

New School

and

Auditorium

New School and Auditorium

THE SCHOOL COMPLETED

The Building

The School and Auditorium-Gymnasium were completed in the Spring of 1955. During the Summer of that year, the fixtures and equipment were installed. All was ready for occupancy when classes opened on September 12, 1955, appropriately enough the feast of the Holy Name of Mary.

The building consisting of two stories and a basement is constructed of solid reinforced concrete foundations and frame, with brick and limestone walls. Only a minimum of steel was required, excepting in the Auditorium-Gymnasium. The basement contains a large Cafeteria-Play Room with kitchen adjoining. At the other end of the basement are the boiler rooms and storage rooms. On the first floor there are three classrooms, a kindergarten, a health room or clinic, a reception room, and a Principal's office. From this level is an entrance to the Auditorium-Gymnasium. On the second floor are five more classrooms and a library which is above the lobby. The design of the structure and the many details and selection of materials have been planned to produce the latest in modern construction for the multi-educational purposes and needs of the parish, school and community activities. It incorporates many modern contrivances and appurtenances for the educational and physical training of the students.

The architecture is in Modern Style and compares with the best in this section of our country. Many features of this building merit attention because they combine sound construction with esthetic considerations. The structure is "L" shaped and covers the entire length of Morris Park Avenue between Mayflower and Pilgrim Avenues, a distance of 171 feet. It extends from Morris Park Avenue 154 feet along Pilgrim Avenue and 57 feet along Mayflower Avenue. The remaining 87 feet on Pilgrim Avenue are occupied by the children's playground.

There are four street entrances. The doors are of glass with aluminum frames and aluminum canopies above. The exterior walls are of multi-colored buff-textured face brick with limestone trim copings and panels.

The building is dominated by twin tower entrances at the corner of Morris Park and Pilgrim Avenues, which rise 28 feet from the ground level and reach above the roof level. These towers surmounted by limestone crosses are faced with buff limestone and decorative panel inserts of colored marble. They flank a large curved bay window that forms the corner of the building. This window is divided into large panels of glass so that the

circular lobby and the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima may be seen from the street. The grounds around the building have been landscaped with pine trees, shrubbery and grass in keeping with the suburban character of the neighborhood.

The Lobby

The main lobby containing the shrine is of striking design. Two curved terrazzo staircases lead from the tower entrances to the lobby. Aluminum railings run along each side of these staircases and feature hand rails at different levels to accommodate anyone from the smallest pupil to the tallest adult visitor. This is one of the many features in conformity with the requirement that the building be useful both as a school and as a parish community center.

The lobby is circular in shape with entrances leading into the main hall of the school and into the Auditorium. The floor is of colored terrazzo with brass separators radiating from the shrine in a fan-like arrangement. The walls are covered from floor to ceiling with ceramic mottled glazed structural face tile of a pastel green color.

Everything in the lobby centers toward the shrine: a life size statue of Our Lady of Fatima, surrounded by a niche of imported Verde Issorie marble. The statue was expressly made to order in Spain and was imported in time for the opening of the School. The detail of this statue is skillfully and masterfully executed and is truly a work of art. In front of the shrine is an aluminum railing and red carpeted step to permit the students to kneel and pray. The statue is effectively illuminated by several concealed spotlights and is visible from all four corners of the intersection of Pilgrim and Morris Park Avenues. The view of Our Lady through the large curved bay window flanked by the twin towers is monumental in aspect. At any time of the day or night, a passer-by is reminded to pause and pray.

To the right of the shrine, there is a hand carved Crucifix affixed to the wall. On one side of it is a plaque of the Coat of Arms of Our Holy Father and on the other side is a plaque of the Coat of Arms of Cardinal Spellman. At both ends of the lobby are two built-in trophy cases containing awards made to the victorious teams sponsored by St. Theresa's in the Catholic Youth Organization contests.

The School

The school proper is entered from the left of the lobby. The classrooms, thoughtfully planned in detail, design and selection of materials, constitute the latest in modern construction for educational requirements.

All the rooms have marbled colored asphalt tile floors, soft-colored painted plaster walls, acoustical ceilings, slate blackboards with aluminum frames and chalk holders, and cork tack boards. Along the top, the blackboards have aluminum runners holding movable hooks from which maps and other illustrative material can be suspended. The wardrobes, in the back of each room are constructed with a view to avoiding accidents. The doors are sturdy yet easily opened and closed because they are hung by a novel method of hinging. Each wardrobe has an umbrella rack and is ventilated by a concealed duct system thereby facilitating the drying of clothes. On the front wall of each room is a Crucifix with a statue on each side, one of which is that of the patron saint of the classroom. All of these statues have been made in Spain.

Each room has a Holy Water Font at its entrance. These Fonts, made in France, are permanently affixed to the wall and consist of a vari-colored rectangular marble plate on which is fixed a ceramic cup to contain the Holy Water. There is an American flag in each room.

A public address system in the principal's office makes it possible for her to communicate or to broadcast radio programs and phonograph recordings to any or all parts of the building.

The combined heating and ventilating systems provide clean air at constant temperature by continuously drawing in fresh air from the outside and preheating it during cold weather. This eliminates the necessity of opening windows and results in draftless ventilation throughout the year.

The lighting arrangement in these rooms is of the most modern, and produces an even distribution of color and light indirectly reflected from the ceiling. It is very restful to the eyes and especially required for children of tender years.

The Kindergarten

The Kindergarten, dedicated to the Infant Jesus, is a masterpiece in its color scheme and has so many attractions that even the most unwilling school child should be delighted to spend his day there. The lighting fixtures are surmounted by figurines representing various characters associated with nursery rhymes. A special outdoor playground, used exclusively by the kindergarten children, has been provided. It is entered directly from their

classroom. The room is also equipped with its own separate toilets, wash basin, work sink and drinking fountain, all built low enough for these small children. Hexagonal formica-top tables, each seating six children, are placed about the room. The children sitting at these tables face one another and are able to play games together. The room is also equipped with a new Acrosonic spinet piano, a radio-phonograph and large cubicles where toys may be displayed and stored. At the front of the room there is a Crucifix and statues of the Infant Jesus, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Guardian Angel. The room is large enough to accommodate all the kindergarten children even at a future date when the school will be expanded.

