Dear Alumni and Friends,

June is the month of commencements in the sense of graduations. September is the month of commencement in the sense of new beginnings. We begin again in September 2011, our 90th new beginning! How shall we celebrate it? By remembering who and whose we are, and putting that into action. After all, it is our patron St. Anthony of Padua who first said “actions speak louder than words.”

For 90 years the faculty, students, friends and alumni of St. Anthony Catholic School have been about the task forming “Servant Leaders” after the mold of Jesus Christ, for if our students don’t learn to serve, even better, aren’t motivated to serve God and neighbor, of what use is their academic, social and physical instruction? What would it profit students to gain the whole world, and lose themselves in the process? From the first students admitted in 1922 to the incoming class of 2021, our goal has been the same, to prepare students for this life and the life to come.

In our view, each subject, and even more importantly, our life in common, is the context within which each student discovers the truth about themselves, and what this means. The truth about

continued on page 2

Michael Thomasian becomes St. Anthony’s principal

After Michael Thomasian took over as St. Anthony Catholic School’s principal on July 1, he hit the ground running.

First, there was the issue of hiring staff. He found five new, energetic teachers who between them form an intriguing combination of experience and youth, with a substantial commitment to Catholic education. Check.

Second, there was the issue of enrollment. The reviving of the Opportunity Scholarship Program, a federal program that allows children in low income families from Washington, D.C., to attend the schools of their parents’ choice, was an interesting, late addition to the 2011-2012 student recruiting landscape. Nonetheless, the enrollment to St. Anthony Catholic School languished in the 150s during the month of July, worrying Mr. Thomasian, a native of South Boston whose accent is fading with his lengthy stay in Washington, D.C.

Many calls and parental visits later, St. Anthony Catholic School had 211 students enrolled the first day of school on Aug. 30, which gave the school approximately 20 percent more students than 2010-2011. Check.

Third, there was the issue of classroom layout. Mr. Thomasian re-located the faculty room and six of the classrooms to put order to a uniquely laid out building. Now, the classrooms are arranged by primary, elementary, and middle school. He took a fresh look at his new principal’s office and found a used desk that he had painted black. He installed a new awning for the front door to improve the school’s curb appeal. Previously, some new school visitors could not find the front door.

Having completed these tasks, writing his first column for the Blue & Gold as principal was relatively simple.

When Michael Thomasian applied for the St. Anthony Catholic School principal’s job in 2011,
From the Pastor  continued from front page

each person is that they have been created by God out of love, and
redeemed by Christ for the glory of God. Pope Benedict teaches us
in Deus Caritas Est that at the heart of Catholicism is an event, an
encounter with the person Jesus Christ, “which gives life a whole new
horizon and a definite direction.” Since the new horizon is eternal life,
the direction is to follow the one who has secured it for us. We follow
by a life lived “no longer for ourselves but for Him” as we pray at Mass.

Gratitude for the life Christ gives us is expressed in a life of
Christian charity, by which we share in the glory of God, “for the glory
of God is man, woman and child fully alive.” Since we belong to Christ,
Christian charity means giving oneself away as Jesus did.

In the providence of God, our 90th anniversary coincides with
the 150th anniversary of our neighbor, The Catholic University
of America (CUA), and follows upon the 150th anniversary of our
neighbor Providence Hospital. Since these three Catholic institutions
share in their commitment to put love of God into practice by
love of neighbor, it seems fitting that we should follow the lead of
these elder institutions in our formation of “Servant Leaders” of all
our generations. President John Garvey has challenged the CUA
community, including its alumni, to give 150,000 hours of volunteer
service this year in gratitude for all the blessings received to date
through the university.

Surely I would be remiss if I failed to mention right here that St.
Anthony Catholic School for years has been the beneficiary of CUA
initiatives too many to be mentioned, untold hours that if counted
would have our friends well on the way to their goal. In their current
initiative, we have already benefitted from about 150 hours of service
by CUA Law School student painters, and our school is mentioned
twice under their Fall weekly service events, once for general tutors
and once for “DC Reads” tutors.

