



# Notre Dame High School Alumnae

## Cause to Celebrate!

### Reunion 2005

The annual reunion will take place on Friday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Notre Dame 12 Malvern Avenue 416-393-5501

#### Highlighted years:

- 1945 - 60<sup>th</sup>
- 1955 - 50<sup>th</sup>
- 1965 - 40<sup>th</sup>
- 1975 - 30<sup>th</sup>
- 1985 - 20<sup>th</sup>
- 1995 - 10<sup>th</sup>

We look forward to seeing you!

How beautiful that the request to write this reflection coincides with Thanksgiving, the season of conscious gratitude for abundance,

When I stepped onto that Montreal-bound train at the old Danforth station in August of 1953, and two years later made profession as a CND Sister, the last thought in my mind was that I would one day develop grey hair and be looking back on fifty years in religious

life! Even last May, as celebrations began back in Montreal, I had some doubts that this was really happening to ME! The path through May and June has reminded me at every turn of all that filled these last fifty years, and of God's amazing goodness and unfailing love.

God's call to religious life was, to put it mildly, a jolt to my planning! We each have a call. I always wanted to be a teacher, and what I saw my own teachers accomplish on an almost totally CND staff went far in catching my attention and helping me listen to God's gentle but relentless nagging! By 1955 I knew not only that I wanted to be a religious but that I wanted to be a CND The years that followed in education ministry in Brockville, Kingston and Toronto delighted me. Mind you, I had a few bad moments when I was asked to be principal. I loved the classroom, and saw myself spending my career very happily there. Around then I learned I had a gift for organization and communication, and I further learned that one's gifts are not private property! Once I had said a free "Yes" to that call, I thoroughly enjoyed the

*(Continued on page 2)*



Bonnie (Riggs) Gibbs '71, Rose Dias, Sr. Corrigan, Mary Jane (Lalor) Gowans '71

### IN THIS ISSUE

The Annual Reunion	3
The Three 'A's:	4
ALUMNAE NEWS: Where are thy now?	5
We Remember...	6
Notre Dame Drama	7
NOTEWORTHY	8

#### Keep Us Informed!

Are you moving? Have you recently graduated, won an award, married, become a parent or grandparent? Let us know and we will print your news in the next issue of the Alumnae Newsletter. Please be sure to include your year.

#### Get Involved in Your Alumnae Association!

Be a vital part of the process that helps keep the Alumnae and school connected by becoming a Class Chair. Keep in touch with your year mates and pass along photos and stories to share with all of us. To become a class chair contact:

Bonnie Gibbs (416) 757-8733



(Continued from page 1)

next twenty-seven years in educational administration.

I recall being the only woman in the final summer of the Secondary School Principals' course in London. Those courses were helpful, but my best training came from stellar examples ahead of me: my own High School principal, Sister Jean Smith (St. Stephanie Marie), and my first high school principal in teaching, Sister Kathleen Garvin (St. Gabriel of the Angels). Books could never teach what I learned from them, Though still young, I breathed in boundless confidence for a job that I quickly learned was not primarily mine. I learned to rely on God, and reverence the persons God was working with through me. I frequently exercised my right to make mistakes, and thanked God for the forgiving, understanding people my life touched each day. I was inspired by my colleagues and touched by the warm support of parents.

When I left Notre Dame, I had the wonderful opportunity of starting up a brand new school, one of the first children of public funding. I must confess that, though it was called St. Pat's, it had a remarkable number of similarities in essentials you had taught me at Notre Dame! My final school, Monsignor Fraser College, was a happy mix of over a thousand courageous diploma-seekers on six campuses: returning drop-outs, new Canadian adults, developmentally delayed adults, teen-age new Canadians arriving too late for the regular high schools, and teens who could not bear to wear uniforms and answer bells in the other schools!

Retirement at age sixty left me good years for other new experiences. After a short break and service at Catholic Cross-cultural Services, I was happy to serve for two terms as leader at Notre Dame Residence, and grateful to have weathered my first major health challenge. As of last August, I now live at Maria Residence on Broadview Ave., and I am once again engaged in ministry for refugees and busy about a variety of community and archdiocesan committees..

