica's** power chair continues. The company that services the chair replaced the battery charger again (she now has two, including the one I bought), however, within a few weeks, the *batteries* that had just been replaced several months ago, were not holding a charge (regardless of which charger is used). She has been waiting for over 1½ months for a technician to come to her nursing home to check out the batteries. When the technician finally came to check the chair, he declared that the warranty of the batteries had already expired and 'in-fact' that the batteries are not faulty. He (reportedly a smallish man) rode around in the wheelchair, found nothing wrong, and left. For now, she is once again carrying her charger with her to plug the chair in wherever she stops for more than a few minutes. Since Monica has also started complaining about noise from the chair, I have a new theory that there is something mechanically wrong, that with Monica's weight on board, is putting a high drag on the drive train, causing the batteries to discharge quickly. One of these days, I'll have to go out and take a look. Ugh!

Danie remains busy and stressed taking care of her Father. The pacemaker replacement surgery that was rescheduled from March to August 9 took place - as planned this time, and his recovery went as well as can be expected for an 88 year old. Her brother, Richard, came to VA during the week after surgery to babysit Poppi, and relieve some of the Danie's burden. Recently, Danie has been working to try to stabilize Poppi's blood, as he does not follow dosing instructions for his medications (warfarin), and continues to eat and drink stuff he shouldn't. She feels that the doctors are blaming her for her father's wildly swinging test results, and the stress is really getting to her. She has had several bouts with dizziness and irregular heartbeat herself . . . even wore a heart monitor for two days. but, so far, the suspicion is that her problems are physiological manifestations of her stress level. We desperately need a vacation!

Claudine & Laughton are doing well. In spite of previously announced changes in how Capital One is reinventing their IT department, and the way they hire contractors, both still have their jobs, and there is no immediate threat. They are continuing home improvement projects, with the intent of selling their place in the Spring. While they have not targeted a specific location for their next abode, it can be confidently said that it will not have a yard.

Chris & Kristy are also doing well. Like Claudine & Laughton, they have been working to upgrade their condominium, so that when the time is right, they can sell quickly, however, no target time frame is set.

Me: I have taken over the organization of a monthly breakfast for retirees from the Nuclear Engineering Department at Dominion. The list of retirees has grown significantly, as the round of reductions that took place in mid-2016 took effect. My list now contains 54 people, although only 15-22 people routinely attend. As expected, word from those who remain in the office is that the workload has only increased, and several more from Nuclear Engineering, who survived the latest downsizing, have taken positions in other parts of the company (i.e., gas and solar / wind projects) because they "see the handwriting on the wall."

I continue to nibble away at projects around the house, when I'm not doing something related to Mom's care or implementing her trust for Monica.

Getaways have pretty much ceased, as the need for continuing care for the parents increased. Aside from a couple of overnight stays (Williamsburg, Sandbridge Beach (with Claudine & Laughton) and Skyline Drive), we have not been away since our NYC trip last April. The hoped for two-week road trip in September, never happened. We did, however finalized our plans for a 12-day Southern Caribbean cruise booked for March. Mom's well-timed passing has cleared me of the most likely barriers to the trip, and Danie has notified our children, and her brother, that they will have to provide for Poppi's needs during that period. We are going on this trip!

