

22 July 2018

2-360b

Hi All, My apologies for sitting on this letter for so long, I misplaced it while moving everything out of the main floor at mom's on Lackawack Hill to put down new flooring. Here at the farm things are busy with the garden, meat and laying chickens and ducks and continuing renovation of the barn. At my dairy farm in Delaware County I'm busy working with my beef herd and busy building corral infrastructure to safely manage the animals. I'll be slaughtering some animals in the late fall so if anyone in the NY area is interested in grass fed beef you can let me know.

Mom is doing good considering the passage of time with Alzheimers, you might say too good in that she just got kicked off of hospice care for essentially being too healthy. Quite ironic that in Mom's case the effective care hospice has been helping to provide makes her no longer

eligible for that care. I suppose you need to be a bureaucrat to see (2-361) the sense in that. Naturally we are dismayed at this since in addition to the help they provided bathing Mom, etc. they also had taken over her medical care and were providing the combinations of drugs to help her sleep at night (and therefore help Lorraine's whole family sleep at night!) So now the ordeal of taking Mom to the doctor, renewing prescriptions and all that will fall back on us, primarily Lorraine.

Since I'm in constant contact with Lorraine and in the interest of getting this letter off Lackawack Hill I'll relay her family's news: Kaylin graduated H.S. (as valedictorian!) and will be attending SUNY Cobleskill in August with the goal of eventually becoming a veterinarian. As my dairy farm is only 45 mins from Cobleskill she will have the opportunity to get some practical experience working with livestock there. The triplets are now 13 and getting big, and our efforts at trying to get them to start helping out with chores such as splitting wood is starting to bear some fruit. John has been understaffed at Frost Valley YMCA for some time now so is working long hours trying to get all the maintenance and repairs done, and Lorraine stays busy with Mom's care on top of all the routine household tasks. Their whole family will be going to Arizona in mid August for John's cousins' wedding so Steve, Ray and I will have Mom duty while they are away. That's the news from Lackawack Hill. Love to All, Ken

8/20/18

Hi to All! Glad to see the RR revived. Having been known to create a pile or two myself, I can understand how it went on hiatus for a spell. And having seen the bustle of day-to-day Lackawack Hill, I can't blame Ken either. Sounds like Aunt Claire is out to confound the "system". What irony! But I'm not surprised that she is rallying - especially in spring and summer (NOT the Lackawack winter). Blessings on Lorraine and all the family as they care for Aunt Claire.

We Drehers are humming along pretty much as in my last report. Our 70 tomato plants are yielding a bountiful harvest even as we melt with the summer humidity. I am most happy to go to work in a cold building to escape the HHH. I've still got a few more f/t years in me I think. George is on his 5 months break from coaching, so he's had more bonding time with the grandkids - helping out more than I can. Claire (4 1/2) and Nate (2 1/3) are our great playmates. We'd like them to stop growing for awhile - it's all going too fast! We had the challenge of watching them for 3 days in May as part of coverage for Matt and Carolyn as they took a 5-day trip to Belgium with my brother, Frank. Kate flew up from Mexico to make sure the odds were always in the adults' favor. We all survived!

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Kate still works for CIMMYT and is in the Philippines right now after a short work stop in China. Ian ²⁻³⁶² continues working for Tiffany . He passed the challenging Customs Brokerage Test, so he will hopefully leverage that into a higher level job when he moves on from Tiffany in a year or two. He moved to a Randolph, NJ apartment to save some \$ and get better services. He'll head off to Colorado to meet friends over Labor Day.

Not much else to report. No big trips. That's OK. Sunday jaunts to Maplewood are fun enough. We have plenty of photos and videos to document it all.

Thanks to all who keep this RR going. Thinking especially of Eric and Alan and our loss of Monica. We are comforted to know that she is truly FREE now – no encumbrances - and with Uncle Bill and Aunt Rosemary. Monica's life reminds us of the strength and support of FAMILY. May God continue to watch over our May family – perhaps with some gentle nudges from our departed grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

On to September, Autumn and the holidays!