Do you realize how present **you** were to me last



Georgina (Farrell) Chapman '65,  
Bonnie (Riggs) Gibbs '71,  
Sr. Eileen Power '62, Doris Cecchini '74



Mary Jane (Lawlor) Gowans '71,  
Sr. Corrigan, Fr. G. Fitzgerald CSSp)

spring as I celebrated all this at my golden jubilee? Whether you are a teacher-colleague reading this, or a student of mine, or a fellow student, or an Alumna who escaped my influence, know that I pray for you every single morning. Together we are accomplishing great things for God.

Along with my family and my religious community, you made my jubilee deeply meaningful. The presence of the Alumnae and staff in so many ways, brought back floods of memories, and added volume to annb "Alleluia" that will forever resound in my heart.

Lucille Corrigan, CND '52



# Pictures from the Annual Reunion Oct. 15, 2004



Class of '74 — 30th Anniversary



Class of '44 — 60th Anniversary



Class of '79 — 25th Anniversary



Class of '56



Class of '72

## ATTENTION GRADUATING CLASS OF '56 !!!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion, to be held at the Blue Danube Banquet Hall on **SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006.**

Meet and greet at 3:00 pm, dinner 6:00-10:00 pm.

We eagerly anticipate getting together with old friends and classmates to laugh, listen to 50s music, reminisce and celebrate.

**WE NEED HELP** reaching former classmates. We welcome anyone who may not have graduated (changed schools, left early, etc) but would like to join us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact:

Eileen (Lee) Lee,

phone: 416-694-7833

Eleanor (Thomson, Ritchie) Stephen,  
email: ethomson@idirect.com

Brenda (McKee) Lang-Fine,  
email: blang@interlog.com



## ALUMNAE NEWS: Where are they now?

### THE FORTIES

- **Ursula Thomson (1944)** is a retired registered nurse from the Catholic Children's Aid Society and is now an avid gardener.
- **Doreen (Harding) Lebarge (1944)** is a retired secretary. She is a mother of six, a grandmother and recently a great grandmother.
- **Aileen Clare Cauthorne (1944)** has three children and lives in Burlington.

### THE FIFTIES

- **Adele Archer (1954)** is a retired teacher and principal of elementary schools. She organizes the bi-annual mass and luncheon for retired Toronto Catholic District School Board employees.
- **Angela (Ryan) Auchincloss (1954)** is married with two children. She has twin granddaughters age fifteen months. She is a retired teacher. She was involved in the alumnae executive as vice-president and president from the late 70's into the early 80's.
- **Ann (Martin) O'Callahan (1954)** has five children and nine grandchildren. She retired from the TCDSB as an educational assistant after nineteen years. She is very active in her parish.

### THE SIXTIES

- **Anna Maria (Altilia) Parise (1963)** is a mother of three children and a grandmother. Anna Maria retired after 20 years of teaching in the neighbourhood at St. Denis and St. John schools.
- **Barbara (Jones) Storey (1965)** is a realtor and Angela (Reid) Kennedy (1965) is a registered nurse, and diabetes educator and a TCDSB trustee. Both are grandmothers to baby Jake. Jake's mother is Barb's daughter and Jake's father is Angela's son. Now that's really keeping it in the Notre Dame family!
- **Georgina (Farrell) Chapman (1965)** is married and mother of three teenagers. Georgina retired as a teacher at Notre Dame, Toronto. Her daughter, Elizabeth, presently attends Notre Dame.

### THE SEVENTIES

- **Mary Jane (Lalor) Gowans (1971)** resides with her husband Bruce and daughter Erin in Waterloo, Ontario. Erin is engaged to be married on August 5, 2006.
- **Theresa (Simone) Bartley (1971)** resides with four children and lives in Newmarket, Ontario. Her daughter Louise married in August 2005 and her daughter Andrea has two children.
- **Theresa (Tohill) Morrison (1973)** is a grade eight teacher for the TCDSB. She has two daughters attend-

ing university who both graduated from Notre Dame, Kristen in 2001 and Katie in 2002.