Eric & Danie

[Out of sequence -> Steve is on p. 2-345.] First of all, I want to add my thanks to Eric, Alan, Monica and their families for attending those of us in the New York area to say goodbye to our dear Aunt Rosemary in such a beautiful way. After the beautiful Mass at St. Michael's, the get-together afterwards also allowed us to 'catch up' with some of the relatives we hadn't seen in quite some time. And those with some of the relatives we hadn't seen in quite some time. of us from the Clines branch had the added blessing of getting to visit with my father's first cousins, who were also there to honor Aunt Rosemany. Who knew that his cousin Mary Clines Gallagher had been a good friend Aunt Rosemary when they were young! And, also, Aunt Claire got to ta bit with her old Girl Scout buddy, Virginia Clines! God bless Aunt Rosemary! Since the last RR visit, Kristen has continued her great efforts teaching math to middle schoolers up in Westchester County; and Danny has been doing very well in his engineering job down in Melbourne, Florida. Michelle - stuck at home with her mom + dad - has had some very talented "community habilitation" workers, helping her with socialization + tryin become more independent - and, thank God, her health has been stable. happen to be the family member who had some trouble two separate operations for what I'll call " last August - Furned out to be the wrong approach, and actually made rings worse for a while! Fortunately, a Dec and can serve as a resource to others mostly because he knows how long it will take to train someone to do his job, and he wanted to do the responsible thing. So far not much has happened, so who knows if he'll get out of there as planned (on his 40th anniversary!) "Hanou" I out II. "Happy" Lent, Happy Spring, Happy Easter to all! Love, Bernadette, Bill, Kristen, Michelle, P.S. On back->

P.S. Lorraine had asked me — and I didn't know—how many are in the next generation so far, Joseph & Rose May's great great grandchildren. Their grandchildren numbered 23; their great grandchildren numbered exactly 50, if I'm not mistaken (25 girls & 25 boys). From what I know, I think the next generation so far is at least 40, Anyone have a more accurate head count?

Dear Family,

February 26, 2017

The Christensen's in New Hyde Park are happy to see Winter is mostly over. Only 1 sizeable snowfall and not too much bitter cold.

June and I attended the memorial for Aunt Rosemary along with many of the cousins and extended family and friends. It was really a beautiful service and so nice to have had it at St. Michaels. Alan and Eric and their families really worked to make it special! As one of the younger cousins I learned a lot about Aunt Rosemary's younger days and really saw how wonderful a person she was. Heaven got a good one!

June is still teaching 1st grade and has an especially challenging class this year. She's really looking forward to the end of the year already.....and then 3 more years till she has 25. I'm now with the Montefiore Helpdesk for 8 months and it's going well. Not too many calls on weekends or overnights and I work with some pretty good people. We had such a great time in Italy last summer we are now considering France/Germany this summer.....as we're taking advantage of the kids being older and mostly self-sufficient.

Nicole is still living in Brooklyn, teaching and waitressing.....and embracing the hipster lifestyle. Her and her boyfriend have ideas of planting grapes and getting involved in winemaking.....so we'll see how that goes. Billy is deep into his 1st year of a 3 year graduate program at Stony Brook....and doing very well with plenty of studying. Megan has a great experience studying abroad in Florence and has 1 semester to go after this one for her Bachelors in Restaurant Management. Tim is finishing his 2nd year at University of Buffalo and is surprising us with his good grades in Math and Science as he pursues Mechanical Engineering. Amazing how taking an interest in something can do that! Ate June + Kids

I think this note is long enough....everything else is good.....Love to All!

Dear All, Nothing much to say-want to get this RR Roling Along. The sad news of Aunt Rosemary's death is the good news for those on the other side. She was such a sweet woman! Take care and remember to gray daily for the need of the world—

Theresa Deur Family, 2-346

set thro a surgery at local children's hospital. My favorite volunteer activity!

But I also assisted my Knights of Columbus causeil at our 3 Lenten Fish Fryst
where we served about 500 meals each.

I too enjoyed the Aunt Rosemary Mass and after the luncheon even did Saturday 5 PM Mass back at St. Michael's! (We had more people in the marning.) Sunday morning 10 mile runs continue to be a regular activity for me with friends in a gargeous local park. Most of my recent workends at The Form have included large bonfires where we born old piles of logging/milling debris and branches. Steve, Ken and I continue to enjoy working together as if we were still in our 20's.

Consider a summer visit to Lackquack Hill, where my many still he able to sain you for a walk, ayou can visit kaylin's 30+ chickens, do some gardening with Ken & on weekends have a decent

chance of seeing Steve or I also.

