

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

WE'RE THE GOOD NEWS!

November 2022

## DEAR FRIENDS OF THE GUARDIAN ANGEL SOCIETY,

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle" (Father Joseph Champlin & Albert Einstein). We at the Guardian Angel Society are in the business of believing in miracles and invite you to celebrate this very special year with us. To celebrate the miracle of Christmas, the 25th Anniversary of the Society and this year's 25th annual "Kids with Wings" Christmas card. Every year this beautiful tradition comes alive when we invite all K-6 students at Cathedral Academy at Pompei to draw a picture that depicts what Christmas means to them. This year's card was inspired by the creative talents of 6th grader Elizabeth Vincent. When asked, she said the feelings of family, faith and the fun of celebrating Jesus' birthday were in her heart. This original creation just happened to be of a guardian angel watching over the holy family. Elizabeth had no way of knowing that the first card ever published by the Society was also of an angel and she did not know the Society was celebrating our 25th anniversary. Coincidence or miracle you decide!



Christmas is a time that brings joy and hope to the world. When I think back over the last twenty five years and sincerely ponder all the students' lives that have been forever changed by the gift of education and Father's commitment to form the Guardian Angel Society, it is truly something to rejoice in. Gratitude also fills our hearts, in that carrying on this legacy would not be possible without faithful supporters and donors like you. Thank you sincerely for investing in our students and making the last twenty five years possible. By doing so you are bringing the light and truth the world so greatly needs especially now.

On behalf of all of us at the Guardian Angel Society, we wish you and all those you hold close a beautiful Christmas filled with family, faith and fun. May the blessings of the season and your own kind of miracles be with you now and throughout the new year. God Bless you with love, good health, peace and abundance that only His grace can provide.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2023,

Sarah Jane Ioele, Executive Director



Father Champlin's  
Guardian  
**ANGEL**  
Society  
wings for education

## Christmas List

### GIFT IDEAS & STOCKING STUFFERS

To purchase, please call 315.422.7218 or visit [GuardianAngelSoc.org](http://GuardianAngelSoc.org). Proceeds support Father's kids.

- ★ \$92.00 Dinner Certificate for the Inn Between Restaurant
- ★ "Kids with Wings" Christmas Cards
- ★ Tickets to Guardian Angel Fundraising Events:
  - ★ Christmas with the DeSantis Orchestra December 11, 2022 at 6:00PM
  - ★ St. Patrick's Day Feast March 12, 2023
  - ★ Kentucky Derby Gala May 6, 2023 *details on back cover*
- ★ Father Champlin's "Spiritual Suggestions" CD
- ★ Guardian Angel Society Cell Phone Power Charger
- ★ Guardian Angel Society Tote Bag



## A HUGE SUCCESS! 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

As we step outside into the brisk Fall air, the Guardian Angel Society is pleased to share one last Summer hurrah! On August 4th at Radisson Greens, 104 golfers gathered on the green for a fun-filled day under the sun, all for a great cause. The 18th annual golf tournament was successful, with over \$20,000 raised directly supporting tuition assistance, mentorship, and tutoring services for Father's kids. Since its creation in 2005, the golf tournament has raised over \$265,000 to help our scholars make it one step closer to destination graduation. Thank you again to our long-time supporters, new friends, and exceptional sponsors and volunteers who made this event a huge success! Save the date for next year - August 10th, 2023.

## 2022 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

**Lorna Oppedisano:** Board Secretary and Circle of Friends Chairperson

I was introduced to Father Champlin's Guardian Angel Society about five years ago while working as the editor of Syracuse Woman Magazine. In my role as a storyteller, I met and interviewed many different organizations in the Central New York area. Every story I learned impressed me; the drive and passion behind these community leaders were incredibly inspiring.

The team and mission at the Guardian Angel Society truly stood out to me. Having been educated in local parochial schools, I had taken for granted the basis of my thirst for knowledge. The truth is this: not everyone has access to education. Thanks to organizations like the Guardian Angel Society, more children are given these building blocks, along with mentors and tutors to help them along the path.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Father Champlin. From the stories I've heard, he would be humbled to see his vision continued today. I want to thank the Guardian Angel Society for giving me an opportunity to be among Father Champlin's "Circle of Friends" as a board member and volunteer. I'm honored to help make the circle even larger, extending the opportunity for quality education to even more students. With these efforts, not only are current students supported but their families and their futures are positively affected.

I hope you will join us in this year's Circle of Friends Annual Giving Campaign to continue this critical work. Thank you in advance for your generous support. Please call the office at **315.422.7218** to give today.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**OFFICERS**  
**Dr. Hayes Wanamaker** *Chairman*  
**LouAnn Christo** *Vice Chairman*  
**Michael Paparo** *Treasurer*  
**Lorna Oppedisano** *Secretary*

**MEMBERS**  
 Dr. Tammy Anthony  
 Daniel Barrett  
 Angela Nicoletti Cox

Paula Detran  
 Michele Jones Galvin  
 Melanie George

James Kearns  
 Michele Sardinia  
 Terence Wynne



## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Donations were received between April 1st and October 25th in memory of the individuals listed below. We are grateful to the families and friends who honor their loved ones in such an impactful way.

- Anna Bevacqua
- Father Champlin's 92nd birthday
- Bill Browning
- The Class of 1963- Cathedral
- Timothy Coates
- Michael D. Cohen
- Bishop Thomas Costello
- Bob DeGroat
- Marilyn Draveck
- Marianne Eicholzer
- Ted Esterguard
- McBride-Bell Families
- My Father, John Halliahan
- Charlene Pisarek
- Jim and Jan Porter
- Marla Hicks Quinn
- Suzanne Martin Reagan
- Juliet Robert Ringham
- Joseph Rojek
- Jeanne McNamara & Maureen Sheedy
- Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Spencer
- Robert Elwood Thompson
- Catherine Trahan
- Phillip Trela
- Sam & Jen Vercillo
- Kerry Anne Young-Allen



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS GROWING!

