

# Clelian Heights Newsletter

# Shavings



Christmas 2001

*We, at Clelian Heights, have no expensive or luxurious gifts to offer in return for the gift of your friendship and generosity to us throughout the year.*

*In gratitude for your kindness, we will offer prayers for you and those close to your heart. We will place your intentions before the Christ Child as we pray by the crib in our chapel.*



*May the real but unseen blessings of Christmas-faith, hope and love-fill your heart and change your life in the New Year and forever.*



*Sr. Adrienne's  
Reflections on  
Clelian Heights*

Forty years ago some of our Sisters put their faith in God and ventured to Greensburg to open a school for children with special needs. The four pioneer Sisters were Sr. Celine, Sr. Geraldine, Sr. Athanasius and Sr. Maria. They opened the doors of Clelian Heights in October 1961 and began school with four students: Nicholas DePaul, Nancy Sue Stern, Robert Merlin and Anita Kunz. It is hard to believe that we already have forty years of history behind us.

I'm certain that forty years ago our pioneers would not have been able to envision the Clelian Heights that is here today. Sr. Maria is the last of the pioneer Sisters still living. She has witnessed the growth and development of Clelian Heights, and she can attest to the truth that God has guided and directed us in our mission. We would never have accepted the challenge to change and grow if we didn't believe that God was calling us to broaden and expand our ministry to meet the needs of our children and now adults with developmental disabilities.

Countless children and adults have passed through our doors. Some came for a short time and others have spent years at Clelian Heights. Many, including some of the Sisters, have grown up with Clelian Heights. Sr. Angelica, Sr. Clelia, Sr. Marietta, and Sr. Virginia spent most of their lives ministering to the children who came to live and learn here. The dedication of these Sisters and the lay staff, who also embraced our ministry, laid a solid foundation for our continued growth.

It is a blessing to be part of this year of celebration and thanksgiving. It is our hope that all of you will be able to celebrate with us in person or in spirit. We need your prayers to ensure the continued success of our next forty years of ministry here at Clelian Heights.

## 4th Annual

# Wholey Chicken Barbecue

**Good Food + Perfect Weather + Great Volunteers = a successful BBQ!** Sam Wholey and his family have been friends of Clelian Heights for as long as everyone can remember. This wonderful friendship began with Mr. Robert Wholey, Sr. and now continues through his son, Sam, who serves on the Clelian Heights Advisory Board and hosts the Wholey Family Barbecue each year.

Sam is to be commended for his faithfulness to this event that requires pre-event preparation, and then, a whole day of cooking chicken over an open pit. We are also grateful to his brothers, Bob and Matt, who came to support Sam's good work. This year we served well over 600 dinners which included half of a chicken, roasted rosemary potatoes, mixed vegetables, homemade applesauce, bread, beverages and a Klondike for dessert. Be assured that no one went home hungry!

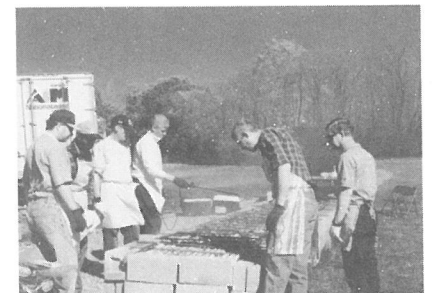
Many guests came at 3:00 and stayed until the last prizes were raffled at 6:00. Families with young children spent time enjoying the playground, and many adults leisurely walked to the back field to watch Sam and his assistants cook the chicken. This type of event requires a huge force of volunteers, and we were blessed with many willing hands.

