

Dear Family,

January 3, 2022

May I be the first to wish you all a healthy, bless-filled 2022! Praise God, the New Year has begun peacefully here in the hill country!

As you all know by now, mom passed into the arms of the Lord on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Both Ray and myself were at her side as she breathed her last. I was holding her hands praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet as her spirit joined all of our loved ones in heaven. It was my honor and privilege to care for her until the end. We celebrated her life at a Memorial service on November 13<sup>th</sup> and I thank all of you who were able to attend as well as those with whom I know were there in spirit and love. I miss her dearly, but more so, I'm delighted for her that she's finally free. Therefore, I'm happy for her more than anything. I know we will all be together again someday, perhaps sooner than we think!

John started a new job right after Thanksgiving as Director of Facilities for a Catholic Charities run Drug Rehab (also homeless and victims of abuse) center in Monticello. It's a challenge but at least his days fly by quickly and he's fulfilled working in a position where he knows that he's really helping people. He prayed for it and BOOM, it happened so quickly it was almost whiplash!

Arianna and Isaac are doing well. She bought the small house from my brother Steve that she'd been renting from him for the past two years. She's currently working as a Legal Assistant at a local Lawyers office. I continue to watch Isaac who will be 3 on February 4<sup>th</sup>. I don't know whether to say Isaac is keeping me young or making me old! I feel young running around and exploring with a toddler, but when I get into bed at night exhausted and achy, I start to feel a little old!

Kaylin and her fiancé Dustyn are planning on getting married on August 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be starting her final semester as a Bio Tech/Chemistry major in a few weeks. After getting married, they will begin a real adventure since Dustyn is going to school to become a Forest Ranger/Game Warden and he could be sent anywhere in the state to begin his career! Kaylin is planning on attending Graduate School but at this point has no idea where she will even be living. I remember those days ~~being~~ **young and free!!!**

Matthew, Mark and Luke (16) are Juniors this year. Matthew and Luke are attending Boces for Auto Tech and Auto Body and they love it! Mark is remaining on the standard High School track. **If they aren't at school, after school sports or serving the Latin Mass at church, chances are you can find them pulling apart one of their quads or dirt bikes out in the garage.**

Prayers for God's blessings upon all of you and your families. Keep sending the happy news of weddings and baby announcements! It's the best kind of smile therapy! **Above all, keep the faith as this is the ONLY THING that will keep us sane in a completely insane world!**

~~Love,~~ *John, Terence, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark, Luke & Isaac*

Happy New Year, all! Let's pray for good health and calm days for all in 2022! ;

Not much new with the Drehers. We've been lucky in the latest omicron wave.

I'll work full-time until I make the official moves to retire, but maybe by June it will be done and I'll shift to part-time library work. That should be a little weird after 34 years. George still coaches track – and outdoor practices make for a *fun* winter season.

We did manage an adventure – our first (and only) trip to DisneyWorld! We went with Matt's family and Frank. George and I trained down and drove back, visiting a few friends on the coast along the way. DW was fun, of course, but our daughter-in-law made it "magical" by doing all the planning, ride and dining reservations, etc. We stayed at the Beach Resort and the weather cooperated for plenty of pool time.

**Kate** returned to Mexico in September after 15 months with us. She did get back up for the holidays and flew back down on Jan. 11. Too bad – omicron is hitting MX now and she has to work from her apartment even though she is 3 minutes from her office. She could easily be working from here.

Granddaughter **Claire** just turned 8, and **Nate** will be 6 in April. School is much more on-site this year, but it's still not "normal". Wish they would slow down growing up a bit! **Carolyn** continues to work from home, but **Matt** and **Ian** go into their offices several times a week.

We did manage some Clines family gatherings in 2021, but we canceled our Christmas party once again. It was fortunate that I could get to Aunt Claire's Mass in November and reconnect with many of you. I can imagine the May family greetings from her siblings and parents she received.

