

Catholic Youth Today



SPRING 2015

THREE GENERATIONS OF DDA

CATHOLIC YOUTH TODAY

is published by the Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries on behalf of the teenagers and adults who make up our ministry and our benefactors who support our ministry

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DDA 241 participants Jaclyn Travaglini and Emily Caruso, and team member Abbi Munson and their families, including three generations each of DDA participants

EDITOR'S NOTE: Girls' DDA 241 took place on April 9 -12. It included three young ladies who were the third generation in their family to experience DDA.

Grandmother – Gayle Krug, DDA 95

This Grandma of 19 grandchildren was privileged to attend the closing of the last Girls DDA weekend. You may wonder why I say privileged... Well, my granddaughter made that weekend -- my first grandchild to make a DDA retreat! She follows her mother, her aunt and three uncles who were very involved in the program. Her Grandpa Clem was also involved with CYFM, as I was too. In fact, Jackie Gonzalez was the Rector of this DDA 241, and she made her first weekend when I was on Team. What an incredible blessing to return "home" this way.

Mother – Hope (Krug) Travaglini, DDA 88

I can't believe my daughter is now part of the CYFM community! After being involved in CYFM for many years... I'm back, but as a parent. Seeing my daughter off on her DDA weekend was an answer to prayer that started years ago... for this program to be here for my children. It seemed like a lifetime away, but came in the blink of an eye. This program helped me grow in my faith and molded me into the person I am today. I'm so grateful to the countless people who have given of themselves to keep the programs at CYFM alive. Prayers answered!

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CAPUCHIN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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THREE GENERATIONS OF DDA

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Daughter – Jaclyn Travaglini, DDA 241

After hearing about it for years... I was finally able to attend a DDA weekend. I knew this place was very special for my mom's family (even though my mom attended weekends up the road at the old youth center – my dad even proposed to her there!). On my way to Garrison, I was excited and nervous all at the same time because I didn't know anyone on the weekend. After I arrived, it was neat to meet people who knew my family from years ago. I enjoyed listening and learning from the witness speakers how they were able to use their faith in their lives. The weekend was better than I thought it would be and I didn't want it to end. I'm really looking forward to getting involved in

CYFM by becoming a team leader and participating in the summer mission work.



Gayle, Hope, and Jaclyn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Our recent popes, beginning with Saint John Paul II, have called us to the *New Evangelization*. Evangelization has always been at the heart of CYFM's ministry, so we must be especially attuned to this call. Just what is this *New Evangelization*? I can only give a brief sketch in a column like this. Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict, and now Pope Francis urge us to preach the Gospel with a **new ardor and enthusiasm**; to develop **new methods** of presenting the Good News to our contemporaries; and to discover **new expressions and imagery** that will speak to our culture and the hearts and lives of the people around us who hunger for God whether they recognize this hunger or not.

In a sense the *New Evangelization* is new because in the past, evangelization has been directed in large measure toward those who did not know the Gospel because they had not heard of Jesus Christ. The *New Evangelization*, while not neglecting such people, has a focus on the person and culture that have heard the Good News, yet have turned away from it. People who might have an intellectual knowledge but have not had the experiential knowledge of a personal encounter with Christ.

CYFM responds to this call with the fidelity and creativity that has characterized its ministry and community since it was founded more than 40 years ago. We began

last spring as we undertook the renewal of the Day by Day Agape retreat program. All the talks given by teens have been revised along with the activities and discussions that follow them. The committee has gone on to other parts of the encounter weekend.



This spring we have begun a careful and complete study of CYFM. With the help of the Capuchin Franciscan Leadership Council, an advisory body to the Province of St. Mary, we are reviewing the programs and services of CYFM. Trusting in God's Spirit Who guides all our efforts, we are asking, 'How can CYFM most effectively and efficiently utilize the gifts and resources it has to evangelize young people and their families according to the Capuchin spirit and charisms?'

Pray for and with us as we ask the questions and listen to the Spirit speak in the signs of the times and the needs of young people. No doubt we will be turning to our community for insight and input through this process. And join with us as we journey into the 'future full of hope' (Jer 29:11) to which God is calling and guiding us.