This was a day of celebration and all who came were able to see the spirit of giving that makes Clelian Heights such a unique place. We are grateful to the families who donated gifts for the baskets and volunteered their time to help set up, serve, clean up and then purchased dinner tickets. We also solicited gifts from local and Pittsburgh businesses and from our Clelian Heights Advisory Board members. A special "Thank You" to The Redfern Company for sponsoring the raffle tickets again this year. The winners of the Cash Raffle were as follows:

- |                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| • Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guidi | \$500** |
| • Ms. Rosemary Kouche       | \$250   |
| • Mrs. B.J. Sunder          | \$150   |
| • Ms. Jill Zumbach          | \$100   |

\*\*When Mr. and Mrs. Guidi heard that they won they immediately donated the money back to Clelian Heights. Their daughter, Mary Beth, has been volunteering at our summer program for the past 5 years. The Guidi's are from New Jersey where Mary Beth attended a grade school staffed by our Sisters.

The barbecue and the appeal that accompanied its announcement raised about \$30,000.00 for Clelian Heights!



# Clelian Heights Celebrates

## 40 Years of Service



Where would we be today if you, our family and friends, hadn't been walking with us through the years? This is your year of celebration, and your year to Remember the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Secure the Future as much as it is ours. We have planned many different celebrations throughout the year, and we hope you'll be able to join us for some of them. There is a detailed calendar of events on the back page of this newsletter.

One event that I would like to highlight is our Anniversary Banquet that will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2002 at the Mountain View Inn located in Greensburg. We thought it necessary to have a grand celebration with Clelian family and friends at which we can recognize some who have been journeying with us for most of our forty years. We will be honoring the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, Sr. Maria Battaglia, Mr. John Nagy, and the Krystyniak family.

Each of these groups or individuals have played a significant role in the growth of Clelian Heights over the last forty years. The **Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust** is a Pittsburgh foundation that awards grants to local programs that offer services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

The trustees have donated more than \$1,300,000 to Clelian Heights over the years. This support has been used for many necessary projects and purchases that we would never have been able to afford without help from an outside source.

**Sr. Maria Battaglia** was just a young Sister when she was assigned to be part of the start-up faculty for Clelian Heights. She was the first

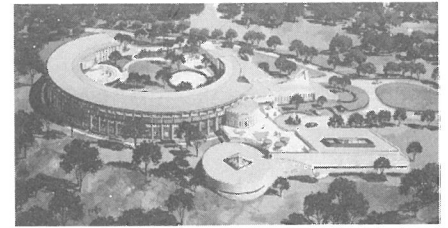
teacher in the small cottage schoolhouse, and she faithfully taught for many years. Sr. Maria succeeded Sr. Celine as Executive Director in 1976. Sr. Maria gave her heart to Clelian Heights in the beginning, and even though she has been involved in other ministries and lived other places, she has always professed her love for Clelian and the ministry that touches the lives and hearts of so many children and adults with developmental disabilities.



**Mr. John Nagy** has been a friend of Sr. Marietta and Clelian Heights for over forty years. Mr. Nagy first met Sr. Maria who then introduced him to Sr. Marietta. Their friendship continued over the years. Mr. Nagy served as General Manager and then, President of the Union Fruit Auction located in the Pittsburgh market area. He faithfully donated vegetables and fruit to Clelian Heights every month when Sr. Marietta would show up with her empty van.

Mr. Nagy's generosity did not end when he retired. Now he rises before dawn to meet Sr. Marietta at the market so that he can buy everything that she needs for Clelian Heights. Mr. Nagy's faithful generosity has made it possible for the children and adults of Clelian Heights to always have fresh fruits and vegetables.

**John and Margaret Krystyniak** became involved at Clelian Heights in 1967 when they enrolled their son, Paul, in the school. Paul participated in the school and workshop training program until 2001 when he moved into a group home that will provide lifetime care. John and Margaret



Krystyniak always supported the works of Clelian Heights by volunteering their services at events benefitting Clelian, raising public awareness of Clelian Heights and through their monetary donations.

When John was diagnosed with cancer in the early 1990's his sons, John A. and Mark, began the JPK Golf Classic to honor their father and to raise money for the Clelian Heights Endowment Fund. They have raised well over \$80,000 since 1994. We are grateful to the entire Krystyniak family for the concern they have shown for Clelian over the past 34 years and now we wish to publicly express our gratitude for their friendship.

