

# St. Luke School

608 E. 139<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10454 • T: 718-585-0380 - 718-585-4918 • F: 718-665-3407

Providing an academically challenging and values-centered education since 1910

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

## Principal

Tracey Coleman

## Assistant Principal

Sister Grace Augustine, O.P.

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. LUKE SCHOOL

Eleven years after the founding of St. Luke's parish in 1897, founding pastor Fr. John J. Boyle, submitted plans to the Archdiocese for the building of the school, at a projected cost of \$40,000.

The cornerstone was laid on August 1st, 1909; and the school was formally opened in September of 1910 (at a final cost of \$80,000). The original building consisted of 8 classrooms and an auditorium. The school was staffed from the very beginning by the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, who originally lived on the third floor of the school.

In June of 1920, the school, now fully-graded, held its first graduation.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*From the desk of*

**Principal, Tracey Coleman**



**Assistant Principal, Sister Grace Augustine, O.P.**



Dear Friends of St. Luke School and alumni,

*We hope that this note finds you well. We would like to begin by sharing with you some of our recent accomplishments and activities:*

- ◆ *Fifty of our seventh and eighth grade students represented St. Luke School at the session for nonviolence on March 19th at the United Nations. The keynote speaker of the Little Rock Nine gave inspiring words of hope.*
- ◆ *We have begun preparing for a school production of The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe. This is our first production of a school play in fifteen years.*
- ◆ *Our after school program now includes intramural volleyball.*
- ◆ *Our school community collected money to donate to the MaryKnoll missions. Each class selected a country and the funds collected were earmarked for that country.*

*We will be celebrating Culture Day on May 21st. On this day each class studies traditions of their chosen culture and the culminating activity is Culture Day itself: Children dress up in clothing that is representative of their class's country and food from the various countries is also served.*

*Our 8th grade graduation is being held on June 13th. We are proud of all of our 42 graduates for their hard work. Some of our 8th graders have been accepted to the following high schools in the Fall 2009:*

*Aquinas, Mother Cabrini, Preston, All Hallows, Cardinal Hayes, St. Pius, Academy of St. Ursula, St. Raymond Academy and St. Raymond Boys High School.*

*Currently 32% of our students are awarded a partial-scholarship. The annual cost to educate each student is \$3,636 and average tuition is \$2,750, leaving St. Luke to raise an additional \$886 per student. While this financial need remains a challenge, we are committed to our goal that no child is turned away because of an inability to pay tuition.*

*We need your support to help us continue to provide a quality education and a safe haven for the children in a neighborhood where a majority of children live below the poverty line. According to the 2000 US Census, over 33% of families in our area have an income of less than \$10,000.*

*During this economic crisis, parents must make tough choices between survival and funding their children's education. We want to help them continue to make a quality education possible for their children at St. Luke.*

*By providing an academically challenging and values-centered education, St. Luke School has been an important part of our community, helping build a strong educational foundation for students in Mott Haven. Our teachers nurture our students and provide them the discipline that they require. St. Luke gives them the confidence and the necessary skills to reach their educational goals.*

*Expenses at schools are going up, while state funds are declining. Previously, schools received about \$60,000 in mandated services funds for tasks that all schools must perform and report back to the state, such as taking attendance records and grading the 4th and 8th grade New York State math and English Assessments exams.*

*However, as we write this, New York State and City leaders are making budget cuts that have the potential to severely impact funding to education programs in our city. Many Catholic schools in New York are merging or simply closing. We want to do everything that we can to keep the doors open at St. Luke.*

*On behalf of our students, their parents and our teachers, we thank those of you who continue to make donations to help support us in our efforts to educate our most precious resource, our young people.*

*If you have not made a gift to St. Luke, we ask that you consider making a gift to St. Luke today toward our Annual Fund. Help us remain financially stable and continue to provide a quality education to the children of Mott Haven. Each gift is meaningful and will help us continue our important mission.*

*If you are a St. Luke graduate, current or prospective donor and would like to arrange a visit to the school, please call us at 718-585-0380. We look forward to hearing from you soon.*

*May God Bless you and your loved ones,*

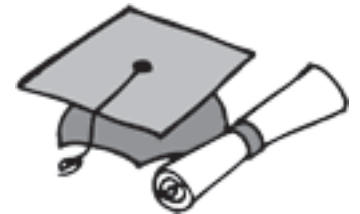
*Tracey Coleman*      *Sister Grace Augustine, O.P.*  
 Tracey Coleman      Sister Grace Augustine, O.P.  
 Principal              Assistant Principal

*P.S.*

*If you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, but does not, please send us their name and address.*