Onward, MAY FAMILY!

Barbara, George + kids

To all my beloved family.

8/24/18

I am about to set a record here. Received the letter yesterday at 5 pm and here I am at 1 pm today. I am the fourth oldest May grandchild yet I am only the second to hit the 70 milestone. With the May family history along with my own health history, I consider that quite a feat! Speaking of this milestone, which occurred just 2 weeks ago, it was the BEST celebration ever. Not only were our children and grandchildren all together in one place (Dec 2016 was the last time that happened) but my wonderful sister Madeline & Ralph, sister-in-law Debbie & her sister, all from FL and Augie's sister Chris from CO along with friends came to NC to help in the celebration. I totally feel "70 years blessed".

Hearing all the talk of retirement throughout the family I must warn you all.....I wonder how I ever had time to "work" all that time. Our family is doing well. Some grandchildren are back to school already, in college, HS, MS and only 2 left in grade school, but then there is the littlest, August who just turned two 3 weeks ago. We watch him 3-4 times a week and he has brought so much joy into our lives.

I admire those of you who have had the job of caring for our aunts, cousins and in-laws. You are all in my daily thoughts and prayers. I ask for our Blessed Mother's guidance for each of us every day.

Our love to all...

Ronnie + Augie

Hi from Milwaukee---

8/30

This will sound pretty much like it did last September, but that's the idyllic life of a retiree in Beertown. There's been another lovely, bone-chilling winter, another swim-filled summer featuring the same heavy rains and sopping humidity that everyone back east has been loving, and plenty more baseball-watching...I must like it here, because Labor Day weekend marks the FIFTIETH anniversary of my arrival to attend Marquette!

One difference was the delightful trip to Belgium that I took in May with Barbara's Matthew and his wife, Carolyn. It's the third time this ol' geezer has been lucky enough to join them in Europe. Four days was all they'd allow themselves away from little Claire and Nate, but we packed a lot into the time in Brussels and Bruges. Those Trappist monks sure know how to brew that rich, dark beer, and you ain't lived until you've had Belgium's top gourmet delight--- fries slathered with mayonnaise!

The usual summer trip back home to do some Yankee-rooting just ended Aug. 20, but there'll be another trip soon to see many of the scattered nieces and nephews--- Terry in South Bend, Emily in Boston, Colin in the DC area--- besides all the folks in NY, NJ and PA.

Hope everyone has a great autumn and holiday season!

Mike

September 4, 2018

Dear Family,

I got you beat, Ronnie! Picked up the letter from the mailbox at 5 pm, read it while eating dinner, went to a meeting at church, came home, scanned the letter for the archives, added my previously prepared page, and will have it back in the mailbox by 9:30 pm!

What a time it has been since the letter was last here!

The pain that **Monica** experienced in her abdomen in September / October was due to a severely distended colon (not a 'twist' like she had before). On October 30, she underwent surgery to have a portion of the colon removed, and had a colostomy bag affixed. She was sent back to the skilled nursing section of the nursing home the next day. Somehow, Monica wound up eating a hot dog (!) which, because she had only 7 permanent teeth, and didn't wear her dentures, was swallowed in large chunks. She became nauseated and was in pain. She was taken back to the hospital, and admitted for 1½ weeks. This time, she was more carefully supervised, and given only soft food. She was discharged to the skilled nursing section of the nursing home, for 2 weeks before being 'released' back to her old room in mid-December.



Because of her general condition, the anesthesia, pain killers and complete immobility for about a month, her physical strength and mental acuity suffered. While we were told that it is not unusual for anesthesia to affect a person in Monica's condition for several *months*, it appeared that the changes were permanent. Having lost strength in her arms and back, she was not able to be placed in her power chair, as every time they tried, she slumped over in the chair and couldn't straighten herself up. Being unable to zip around the facility at whim, she became anxious, depressed, and was administered anti-anxiety / anti-depressant drugs. Like mom before, she withdrew from social activities at the nursing home. The situation was not good.