~ Tom Brinkmann

ASK THE PADRE

"They're doing what to DDA?"

DDA has influenced the lives of thousands of teenagers over the past forty years and it continues to have a dramatic effect on the lives of teens today. Over a four day weekend, participants receive a "little course in the Catholic Faith" in a way that brings the Catholic Faith to the heart of the teen candidates and adult participant observers. DDA changes lives and helps make our relationship with Christ more personal.

DDA has undergone some change over the years. So that it continues to be the vibrant retreat experience that it is, a committee of good men and women who love DDA and have experienced it themselves meet almost monthly to update the talks and activities in the language of teenagers today, while not affecting the basic message that still moves the hearts of young people. The heart of the DDA message is the definition of a Christian, which is "a person in whom and through whom Christ lives." Faith comes alive when that message, enhanced with the other presentations and witness talks by teens and spiritual directors, is taken to heart and not just head knowledge. The true



meaning of Christian community is experienced in a vibrant way and encouraged to continue beyond the four days. The goal of the DDA Renewal Committee is to keep that message vibrant for the young people that make the sacrifice to want to grow in their faith.

Young people are very busy today. To reach out to them and help them to keep their faith in the forefront is yet the work of another committee comprised of people with marketing skills to help us answer the question: "How can we better reach out to teens today and bring them to a greater awareness of what DDA and other CYFM retreats offer?" Knowing how tedious and time consuming the task is to renew and plan to reach out in the best way possible to young people today I am grateful to the members of both these committees. May we pray that DDA will continue to renew the Faith of thousands of more teenagers in the future.

Peace,

~ Friar Fred

"PRAISE THE LORD"

Praising God through our words, song, and deed is all that we are about at CYFM. If you go on a DDA or any CYFM sponsored retreat, teens encounter Christ through the praise and worship of our God. We especially witness the praise of God through our COP, Appalachian Mission, and College COP, service retreats. As you know, teens, young adults, and families come together on these retreats for one purpose, and that is to glorify God through prayer and service. St. Francis of Assisi was a man who praised the Lord through every part of his being. His life reflected the Gospel through his words, prayers, compassion, and love for all. St. Francis continually inspires us to transform through our praise to God in prayer, silence, fellowship, song, and especially in the Mass.



older and matured in my faith, I came to a deeper understanding that praising the Lord was more than just a feeling, or a lovely moment with God, but that it involved every part of my being. I needed to expect to be transformed and challenged to be more like Christ. Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 12, verse 1 and 2 states, "I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." This is one of my favorite verses because it tells me that worship involves making sacrifices in my life for the sake of glorifying God and conforming to His will for my life. To live a life of praise involves being open to choosing a life with Christ and reflecting his love and peace as St. Francis did throughout his life.

~ Fr. Marvin Bearis

COLLEGE CAPUCHIN OUTREACH PROGRAM (CCOP)

The first time I heard about Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries was this past December. It was at the end of my fall semester, and my friend Amanda Bielat, who is doing a year of service here next year, asked, "Hey, want to go on a service retreat the last week of Christmas break?" I love doing service and going on retreats, so I said "yes."

When I first walked in the doors at CYFM to attend the College COP 2015, I was a little nervous at first because I did not know anybody other than my friend, Amanda. But, after a few minutes I began to relax, because the atmosphere was so welcoming. I was greeted by all of the Cap Corps Volunteers, Fr. Marvin, and Fr. Fred. They instantly made me feel welcomed and at home.

Two words that I would use to describe CYFM, would be faith alive. I have never experienced any place like CYFM before in my life where my Catholic faith that I love was so alive. Nor had I ever been surrounded by so many people who were so passionate



about their faith. College COP was unlike any retreat I had been on before. Every aspect of the retreat from the witness talks, to the small group sessions, to my service site was amazing! One of my favorite aspects of the retreat was adoration. It was so powerful and I felt the Holy Spirit present within me.



This retreat was the highlight of my winter break. It was a good opportunity to meet new people who share my love for my faith. Most importantly, it was a great way to get away from the distractions and business of college life, and help me refocus and reconnect with God. College COP 2015 was my first time at CYFM, but it will not be my last.