**Congratulations 2009 Graduates!**  
*We wish you all the best!*



**Ms. Feliciano's class:**

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Imalai Castro</i>    | <i>Alexa Oliva</i>       |
| <i>Brandon Coleman</i>  | <i>Alexis Perez</i>      |
| <i>Fernando Cruz</i>    | <i>Kemelly Pimentel</i>  |
| <i>Destiny Escobar</i>  | <i>Brandon Rodriguez</i> |
| <i>Brianne Jennings</i> | <i>Katie Rodriguez</i>   |
| <i>Paola Joaquin</i>    | <i>Lizmarie Santa</i>    |
| <i>Julian Landron</i>   | <i>Yogeiris Santos</i>   |
| <i>Clarissa Lopez</i>   | <i>Amber Soto</i>        |
| <i>Abigail Martinez</i> | <i>Alex Torres</i>       |
| <i>Kristen Maysonet</i> | <i>Jessica Vazquez</i>   |
| <i>Samantha Mulero</i>  |                          |

**Mr. Austin's class:**

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Orlando Coll</i>        | <i>Andre Ogunusi</i>        |
| <i>Jesse Cruz</i>          | <i>Chastity Rios</i>        |
| <i>Samaily De La Cruz</i>  | <i>Brittney Rodriguez</i>   |
| <i>Christopher Diaz</i>    | <i>Karina Santos</i>        |
| <i>Ezekiel Durojaiye</i>   | <i>Jahnia Satterthwaite</i> |
| <i>Jasmine Galdamez</i>    | <i>Krystal Shepard</i>      |
| <i>Christian Huestipac</i> | <i>Kayla Sierra</i>         |
| <i>Luzmarine Jorge</i>     | <i>Romel Solano</i>         |
| <i>Lynnese Lansen</i>      | <i>Lyncee Stroman</i>       |
| <i>Luis Manzano</i>        | <i>Kenya Thompson</i>       |
| <i>Stephanie Martinez</i>  |                             |



## ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES:

### Class of 1971

Roland Chapdelaine in his 11th year as Producer of "News and Views" and The Eddy Awards for Instructional Television of the Archdiocese of New York, is preparing for the 36th Annual Eddy Awards Show on May 15th, with Archbishop Dolan and New York TV newscasters, honoring outstanding student broadcasters from around the Archdiocese. Roland will also be videotaping 6 First Communions, 4 Confirmations and a Graduation at his home parish of St. James the Apostle in Carmel, NY, where he sings at two Masses every Sunday.

### Reminiscing:

#### Class of 1949

Pat Maher recently wrote to Father Ryan saying: *"Thank you to all priests, brothers, nuns and lay people who made St. Luke throughout its history one of the greatest stories of the South Bronx... and thanks to Pastor Monsignor Ryan, Principal Tracey Coleman and Assistant Principal Sister Grace for continuing the great tradition."*

Mr. Maher recently submitted a story to "Back in the Bronx" Winter 2009 issue (written by Andrew Levison). Here is an excerpt:

*"Kids grades 1-4 at St. Luke were taught by Dominican nuns, who were the most dedicated teachers you could ever hope to meet." Grades 5-8 were taught by Sacred Heart brothers that let you know right from the start that you were not as cool and tough as you might think, and if you liked, they would prove it to you. They too were dedicated to teaching and building character, but in a slightly more forceful manner.*

*Some of the friendships made at St. Luke are as strong today, as they were then, as in the case of Pete and Eileen McParland who were classmates in first grade and remain two of my best and closest friends today."*

### In Memoriam

We express our sympathy to the families and friends of the below individual:

David Chango (class of 1995)

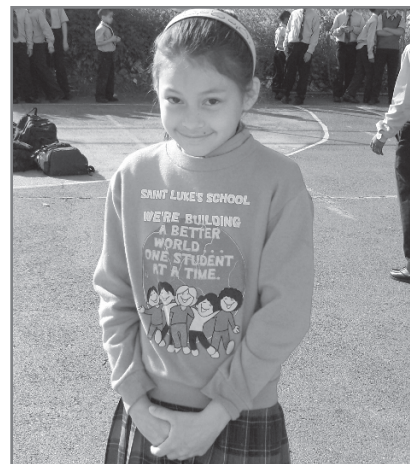
## Tour St. Luke School

If you are a current or past donor, a graduate or are considering a contribution and would like to arrange a visit to our school, please contact Tracey Coleman, Principal at 718- 585-0380 or Marie Donski 718-585-4918 / email [saintluke139@yahoo.com](mailto:saintluke139@yahoo.com) (with "request to visit school" in the subject line).