Here at the Guardian Angel Society, we are blessed to be surrounded by old friends while continually making new ones. This year, we are pleased to announce our board has continued to grow. Long-time friend and supporter **Paula Detran** joined our Board of Directors this August, and we could not be more excited.



Paula is an alumna of Bishop Grimes. She has had a robust career in the hospitality business. Specifically, Paula has been in the hotel industry for sixteen years and the travel industry for four years. She primarily works in Sales and Account Management. She is currently an account manager with The Travel team. Paula was born in Manchester, CT, and has been in the Syracuse area for most of her life. She comes from a large family with one sister and four brothers. One of her brothers is a Priest at a Catholic Church in Michigan. She has two adult children, Courtney and Michael. Paula says her passion is helping others and watching them grow and succeed. We are thrilled to bring Paula's wisdom, kindness, and passion to the board!

As our Society grows, we are proud to announce that in July 2022, **Lorna Oppedisano** has been named Secretary of our Board of Directors. Lorna has served on our board for over three years and has been a dedicated volunteer for over five years. Lorna holds a Bachelor's Degree in Magazine Journalism from S.I. Newhouse School Of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She is the Assistant Director of Development at the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology and runs a small freelance editing and writing business. Lorna is honored to support accessible education in Central New York professionally and through volunteerism.



Thank you to Paula and Lorna for your commitment and dedication. We are blessed to have you as part of our leadership team!

We also would like to thank **James Kearns**, who has served as our Board Secretary for the last eight years. Jim is a true example of a servant leader who gives endlessly to the students and society. Jim continues to serve as a leader for our Mentor/Tutor program. Thanks to Jim's efforts, our students are flourishing, and our collaboration with our schools is better than ever. We love you, Jim, and thank you for being you. We are grateful!

### OUR BEST YEAR YET!

## HAPPY 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, GUARDIAN ANGEL SOCIETY!



Father Champlin's legacy lives on thanks to all of you, our faithful and loyal supporters. When Father Champlin founded the Society in 1997, no one had any idea how many students' lives would be forever changed by this amazing organization. Over the last twenty-five years, we have had significant accomplishments. We have **given over 3 million dollars to hundreds of "Father's Kids."** We can boast of having a **100% graduation rate**, our junior/senior high schools had an **average GPA of 91%** this past school year, and our scholars are attending some of the most well-respected colleges in the country, such as Notre Dame, Georgetown, Syracuse University, SUNY, Lemoyne College and many more. None of this would be possible without you, and we are beyond grateful for your support. Thank you all for making our 25th year the best one yet. We are looking forward to twenty-five more!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

We are excited to offer some wonderful events this winter to support Father's kids, including Christmas with the DeSantis Orchestra, and a St. Patrick's Day Feast with takeout available. We are also proud to host our 3rd Annual Kentucky Derby Party! Stay tuned on our website and social media pages for further information and save dates!



*Christmas at the Landmark*  
with *the DeSantis Orchestra*  
Honoring Mario DeSantis  
and 75 Years of the DeSantis Orchestra  
**Sunday • December 11 • 6pm**  
**Landmark Theatre • Syracuse**

**TICKETS:** Landmark Theatre tickets available at every local box office in Syracuse and tickets can be purchased online at [www.landmarktheatre.com](http://www.landmarktheatre.com) or by calling 315.422.7218. Part of the proceeds benefits Father Champions Guardian Angel Society.

*St. Patrick's Day*  
**FEAST**

March 12, 2023  
Stay Tuned for Details!

**KENTUCKY DERBY Party**

**May 6th, 2023**  
Marriott Syracuse Downtown • Grand Ballroom • 5-10 PM

Watch the Derby Live • Music by Atlas

Derby Themed Buffet • Whiskey Bar & Mint Juleps  
Fabulous Basket Raffles • Pick-a-Pony Contest  
Best Dressed/Hat Contest • Special Hotel Rate

— \$95 per person —

For reservations, sponsorships and advertising opportunities call or visit:  
**315-422-7218 • GuardianAngelSoc.org**

Bishop Grimes' Mentor Speaker Series Presents:



## STARTING THE YEAR WITH A HOMERUN!

# MENTOR & TUTOR PROGRAM

Our Mentor and Tutor Program started the school year with a home run! Our Mentor Speaker Series at Bishop Grimes continues to be a hit. Bishop Grimes has graciously agreed to welcome a different speaker each month to chat with students during their lunch periods. The speakers share their personal success stories and information about their current professional position, allowing our scholars to learn about a career they possibly didn't even know existed! This year, our leadoff hitter for the series was Jason Smorol, General Manager of the Syracuse Mets. He just finished his 9th year in this role. Our students were excited to connect with someone working in the sports industry. Jason is a proud alumnus of Bishop Grimes. He has worked in minor league baseball most of his career. He informed the students that there is a wide variety of professional opportunities within sports organizations. Thank you, Jason, for blessing our students with your time and knowledge and setting up our series for success this year! Our Speaker for November is Chief Fredrick Isgar, who is Chief of the Howlett Hill Fire Department.



Leave a Legacy of Love

## LEGACY GIVING

You have the opportunity to have a lasting impact on the lives of children in need, all while leaving a legacy of love you and your family can be most proud of!

To receive more information about Legacy Giving and accompanying legal services (including Wills, Trusts, Beneficiary Designations, and Outright Gifts), please call our office at **315.422.7218**.