In June, Monica was again taken to the hospital for emergency surgery for stomach problems. The surgeon fixed the problem and reversed the colostomy. She appeared to be recovering well enough, when she contracted an infection. The fight to rid her body of the infection caused a high fever and respiratory distress that further sapped her reserves. We expected her to pass on at the hospital, however, at the last minute, antibiotics kicked in, and she began recovering. A week later, she was discharged to skilled nursing, however, at this point, she was placed on hospice care. Barely a day later, she had a fever again. This time, the only effort expended was to keep her comfortable. I was with her for most of the day on July 12, mostly to clean out the 11 years of stuff she accumulated, and headed for home at 5:15pm. Twenty minutes into the 80 minute drive, I received the call that she had passed. Her Funeral Mass was held at our church on August 4, and, as with mom, Alan took her remains with him back to NY for burial with dad & mom. A memorial Mass was held at St. Therese in Gloucester on August 6 and will be held at Sacred Heart in Yonkers on September 22.

Meanwhile, Danie had been tending to the ever increasing care of her dad (**Poppi**). As noted previously, he was placed in assisted living last year. If she didn't visit him on a particular day, they would engage in daily telephone calls, during which Danie usually heard about some new disease that he self-diagnosed, or about how the room had been bugged to record his conversations. Poppi refused to participate in resident activities, and instead remained in his room and watched TV. He refused to go to his cardiologist for a periodic checkup of his pacemaker and essentially resisted any efforts to check / maintain / improve his health.



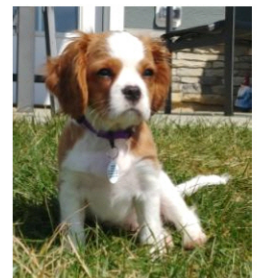
In early February (three days before we were scheduled to fly to Florida for vacation) Poppi was taken to the hospital with symptoms of the flu, and extreme respiratory difficulty. The flu was confirmed, but in addition, his heart & lung cavity was full of fluid, and a doctor noted that his aortic valve was not opening enough. A procedure was done to open the valve more fully, and he spent the next 1½ weeks in cardiac intensive care. After a full month in the hospital, he was transferred to rehabilitation where they "tortured" him. He lasted a week there until his blood oxygen level dropped and he had a fever. He was taken back to the hospital to battle the infection, likely from a wound on his buttocks. A heart/lung doctor recommended that he have a needle aspiration to remove the fluid from his lung cavity, however, when pressed, the doctor admitted that the condition would likely recur. Poppi told Danielle that he was finished with all of the poking and prodding. The next step, therefore, was to put him under hospice care, where he lasted only three days before expiring on March 28. Danie was present when he died, and was relieved by his peaceful passing. The next month was spent cleaning out his assisted living room, his cremation, handling his bank accounts & bills, etc. We had a memorial service for him on May 18.

Aside from dealing with Poppi, Danie remains involved in her quilting pursuits. In October, she helped run the Richmond Quilt Show, in which she had two of her quilts displayed. When Poppi was on his death bed, she swears that he told her to use the money he had left to buy something nice, so she bought *two* new sewing machines; one, a more portable straight stitch machine, and the other, a largish embroidery machine. Learning how to use the machines is again causing her frustration, but she is getting there.

Claudine (38) & Laughton's new townhouse was completed in early February, and they closed on Valentine's day. Because our vacation to Florida was scrubbed, we were available to help out with the initial move. We have already walked from our house to theirs to prove that it can be done, however, since we have to cross over I-295 / Nuckols Road interchange, safety dictates that we not do that anymore.

Aside from procuring new furniture to fill up space in the larger residence, they have also decided to fill a void by getting a new puppy; a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel that they named Hermione Weasley (Harry Potter fans?).

