

# ST. CELESTINE ALUMNI News

*Enjoy the summer!*  
Celebrate our **Graduates**,  
Read about our interesting  
**Alumni**, and **Save the Date**  
for Upcoming Events...



Summer Issue

July 2016



## St. Celestine School



Mr. Michael  
Cousin  
Teacher



Mrs. Jeanine  
Rocchi  
Principal



Fr. Paul  
Cao  
Pastor



Mrs. Maureen  
Detty  
Teacher



### Class of 2016



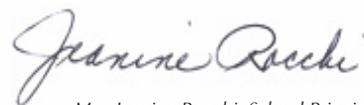
Van Gogh School Photographers Inc., Barrington, Illinois

## Welcome Our Newest St. Celestine Alumni!

Congratulations to all of our graduates from the cutest little Kindergartners to our newest alumni—the 8th Grade Graduates! We welcome 31 students, the Class of 2016, into the St. Celestine alumni family and wish all of them the very best as they continue their academic careers in high school and beyond. Charlene Guerrero is our Valedictorian and Emily Czachor is the Salutatorian this year.

Thank you to our wonderful and amazing teachers. We could not accomplish as much as we do in any given school year if it was not for our faculty, staff, dedicated parents, and a supportive parish and alumni base.

You are encouraged to visit our website to see how we are doing and take a virtual tour. We will be updating it this summer so visit often to see our progress. Please let your family, friends and neighbors know we are always welcoming new students to our St. Celestine family. Registration is open now and Organization Day will be Tuesday, August 9th, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Summer hours for the school office are Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Mrs. Jeanine Rocchi, School Principal

Celtic Spotlight on....

Class of 2004

# Dominic Clemente, Jr

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, 5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Name Cathedral our alum, Dominic Michael Clemente, Jr. was ordained a priest and became Father Dominic Clemente. There are many beautiful photos including the ones at this link [www.catholicnewworld.com/gallery.aspx?img=4&gallery=232](http://www.catholicnewworld.com/gallery.aspx?img=4&gallery=232).

Fr. Dominic celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Celestine Church, Sunday, May 22nd, 11 a.m. Mass. It was a great joyful celebration including a church full of family, friends, parishioners, alumni and more. Here is the thank you note from Father Dominic as printed in the St. Celestine Bulletin the following week. Recent bulletins can be found on the church website at [www.stcelestineparish.org/Parish/Bulletins.php](http://www.stcelestineparish.org/Parish/Bulletins.php).

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Thank you again for praying and celebrating with me at my First Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 22nd. It was certainly a beautiful celebration thanks to so many people and I would like to take some time to thank them. Barb Mares and Nancy Mueller were extremely helpful in the planning and coordinating of the whole celebration. Hugo Lugo and Pauline Cordell made both the church and gym look beautiful and very prayerful (as they always do). Linda Santelli and Patricia Rinella prepared the Altar for the celebration of Mass and I'm sure were very helpful in other ways preparing for the celebrations. The wonderful Women's club baked a variety of delicious desserts and the men's club was on hand with drinks. Sister Joanna baked some great cakes, too! Craig and the choir sounded beautiful and, as always, enhanced our worship together.*



Photo by Maria Malo



Photo from Fr. Dominic's Facebook Page

*Thanks, too, to all the people who helped with the setting up, serving, and clean up for the part and Mass. I am so grateful to you all for making the weekend so memorable and special for our whole parish community and the many guests who visited. St. Celestine has always been known for our hospitality, welcoming personality, and warmth. These are qualities I will be taking with me to my first parish assignment, St. Edward (4350 W. Sunnyside Ave. Chicago 60630).*

*In a special way, I would like to thank Fr. Paul for being such a supportive and loving pastor. Knowing Fr. Paul since I entered the seminary, I've been able to see his shepherd's heart and reap the benefits of his generosity more than once. We are lucky to have him at St. Celestine and he is lucky to have as wonderful a parish as St. Celestine.*

*Please, continue to pray for me as I begin my priestly ministry at St. Edward. Luckily, I am not far from home so I hope to see many of you and to be back at St. Celestine from time to time. You are all more than welcome to come visit me at St. Edward! Thank you all again for the love, prayers, and support! St. Celestine is truly a special place that I feel honored to call home. Know that I will be holding all of you in my prayers.*

*Also, if you're ever really bored, check out my website: [www.FrDominic.com](http://www.FrDominic.com).*

*May God continue to bless you all,  
Fr. Dominic Clemente, Jr.*

*Photos and text used with permission from Fr. Dominic.*

Celtic Spotlight on....

Class of 1982

# Geralyn Hesslau Magrady

St. Celestine alumna, Geralyn Hesslau Magrady was named winner of the **Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project (STBF)**. As stated on the STBF Facebook page, “This initiative has been created to discover the next great Illinois author by demonstrating the influence of libraries. All Illinois libraries are invited to nominate a self-published adult fiction author.”