My point is this. If we remember the foundational gifts we received
from St. Anthony Grade School and High School, on which any other
academic or professional success is based, and are grateful, we should
be motivated to dedicate 90,000 hours of service this year to the glory
of God and the good of our neighbors. After all, we are 4,500 strong!
Many of you can volunteer right here in Brookland, or within the
city of Washington; others cannot.

As Alumni and Friends, we are spread all over this earth, but for all
of us our Alma Mater is a special place where we encountered Christ,
and were never the same again. When we share that transformation
by actions motivated by love, we will be fulfilling St. Anthony’s
exhortation “to bring the day of Pentecost to fulfillment.” That’s what
Servant Leaders do!

In these very challenging times, I want to end this letter as the
last one. As Blessed John Paul II said: “The future for us remains an
unknown quantity, which we now accept without anxiety. Love has
overcome anxiety. The future depends on love.” So let’s celebrate our 90th
commencement by “giving away as a gift the gift we have received.” Let
us prove our St. Anthony connection by our actions!

Peace and Love,

Fr. Fred
Bob Maloney Graduation Highlights

The June 2011 graduation speaker at St. Anthony Catholic Church was Bob Maloney G.S. ‘63/H.S. ‘67. He earned a B.A. from Canisius College, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Bob is the founder and principal of Maloney Government Relations, a business and government relations firm.

Below is an excerpt from Bob's commencement address entitled, “Principles of Success.”

Education represents transformation. What your parents and teachers at St. Anthony's have given you represents a solid foundation. Let me share with you some of the principles for success that have worked in my life.

- 65% of success is showing up, being on time, and looking the part.
- Always be ready to take an introspective glance—that is—don't blame others for your failings, correct yourself first.
- Treat all people with respect, regardless of their station in life. Never burn bridges.
- Laugh with family and friends, and exercise regularly. Stay healthy—there is scientific evidence to suggest both make living fun.
- Know the “Law of Exposure.” The friendships you make, the music you listen to, the conversations you have, the books you read all contribute to who you become. Replace garbage in with positive in—positive out. Work hard, study smart and make good habits routine.
- Use the Internet honestly—not as a means of avoiding research. Use social networking on Facebook and Twitter wisely—there's an old saying “sticks and stones may break my bones but words may never harm me.” Words do hurt in today's world of social networking. Know the importance of teamwork. People working together can get things done, but also don't neglect individual effort, and leadership. Be proud that you wish to be a good student. Nerds rule!

From the Principal's Desk

It is my honor to serve as St. Anthony Catholic School's principal. Having taught grades 4-8 at the school and having served as assistant principal, I am confident that I am prepared to lead our school in a direction that enhances both our Catholic identity and strengthens our academic and extra-curricular programs. I assure you our school community is blessed with a dedicated pastor and a highly qualified and enthusiastic faculty. Our school is in good hands.

Earlier this month we welcomed 64 new students to the St. Anthony family making our enrollment 211 students. A handful of our new students are enrolled in our new Pre-K3 program and/or are children of alumni. We also have an increased number of Opportunity Scholars and neighborhood children. We will continue to welcome new families and to do our best to assure the success of every child. The good news is spreading!

The faculty and I have implemented a few new initiatives to make the students experience a richer one. This includes attending weekly Mass as a school community, instituting a “club period” for all students, and using a new software program called Success Maker to improve student assessment and instruction. We have also painted all of our exterior doors, three of our classrooms and both of the front offices, we have installed seven new white boards and seven new bulletin boards throughout the building, and installed a sink in our new art room.

In the coming weeks an attractive, new awning will adorn our main entrance. This awning will both improve our curb appeal and make our main entrance more visible to guests. None of these projects would be possible without the loyal support of you, our alumni and friends. Your stewardship provides both tuition assistance and funds to make physical improvements. Please know that every donation is used wisely and is greatly appreciated.

It doesn’t seem like five years could have passed since we gathered at the Franciscan Monastery for our 85th anniversary celebration. I have wonderful memories of that June night. Among the 200+ attendees were the Benedictine Sisters, past and present faculty members, parishioners, and alumni from over 15 states. It was truly a night full of reconnecting with old friends and showing our love for St. Anthony's. Now, we have the gift of a 90th year. I invite all of you back to our campus for a Homecoming celebration on Saturday, Nov. 12. You will have an opportunity to tour the school, celebrate the Eucharist, and taste some of the Knight of Columbus’ famous fish fry and BBQ menu. If you wish to help out with the 90th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration please contact me.