Library

On the second floor directly above the lobby is a circular shaped room which has been designated as the library. The large curved bay window in this room is similar to that of the lobby. At each end of this window is a statue; one of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the other of Our Lady of the Assumption. Between these statues is a built-in seat which follows the curvature of the window. There are two oil paintings on the walls: one of our Holy Father and the other of Our Cardinal Archbishop. Both of these were painted by a noted artist in the Eternal City of Rome. Off the library is a Faculty Room for the convenience of the Sisters.

Cafeteria

The Cafeteria in the basement is a large room, 65 feet long and 52 feet wide. It has been planned as a cafeteria, a play room or a meeting room. The adjacent kitchen is fully equipped with a large electrical refrigerator, a dish washing machine, three stainless steel sinks, a large gas stove and grill, two large coffee urns and a high speed slicing machine. These facilities are sufficient to serve daily lunches to the children and Communion breakfasts to the others of the parish. The room is only partially below ground and admits plenty of sunlight.

Auditorium-Gymnasium

This part of the building has been designed for the many functions required in a parish, such as assembly, sports, lectures and social functions. The lighting, heating and ventilating facilities are of sufficient capacity to provide comfort for the audience during any of the activities. Acoustical ceilings provide the soundproofing for this room. There are dressing rooms,

lockers and shower rooms connected to the gymnasium. The walls of the room are finished in durable materials with a cement-enamel wainscote over eight feet high. The walls above the wainscote are painted pastel green. Loudspeakers are recessed in the ceiling to give uniformity of sound throughout. The room seats 800 persons when used as an assembly hall.

A regulation-size basketball court with automatic electric scoreboard has been provided. The basketball backstops, when not in use, may be raised to the ceiling. On one side of the Auditorium lobby is a checkroom equipped with clothes racks and numbered hangers. On the other side is a refreshment room with electrical refrigerator, stainless steel sink, stainless steel work table, automatic cooler for beverages and an electric grill. All equipment in the hall, such as clocks and flood lights, have protective cages over them so as to avoid accidental damage by ball players. During parish dances spotlights in the four corners throw beams of changing colored lights across the floor of the hall.

At the other end of this hall is the stage; truly a little gem for a theatre. It is 35 feet wide and 24 feet deep. The flameproof draw-curtains rival those of professional theatres. The proscenium valence and the front draw-curtain are box pleated and made of a vivid red velour. The back curtain and the rest of the stage-set are buff colored cotton repp. The curtains are drawn aside by pull ropes and reveal a spacious stage which can be used for school plays, adult or professional performances and motion picture projections.

The stage is effectively lighted by a combination of concealed footlights, spot lights and multi-colored overhead lights.



"The Catholic Church wishing her children to learn and live the truth as good Catholics and patriotic citizens, builds, staffs and supports her own schools from the kindergarten to the university. It is because of the constant devotion and sacrifices of the loyal laity who help finance these schools, and the selfless priests, brothers and sisters who so ably staff them, that we are able to maintain our unexcelled school system."