~ Gina Morgese



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CAP CORPS PERSPECTIVE

Truth be told, youth ministry was something I never thought I'd do. For years my friends had been telling me that I was five years old going on eighty and in many ways they were right. I've always preferred a solemn Latin hymn to a soulful praise song. Even when I was a kid, I was never current on pop culture of any sort, and I still know more about WWII than the 90s.¹

Nevertheless, when I began looking to do a year of service, something attracted me to Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries. While shadowing one confirmation retreat with Fr. Fred, I saw a place full of people on fire with faith, full of Christ's joy, guiding hundreds of teenagers to a closer life with Him. I wanted to be a part of that; I knew I was home.



I never thought I'd be doing any of that stuff, but neither did I imagine this would be one of the best years of my life. Of course the jokes, games, and ridiculous stunts have been tons of fun. But more importantly, amidst the fun, I've gotten to see dozens of little miracles throughout the year. When you're giving a talk on friendship with Jesus and one of the kids stops to ask you, "Wait, so God talks to you? How does that work?" you know

you've gotten the wheels turning. When another kid asks, "What do you say to God when things aren't going well and haven't been for a long time?" you know they're on the brink of handing their burden over to Christ. When you're playing praise and worship music during adoration and all you hear is sniffing, you know that God is moving their

hearts and drawing them more deeply into His own.

There were surprises when I started as a Cap Corps Volunteer. I think I jumped a foot when I first heard the AMEN belted out after grace. And I wound up doing things I never imagined. I expected I'd be giving talks on the saints; but I never thought I'd begin one with a James Bond style entrance. Being the Classics nerd I am, I love all things Roman, but dressing up in a Roman skirt and lugging a 17 year old Jesus off a cross half way across CYFM's property was not in my plans. And while I'd heard goodbyes could be tough, doing it on College COP while dancing to the Sound of Music's "So Long, Farewell," was tough in a different way...

To be able to witness these sorts of little miracles every week, and to think that I've played even the smallest role in them is an amazing privilege. But that's just another day in the life of a Cap Corps Volunteer. I never thought I'd wind up here, but God's grace was waiting for me here at CYFM and I couldn't be more grateful for this year of service.

~ Joe Moreshead



¹ In the beginning of the year, I was having trouble starting conversations and Fr. Marvin was trying to help me. "It's easy, just find some common ground. Do you play video games?" "Never did." "TV shows?" "Don't watch it." "Music?" "If it's from 50 years ago." "Watch sports?" "Nope." "Fine, keep talking about the weather then."

Be In "Constant Contact" with Us

If you would like to receive E-mail announcements and reminders about upcoming events here at the center, go to our website (www.cyfm.org); click on 'E-mail Sign-up' at the top right of our homepage; fill out the form and click "Submit".

That's all you have to do to be in constant contact with CYFM!!!!!!

CAPUCHIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

If someone had told me this time last year that I could look inside myself and discover skills that would make me a great leader, I honestly don't know how I would react. I had never thought of myself as much of a leader. When one thinks of a leader, they think of someone outgoing and vivacious, two things that I'm not very good at. While on the Capuchin Youth Leadership Training retreat, I found my preexisting thoughts about leaders being torn down realizing that the qualities needed to become a leader exist in us all, and we just have to be willing to share them with the world.

I'll be the first to admit that spending a weekend learning about leadership doesn't appeal to all teens. Some would likely rather stay home and catch up on sleep. But trust me when I say this; it was one of the best decisions I have made in my entire life! Throughout the weekend I had the pleasure of meeting and becoming friends with dozens of other teens who sought to discover the leader

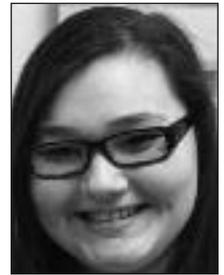


within them. Together we worked in groups where our decision making, listening, responsibility, communication, and commitment skills were tested. These tests proved easily accomplished once we were able to uncover the leader in us.