Winter has arrived with storm "Kenan" and we are digging out of a foot of snow in frigid temps. Sorry for the delay in getting this on its way. Thanks to all for sharing your news - achievements, challenges and happenings. This round robin will remain a legacy of all our parents! Onward, May Family!

*Love from the Drehers*

Dear Family,

February 9, 2022

We were off to a bad start in this New Year. The beginning of January I came down with a very serious case of sepsis from a UTI I didn't know I had. I was hospitalized for a day and have been recovering slowly but finally feeling more normal now. All is well with Augie. The family is well. Andy started a new job after too many years in retail and is sounding so much more at ease; we were beginning to worry about him with our family history of heart disease. The others are settled at jobs they can tolerate. We get to see Paul every 6 weeks as his job brings him close to us for an overnight visit. It has been way too long since we have seen his family though and I miss them. We do get to see Michael's little ones once in a while and the smiles don't stop while they are here. August is 5 ½ and Bruce is 2 ½.

It is so good to hear from everyone and to stay so connected with our wonderful family. Wishing all the family health and happiness this year as we continue to pray for an end to COVID!!!

*Love Ronnie + Augie*

Ah, winter in Milwaukee!

Feb. 16 / of '22

My 54th, I just calculated, and yes, it always seems like the gray cold will never end...

But amazingly, this winter has been relatively snow-free. And nothing can really ruin things as long as the Marquette U. pool stays available for this geezer alumnus!

And wow, the temp today is up in the 40s (briefly), so I'm getting plans made for trips back East in spring and summer... and soon it won't be 15 degrees every day, even in MKE!

Stay warm,

Frank

February 22, 2022  
"Tuesday"

Dear Family,

The Letter arrived on the day after we returned from our trip to Barbados, that included a 7-night Southern Caribbean cruise (750 passengers on a ship that normally carries 2000+). This was our second cruise since the industry's return to sailing. Our first was in late September (2480 passengers on a ship normally holds 5600+). The cruises went well, however, there was a lot of angst concerning COVID testing that needed to be performed and results received within a short time prior to travel, and, for Barbados, additional tests at the pier before the cruise, and at the end of the cruise to reenter Barbados & the US. Additionally, went on the 7-day trip to Sonoma in November as I mentioned last time, however, we went alone as Ed & Janet Ebert, and Janet's sister & brother-in-law bailed out of the trip because their flights were switched to ridiculous times, that the airline said could not be improved upon. We also spend a week, including New Year's Eve / Day in Gatlinburg, TN & Asheville, NC.

We returned to the theater to attend several local productions and two "Broadway in Richmond" shows (*Anastasia* and *Come From Away*). We were given tickets to attend a Gladys Knight concert at the same theater where the Broadway shows are presented. For the Broadway shows, we needed to show our vaccination record (or a negative test result), and wear masks at all times when inside. For the Gladys Knight Concert, there were no vaccination/testing requirements, and mask wearing was 'encouraged'. Curious...

Local venues continue to open for plays, concerts, and parties; each with some level of restrictions, but we continue to get out and about. Looking ahead, we have another road trip to Asheville (Biltmore Estate) & Gatlinburg (with the Eberts) in March, booked a 9-night Eastern Caribbean & Bermuda cruise out of Cape Liberty, NJ in July, and a 12-night British Isles cruise out of Amsterdam in August that we intend to extend with visits with several of Danie's cousins in France. We've had to block out several time slots for puppy sitting, as Claudine & Laughton plan some much deserved away time.

In spite of the pandemic, construction in our area is booming following years of slow growth. There seems to be urgency to fill-in any available space in the West End of Henrico County. Our area, referred to as the Innsbrook neighborhood was an early mixed-use development of office, retail and housing. As originally conceived, each use is in its own space (2 miles from my driveway to my former office parking lot). However, the current thinking is to convert the area to *urban* mixed-use, where all are combined. As a result, office building parking lots are being reduced in size and parking garages built, and apartments / condos with some retail on the ground floor are being built in the freed space. Over 3000 housing units will be added in the 630-acre office park in the next 3-5 years, with more to come. Not one additional road is being contemplated (or even possible) surrounding this development. Oy!