Letter of Francis Cardinal Spellman

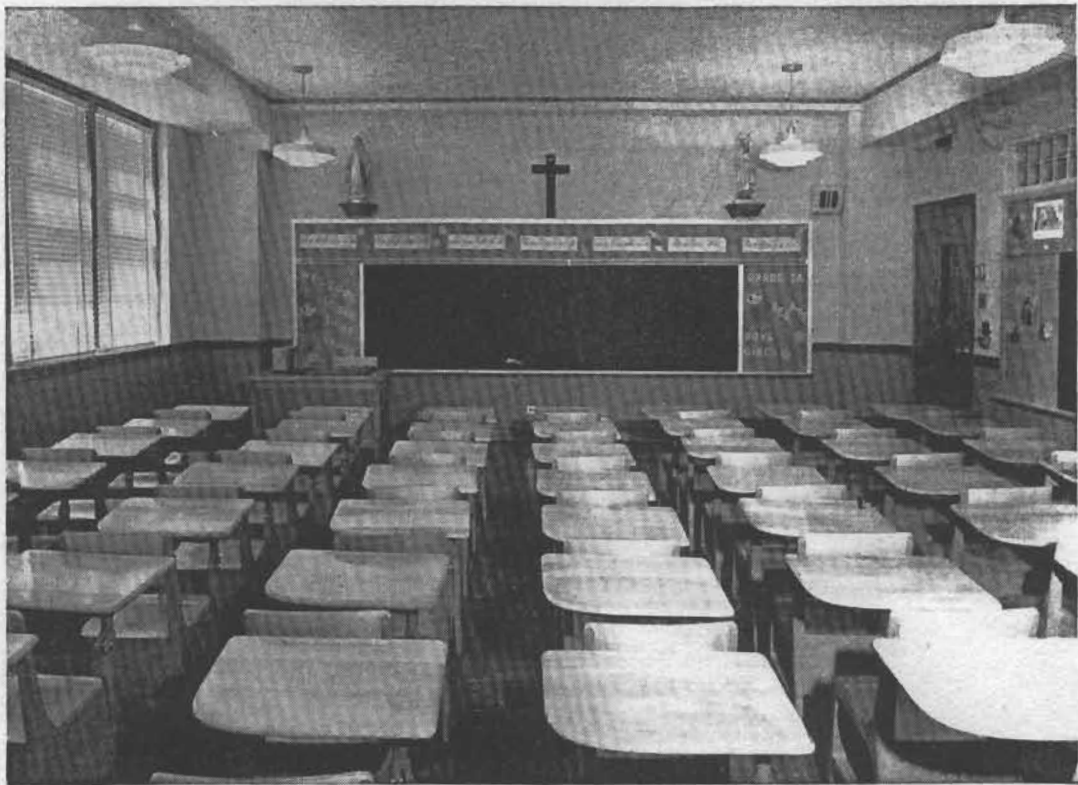
November 24, 1954



OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 12, 1955



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, IN THE MAIN LOBBY



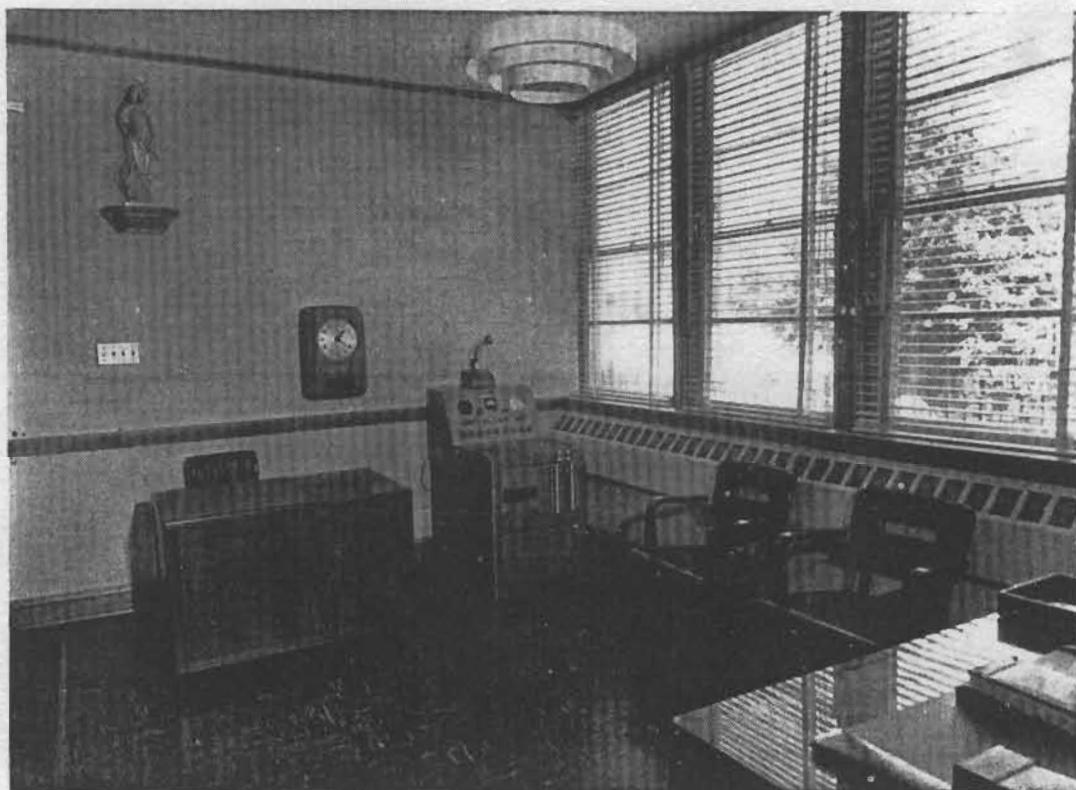
TYPICAL CLASSROOM



THE KINDERGARTEN



THE AUDITORIUM - GYMNASIUM



THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

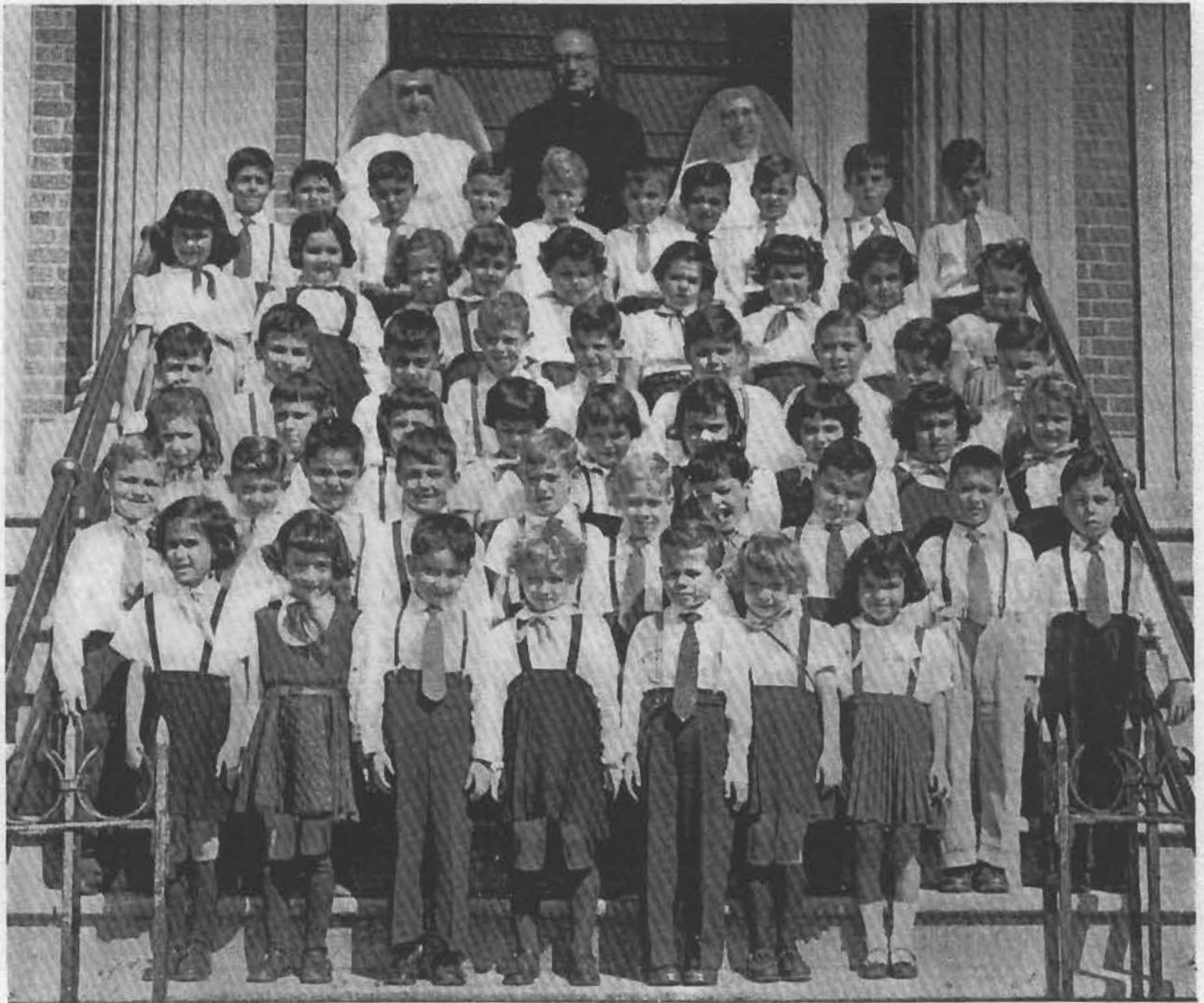
Faculty of 1954



Second Row, Left to Right: Sister Mary Bernard, O.P., Principal, Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Pastor, Sister M. Ann Eileen, O.P.

First Row, Left to Right: Sister M. Agnes Richard, O.P., Sister M. Joseph Mary, O.P., Sister Angela Mary, O.P.

FIRST GRADE, 1954-5



Left to Right

Front Row—Frances Albano, Camille Alaggio, Stephen Ness, Barbara D'Amico, Edward Hutchinson, Suzanne Zedick, Maria Marino

Second Row—John Callari, Joseph Giaquinta, Frederick Medairos, James Salera, Robert Girola, Michael Scott, Joseph Lanaro, Michael Giuliano, Gary Di Santo, John Scerra

Third Row—Benedetta Di Bartolo, Katherine Sawitsky, Anita Arricale, Mary Ann Mendolia, Ann Colucci, Jo Ann Spagnoli, Virginia Crescenzo, Joan Avallone, Roberta McKernan