All twenty-one years of my own educational career have been spent at Catholic institutions. I have fond memories of my grammar school, St. Margaret’s, and of my high school, Boston College High School. I am most grateful to my parents for choosing Catholic education. Like you, I recognize the influence Catholic education has had on me and what a firm foundation it has provided. If you would like to give back to St. Anthony's and further our mission, please contact me. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ,
Michael Thomasian, Principal
Five New Teachers Join Staff

MRS. ANNE HEDIAN (Academic Specialist) has taught for 17 years in Catholic elementary and high schools, including Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg for 10 years and Archbishop Neale School in La Plata for two years. Her last name is pronounced “Heed-ian.”

Ms. Hedian holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland in Secondary Education and a Master’s degree in Education from Marymount University in Arlington. She decided to come to St. Anthony Catholic School because it’s closer to her home, and she was “looking for a different direction.”

“This school is smaller,” than Archbishop Neale, her most recent employer, she noted. “It’s less of a challenge to get to know everyone. It’s a welcoming community.” Growing up with an international background, Ms. Hedian enjoys being at St. Anthony, and she also likes being in an urban community.

Her role is to work with teachers to help them with students who are struggling, as well as those who are performing very well. She is overseeing St. Anthony’s implementary of SuccessMaker, a software-based program for reading and math that will both help measure students’ progress and assist them with improving over the course of the school year.

MR. MICHAEL HILL (Music) is busy forming the St. Anthony Catholic School Choir, open to grades 3-8. “The only thing that I stress is that students be willing to learn,” he said. He is a piano and voice specialist and lives in Clinton.

Mr. Hill is a District native and graduate of the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Although he did not attend Catholic schools in his youth, he has taught for 13 years at Catholic schools in Washington: Archbishop Carroll High School, Assumption Catholic School, Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian School, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, St. Francis Xavier School, St. Thomas More Academy. Part of the reason for his experience in so many schools is that he was assigned to work at three schools by the Center City Consortium.

“It’s wonderful being here,” Mr. Hill said. “My mission is always to help keep schools open. With so many Catholic schools closing, it’s a shame,” he said.

Don’t Miss These Upcoming Events!

Celebrate St. Anthony Catholic School’s 90th Anniversary
Fall Harvest Homecoming Dance
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011
5:00 p.m. Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Followed by dance at Margot Hall, fish fry and BBQ, refreshments and tours of St. Anthony Catholic Church and school.

St. Anthony High School 1954 and Grade School Class of 1950 Reunion
Place: Herrington on the Bay, near North Beach, MD
Note: The class invites other St. Anthony classes of the 1950’s to join them.
Contact: Pat Keegan Grigsby: 301-627-2957 or patkg1936@verizon.net.

St. Anthony Grade School Class of 1957/St. Anthony High School Class of 1961 Reunion
Please contact Joe Shehade H.S. ’57/H.S. ’61 at (410) 874-7933 or shehadegm@comcast.net.

St. Anthony High School Class of 1971 40-year Reunion
Date: October 8, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Clyde’s Restaurant, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044
Please RSVP to Mary Lafranchise Lewis H.S. ’71 at mt153@aol.com by Sept. 15.
MS. SYLVIA JACKSON (Second Grade) is no stranger to St. Anthony Catholic School, since she worked in the aftercare program while studying at Trinity 10 years ago and also served as a teacher in the Summer Enrichment Program. “In fact, the children in the current eighth grade I have watched grow up from Kindergarten,” she noted proudly.

She has taught for three years and holds a Master’s degree in Counseling from Trinity University, where she also completed her undergraduate degree.

Ms. Jackson worked for the 2010-2011 school year at the Guidance Department of Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg. A District native, Ms. Jackson is a lifelong parishioner of St. Augustine Catholic Church of Washington and an alumna of St. Augustine Catholic School.

MS. COLLEEN SCHEIDEL (Sixth Grade Homeroom, Middle School Math) is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in Elementary Education. A native of Rockford, Mich., she recently moved to the Washington area and said she appreciates the warm welcome she’s received at St. Anthony Catholic School. “I like that it’s a smaller school,” she said. “Everyone’s nice.”