- **Doris Cecchini (1974)** is married to her high school sweetheart and has two daughters. Lisa, who graduated from Notre Dame in 2003 and Mila, who is presently attending Notre Dame. Doris works as an educational assistant for the TCDSB. Doris was alumnae co-president from 1992-2003.
- **Elsa (Carnemola) DiFalco (1975)** her daughter Bianca is now working at Notre Dame as an educational assistant.
- **Gianna (Cecchini) Wyce (1976)** has three daughters and owns her own business.
- **Monika (Wenzel) Buckley (1977)** has four sons and works as a Mary Kay consultant. Monika was alumna co-president from 1992-2003.

### THE EIGHTIES

- **(Netta) Antonietta (Forchione) Walker (1988)** is married to her high school sweet heart from Neil and has a daughter. She is currently working in an office.
- **Bernadine (DeSilva) D'Souza (1984)** is a store manager for CAA Travel. She has two boys aged 6 and 10.

### THE NINETIES

- **Maria Modica (1992)**, after leaving Notre Dame she worked in business for several years then attended teacher's college. She is now an elementary school teacher.
- **Grace (Sessa) Viggiani (1992)** is married with two children, a daughter, two and a half years old, and a baby boy, two months old. She works in Richmond Hill as a French teacher in an elementary school. Grace attended St. Aloysius and Notre Dame with Maria Modica.
- **Lily Capalad (1993)** is presently teaching at Notre Dame.
- **Meiladee (Jovellanos) Wareham (1993)** teaches grade seven/eight for the TCDSB. On July 2 of this year she was married.
- **Cindy Fajardo (1993)** works for the Health Informatics Department of Mt. Sinai Hospital
- **Annaliese Tisseverasingh (1997)** is attending medical school in Kingston.

### 00'S

- **Genevieve Gibbs (2001)** graduated from Centennial College as an Early Childhood Education Assistant and is now working at Rosalie Hall. She is the daughter of Bonnie (Riggs) Gibbs (1971).
- **Erica Van Velsen (2005)** is volunteering in Mexico with Focolare.

(From the Providence Health Care Monthly Newsletter, February 2005)



## The Three 'A's: Compassionate Service leads long-time friends to volunteer at Providence Healthcare

Ever wonder why some staff and volunteers are so passionate about the work they do? Volunteer **Tom Smith** has been interviewing the people that reflect the values of Providence Healthcare to learn about what makes them tick.

How many of you remember the 3 R's from school days? In 2002, we profiled the 3 M's (a trio of volunteers whose names all begin with the letter 'M') and today we give you the 3 A's.

Like the 3 R's, we can learn a lot from the 3 A's - in particular, the way in which they bring to life the Value of Compassionate Service.

**Adele Archer, Anne O'Callaghan and Angela Auchincloss** met at Notre Dame High School in 1950 and became close friends. Following graduation, the trio saw less of each other after they entered the workforce, but enjoyed regular school reunions that would bring them back together and allow them to catch-up.

But even after going their separate ways, it is remarkable to see how similar their lives have become.

Adele and Angela became teachers. While Anne chose a different career, she also ended up working for the Catholic School Board as a teacher assistant.

During the early 1990s, Adele's parents became residents in the long-term care program, and in 1997, Adele became an official volunteer for Providence Healthcare, conducting tours and assisting at special events.

Anne says that it was her parents who inspired her to become a volunteer. "They volunteered for many years and my Dad worked at the House of Providence when it was on Power St. in downtown Toronto; then at the new facility doing minor repairs on eyeglasses for residents," says Anne.

Like Adele's parents, Anne's mother became a patient in the Hospital in 1996.

After retirement, Angela soon became a volunteer in the long-term care program and says she enjoys visiting residents and assisting at Hymn Sing and at meal times in Oak House.

All three volunteers have served together on the Recreation Committee for a number of years.

Presently, Adele and Anne continue to work for the Houses of Providence, while Angela has taken a six-month hiatus to assist her daughter with her new twins.

The three A's organized their 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion of



Notre Dame High School last June. Classmates gathered at Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, Ontario for a great weekend.

Not many of us can boast a friendship going back 50 plus years. Even fewer can say they all volunteer at the same location. According to both Adele and Anne, they agree their volunteering is in return for the wonderful compassion and care given to their family members while living at Providence in the 90s.