Fourth Row—Domenick Vespa, Peter Varvara, Damian Giamanco, Richard Murray, Joseph Bono, John Cacavio, Stephen Catarella, Charles Cirelli, John Anthony

Fifth Row—Mary Christine De Polito, Annette Cardinale, Claudia Apuzzo, Carolynn Hebrank, Edna Zingarelli, Grace Giardina, Angela DiPaola, Barbara Seiter, Elizabeth Daly

Sixth Row—Richard Baris, Anthony Capuco, Ralph Giordano, Glenn Delionado, Lawrence Passiatore, John Vetrano, Joseph Cervini, William Baer, Joseph Viola, Vincent Bilancia

Seventh Row—Sister Joseph Mary, Father Mario J. Ponsiglione, Pastor, and Sister M. Bernard

Absent—Anthony Mirabile

SECOND GRADE, 1954-5



Left to Right

Front Row—Joseph Cascione, Daniel Rippolone, Elizabeth Bica, Marion Pulicchio, Christene Campese, Lydia Principio, Carol Giaratana, Marilyn Zidek, Leonard Ness, Edward Davis.

Second Row—Paul Puleo, Francis Petruzzi, William Trotta, Salvatore Vella, Angelo Marino, John Bonicoro, Peter Rose, Raymond Perillo, Robert Patrizzi

Third Row—Linda Mellusi, Patricia Curtin, Bernadine Papa, Francine De Maio, Lydia Pernisiglio, Concetta Tassone, Geraldine Brancati, Lucille Calandra, Antoinette Ryan

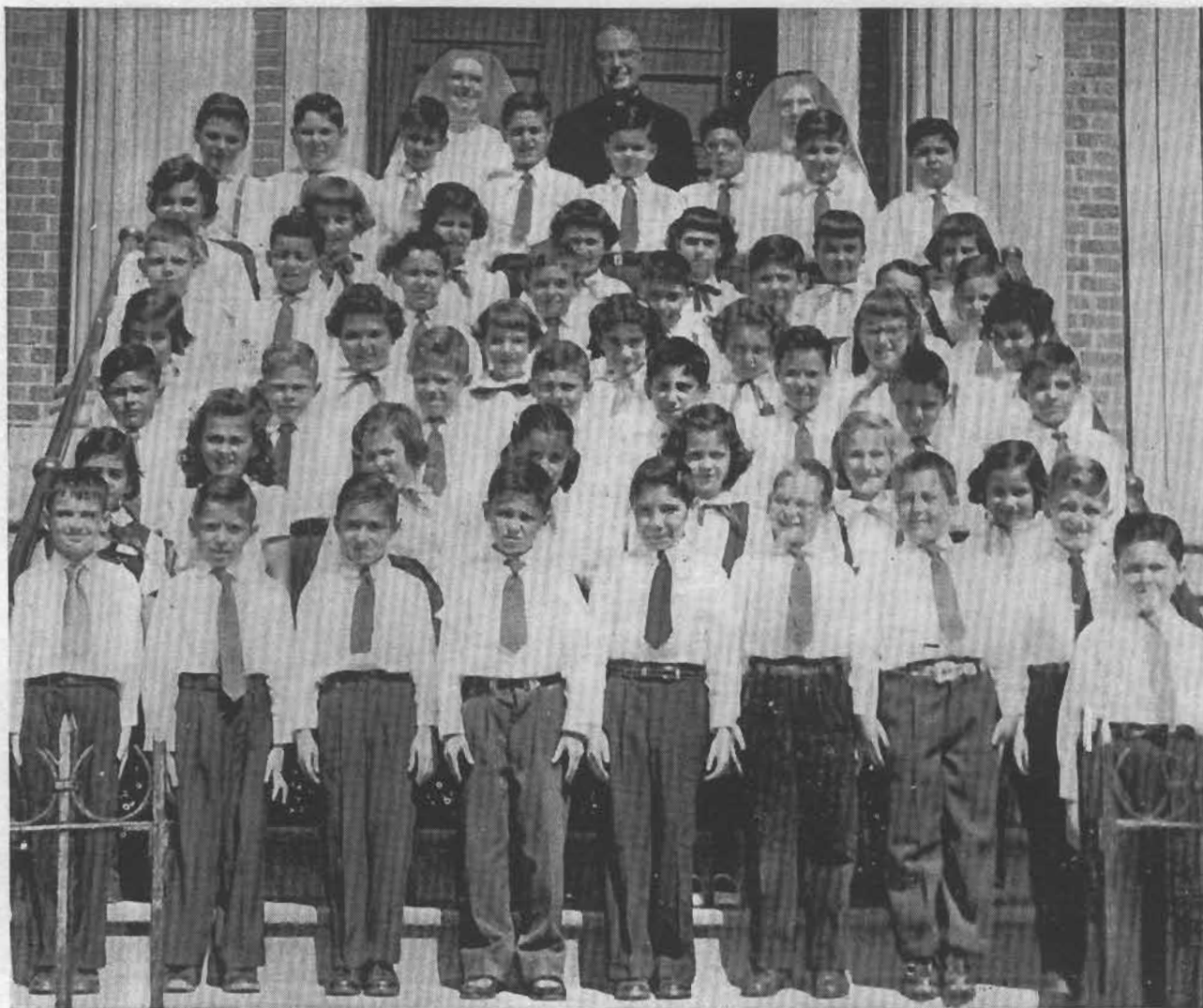
Fourth Row—Anthony Vino, Theodore Mazza, James Maddalena, Ralph Brancati, Anthony Lopiano, Michael Castellano, Kenneth Mennonna, Robert Govoni, Paul Correale