I'd like to say that finding the leader inside you is an effortless task, but it turned out to be quite the opposite. In order for one to tap into their natural leadership abilities, one must be willing to accept their own

faults, put other's needs above your own, and strive to be a role model for everyone. I can say with the greatest ease that the Capuchin Youth Leadership Training retreat has changed my life, allowing me to not only meet friends I'll have for years to come, but also aiding me with skills I'll need in my everyday life.

~ Ashton Moore



LIVING STATIONS

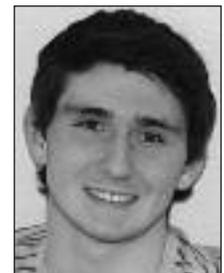
For my entire high school career, I have been in the CYFM Living Stations of the Cross playing all kinds of roles. It started my freshman year when I was just going to see it. They pulled me into the dressing room at the last minute and had me play one of the thieves alongside Christ. Then I went on to be Pontius Pilate, a Roman guard, and finally, this year as a senior, I was asked to be Christ Himself. Each performance was better and more faith-building than the previous, and it was phenomenal to literally live the Gospel instead of just hearing it.

It's always been a curiosity of mine as to what all of us look like when we act out all 14 stations. From our perspective we see the small mistakes we make and the minor improper movements that we think downgrade the portrayal. But then after we finish the reenactment and Adoration, the crowd always comes up to us to

congratulate and laud us, and I realize that those mistakes weren't what they saw. Particularly this year, as I was Christ, I realized that those minor flaws were completely invisible to the crowd. What they see when we perform the Stations is the love and compassion that Christ had when he was sent to his own death. When I was on the cross, I looked out and saw the CYFM community. But they didn't see me, they saw Jesus giving himself for their sins like he did 2,000 years ago.

Our life's goal as Christians is be Christ to others, and when I was privileged to live Jesus' story as in Living Stations, it was my proclamation that I am ready to live out that goal.

~ Michael LaValle



Going into DDA 240, I did not know what to expect. Friends and teachers who have been on the retreat told me to "keep an open mind" and "just have fun." I was not the strongest Catholic leading up to the retreat nor did I expect to go through much change. It was Thursday around 6:30 and I was headed to CYFM comparing the upcoming four days to my father's experience in "hell week" at Marine boot camp. I took the advice from my friends and teachers who have been practically begging me to go on DDA for a while.



Everyone that shows up for DDA is on the same page. Nobody knows where to start, but once you break the ice, everything is absolutely incredible. Saturday, we formed a strong community, and it was something special.

I went into DDA an 18 year old boy not

so strong in his faith, a little bit of a wise guy, and not really caring about other people. I came out an 18 year old man proud of his faith, aiming to respect everyone and wanting to make a difference. I am already registering for three more retreats as I want to become a better person and experience the community again. No retreat will be exactly the same, but I look forward to working with others searching for a common goal. I thank the team leaders for their inspiring stories.

Walking into CYFM, I was thinking, "I cannot wait to get out of here." But that night, I started to change. The next day, between singing songs and Eucharistic Adoration, I could tell something was different. I knew I felt happy, and doing all these activities with new friends made it better. I think one of the best parts of the weekend was the type of people I was surrounded by. They were all just genuinely nice people. The meals were great, but even better was the fact that we got to eat as a grand community.

Even if you are not strong in your faith, I highly recommend this retreat to all boys. You will without a doubt love the experience and become a better person. You will be a true role model.



~ Craig Manning

DDA NOTES:

DDA changes in the 2015/16 calendar:

October 9 - 11 is a **Boys'** weekend. It will *begin on Friday and end of Monday*, Columbus Day holiday, allowing boys to participate without missing a day of school.

February 12 - 16, 2016 is a **Girls'** weekend. It will *begin on Friday and end on Monday*, Presidents Day holiday, allowing girls to participate without missing a day of school.

Thank you!

We are ever so grateful to Michael Andriello (DDA 147, 149, 161, 187, 190, 197, 199, 204) for creating for us a DDA promotional video. "Thank you, Michael, for the gift of your time and talent!" View the video at www.cyfm.org, then click on "retreats"—and share the video with others.