Danie has been dealing with Dupuytren's Contracture in her right hand for some time. She had surgery in 2002 on her left hand, however, the doctor she saw in October declared that the condition in her right hand wasn't bad enough to warrant surgery at this time. Recently, Claudine suffered from a frozen shoulder after a fall (tripped on a dog). It was noted that both Danie and Chris have *also* suffered with frozen shoulders in the past... Chris is continuing to undergo therapy. Claudine's doctor mentioned that there is a clinical trial being set up that will look at the use of an injected drug that is currently used for Dupuytren's contracture, to aid with relief from a frozen shoulder. Claudine was not referred to the trial, and in fact underwent outpatient surgery to remove scar tissue in her shoulder. However, it is interesting that there may be a connection between the two conditions that might be impacted by genetics.

**Danie:** Because of the surge in the Delta variant in August, Danie returned to making several more facemasks for herself and others. However, she quickly went on with her multi-day quilting retreats and classes. The Omicron wave has barely impacted her comings and goings. She will be heading to Hampton, VA for the Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival this week, Smith Mt. Lake in April for the Virginia Consortium of Quilters "Celebration" in April, and is planning a "quilting girls' trip" to Missouri in June.

**Claudine & Laughton:** Not much new here... They took several days to go to the beach in September and we were pressed into puppy sitting duties. Laughton is currently looking to at least April before he would return to the office, and now it appears that such a return would be limited to as-needed basis (e.g., where face-to-face meetings are deemed more appropriate than a Zoom meeting). Claudine pops in the office

1-2 days a week, but otherwise continues work from home. No telling when the full-time return to the office will be. They're still sitting on vouchers that were issued after their planned trip to France in April 2020 was cancelled. Claudine has given thought to joining us during out travel to France in August, however, Laughton is not a fan of the idea.

**Chris & Kristy:** Both are still working part-time at their respective offices, with no clear idea what the long-term arrangements will be. In July, Chris finally bade goodbye up his 2003 Ford Focus, which looked ratty, but still ran well (sold it to a coworker, who is loving it) and purchased a 2015 Kia Soul all-electric vehicle. While the car is used extensively in-town, its ~90 mile range keeps it from being used for traveling more than about a 35 to 40-mile radius around their home. His plan to publish a book on the PYTHON programming language, and to develop and offer training for same continues to move along . . . slowly. They retreated back to their hermit-like existence during the Omicron wave, even though they are healthy, vaxxed and booster. They are starting to emerge again.

**Me:** The Funeral Meals ministry at St. Michael returned to active status last August, so we are once again feeding the families of the deceased after funeral Masses / memorial services. Sadly, this ministry has been VERY active in the last part of 2021 (8 funerals in one two-week period between Thanksgiving and Christmas! (one COVID-related) and continued in January with five funerals, including the woman who was always at the side of St. Michael's founding pastor. I continue to work the Vincent's Pantry (St. Vincent de Paul) at St. Michael's to provide supplemental food for many families in the area. That ministry just continues to grow! Our K of C Council's Brunswick Stew sales were again very successful, as were the last 2 quarterly blood drives for the year at St. Michael's. My monthly retirees' breakfast, which returned to indoor dining in May, has been slowly growing in attendance from 18 to around 25 (vs and all-time record of 51). While at the restart, the majority of invitees were (obviously) hesitant because of COVID, it seems that the most common reason for the lack of attendance now is that a majority are now traveling. There are still some holdouts who are simply "not ready yet." Oh, well!

*Eric & Danie*

Dear Family,

March 2, 2022

Mom is no longer here, but will never be forgotten, that's for sure. I know she touched so many peoples lives.

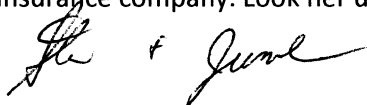
Mask mandates are being lifted and it's nice to see things return to "almost close to normal". Very nice to hear of the recent weddings as proof of that.