Fifth Row—Marie Maddalena, Victoria Vigilante, Ann Pagano, Patricia De Luca, Lynn Schneider, Ann Vino, Joan Cassese, Marie Ambrosino, Angela Miniaci

Sixth Row—Caeser Cassano, Frank Sorgie, John Vespa, Ronald Hourican, Joseph Patanella, James Capenera, Michael Bouros, Anthony Di Barto'o

Seventh Row—Sister M. Agnes Richard, Father Mario J. Ponsiglione, Pastor, and Sister M. Bernard

THIRD GRADE, 1954-5



Left to Right

Front Row—Henry Errico, Charles Tassone, Joseph Guarneri, John Baris, Patrick Angelucci, Vincent De Luca, Michael Longo, Patrick Fox

Second Row—Rosemary Ianotta, Donna Bruno, Margaret Longo, Carol Orlando, Joanne Smith, Theresa Bica, Josephine Chumenti, Carl Mazzella

Third Row—Philip Giordano, Ralph Giordano, Joseph Giordano, Vito Tedeschi, Richard Aiello, George Thompson, Robert Alvy, Joseph Scaglione

Fourth Row—Helen Ottimo, Andrea Grasso, Annette Bigone, Camille Scorzelli, Adrienne Cacavio, Margaret Cicileo, Veronica Bellone

Fifth Row—William Swanby, Neil Grimaldi, Alexander Velto, Joseph Giacco, Dominick Dominelli, Vincent Valentino, Robert Graziani, Peter Viola

Sixth Row—Maryanne Calandra, Melinda Spagnola, Donna Misciagna, Maria Garguilo, Joanne Nuccio, Josephine Falgiano, Andrea Cetera

Seventh Row—Daniel Colucci, Donald Hugg, Joseph Florio, Robert De Gennaro, Neil Grimaldi, Gerard Giacco, Joseph Monetta, Paul Macchio

Eighth Row—Sister M. Ann Eileen, Father Mario J. Ponsiglione, Pastor, and Sister M. Bernard

FOURTH GRADE, 1954-5



Left to Right

Front Row—Jo Ann Astarita, Judy Sabatelli, Carmella Poidomani, Margaret Ricci, Linda Calandra, Carolyn Bica, Elaine Fiorentino, Elaine Leone

Second Row—Jerry Mazza, Michael Vernieri, Richard Bruno, Salvatore Miniaci, Gary Pollaro, Peter Netti, James Abrams, Frank Vino

Third Row—Rosemary Lima, Joyce Castellano, Sandra Harris, Elaine Yanni, Angela D'Agostino, Angela Del Prete

Fourth Row—Paul Schneider, John Tamburri, Thomas Abitabilo, Ralph Mellusi, Michael Principio, Richard Puleo, Paul Guardino

Fifth Row—Patricia Guarino, Theresa Lopiano, Diana Giaquinto, May Vastano, Geraldine Manno, Rosemary Oteri

Sixth Row—Vincent Sanseviero, Francis Drumm, Richard Delionado, Philip Fragala, William McKernan, Michael Calandra, Robert Mazza

Seventh Row—Sister Angela Mary, Father Mario J. Ponsiglione, Pastor, and Sister M. Bernard

Faculty of 1955



Top Row, Left to Right: Sister Mary Bernard, O.P., Principal, Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Pastor, Sister Patrick James, O.P.

Second Row, Left to Right: Sister Marie Paul, O.P., Sister M. Clare Francis, O.P., Sister M. Ann Loretta, O.P.

First Row, Left to Right: Sister M. Edward Marie, O.P., Sister M. Agnes Richard, O.P.

KINDERGARTEN, Morning Session, 1955-6



Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. Marie Paul, O.P.

Second Row—Louise Maccarello, Helena Miele, Carol Ann Bonicoro, Janet Grasso, Frances Apugliese, Laura Sicilian, Christina Bouros, Patricia Vella, Loretta Silvestri, Lorraine Paccione, Florence Paccione, Joanne Valentino, Marie Lopiano, Rosalind Trotta, Dea Amarucci, Rosemarie Cervini, Joyce Baronek

First Row—Connie Pedi, Elizabeth Ann Asaro, Robert Cioffi, Joseph Mennonna, Richard Medairos, Frank Gallucci, Daniel Solimine, Thomas Torelli, Thomas Coticchio, Edward Saggese, Patrick Simone, Richard D'Angiolillo, Richard Giacco, Vincent Grimaldi, Joseph Ferry, Mary Jean Baris, Louisa Scarpati