When not volunteering at Providence Healthcare, Adele keeps active with the retired employees' events of her former school board; cardiac rehabilitation programs; other volunteer work; family and former students.

Anne loves to play bridge and spend quality time with members of her family. She is also a member of a Scarborough seniors' group, and is very involved in her parish.

Over the years, Angela has worked with the Notre Dame High School Alumnae, and has been involved in the Catholic Women's League and Women's Inter-Church Council. She hopes to return to her volunteer work at the Houses of Providence later this year.

Adele Archer, Anne O'Callaghan and Angela Auchincloss provide a wonderful example of helping people, healing lives.



### Goodbye

to **Alda Bassani** who has accepted the challenge of Vice Principal-ship. She came to N.D. as a rookie and has developed into a highly organized, yet sensitive administrator. Through her efforts in public relations, many girls have come to N.D. and her continued guidance has helped them to graduate as accomplished young women.

Our loss is Jean Vanier's gain.

Congratulations and best wishes.

### Goodbye

to **Mary Walker** who has accepted the position of Communications Officer at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Officially school secretary, Mary was always much more. She solved problems for students, teachers, principals, and parents- quite likely also the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker.

For a number of years Mary was also an active member of the N.D. CSAC while her daughter Erin was a student. Mary graciously balanced her roles as CSAC chair and staff member. Her contribution to N.D. is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations and best wishes.

### Congratulations to this year's winners of the Alumnae Graduation Awards.

**Amy Young** – Notre Dame Alumnae Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys Award in Family Studies.

**Theresa Palmer-Mariani** – Notre Dame Alumnae Award for Personal Achievement

### We Remember...

The Notre Dame family has lost several women who throughout the course of their lives exemplified the best of what Notre Dame taught.

**Frances Best (Lavelle) '56** died suddenly in a car accident last year. She resided in Toronto and had five children. She attended last years Fall/04 Notre Dame Reunion.

**Marlene (Emerson) Ryall '62** died suddenly on May 04, 2005 in Peterborough, leaving behind her husband of 40 years, four wonderful sons, and four beautiful grand daughters. Of her many wonderful qualities, she was a great quilter. She belonged to a Quilt Guild in Peterborough that she enjoyed immensely. "I have lost a great friend, sister, and confidante." Virginia Emerson '65 (long time member of the Notre Dame Alumnae Executive)

**Moira (Turner) Sorrenti '63** Died October 9, 2005. She was married to Albert for 39 years and was the mother of two and grandmother of four.

### From the Hallowed Halls...

Our Christmas Basket tradition lives on and on and on.

In an effort to continue supporting our current students a group of retired teachers make their own donation each December. Olha Zelenyj initiated this project, which is generously supported by the whole group.

If you would like to be a part of this Christmas project, your non perishable food items would be gladly accepted at the school in early December.





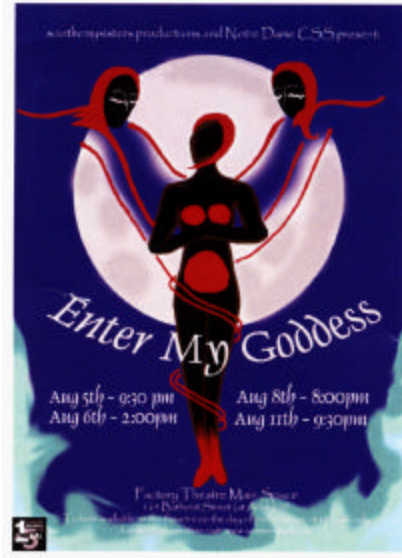
## Notre Dame Drama Celebrates a Great Season

The cast of Notre Dame's *Enter My Goddess* is thrilled to inform that they will be the only high school performing this August in Toronto's professional venue The Summer-Works Theatre Festival.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, SummerWorks is an annual juried festival of more than 40 plays spanning over 10 days in August. The festival supports high calibre works with a clear artistic vision; it encourages risk, questions and creative explorations while insisting on integrity and professionalism. Notre Dame was invited after SummerWorks Artistic Producers Keira Loughran and Kimahli Powell saw the show at the Provincial Sears Drama Festival, where the cast achieved an "Outstanding Achievement" award for Ensemble Performance and an Award of Excellence for Ensemble Writing. The cast had also been honoured with numerous awards previously at both the district and regional levels of the Sears Festival. More than 10,000 students and teachers from more than 300 schools throughout Ontario participate annually in this province-wide celebration of theatrical achievement.