Chris (40) was let go from his job of just five months in November. It seems that the company owner misjudged Chris' level of experience / expertise (accounting for the significant increase in salary over his last job). While he really liked Chris' work ethic and dedication, he needed someone with more expertise, and, because the company is small, could not demote him to a more junior position and also hire someone new. Chris took some time to 'chill' during the holiday season, and began searching in earnest in the new year. His search resulted in multiple interviews, and he landed up with job with Markel Corporation that offered him a slightly reduced salary from his previous job, but benefits that are worth much more. He's been working on internal web applications for the company.



Kristy, who was named a creative team lead last year spent much of the year working long hours, as the new position did not come with the resources that she needs to get the work done. That condition was rectified late in the year, and her workload has returned to something more reasonable.

Me: I continue to run the monthly breakfast for retirees from the Nuclear Engineering Department at Dominion. The list of retirees has grown to 85 people and average attendance has grown to 28-35 people. Since I still have an account at the Dominion Credit Union, I stop by 'the office' periodically to check in with my former co-workers; listening to their stories of work-related woes (reinforcing my decision to retire early) and to share the message of hope (there is life after Dominion!). I continue to be active with the Funeral Ministry at St. Michael's, and the first chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in central Virginia. I'm still doing newsletters, maintaining the web sites, and now, maintaining a new electronic sign outside the council home for the K of C.

After 18 years, I decided that it was time for a new car. I ordered a new Ford Fusion in early March, and it was finally delivered in late May. I did some minor repairs to my 2000 Ford Focus, and then swapped it with Chris' 2003 Focus, so that I could do some repairs on it, and swapped back. My car will be given to a needy person, as determined by the church. One stipulation: the recipient will have to know how to use a manual transmission! So far, no bites, but it should still be able to provide reliable service for at least months, if not a few years.

Getaways: We made our planned 5-night cruise to Mexico out of Galveston, TX, with Ed & Janet Ebert in November ('17). We spent 2 days in Galveston before the cruise, and 3 days in San Antonio after the cruise for some sightseeing. While on that cruise, we made reservations for a 5-night cruise out of Baltimore to Bermuda with Claudine & Laughton in May, and, a 10-night "Fall Foliage" cruise that goes one-way out of Cape Liberty, NJ to Quebec. Ed & Janet Ebert will meet us in Quebec, and provide transportation at least as far as CT. As noted above, the week that we were to spend in Naples, FL with our friends from Williamsburg in February was scrubbed. We had intended to stop on the way back to see Madeline and Ralph at their home. We rescheduled that trip for October, but alas, Ralph & Madeline will be out of the state when we're there. We took several road trips: to Gatlinburg TN (stopped to see Ronnie & Augie on the way back), and to New England. On the latter trip, we spent four days on Long Island and visited with two of Danie's high school friends (Thu. dinner), Danie's brother (Fri. lunch), four of my grammar school friends (Sat. brunch), my Metzner cousins (Sat. dinner) and Danie's cousin and daughters (Sun. brunch). That was a lot of fun! We still visit the local Botanical Gardens and Colonial Williamsburg periodically. Looking ahead, we've booked a Rhine River cruise in November 2019, and are considering a ship relocation cruise from Hawaii to Vancouver in May of 2019.

Eric & Danie

Dear Family,

October 5, 2018

No excuse, I just keep forgetting, and this has gotten low on the priority list. Way too busy at work, pretty busy at home, trying to stay on top of a few projects at the Farm, and then the illness of Mom and June's Mom. Mom's Alzheimer's has kicked up a notch and I'm getting up to Lorraine's one midweek day each week to help out. Lorraine is still doing the lions share of the work and Mom's been fighting a skin infection on top of general poor health and less brain function. June's Mom is stubborn and finally went to a doctor after feeling pretty bad for a while. Short version....probably had breast cancer for more than a year, now riddled throughout the body, bones, organs, etc. Maybe 6 weeks to live, but so stubborn she refuses to go to a facility a mile from our house, so June takes days off work and on weekends makes the 45 mile trek in traffic to Staten Island. Fun shit!