I had the bathroom remodeled at my house and an loving it.

Then a series of roomnate interviews for over I months until no vacancy again. Web design was a bit slow for a while, but I'm forming some atrategic partnerships with local marketers to boast business. If you know any business owners, please refer to me for lowest cost web design work or mobile apps. I've added some videos at www. Attract Web. com to explain what I do. Now I need to enjoy some form-fresh organic eggs! Stay healthy.

Take care

Take care. Ray 4/6/17

Dear Family,

I want to echo Steve's comments about the memorial for Aunt Rosemary. She was a wonderful person and a terrific Godmother to me. Alan and Eric did a wonderful job relating some of the stories of her life—and our family's. We are all very fortunate to come from such loving homes. I guess this proves that St. Michael's is a special place.

But just to prove that we live in a very small world... a few weeks after the memorial, on St. Patrick's Day, I happened to run into Father Grecco, who celebrated the mass for Aunt Rosemary. At a party hosted by my brother-in-law, Matt McLaughlin, at his law office, I happened to see a Capuchin walk in (You can't miss 'em). As it turns out, Father Grecco celebrates mass in Pelham, where Matt lives. And they're close friends.

Our Malverne family is doing well. Joseph is living on the Upper East Side and enjoying the single life of a Manhattanite. Terence is studying philosophy at Notre Dame and Kira is working hard at animation at the School of Visual Arts.

Mary Jo and I are off on a trip to Antigua this weekend. I now take time off when she's on break from her teaching. So, until retirement, I hope to observe every Passover and Yom Kippur by taking vacation.

better sweet De Read . (ech . That's how I remin the mass Wonderfu about april 1 under to They plan a small fame lone Eddie as Hend the Sami age Ca den erican ef Cuban de cent. he related to Ken eyes, on big blue girlo are settle

new home (w/a pool) & only line 2 miles away from us now. They have wildlife right in their back yard separated by a fence of screening there is a pond w/a load hom them allegator & the living just yards from them allegator & the living just yards from them will jain us for a weekind mid-may fallow will jain with Rounce of Suger, Kelly by a week mint with Rounce of Suger, Happy & Ahapp our femily is too. Lery Happy & Ahapp our femily is too.

Dear Family,

24 May 2017

As one of the members of our family who attended Aunt Rosemary's memorial, I agree that it was a lovely remembrance of her. I heard it was Deanne's idea to have the service at St. Michael's which holds so many memories, so props to her! I especially liked looking through Aunt Rosemary and Uncle Bill's wedding album. It was almost a copy of my parents': same location, same faces, just a few months later.

Things have been quiet here. Joe is settling into the non-working life, as Merck parted ways with him before the holidays. He won't officially retire until his severance runs out, but he has no desire to look for full time employment. He's started volunteering and is trying to find the right mix of things to keep busy and useful. Our oldest son Brian is living with us and looking for job opportunities that will enable him to move out. I would say we cramp his style, but we never see him! Our other kids are not around. Emily continues to live in Boston and work at Mass General as a nurse. She mostly works 12-hour overnight shifts, which enable her to schedule several days of work followed by several days off. Might as well do it while she's young! She likes living in Boston, it's a great place to be a twenty-something except that housing is expensive. Colin is in his junior year at Northwestern University outside of Chicago. He continues to make progress with his Chemistry major. Taking a lot of intense courses and working on the school paper, among other things. He will spend this summer in Evanston again, doing research. He has spent every summer out there. Our minivan has been invited to move him twice this summer. The lease on his current apartment that ends in June. The next lease starts in September, so he will move into a sublet at the end of June and back out again on September 1st. The poor old minivan has barely recovered from moving Emily last year. Hope it has the stamina for two moves and about 24 hours of long distance driving!