KINDERGARTEN, Afternoon Session, 1955-6

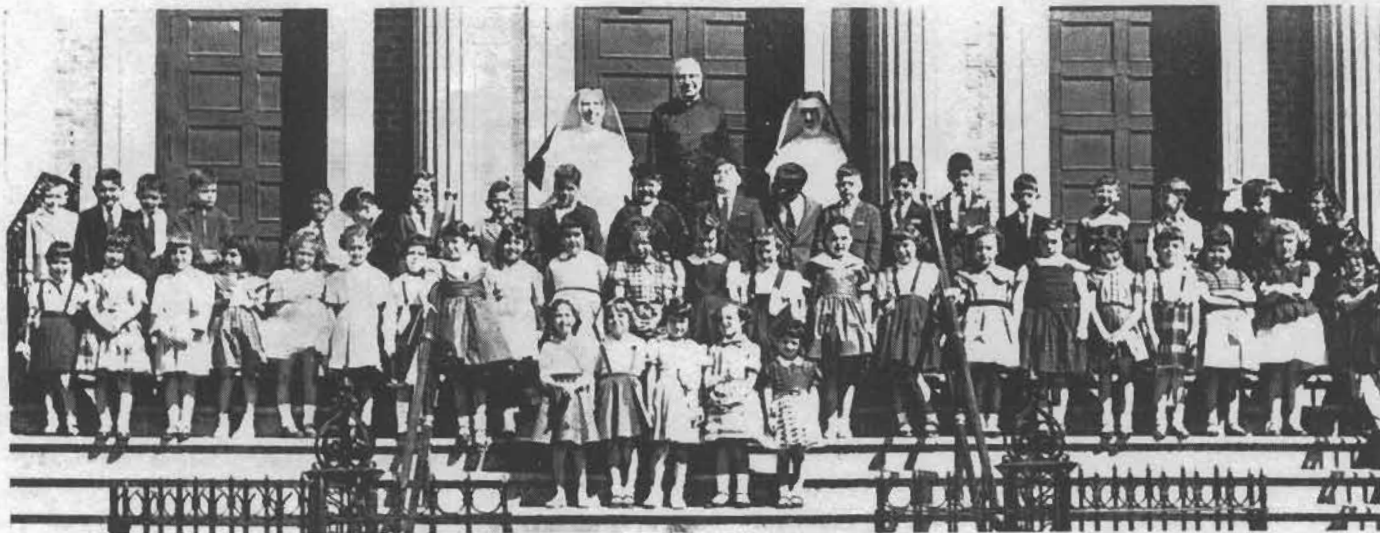


Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. Marie Paul, O.P.

Second Row—Charles Lavorerio, Arthur Moricone, Wil'iam Velto, Vincent Vetrano, Frederick Knoch, Robert Hertel, Frederick Picci, Anthony Viola, John McElligott, Vincent Fiore, Anthony Scerra, Gerard Garguilo, Salvatore Franzone, Benedetto Sorgie

First Row—Henry Von Salzen, James Salvi, Mary Ann Trotta, Donna Tanzi, Barbzara Ann Rocco, Theresa Vernieri, Joan Conway, Annmarie Gianfortune, Lena Rocchio, Rose Ann Tamburri, Lynn Solari, Alphonse Falgiano, Andre Martone

FIRST GRADE, 1955-6



Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. M. Clare Francis, O.P.

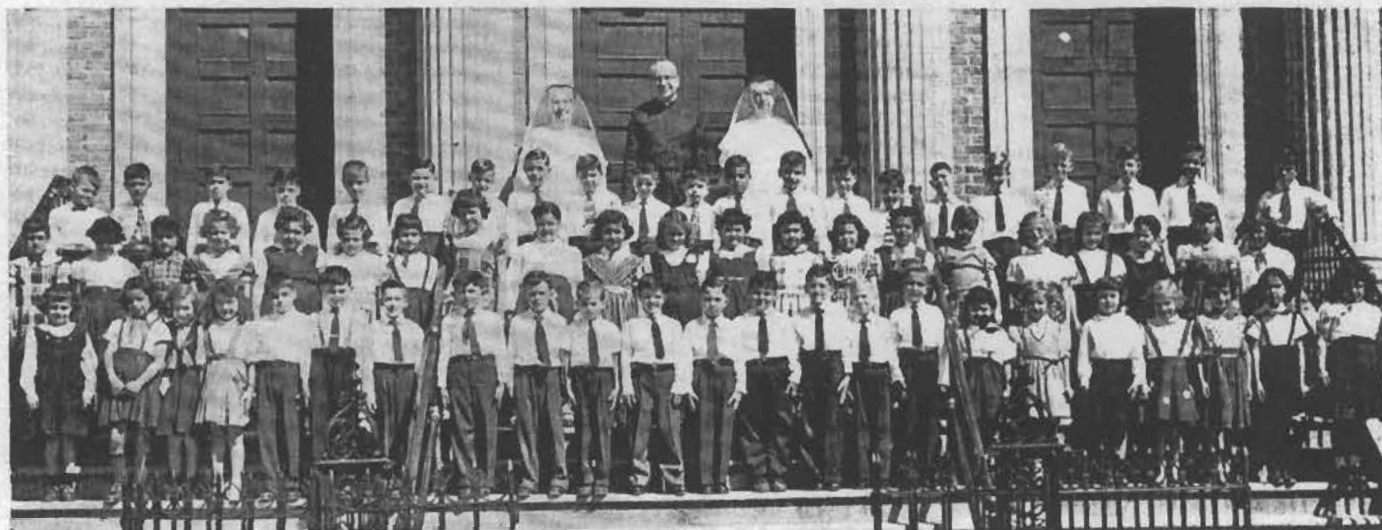
Third Row—Rocco Resciniti, Eugene Mechetti, Anthony Tassone, James McGannon, Douglas Reider, Anthony Lise, Ronald Santorelli, Thomas Velto, Steven Magistro, Fred Kramer, Ralph Squitieri, Robert Orofino, Ferdinand Maimone, Wayne Mazzei, Patrick Miele, Vincent Caputo, Joseph Giaquinta, Louis Lopriore, Dominick Petruzzi, Michael Lanotte