Kids are all good. Billy finishing his Doctorate for Physical therapy....will be done in June. Nicole is teaching art, Megan working toward assistant Manager at Core Life....and Tim set to graduate Buffalo in May with an Engineering degree. Nicole lives in Brooklyn with her boyfriend of about 3 years...and the others pretty much still live at home for the time being....and we're down to just 2 cats, Fluffy, about 16 plus years old, and Boo, the psycho who is a tiny little thing but goes outside and leaves us gifts all the time.

Love to all....Steve and Family



10/16/2018

Dear Family,

I first want to start by thanking Eric, Alan and their families for providing us cousins "up north" ^{the opportunity to} say goodbye in a special way to Monica. There was a very nice Mass at Sacred Heart in Yonkers on Sept. 22nd, and I think that Alan's eulogy definitely highlighted what I will remember most about Monica — the fact that I never heard her complaining about her limitations in life, but rather always found her so interested in the family's activities and ~~was~~ so happy to hear everyone's good news! God bless Monica for being so loving! It was also nice for my sister Eileen & I to enjoy a luncheon with Eric & Danie, Alan's family, Maria & her son Marc, and Lorraine & John (as well as some extended May family cousins). And the day included a stop at Uncle Eric's grave, as well. How meaningful is it that Monica passed away on the birthday of our longtime family matriarch, Aunt Anna!!



We are all doing pretty well in Bethpage. Bill has kept very busy with major household projects during his first year of retirement, and the two of us enjoyed a wonderful "retirement trip" to Italy in May. (Michelle was "covered" by one of Bill's cousins, Kristen, and a whole slew of neighbors and helpers. It takes a village!) I'm still doing some tutoring and will soon hit my one year anniversary of being a eucharistic minister at a nursing home. Kristen is still teaching math up in Westchester County, and is dating another teacher from her school; Danny is interviewing for 3 different cyber security jobs in New Jersey, as he continues his serious efforts to move back from Florida to the Northeast. Both Kristen & Danny will be home this coming weekend as we celebrate the 90th birthday of Bill's mother!

We all hope you have a beautiful autumn, & send our prayers for those of you who are facing special challenges. And - being realistic as to how long the RR takes to make a full roundtrip - we might as well wish you all Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, too!
Love from all the Zirkets

Dear Family,

The cold rushed in so quickly! Our gardens were not as productive this year because of the rain and HUMIDITY! Finally it is over! All is well here, as we accept another young woman into our community - God continues to bless.

Monica's death was certainly unexpected. She would call me often from the nursing home and we would chat about our childhood and Aunt Anna's parties - all good memories! I had a Mass celebrated for her - Monica pray for us!
God Bless, Theresa + Joannie

December 11, 2018

Dear Family:

Hard to believe it's been nearly a year since the last go-round. We Clineses have had a busy 2018.

I thought parenting was supposed to get less "busy" as the kids grow older, but that's not always the case. I often need a scorecard to figure out who's staying at our house and when. Terence is about to finish up at Notre Dame and move back home. Kira graduated from the School of Visual Arts in May. Joseph is living on the Upper East Side of Manhattan—but it often home for visits. This week I had the good fortune of taking the train in with Joseph and the train home with Kira.

Work at CBS continues and is busy, as always. We are generally proud of our work, despite occasional taunts of "fornication" by the current occupant of the Oval Office.

Mary Jo did a switcheroo this year—and is now teaching middle school and high school. The big question for us is how long do we want to keep working? It's strange for me to look at retirement as something just over the horizon, rather than decades away.