## Attention Alumni!

If you would like to submit your news for consideration in upcoming newsletters, please send your name, address, daytime telephone number and email address to: [saintluke139@yahoo.com](mailto:saintluke139@yahoo.com) (include your name and "alumni news item" in subject line) OR mail to:

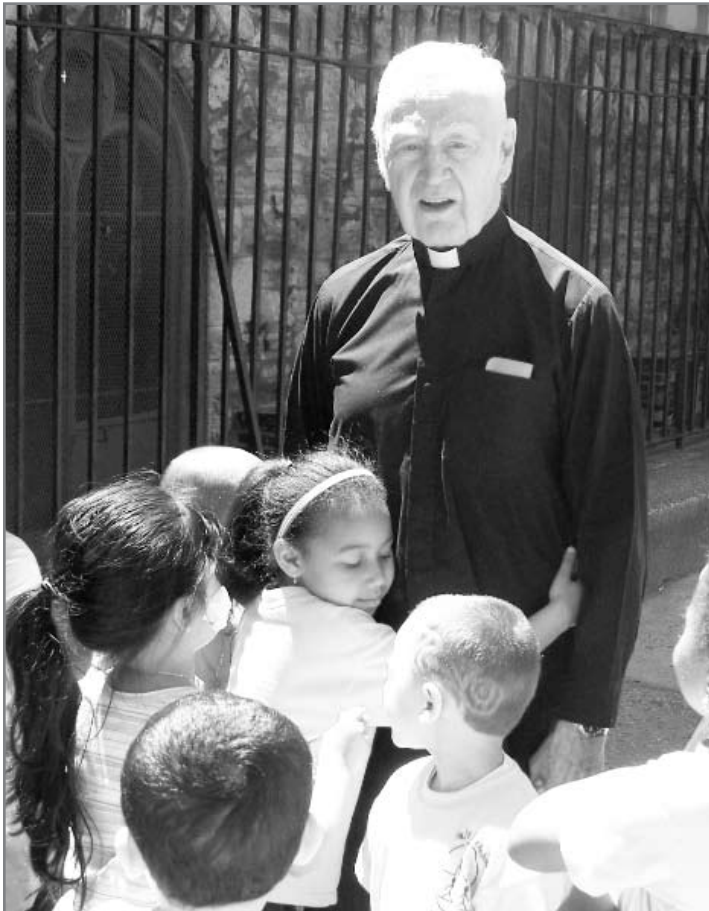
St. Luke's Education Foundation, Inc.  
Alumni & Development Office  
Attn: Alumni news  
c/o St. Luke School  
608 E. 139th Street, Bronx, NY 10454



# St. Luke School congratulates Monsignor Gerald Ryan

for being honored by the sisters of Saint Dominic in Blauvelt, NY at the Hearts Afire Spring Gala held on April 26th for his great contribution to their community.

The Blauvelt Dominican Sisters began staffing St. Luke School in September 1910 when the school first opened. Since becoming pastor in 1966, Monsignor Ryan has been a great friend and supporter of the Blauvelt Dominican order.

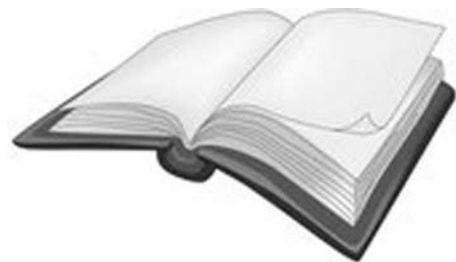


## Q&A:

**Q: What did Sister Grace Augustine, O.P., Assistant Principal do before joining St. Luke School in 1983 as Principal (a position she held for three years)?**

**A:** Sister Grace was born in Brooklyn and holds a Master's degree from Fordham University. She is also a graduate of Dominican College, St. Joseph College and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament High School in Goshen.

Her first teaching assignment was in Jamaica, The West Indies, where she taught grades three and four "in the same room for nine years" and continued to teach for another three. She also taught at Saint Anselm, St. Nicholas of Tolentine and St. Mary schools in the Bronx. Sister Grace entered the convent at the Saint Dominic Convent at Blauvelt, before serving at St. Luke.



# Ways you can help St. Luke and get involved

## Annual Giving

### St. Luke Annual Fund

Gifts to the annual fund enable St. Luke to direct support to the areas of the school where it is most needed. Many times these gifts also close the gap between tuition and the cost of a St. Luke education.

## Special occasion gifts

Send a check to benefit St. Luke school in memory or honor of someone's anniversary, birthday or any special occasion, and we will send them a letter advising them of your thoughtfulness (the amount of your gift will not be stated). Please include your address, phone number and email address, as well as the name(s) addresses of those that you wish St. Luke School to notify.

## Contributions toward Endowment and Capital projects

Above and beyond the need for critical annual operating support, is our need to plan and provide for the school's long-term financial stability and academic excellence. The operating budget does not address endowment or significant facility improvements. Contributions/pledges to our endowment and capital projects will enable the school to address those specific areas. We encourage capital and endowment donors to make their gift decisions with the intention of maintaining or increasing their support of St. Luke's Annual Giving.