June and I are both planning retirements.....in the month of June.....so we'll be ready to party!!!

She will have completed 27 years of Teaching, all grammar school and most of it 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I'll have been with Montefiore 6 years, and 28 at the Times before that. So, a new adventure awaits!!! While I'll take the time to maintain my health and spend some midweek days working on the upstate Farm, she will embark on a new career as a Paralegal. She just finished a grueling 16 credit courseload at Hofstra and is excited to join the "adult world" after so many years zipping coats, tying laces, etc.

All 4 of our kids are well. Bill got engaged to Emily this past fall and they are looking at an early 2023 wedding. They're progressing in their fields of Physical Therapy and Speech Pathology. Tim got a new job in December and moved from central Jersey to Saratoga NY. He's working in the Albany area as an Engineer and handling some complex computer chip models. Most of his work is in the "Clean room". Nicole continues in her role as Art Director for a school with Special Needs children, and Megan is our "Flo from Progressive" and will bundle any insurance package you could ever want! She works for Remco, so she can sell you on any Insurance company. Look her up, get a discount!

Love to everyone, stay well!



Dear Family,

3/11/22 2-422

It was so good to hear that everyone is doing well, despite the omicron surge over the holidays. Bill & I both turned "70" in 2021, and were fortunate to be able to celebrate our respective birthdays with family & friends, due to well-timed "breaks" in the more serious lockdown periods. Poor Michelle, who turned "30" on New Year's Eve, did not have such good timing - especially because we had all been exposed to the omicron variant in various ways. Luckily none of us actually got the virus, and 22 guests were able to finally sing "Happy Birthday" to her on Feb. 26th!

Un fortunately, Michelle's program is still virtual after 2 years, as they just can't find staff; the isolation of being home so much is not good for her. Danny will not be going back in person till April - maybe! He continues working in cybersecurity, and his girlfriend Brieanne has been a constant and welcome guest at all our family get-togethers for close to a year.

But the biggest news for our family is that Kristen & Josh are expecting their first baby - our first grandchild! - due May 6th!! On the day that Joe, Barbara, Eileen & I drove up state for our dear Aunt Claire's Memorial Mass, Kristen brought "color-coded" cupcakes for our dinner dessert, and the inside of the cupcakes was, ... blue! It's a boy!! Kristen is doing well, thank God, although her work as a teacher is especially demanding when one is pregnant. Bill helped them paint the baby's room, & now we're saving our money to pay for the gas we'll be burning up as we go back & forth up to Westchester County to enjoy our new little blessing.

Speaking of gas prices & Covid problems leads me to bring up the latest need for our prayers. No matter what inconveniences we have here in America, it is nothing compared to what the Ukrainians are suffering now, as well as to what dangers our whole world may be facing in the future. Needless to say, this Lent we are offered an abundance of reasons for prayer & almsgiving. I want my grandson to grow up in a safe, caring world - which, of course, I want for all children & their families, especially our wonderful May Family!

Love from Bernadette, Bill & family

Dear Family,

3/16/22

I cannot let this letter pass without saying something about dear Aunt Claire. She was a sweet, but strong woman who loved Jesus. I remember how many times I sat on the porch in Ellenville, when we visited the hermitages, talking at length with her about her life growing up and insights about my own father. I loved it! Although I couldn't attend her funeral, we had a Mass celebrated here in our chapel for her.

Glad to see that everyone is fine. We just had a beautiful litter of German Shepherd pups. God's creatures can teach us a lot!