ALUMNI CORNER - HEATHER MCCORMACK

I walked into my first retreat at CYFM attempting not to look as terrified as I was to spend the weekend with a bunch of strangers and monks. Two years later, I would be squeezed into an enormous white van driving down to Kentucky trying desperately not to make conversation with the man in a 13th Century robe seated next to me. Again, four years later I would be singing a solo in that tiny chapel hoping no one would notice that I was the one singing the verses to the alleluia.

It's now almost eleven years later, and it's almost laughable to think there was a time that I felt any discomfort about being at CYFM. I was brought to my first 7th and 8th grade retreat not quite kicking and screaming, but close by my dad who had just discovered these "Jesus freaks" in Garrison, NY. I loved it there. I loved meeting fellow young people from different high schools and made best friends I still have today.

I learned about my Catholic faith, what social justice meant, how to lead discussions, and how I wanted to live.



By idolizing the staff at CYFM, especially the Cap Corps Volunteers (CCVs), I wanted to do my part in helping society and growing closer to God. This past year, I've been a Colorado Vincentian Volunteer in Denver. I work as an education counselor at a youth homeless shelter teaching GED. I live in community where we discuss social justice issues and theology all the time. CYFM is the number one reason I'm doing a year of

service and planning to pursue a career in human services. Their Franciscan spirit is always with me, allowing me to love more than I ever thought I could.

~ Heather McCormack



Staying Up-To-Date with CYFM

We want to continue to keep you up-to-date on all that is happening here at CYFM, and appreciate your support and love of our mission. To help us save money on printing/ mailing costs, and to stay in keeping with our Patron Saint's love of all creation, we would like to invite more of you to move from our print newsletter list to the electronic format list.

We are reaching out to you as our friends for input; will you read the newsletter if it is sent via e-mail?

Will you consider making a donation if you prefer the print version?

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Another way in which you can be sure not to miss any updates about our community, events and retreats is to sign up on **Sign up for Email Newsletters and Announcements** on the right hand side of our website and notices will come right to your e-mail inbox! You can also friend us on Facebook and find us on YouTube and Flickr.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Andrea Carrera



When I reflect on my time as a Cap Corps Volunteer (CCV), I am overwhelmed with love and memories. Throughout college, I discerned doing service after graduating and was set on another organization. Considering that I am from California, some might say I found CYFM by accident. In my discernment, my spiritual director encouraged me to meditate with an image

of the Annunciation. Throughout my interview, I found myself praying for clarity, and then noticed the gallery of Annunciation images that adorn the hall outside the Agape room. I choose to believe that God wanted me to find CYFM.

From my interview to the CCV send off, I felt I belonged at and to CYFM. My community members and I weathered many trials and tribulations; we even memorized one another's retreat introductions and became 'famous' for impersonating one another. Even when I was exhausted on Sundays from leading retreats all week and weekend, the Sunday God's TYM meetings with my Sacred Heart/Most Holy Trinity teens provided countless opportunities of grace and solace. Serving on College COP, COP, and the Appalachian Mission afforded me even more opportunities for gratitude.

A unique memory is when we played live Clue as Disney characters. A unique CCV memory is the time we went to lead a retreat on Staten Island and forgot ALL of the retreat supplies in our other community car. We frantically stopped at Walmart on the way to buy new supplies.

When I think of CYFM, I cannot help but think of its crowning and signature retreat: DDA. Having experienced DDA as a retreatant opened my eyes to see what makes CYFM so special and what keeps calling the teens back for retreat after retreat – even after they graduate. Additionally, serving as a DDA team member opened my eyes to the beauty of the mentoring process

that helps shape and influence the transformative experience offered on every DDA. I am eternally grateful for the grace-filled opportunities at and through CYFM.



Currently, I am in my second year of teaching at a Catholic school in Fort Worth, TX, and finishing a Master's program through Notre Dame. In June, I am getting married and moving to Savannah, GA where I've recently accepted a position at St. Vincent's Academy School for Girls, teaching high school psychology and religion and doing campus ministry.