## Matching Gifts

Your gift to St. Luke may be doubled or tripled by simply completing a form. Many employers offer matching-gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Contact your human resources department to find out about your company's matching gift policy and how to include St. Luke on their non-profit organization list.

## Gifts of Stock

If you wish to make a gift of securities, please contact Tracey Coleman, Principal or Marie Donski at 718- 585-0380/4918 for instructions.

## Include St. Luke in your Estate Plans

The **St. Luke 1910 Society** named after the year St. Luke was founded, recognizes alumni and friends who have provided for St. Luke's future through intended bequests. To become a member of the society please inform St. Luke in writing that you intend to include the school in your estate plans through a bequest, life income gift or life insurance policy gift. Membership in the Society is available to all alumni, parents, and friends of St. Luke. Please let us know your relationship to our school and enclose your contact information (especially your phone number and email address). We would like to recognize you and thank you personally, as well as invite you to future special events in recognition of your generosity.

## Bequest Language:

The official legal bequest language for St. Luke's Education Foundation, Inc.: "I, [your name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to St. Luke's Education Foundation, Inc. [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

If you have any questions, please call Tracey Coleman, Principal or Marie Donski at 718-585-0380/4918.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. LUKE SCHOOL



*(Continued from page 1)*

Between 1922 and 1926, under the direction of third pastor, Fr. John J. Mitty, (a whirlwind of a man who went on to become Archbishop of San Francisco!) the school's ground-floor auditorium was converted into 5 classrooms. What is now called "the gym" was built, and was named by contemporary parishioners "Mitty Hall," in honor of their pastor, upon his elevation to Bishop of Salt Lake City in June of 1926.

In 1936, under the direction of St. Luke's fifth pastor, Msgr. Robert B. Mulcahey, a second school building, consisting of six classrooms, was erected above the gym. In 1941, property east of the gym building was purchased and built into a schoolyard, originally with a large wall on the 139th Street side. The large wall was replaced with low iron piping within ten years.

The Missionary Brothers of the Sacred Heart joined the St. Luke's faculty in 1943, teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys.

By 1945, the school staff consisted of 31 teachers: 21 Blauvelt Dominican Sisters, 6 Sacred Heart Brothers, and four lay teachers. School enrollment was so large that, for many years, two separate graduations were held, one in January and one in June. At one time, school enrollment reached as high as 1,200; and St. Luke's became the leading parish for vocations to the priesthood, sisterhood and brotherhood in the Archdiocese during the 1940s and 1950s.

The well-documented devastation of the South Bronx in the 1970s brought intense poverty to the St. Luke's neighborhood. But while society may have seen the South Bronx as a lost cause, St. Luke's Parish and School continued providing a safe haven, hope, and

education,- the promise of a better future,- for the residents of the neighborhood.

Under the spiritual direction of Msgr. Gerald Ryan (pastor since 1966,- the longest-serving pastor in the Archdiocese!), and long-time principal, Sr. Pat Howell, St. Luke's continued to provide what the New York Times described as "a small island of hope in the South Bronx, where teachers nurture the self-confidence, the discipline, and the scholastic ability their students need."

In 1994, St. Luke's School Alumni Association was established. In May, 2005, Sr. Pat Howell announced that she had been elected to the leadership team at Blauvelt, and so would be leaving St. Luke's after 17 years as principal.

But at the same time, Sr. Pat announced that St. Luke's School had received the prestigious Middle States accreditation through 2015.

Today, under the direction of principal Ms. Tracey Coleman, the mission of St. Luke School remains, "to have every graduate leave our school with the skills of a successful competitor in the arena of higher education and the social conscience of a responsible steward of God's creation."

St. Luke School has provided nearly a Century of Service to the students and families of the South Bronx. As the school nears its Centennial in 2010, you will be hearing about upcoming events and campaigns to both celebrate the school's proud heritage, and to ensure its continued strength in the decades to come!

Stay tuned!

*By Roland Chapdelaine '71*

Public Relations Coordinator, Instructional Television, Archdiocese of New York



**St. Luke School mission statement:**

St. Luke is committed to the holistic development of each child put under her care. Our aim is for every St. Luke graduate to leave our school with the skills of a successful competitor in the arena of higher education, and the social conscience of a responsible steward of God's creation. St. Luke School is also called to the quest for social justice in our city and in our world. To this end, scholastic achievement is regarded as a vital step towards the empowerment of our students... to right the wrongs confronted in their young lives."

**Since 1910**

**St. Luke School**  
**Bronx, NY**

**Changing the world**  
**One child at a time**

Return Service Requested

**St. Luke School**  
608 E. 139<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY 10454