Second Row—Karen Tocco, Susan Torelli, Rose Puccio, Linda Calangelo, Elizabeth Palumbo, Marie Bilancia, Mary Rose, Marianne Rinaldo, Lorraine Rizzo, Theresa Margherita, Angela Masi, Patricia Poli, Anne Viola, Camille Orlando, Marie Ann Donato, Jolainie Tozzi,

Maryann Moretta, Susan Mirabile, Colleen Conway, Judith Corbisiero, Janice Hagerman, Rose Marie Fata

First Row—Mary Licandro, Elaine Tufo, Concetta Perrone, Janet Graziani, Jeanette Pupo

SECOND GRADE, 1955-6



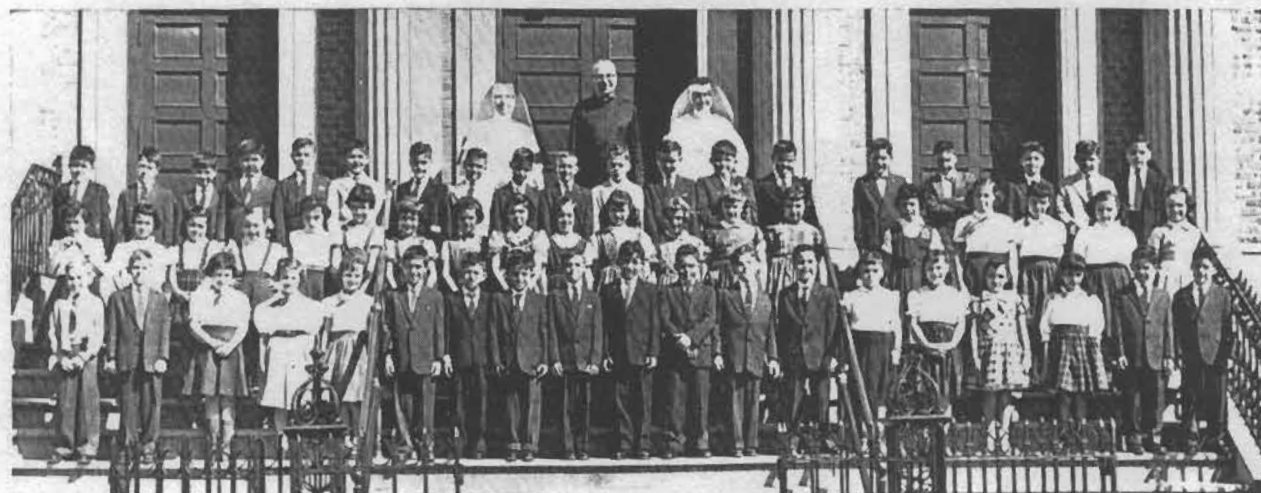
Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. Edward Marie, O.P.

Third Row—John Callari, Ralph G. Giordano, Richard Baris, Domenick Vespa, John Vetrano, John Anthony, William Baer, Stephen Catarella, John Cacavio, Frederick Medairos, Anthony Mirabile, Joseph Cervini, Peter Varvara, Charles Cirelli, Stephen Ness, Robert Patrissi, Lawrence Passiatore, Richard Murray, Joseph Bono, Vincent Bilancia, Joseph Viola

Second Row—Rita Cristofaro, Mary Ann Mendolia, Carol Giarratana, Claudia Apuzzo, Edna Zingarelli, Elizabeth Daly, Joan Canzoniero, Mary Depolito, Annette Cardinale, Barbara Seiter, Roberta McKernan, Angela Depaola, Joan Avallone, Anita Aricale, Grace Giardina, Carolyn Hebrank, Elizabeth Bica, Elaine Caruso, Roberta Galante, Katherine Sawitsky, Ann Colucci

First Row—Theresa Posillico, Marie Lopresti, Benedetta DiBartolo, Elizabeth Bruno, Louis Laccetti, Damian Giamanco, Gary DiSanto, Anthony Capuco, James Salera, Edward Hutchinson, Joseph Lanaro, John Scerra, Michael Giuliano, Glenn Delionado, Michael Scott, Joseph Cascione, Maria Marino, Barbara D'Amico, Louise Naclerio, Suzanne Zedick, Camille Alaggio, Frances Albano, Virginia Crescenzo