~ Andrea Carrera

A special note for families who work for IBM:

You can now find CYFM on the official list for the IBM Employee Charitable Campaign. If you give to that campaign, please consider designating your contribution for CYFM and help support our ministry with young people and their families.

SENIOR RETREAT

During the weekend of April 25th-26th, CYFM held a retreat specifically for High School Seniors of the CYFM community. On this retreat, we were invited to relax and just be open to the talks and services we would experience. Many of us had been to CYFM numerous times before, and we were all excited that it was finally the senior retreat, so relaxing was a little difficult. But we soon calmed and jumped into the weekend.

The theme of the weekend was "Let go, and let God." We had all heard the phrase before. As the retreat started, we did tons of fun icebreakers and games to make sure everyone was acquainted with one another. Then, we listened to a few talks as Fr. Marvin began speaking about his faith journey. It was funny listening to someone as faithful as Fr. Marvin speak about his time as a teenager/young adult. He helped us to realize that our faith life isn't going to be perfect, and that there is always going to be room for growth and improvement. Throughout the night and on Sunday, we listened to witnesses and talks about how God has a plan for each of us, and that He could never steer us wrong.



Now my favorite part of the weekend: adoration. Saturday night in adoration, most of us were expressing our intentions for our futures. Together we prayed that God would guide us. I personally prayed for His will to be done, not mine. Our plans aren't always necessarily what God has in store for us. When we lay in the Lord's presence, without fear we can put our needs before Him.

Making it through high school and Senior year was climbing over a mountain, especially with all of that Senioritis. There's no telling how many mountains we'll be climbing over in the next few years of college, or the rest of our lives. With God, we can break down barriers and climb over mountains we used to fear. The world is ours; it was given to us by God who longs to see us create peace, love, and joy throughout his creation. John 16: 33 says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!"

~Rachel Smith



What's Happening

June 2015 – December 2015

JUNE

Jun 28-Jul 2Capuchin Outreach Program

JULY

Jul 11-19Capuchin Appalachian Mission

Jul 24Cap Corps Volunteer Send off

AUGUST

Aug 28-30Capuchin Youth Leadership Retreat

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4-6Renew & Refresh Retreat

OCTOBER

Oct 9-12Boys' DDA Weekend

Oct 23-25Family Service Retreat

NOVEMBER

Nov 6-77th & 8th Grade overnight (Morality)

Nov 7-87th & 8th Grade overnight (Morality)

Nov 12-15Girls' DDA Weekend

DECEMBER

Dec 18Volunteer Appreciation Party

ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK before you plan!
www.CYFM.org

PLEASE NOTE that these dates and activities are subject to change.

THANK YOU DONORS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We thank our benefactors for their generous support of CYFM.

We are proud to recognize your gifts, which were made between December 15, 2014 and May 13, 2015.

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"Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries," a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order, a not-for-profit religious institution having its principal office at St. Conrad Friary, 30 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains, New York 10605.

For more information, please call our development office at (212) 564-0759 ext 252

Catholic Youth Today

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Catholic Youth Today

Compiled by
James La Grutta

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

2/9/15 – Anthony Yannitelli, son of Tony & Mary Ellen CYFM Office Assistant (DDA 225) Yanitelli; brother of Sal and Aubrey (7th & 8th Grade overnight Nov. 2014 & Jan. 2015)

3/1/15 – Robert Bouchard, father of Laura Ann (Bouchard) Hanley (LA 1997/1999) (DDA 160); father-in-law of James Hanley (LA 1999/2000).

MARRIAGE

9/18/14 – Diana Caporaso (LA 2006/2007) DDA 198 & 202 and Patrick Murphy were married.

DEATHS

3/18/15-Katherine Hardy, aunt of current Cap Corps Volunteer, James La Grutta (DDA 240)

4/9/15 – Jorge Kresa, father of Marta Iraola (DDA 215); father-in law of Tony Iraola (DDA 214); Grandfather of Anthony (CCV 2009-2010) (DDA 185, 214, 216, 219, 224, 231, 235 & 239); Joseph (DDA 216); Nicholas (DDA 201) and Veronica (7th & 8th grade overnight).