Written and performed by the young women of Notre Dame, *Enter My Goddess* tells the story of six contemporary young women as they struggle with their feelings of disempowerment and isolation, unaware that amidst them, Badru, an ancient young woman celebrates her first blood ceremony. As each contemporary story unfolds, we hear their grief; the loss of the divine women which would centre them despite their pain. Each cry is different: coping without a mother as a Korean new to Canada;

grieving the loss of her 'Quincenera' (a Latina coming of age celebration); struggling to find herself despite gender expectations; resenting the limitations of her changing body; searching for answers to her bi-racial lineage; and questioning her faith in light of patriarchal religion. As the ritual progresses, Badru's power must be tested; unbeknownst to her, the contemporaries' answer lies in Badru's quest.



In the initial writing stages, the cast looked to honour the struggles they felt reflected their unique identity as part of an all female school community. However, they soon realized that their struggles were the struggles of all contemporary women. This realization began a journey of questions. This play is their search for answers.

This young company is born of an extra-curricular drama program at Notre Dame High School in Toronto. The 19 all-female cast of "Goddess" were proud to live up to the achievement of Notre Dame's Sears entry last year, "Old Turtle", which proceeded to the Provincial Level of the competition and the International Drama Educators Association (IDEA) conference, both in Ottawa.

### **Keep Us Informed!**

Are you moving? Have you recently graduated, won an award, married, become a parent or grandparent? Let us know and we will print your news in the next issue of the Alumnae Newsletter. Please be sure to include your year.

Bonnie Gibbs  
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Published at  
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Toronto, Ontario  
M4E 3R5

### Alumnae Executive

Bonnie Riggs Gibbs (1971)  
Doris Cecchini (1974)  
Lorraine Treacy (1979)  
Eileen Power CND (1961)  
Virginia Emerson (1965)  
Georgina Farrell Chapman (1965)  
Bernadette Farrell (1975)  
Angela Farrell (1975)  
Barb Jones Storey (1965)  
Mary Ellen Creamer (1972)  
Louise Shrubsole (1972)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Send cheque for \$15.00  
made payable to:  
**N.D. Alumnae Assoc.**  
to  
**Bonnie Gibbs**  
**78 Parkview Hill Cr.**  
**Toronto, Ontario**  
**M4B 1R2**

Please include your  
name, maiden name,  
address, phone,  
year of graduation,  
and your occupation

We Believe...

Our prayers and support have the power to help our community to heal and find comfort.

## Noteworthy:

### Our Sympathies to the families of:

**Cathy (Clancy) Lindeblom '72**, whose mother passed away November 2005.

**Marie (Weir) Martin '52**, whose husband, Al, died this past summer. Her sister Joan was in class of '54.

**Mary Bernadette Farley '76** who lost her father Bernard Farley.

**Rosey Naunheimer Colautti '72** who lost her mother-in-law.

**Lenore Archer Bernard '63** who lost her dad.

### Congratulations to:

**Lorraine Tracy '79** who was married to Charles in July 2005. Lorraine is the head of the Religion Department at Notre Dame.

### In Our Prayers:

**Sisters of the CND Community & All Alumnae**

### Your \$15 membership covers:

- Memorial mass
- Annual reunion
- Graduation awards and reception
- Flowers for CND sisters (Christmas, Easter, special occasions)
- Newsletter

### Keep Us Up to Date!

We are looking for current addresses for many members. Please help us make sure we have your current contact information and send in the following:

Name & Class year  
Occupation/firm/job/title  
Address  
City, Province, Postal Code  
Telephone (residence)  
E-mail

**To:** Bonnie Gibbs  
78 Parkview Hill Cr.  
Toronto, Ontario M4B 1R2  
(416) 757-8733

**Memorial Mass for  
our Deceased Alumnae**  
**9:00 AM Saturday, November 26, 2005**  
**St. John Church**  
**794 Kingston Road**  
**Toronto, Ontario**