Be assured of our prayers,  
Theresa & Joanne

4/23/22

Dear Family,

I thought life would slow down a bit after I retired last fall. But amazingly, the world keeps moving, quicker than ever. We have quite a bit of news to report. Our son Terence has gotten engaged to his college sweetheart. He and Ally are to be married next April-- in South Bend, Indiana. Terence has also been hired as a math teacher at a public high school in Indiana and starts work in August. Kira is working on her freelance animation projects and recently got an apartment with a college friend in Astoria. So after two years of being stuck at home, she is finally getting to enjoy her post-college years. Joe Jr. recently got a promotion and now manages a sales team with Oracle. His team is based in Chicago, but he's in New York. Guess that's not a problem these days. Mary Jo plans to retire at the end of this school year, having submitted her papers. She and I are looking forward to traveling when it's not high season. As for myself, I did the only sensible thing in retirement: I've gone back to work. Just a little bit, with some occasional weekend days at ABC World News. Not sure how much I like it, but it does pay! Hope everyone is well and this pandemic will soon be over!

Love from all  
 Joe & Claire

Dear Family,

5/1/22

Thrilled that I get to write this on 'May' Day! Back in November, I enjoyed a fabulous 7 day road trip to Florida with an old (4th grade) buddy that I only see once a year. We visited his friend in NC, daughter in GA and sister in FL (where I also visited a college buddy. On the way back north, visited a cousin on my Dad's side. The next week was Mom's Mass. See the 200 slide video of Claire's life at LackawackLumber.com/claire - which includes her writeup of her childhood.

I continue to hit the farm every 3rd weekend, helping Ken fertilize apple trees lately. We all usually do Latin Mass there on Sundays. In January, visited DC for first time in 5 years to march down Constitution Ave with thousands of other pilgrims for March For Life. Very emotional! Business is steady, although I consider myself semi-retired -- so I have time to be my running club Prez for 2nd time, continue my most active ever social life and work on various KofC projects. In a few days, I'm having a couple trees removed and a new 2 car driveway installed.

Peace!  
 Ray

Dear Family ~ May 15, 2022

2-424

It was great seeing the wedding photos, Thank You. I recently got home from NC after seeing my sister Connie who is now recuperating nicely after a stay in the hospital. That was great for me is I got to talk to Maria + Eric as they were concerned about Connie.

It is so good to hear all the happy news of the family - thank you for that.

We are thinking of our Son Brent's upcoming surgery for kidney cancer. When he was first working as an environmental engineer for NASA, he had to clean a contaminated building of cadmium. It is one of the main causes of kidney cancer & he signed off on it back then - but now he will need surgery in both kidneys. They will remove the smaller tumor first May 25<sup>th</sup> & then schedule the larger one after his recovery. So we'll be able to drive the kids to school, etc. in Orinda that week. Hopefully all will go well. So that will be our plan for this Spring/Summer. Both Taler + Janna are doing well.

Lone  
Ralph + Madeline

Dear Family

May 28, 2022

I hope that your son's surgery went well, Madeline, and I'm glad you can help his family out during this stressful time. Things are quiet here in PA. There is some exciting news from Bernadette's branch of the family: grandson Caden Benjamin Kirsch was born on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022! I will let her tell you all about him in her next entry. As it happens, my brother Joe's son Terry was also born on Mother's Day, so the month of May has been lucky for us.

In my own family, not much news, as I said. Joe L. and I have been spending much of our time with the twin projects of redecorating and decluttering. The redecorating is overdue, and we think we will be in the house long enough to justify the cost. This also gives us the impetus to declutter, so we will have less stuff to move around as we redo each room. Joe continues to travel to Baltimore each week to be with his mother and take her to appointments. As time goes on he is needed there more, although Grandma does live with a much younger sister. We had a scare when Grandma contracted Covid a few weeks ago but she recovered quickly.

Our son Brian has started another new job, leaving his previous position after about a year. He's learning from each job he takes, and slowly moving towards a good fit, but it's a slow process for him. Emily is settled into her new house near Boston. She and her husband bought it about a year ago but spent the months before the wedding doing needed repairs, so this is the first spring they will be able to enjoy the property. The place needs more improvements, but I think they were wise to jump into the housing market when they could with something affordable. Colin continues to plug along with his graduate studies in Chemistry. He has had to amend his original research proposal, but this is common and he's still making progress towards his degree.

I hope that everyone is enjoying spring weather right now, as we are. The rain has finally ended here, and it's a beautiful day, but the 90s are on the horizon.