Ms. Scheidel will serve as moderator of the student newspaper and is excited about her new venture in Washington, D.C., with St. Anthony Catholic School.

Laurel native KENNY STACK (Fifth Grade, Middle School Social Studies) grew up in St. Mary of the Mills Parish and graduated from St. Mary of the Mills School before enrolling in DeMatha and, after graduation, matriculating to University of Maryland College Park, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in History and Secondary Education from the University of Maryland-College Park.

Mr. Stack observed at Montgomery Blair, and Eleanor Roosevelt High Schools and completed his student teaching at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School in Wheaton.

“So far my experience at St. Anthony has been great,” Mr. Stack said. “All of the faculty and staff have been very supportive and the children have been wonderful.”

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Margaret Brinker Rock Scholarship Formed

On April 18, 2011, Margaret “Peggy” Brinker Rock, mother of Margaret Brinker-Brown G.S. ’60/H.S. ’64, Dan Brinker G.S. ’59, Mike Brinker G.S. ’52 and Ed Brinker G.S. ’52/H.S. ’56 passed away in California, where she lived the last dozen years of her life. She was 95 years old and is survived by six children, nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

To honor their mother’s commitment to Catholic education and her modeling Catholic values through her life, the Brinker family has set up the Margaret Brinker Rock Scholarship to benefit St. Anthony Catholic School students.

Like many parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools, Mrs. Brinker Rock sacrificed to send her children to St. Anthony and other schools. “She was a fantastic mother,” said Margaret Brinker-Brown, a retired principal who resides in California. “She believed in Catholic education, Number One.”

Her first husband, Luke Brinker, passed away after 12 years of marriage. Mrs. Brinker Rock raised her children at 14th & Newton Streets in Brookland, until in 1960 she married Ernest “Bud” Rock and moved the family to Bowie.

Mrs. Brinker Rock worked for 35 years as a secretary in the federal government and always seemed to find the money to make tuition payments, although “money was always scarce,” according to one remembrance written by her children. Her children and grandchildren are now showing their appreciation for Margaret Brinker Rock’s sacrifices.

“She loved music, especially Irish music,” Margaret Brinker-Brown said. Her family held an Irish wake for her, and they served roast beef, mashed potatoes and peas, to pay tribute to Mrs. Brinker Rock’s signature Sunday meal for her family.

To contribute to this scholarship fund, please send tax deductible donations to:

Margaret Brinker Rock Scholarship Fund
St. Anthony Catholic Church
1029 Monroe Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017-1793

ALUMNI NEWS

JACK JENNINGS ’45/’49 reports that in July, he spent a weekend with his classmate, Jack Ballenger H.S. ‘49.

RICHARD REED G.S. ’50, a medical doctor who serves in the Air National Guard in South Dakota with the rank of Colonel, reports that he and his wife Nellie’s children are “alive and well and good Catholics.”

FR. EDWARD “MONK” MALLOY, C.S.C. G.S. ’55, in August had the second volume of his three-volume memoir series published, Monk’s Tale: Way Stations on the Journey (University of Notre Dame Press). It covers 1974, the year he joined the University of Notre Dame faculty, to his election as president of Notre Dame in 1987.

JOAN HESSE THAYER H.S. ’60 writes from San Rafael, Calif., that she decided not to run again for Marin County Accessor-Recorder and has retired after 16 years in that elected position. The Accessor-Recorder administers property tax law and records and indexes documents and maps pertaining to real property as mandated by state law, archives birth, death, and marriage records and provides quality copies of documents and maps as allowed by law. Marin County is located in the North San Francisco Bay area and has a population over 252,000.

FELIX YEOMAN H.S. ’74 has served on the Board of Trustees for Prince George’s Community College for two years. In 2010, he was elected the chairman of the board. After starring on the St. Anthony High School basketball team, Felix lettered for four years on the Georgetown University basketball team before graduating in 1978.

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

After you take care of your family and loved ones, please consider naming St. Anthony Catholic School of Washington, D.C. in your will.
it followed 11 years of residence in Brookland and work at St. Anthony Catholic School. Ms. Marguerite Conley, executive director for the Consortium of Catholic Academies, hired Mr. Thomasian as the principal.