Love to all

Joe Clines

12/20/18

Dear Family,

If there's a silver lining to my mom's Alzheimer's, it is that it has brought me closer to my siblings, just when we could be growing farther apart due to very different personalities and life journeys. In other words, my mom has a purpose for still being here! I've been "at the Farm" for 3 day weekends just about each 3 weeks—more than ever before. Care, projects, chickens, walking Wislat, it's all good.

The silver lining to just a "moderate" income is that I qualify for VA medical care, so I don't have the high cost of the "Affordable Care Act."

Thanks again to those of you who contributed to my Baltimore Marathon CRS fundraiser which raised \$500. See recap at my newly re-designed RunMarathonMan.com

2018 was a tough year due to tech issues (hosting + SSL) for 80+ of my customer websites, roommate turnover, and being stretched too thin donating time (and website work) to my running club, Knights of Columbus, Little Sisters of the Poor, and even my 35th college class reunion (see KPP3.org) For 2 months, my roommate situation was literally a joke: "A Christian, a Jew, and a Muslim shared a house..." --- need more entertainment? See my "personal ad video" at www.AttractWeb.com/ray

Rejoice!

Ray

To Our Special Family

1/8/2019

2-368

Blessings in the New Year.

There was alot of sadness to cope with in 2018.
(our family lost 10 friends, cousins on both sides,
& neighbors.)

Hopefully, the New Year will be happier for all
We celebrated 3 Christmases. Brant & family
were here the week before because they
planned a trip soon after. The week of Christmas
(Ralph's) Niece & family of 5 stayed here part time
for 4 days & it was the 2nd Ham dinner.

Jannae & Eddy didn't get the children till the
following weekend, so we partied with Taleen's
family again w/ Ham dinner on the 29th

It was all good & enjoyed. I now have a
few ham bones to make lentil soup, Kale soup,
split pea - I'm out of other ideas HA!

Hope our family enjoys a happier New Year
in 2019. Love Nadeline + Ralph.

P.S. Let me get this in the mail before the
postage goes up on the 27th of January! ☺
HA! HA!

Dear Family

30 January 2019

It's been a quiet winter in PA so far. We've only had a couple of minor snowstorms here, the biggest weather issue being the wildly fluctuating temperatures. We are carrying on with our volunteer activities, which we enjoy, and our evaluation of retiree finances, which we don't. We've got Joe's pension squared away. Our annual Benefits Choice debate was pretty brief, as it turns out that Merck's only retiree benefit is Medical. We are working on neglected homeowner issues, and Joe is also spending a lot of time in Baltimore with his mother. She had health issues in the beginning of 2018, from which she has mostly recovered, but she isn't very mobile and can't drive. We came to realize just how lonely she is, so Joe goes down there one day a week to be with her, drive her to appointments, and give his aunt a break.

Most of our hustle and bustle this past year has come from helping our kids out with their undertakings. We had a bright spot in June when Colin graduated from Northwestern U with a degree in Chemistry. The whole family flew out to attend, and Uncle Frank came down from Milwaukee. A week later, Joe drove out to Evanston to move Colin and his stuff back east. He has been chosen for an NIH program that gives research experience to college graduates. Colin gets a stipend and can stay there for one or two years and then it's up and out. He is living in Bethesda MD near the NIH site. We like having him relatively close, although we know this is temporary. Bethesda is 3-4 hours from us, depending on the time of day, and one hour from Baltimore. Colin is renting a house (with roommates) so when he was home for Christmas we pointed out that he should have a shovel in case of snow. He hadn't thought of it, since he hadn't had to shovel at college. We agreed that he would take one of our shovels back with him, and then of course all of us forgot to put the shovel in the car. Shortly after New Year's, Bethesda got a foot of snow. Colin dug himself out with a broom and a dustpan. He did have the good sense to make multiple trips during the storm to clear things away. Glad he is not still in Illinois with the record cold this week.