Co-sponsored by the Illinois Library Association (ILA) and Reading Across Illinois Library Systems (RAILS), the award was presented to Geralyn on Thursday, April 14, 2016 for her recently self-published book, *LINES—*, a novel of Chicago historical fiction.



Geralyn at a recent book signing of *LINES—*

The idea for her book started over a decade ago when her genealogy work turned up an interesting fact that her great, great grandmother, Livia Haas, was living in Chicago prior to, and after, the Great Fire of 1871. After countless questions emerged as to what her ancestors might have experienced during that time. Geralyn gave them a fictional story.

Currently an English teacher at Fenwick High School, the new author explains that the research and writing came during her summer breaks when she could focus on the characters and historical events, thus the 10+ years it took to finally get to the point of publication.

Although she blogs and writes poetry and essays for her writing website, GLines (<http://www.ghesslaumagrady.com>), *LINES—* is her first book. It is available at Amazon.com. Geralyn resides in Berwyn, and was accompanied at the STBF announcement by her mother, Geri Hesslau (a long time St. Celestine parishioner), her husband Pat, sons Ethan and Liam, and three representatives from the Berwyn Library.

She also made an appearance and signed books at this years recent **Chicago Printers Row Lit Fest** which was held June 10-12th. If you would like to contact Geralyn you can find her on our alumni facebook page.



Geralyn receiving her 2016 *Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project* award April 2016.



Geralyn's *Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project* award.

Photos and text used with permission from GERALYN HESSLAU MAGRADY.

**Support Group for Alzheimer/  
Dementia Caregivers**

If you would like more information about this group please call the Pastoral Center at 708-453-2555.

**June 27th Golf Outing - Thank You!**

St Celestine Church would like to thank all those who participated in our golf outing along with all of our sponsors. It was a beautiful day at White Pines course. A big thank you to Laurie DePillo and Mary Kay Macchione who co-chaired the event!



**July 4th Elmwood Park  
Parade - Thank You!**

Thank you to all the scouts, families, parishioners, alumni and church organizations who walked the parade route and rode in the St. Celestine bus for the 4th of July Parade. Thank you for showing our community that St. Celestine is a vibrant and patriotic parish!

**September 10th Taste of St. Celestine**

Get ready for another evening of food from around the St. Celestine world. There will be great music, fun games and entertainment. You can purchase food and drink tickets at the Taste. Check out the photos from last year at [www.stcelestineparish.org/Gallery](http://www.stcelestineparish.org/Gallery).

**September 18th Fellowship Mass**

Meet your fellow parishioners and make some new friends just for fun! After the 9 and 11am Masses! Light snacks and beverages provided.

**September 24 & 25th Ministry Fair**

Learn about all the great ministries, organizations, and clubs at St. Celestine Parish. You may find a club that is right for you! After all the Masses.

**Save the Date! Fashion Show 2016**

All are invited to save the date for Friday, November 11, 2016 for the St. Celestine Fashion Show dinner and fundraiser. The school will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary with a night out not to be missed. Our Parents' Club is working on an amazing event and information will be posted on the school and church websites late this summer/early fall! Start thinking of your tables of family, friends and fellow alumni!

**Register for school now!**

Ongoing all summer...

**Registration for school continues...**

Please visit our website for school information and forms to register. Tell all those you know, Catholic education is wonderful! [www.stcelestineschool.org](http://www.stcelestineschool.org).



**Wish List...** If you, your company, or a contact you know can help us with the following please call the school office at 708-453-8234.

- Funding for technology infrastructure
- Student scholarships
- Funding for classroom projects
- Funding to help replace a leaky roof

**Anyone can contribute to our Annual Fund at any time. Please see the Fundraising tab on the website.**

**ST. CELESTINE  
ALUMNI**

All Alumni are welcome to use Facebook to find friends, class

mates and keep in touch about reunion information. If any classes would like to hold a reunion at the school or just visit for a tour before your reunion, call the office and let us know. Visit the school website and click on the alumni page for helpful information and to sign in our database if you have not yet done so [www.stcelestineschool.org](http://www.stcelestineschool.org).

**School summer office hours:**

**Mon. - Thurs. 8am to 1pm. Closed on Fridays.  
You may always leave mail at the Pastoral Center at 3020 N. 76th Court, Elmwood Park, IL 60707.**

The *St. Celestine Alumni News* is a biannual publication. If you or your company would like to sponsor a print issue, an ad can be placed. If you have any photos, text, or information to share or possible ad sponsorship please e-mail Maria at [development@stcelestineschool.org](mailto:development@stcelestineschool.org) for further information.