C; leen

Love to All,

It is gratifying to read the comments on Mom's death and celebrations of her life. I was amazed at the attendance at St. Michael's Church in Glen Allen, Va. These people never met Mom but were there in support of Eric (and the rest of the family), and also because that's what they do. It was a great experience of being "catholic": we are all one family. Between Fr. Dan's homily and my eulogy, everyone got an entertaining but good view of who Mom is. They left wishing they knew her. The parish treated us to lunch after the Mass, so it was one long time to meet people, celebrate, eat, laugh (or cry) and go on our ways. The celebration at St Michael's Church in Brooklyn was another, different celebration. Everyone knew Mom and most had been at the Church at some point. It was a "coming home" for most. Fr. Mike Greco was a very warm and generous host and celebrant for which I am forever grateful. (He was subsequently elected Minister Provincial of the Capuchin Province.) It was wonderful to see so many family members – from both the Metzner and May families. And though it was a funeral, I believe the atmosphere was exactly what it should be for a funeral: sadness we will not see her again here, but grateful for her life and hopeful to see her again. "Life is changed, not ended." Mom was thrilled, I am sure, that we had a great party "on her" at Zum Stammtisch. It is good to hear, too, of the growth in the next generation. The generations growing from 23 to 50 to 40+ (so far) is a wonderful testament to our faith in the future, in spite of what we hear in the news. We entrust to them the legacy we have helped build, and of which we can be proud. Hopefully they will continue in our footprints.

William has signed contracts on a townhouse about 10 blocks north of our home. While not far, it will afford him the independence he needs to get on with the next phase of his life. His girlfriend, Alysha, will be attending the University of Albany for the next 3 years, earning a Master, then Phd in Criminal Justice. The distance will try their patience, but they are determined to make it work. Gillian is finishing another year (and a trying one in ways) with her kids (3 year olds). She will work again for Destination Science this summer, teaching and adding site coordinator to her resume. She'll take a course or two toward her Education Maters at College of New Rochelle, and we fully expect her to be back at Sacred Heart next Fall. Maybe she will be a full teacher! Shannon is still looking for summer employment. She refused to sign up again for the Yonkers Summer Camp where all three had been counselors. It is a poorly managed program and she had more problems with it than the other two. Yet, she has not found a job or internship. Tune in to see what develops! Deanne continues as always. Sacred Heart has several projects in plans (new chapel/sacristy, air condition the Church, revitalize the Hall) which will keep her occupied. I continue to look into work alternatives to Deutsche. I have been talking with the Archdiocese about becoming a business manager for a parish or two, but we have been talking since November. And I do most of the talking, so I have to face the probability that this will not come to fruition.

We are trying to plan vacation for the summer. It will probably wind up being at the Poconos house, and probably sooner rather than later with all the other activities going on, and uncertainties. We are determined to make the most use of the house as we can, as renting is becoming more complicated (PA tax laws, practical issues). We've also tried to have some repairs done, and then paint the place, but this has proven to be more difficult than imagined.

Eric and Danie were up recently for his 50th grade school reunion, also the 90th anniversary for the school: OLPH in South Ozone Park. It was good to see them again after Mom's events. Monica is happy, as Eric was able to repair the problems with her power wheelchair. Doesn't sound like much to us, but for her; the wheelchair means her limited freedom to roam the building, escaping her room. It means a lot to her!

May we all continue to "be fruitful and multiply" or "live long and prosper"; depending on your phase in life. Maybe "Keep calm and hang on?"

With live,

Men, I danne, Will

Dear All.

Sarry for the Slight delog in getting this

of to you. I have been to busy with my annual

show we put on at the clubbance. I long, very long Committeet (6 mo) of relevant - performence; hard work t lats of fun. It will be a new brusy summer work to last of fun. I family coming saw to Report 2 w/cs for me wint then July the Cour's will be visiting with with me and then July the Cour's will be visiting with their browl of 5 Children. (Whow did I expec have 6 kix! Stal working bowling and now Bocce. More activities in my serior years keep me young are the time. Hatta run! - him Roe prox for all of us + keep us Anfer 1.