Love to all,



Solemnity of the Trinity – 6/12/22

Dear Family,

When you last left the Alan May Family in the RR, it was December. Ice and snow were wreaking havoc. Now, we are enjoying warm days, although we've already survived 90° days and torrential rain and hail. When the frogs, lice and locusts appear, we'll know we're in trouble.

Similar to the weather, we read on these pages the ups and downs, good times and bad, for each of our branches of the family tree. We pray for all.

**Shannon** continues to thrive at Magnificat. She attended the L.A. Religious Education conference in March. She is preparing to go to North Carolina in August for another conference.

**Gillian** is getting ready to say goodbye for the summer to her PK4 kids in a few weeks. She will then welcome another group of kids to her Destination Science camp for her 7<sup>th</sup> year. Due to a change in rules due to Covid, she is now a fully certified teacher in NYS. She also recently watched her 2<sup>nd</sup> year CCD students receive their First Eucharist.

G & S are now comfortably settled into their apartment, and should soon be enjoying the pool that is part of the deal. (Someone we all know and love may join them from time to time, of course.)

**Will and Alysha** continue planning their wedding for some time in the middle of 2023. Alysha spends a good amount of time up at the University of Albany, plowing through her dissertation while working with other college and graduate students in the department of Criminal Justice. She has a lot of irons in the fire. Will changed companies in April, now working for Beyond Identity. With the change, he moves from creating and maintaining internet games to working on internet security (doing away with passwords). The move was brought about due to uncertainty with the takeover of his previous employer. At the end, his previous employer tried to entice him to stay, but he felt that the change is good for his career.



Deanne remains a busy woman. As coordinator, she shepherded the CCD and Grade School students to their First Reconciliation, First Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup> years) and Confirmation (8th years). Covid continued to wreak havoc on the program, but we all moved forward, providing a consistent program. This week, D will be honored by the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce as a Woman of Excellence, giving her the Humanitarian award. If interested, you can see more at <https://www.yonkerschamber.com/events/2022/06/08/women-of-excellence-luncheon/28th-annual-women-of-excellence-awards-cocktail-reception/>

I mentioned last time that I was beginning to work at Good Shepherd parish in Inwood, Manhattan. Now I can tell you that shortly, I will not be. It became too much for me to handle. These parishes could not be more different: GS is vibrant, active, sustainable, staffed by true shepherds. SM is rather stifled, in need of support, and not very inspirational. Yet, it is Good Shepherd I decided to leave. I believe they need (and have already identified) a full-time manager rather than my schedule of one day at SM, one at GS, back and forth. So, I will remain part-time at St. Mary in Mount Vernon through the end of this year. I also believe they need me more, though they do not necessarily want me, or do what I think is right. At least I will be able to focus. There is also a lot of work to do on our house that has been neglected over the years. We have to decide where we will live, now that this nest is largely empty (of people, not stuff).

I am also working with a few candidates in the RCIA program. It was great to see the Easter Vigil fully alive this year with a baptism and a reception into the Church after the Covid hiatus. A few more inquirers are out there, so we should have a good program through next year.

Through the ups and downs, it is evident that God's blessings remain with our families. May we continue to be worthy of those blessings, and give away the graces we have received.

with love,

Alan + Deanne, Will + Alysha, Gillian + Shannon

6/19/22

(Father's Day)

Dear Family  
 'As one of the senior Cousins let me be the first to welcome some of you to Retirement! And yes it is a time of relaxation and enjoying the years ahead. I find myself very busy and have become a frequent flyer as most of my kids live in distant states and countries. All are doing well and I am keeping busy with some senior activities and trying to keep in shape. I am contemplating a trip to Tokyo in Oct to spend time with my Bobert who has resided in Asia for the past 3 yrs, but am hesitant about flying so long. I do miss the weather up north as the heat and humidity of SW Fla does not agree with me, but I am near Jason + family along with Krista and her girls. So happy to hear all the good news from you all - Be well +

Lore  
 Marcia