Emily is now an ICU nurse at Mass General. She has learned a lot and likes the team spirit on the unit, as compared to a hospital floor. Her main complaint is that the unit is always short-staffed, and the nurses are often asked to take on extra shifts. She enjoys the work, but you really need your downtime in a job like that. She moved to an apartment just outside of Boston this year. We drove up there the week that she moved, but thankfully after the big furniture move was completed. We helped her clean out her the old apartment and move odds and ends. For once I felt that I had made a meaningful contribution to a move. Usually when we move furniture for one of the kids, they give me a lamp to carry or tell me to open doors. The new apartment is right next to a "T" stop and the whole neighborhood is comprised of millennials who work or go to grad school in Boston. The apartment building has a covered garage which is important for a nurse in Boston. Emily also traded in the 12-year old car she inherited from us and bought what she calls a "Nursemobile" (a Subaru Forester). She is excited to see how it handles the winter weather in Boston.

Love to all,



This roller coaster winter is taking its toll on everyone. Any winter breeds colds, flu, etc. It is especially depressing when it is 45 to hear that tomorrow it will be 20 and snowy. Then back to 50. Etc. Mother Nature is toying with us, after we have toyed with her for so long.

You all know that the process of saying goodbye to Monica took several months, culminating in the memorial Mass here at Sacred Heart in September. I am so grateful for the support we all received, whether in person, by phone, or by mail. In a strange way, it was a positive experience. We believe that the loss is a temporary one, and there is so much to be grateful for.

Will has moved into his condo. There are still small projects to be done to finalize the place, but it is his home. Alysha

comes down to visit periodically and helps to make it more of a home. But even when she's here, she's doing work for her MS/PhD studies in Criminal Justice. Will's job at Jump Ramp seems somewhat more stable, as they went from a single product (Lucktastic) to a suite of three. Aside from several battles with the Apple Store who disapproves of various aspects of their operating model, they are moving forward.

Gillian is now teaching in the PreK-4 program at Sacred Heart, so she has "graduated" one year. She still loves the kids, but has concerns about faculty politics and such. She is doing some student teaching and should complete her Masters in Education at CNR in May. That will free her to focus on her job rather than splitting her attention on studies and teaching.

Shannon continues to work at Magnificat, doing an ever-widening array of tasks. She is well-loved, partly due to her work ethics and focus, but also because she brings in treats for birthday celebrations and other occasions. Bribery will get her everywhere.

Deanne is in the midst of all her programs and responsibilities. First Communion and Confirmation are still a way off, but there is so much to do to get to those goals as well as all the other parish programs.

I finished a year at St Mary - Our Lady of Mt Carmel. I've been able to make some necessary changes and have stabilized the leaks and fixed the furnaces in the empty Mt Carmel buildings. We are hearing that a final appeal to re-open that Church will be denied very shortly, which will initiate projects leading to emptying the buildings and then selling them. Two other Churches in Mount Vernon have sold recently, so we are hoping there is still a market out there. It is a sad business, but at this point, a necessary one. The neighborhood has changed to the degree that there are simply not enough Catholics to support that former parish. We can barely keep the St Mary campus operating, needing Archdiocesan support. In the meantime, the pastor has had a series of physical problems. He recently had a knee replacement for which he is currently in rehab. He is due to come back home this week. Then we will see what the new normal is.

with love - *Alysha, Deanne, Will, Gillian & Shannon*
2/21/19

Dear Family -
The RR arrived while I was in Florida for a visit with my kids and so the short delay in writing status quo here in N. Jersey - Took a trip with my 2 young sons to Portugal in Oct - FABULOUS! "Love Europe" its work and play here in Shadow Lake Vilvoze. Just looking forward to spring when I celebrate my big 70 Birthday on a R.C. cruise ship to Cosumel -

2-371a

I attended the beautiful Mass for Monica and was
~~so~~ so good seeing the cousins again. We all
have another family member prayers for all of us
God Bless you all!

Lone
Maria

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