Mr. Thomasian came to St. Anthony in 2000 as a volunteer with Response-Ability, a non-profit volunteer service group that places college graduates in inner city schools in the US and overseas.

He decided to stay for a second year as a Response-Ability volunteer because he enjoyed working at St. Anthony as a fourth grade teacher. In those days, St. Anthony’s enrollment was climbing, and the school had started a second fourth grade to accommodate the growth.

During this time, the Assumption College graduate earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Trinity University of Washington.

Mr. Thomasian also taught fifth grade in a modular unit which he affectionately calls “Burton Hall,” after Msgr. Richard Burton, St. Anthony’s former pastor. A man with a dry sense of humor, Mr. Thomasian also jokes about his Armenian heritage and the criminal underworld of South Boston. In addition to serving as fifth grade homeroom teacher, Mr. Thomasian taught religion to middle school students from 2007-2011.

In June 2007, moreover, Mr. Thomasian organized the 85th anniversary celebration for St. Anthony Catholic School, attended by alumni from 14 states and the District of Columbia. He put his faith into action in the last year, helping to organize the affairs, including the funeral for a former St. Anthony Catholic School teacher, Lorraine Ferris, who had passed away and whose remains were lying in the DC Morgue when Mr. Thomasian found out about her death.

Msgr. Burton witnessed Mr. Thomasian’s 2004 marriage at St. Anthony Catholic Church to Jessica Logan. The couple now have two red-headed boys. A group of Mr. Thomasian’s students held a reception for him after the ceremony, showing their esteem for their teacher.

Noting that his wedding party had used the St. Anthony Church van to drive their wedding guests to the reception at the Franciscan Monastery, Mr. Thomasian said “it doesn’t come any more Brookland than that.”

Indeed, since Mr. Thomasian has lived on Irving Street, Monroe Street, Newton Street and Otis Street, he has had a well-rounded Brookland experience during his last 11 years. He has also been a St. Anthony parishioner since 2000 and has served on the Finance Council, Parish Counsel and joined the Knights of Columbus.

In 2009, Mr. Thomasian earned a Master’s in Educational Leadership from the University of Notre Dame through its Alliance for Catholic Education program. He attended classes in Notre Dame, Ind., for three summers in a row and took online classes during the school year.

Closer to home, having reached his 2011-2012 enrollment goal, his next aspiration is to “reach out to more parishioners and the general Brookland community, so St. Anthony is the school of choice for their children”. With more neighbors and parishioners sending their children to the school, youth activities at the school and parish, including CYO and altar serving, will receive a significant boost, according to Mr. Thomasian. CYO has come back to St. Anthony and this year may include Track, in addition to Basketball and Cheerleading.

“We have an amazing community that has so much more potential,” he said.

Mr. Thomasian is excited about using Success Maker, a software-based program, to better assess student performance. Previously, student performance would be monitored at the beginning and end of school years. SuccessMaker will make it easier for St. Anthony to both measure and improve student performance, according to our new principal.

St. Anthony Launches Club Program

Beginning this fall, each grade will have one class period a week dedicated to club meetings in a new initiative spearheaded by Mr. Michael Thomasian, the school’s new principal.

Clubs will include the Chess Club, School Newspaper, Environmental Club, Drama, Photography, Videography, School Choir and Cooking. In early September, students in Pre-K through 4th Grade and then fifth grade through eighth grade each were able to rank their club preferences before being placed for the first quarter. Students then get rotated at the end of each quarter.

The clubs will enable teachers to get to know students on a different level than they would know them through the classroom, according to Thomasian. Each teacher will moderate a club, and they won’t have to work extra hours to do so. The aftercare program will continue with certain clubs, such as CYO athletics, meeting during those hours.

“I’m very excited about creating a school choir,” Mr. Thomasian said, “and working with Mr. Michael Hill, music teacher.”
St. Anthony Catholic School (Pre-K3 -8)
12th & Lawrence Streets N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
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www.stanthonyschooldc.org

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padrefred@earthlink.net
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Mr. Michael R. Thomasian, Principal
michael.thomasian@catholicacademies.org
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