THIRD GRADE, 1955-6



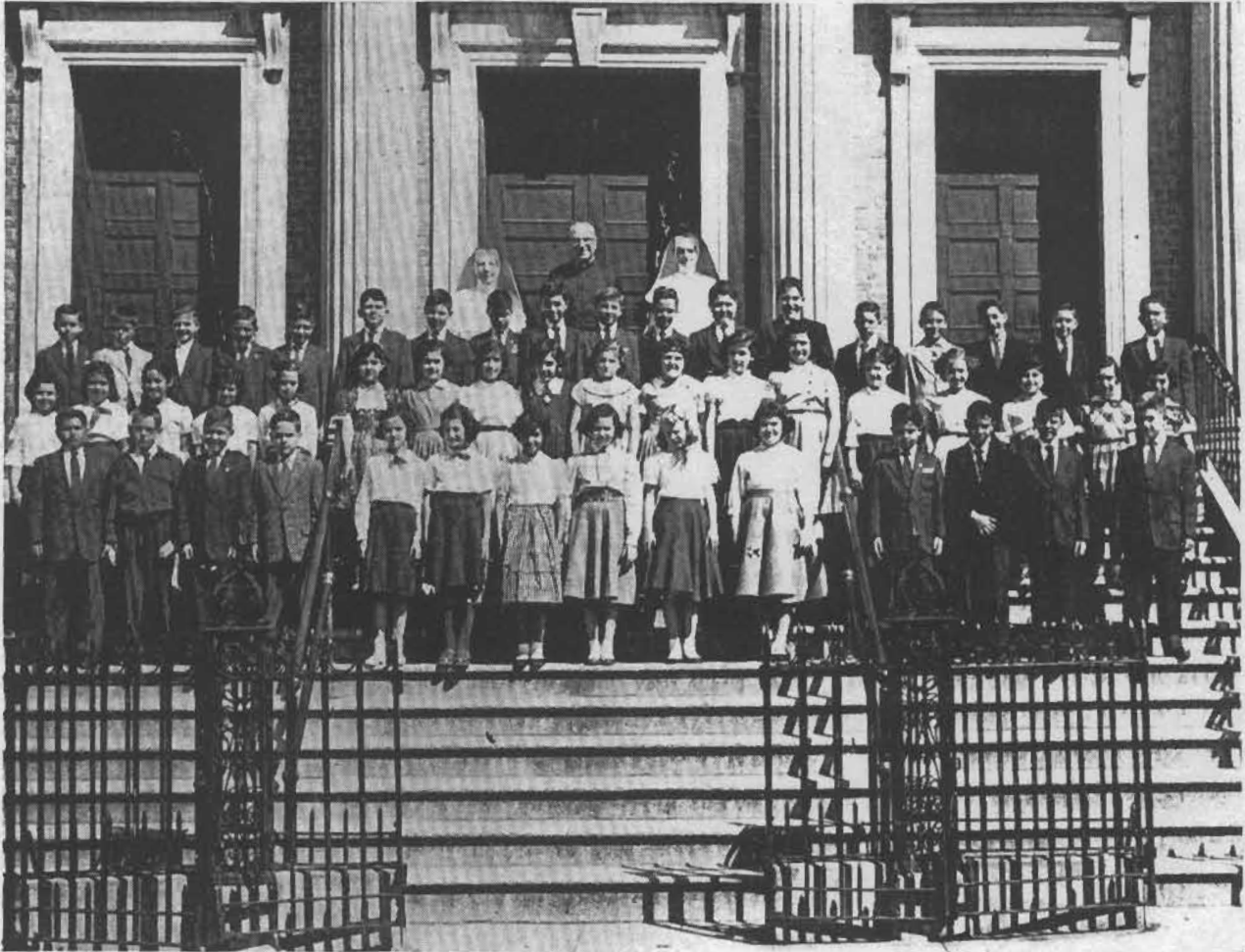
Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. M. Agnes Richard, O.P.
Third Row—Peter Rose, Kenneth Mennonna, Francis Petruzzi Emanuel Fragala, Frank Sorgie, Anthony DiBartolo, Paul Correale, Philip Russo, William Trotta, Theodore Mazza, Robert Govoni, Ronald Hourican, James Capenera, Michael Bouros, Frank Magistro, Dominick Dominelli, Anthony Lopiano, Anthony V. Lopiano, John Vespa
Second Row—Lydia Pernesiglio, Lydia Principio, Joan Diliberto, Theresa Miniaci, Patricia Curtin, Patricia DeLuca, Gloria Caprisecca, Bernadine Papa, Francine DeMaio, Delia Abitabile, Concetta Tassone, Antoinette Ryan, Marie Ambrosino, Victoria Vigilante, Veronica Lombardi, Ann Vio, Joan Cassese, Angela Miniaci, Margaret Pagan
First Row—Leonard Ness, John Bonicoro, Geraldine Brancati, Marion Pulicicchio, Doreen Solari, Ralph Brancati, John Realbuto, Angelo Marino, Salvatore Vella, Anthony Vio, Paul Puleo, Michael Castellano, Joseph Gorrasi, Marilyn Zidek, Linda Mellusi, Christine Campese, Lenore Melfi, Daniel Rippolone, Raymond Perillo

FOURTH GRADE, 1955-6



Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. M. Ann Loretta, O.P.
Fourth Row—Alexander Velto, Joseph Scaglione, Robert Alvy, Anthony LoPresti, Robert Graziani, Gerard Giacco, Donald Haugg, Vincent Cirillo, William Swanby, Joseph Florio, Neil DiCapua, Daniel Colucci
Third Row—Andrea Grasso, Carmela Poidomani, Camille Scorzelli, Antonia Vasti, Veronica Bellone, Carol Solari, Carol Tozzi, Donna Misciagna, Maria Garguilo, Melinda Spagnolo, Andrea Cetera, Josephine Falgiano, Margaret Cicileo, Helen Ottimo, Adrienne Cacavio, Donna Bruno, Joanne Nuccio, Margaret Longo
Second Row—Philip Giordano, Joseph Guarneri, Daniel Asaro, Henry Errico, Richard Aiello, Dennis Rosi, Michael Canzoniero, Joseph Giordano, Vito Tedeschi, Ralph A. Giordano, Carl Mazzella, Patrick Angelucci, Patrick Fox, Peter Viola, Vincent DeLuca, Michael Longo, John Baris
First Row—Joanne Smith, Theresa Bica, Janet Mellusi, Carol Ann Orlando, Annette Bigone, Rosemary Iannotta, Josephine Chument

FIFTH GRADE, 1955-6



Top Row—Sr. Mary Bernard, O.P., Rev. Mario J. Ponsiglione, Sr. M. Patrick James, O.P.

Third Row—Jeremiah Mazza, Louis Grasso, Michael Vernieri, Richard Bruno, Salvatore Miniaci, James Mauro, Philip Fragala, Paul Guardino, Michael DeGennaro, Richard Delionado, Francis Drumm, Ernesto Vezza, Vincent Sanseviero, Thomas Abitabilo, Ralph Mellusi, Frank Vino, Gary Pollaro, Richard Puleo

Second Row—Joann Astarita, Margaret Ricci, Judy Sabatelli, Adele Angarola, Lorraine Nigro, Elaine Yanni, Angela Delprete, Patricia Guarino, Theresa Lopiano, Diane Giaquinta, Marie Ann Vastano, Kathryn Vasti, Rosemary Oteri, Rosemarie Vasti, Carolyn Bica, Elaine Fiorentino, Linda Calandra, Victoria Troiano

First Row—John Tamburri, James Abrams, Peter Netti, Thomas Montilli, Elaine Leone, Lucille Cascio, Rosemary Lima, Joyce Castellano, Sandra Harris, Angela D'Agostino, Patrick Fioretti, Michael Principio, Robert Mazza, William McKernan