Our Master of Ceremonies will be Mr. R. Bruce Bickel of the Private Foundation Management Services Group of PNC Advisors. Our keynote speaker will be Sr. Clare Millea, ASCJ, former teacher and Executive Director of Clelian Heights. Businesses, families and friends who want to help us pay tribute to our honorees will be able to purchase tables or seats for this dinner. We will also have a 40th Anniversary Tribute Book, and we will be selling ads that can be personalized to acknowledge Clelian Heights or one of the honorees. We want many of our friends to be present to make this a grand party in true Clelian Heights fashion!

*"Trust in the Sacred Heart  
and you will see miracles."*

*Mother Clelia Merloni*

## Development Office News

The end of 2001 is almost upon us, and it is a very good time to consider an end of the year charitable gift. Donations made before December 31, 2001 could result in a greater tax savings this year than they would in 2002 due to the changes in tax laws that will go into effect after 2001.

Charitable gifts can be given in the form of cash, securities, real estate, or life insurance policies. You can create a Winton situation by your charitable donation to support our ministry here at Clelian Heights. You, as a donor, receive a tax break and Clelian Heights, as the recipient, receives the private support needed to supplement our tuition and program fees. Please consider a special 40th Anniversary gift and join us as we walk into the future. We have changed and grown over the years when we have been prompted by the needs of our children and adults. May God lead us into the future in just the same way. Thank you for your years of faithful generosity to Clelian Heights.

### Grant Update

The Development Office continues to submit proposals to various foundations throughout the year. Listed below is a brief description of the projects that foundations and civic groups have funded since the summer of 2000. This list does not include gifts given by private family foundations or businesses that gave unsolicited contributions.

- **ICAN/ State Discretionary Fund Grant-** Seed money for dog biscuit business \$37,035.99.
- **Thomas Marshall Foundation-** Two-year grant to assist in the start-up of an inclusive preschool program \$30,000.00.
- **McFeely Rogers Foundation-** iMac for computer lab, \$1,000.00
- **Lulu A. Pool Trust-** iMac for computer lab, \$1,000.00
- **Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust -**Endowment fund \$100,000.00 and Outdoor lawn and maintenance equipment, \$30,000.00.
- **Community Foundation of Westmoreland County-** Window treatment for Chip's House, \$3,000.00
- **Delmont/Salem Rotary Club and Individual Members -** Forklift \$1,000.00.
- **Murrysville/ Export Rotary Club-** Forklift \$1,000.00 and carpeting for Chip's House \$1,000.00

### Be Prepared-

It is possible to remember the ministry of Clelian Heights when preparing your will. Charitable donations of this kind serve a dual purpose in that they provide estate tax relief for the donor and they benefit the organization that receives the gift. If you would like more information about estate planning or charitable contributions please call the Development Office at 724/837-8120.

## Clelian Heights Establishes Endowment Foundation

One of our parents just gave me a very pertinent quote that she observed on someone's bumper sticker: "Our faith in the present is built on our belief in the future." We believe in the future of our children and adults, and during this year of celebration we are making a concerted effort to secure that future by establishing the Clelian Heights Endowment Foundation.

We have been saving money in an endowment fund since the 1980's because we realized then that we would have to provide assistance in our world of rising costs. Our initial contributions came from donors who earmarked money for a long range development fund. This small fund grew slowly through careful investment policies and more regular contributions. The proceeds from the JPK Classic and the Wholey Barbecue have always gone into this fund.

This year we chose to separate our endowment savings from Clelian Heights, Inc. for legal purposes. A special board has been established to oversee the Foundation. We were hoping to have \$2 million in our Endowment Foundation by 2002, but in this time of tragedy and financial insecurity for so many, we may not hit our mark.

We will continue to strive to fortify our Endowment Foundation by the addition of all contributions to Clelian Heights through this year of celebration unless specifically restricted by the donor. We will draw a certain percentage of the interest for use at Clelian Heights to help cover costs that are not currently covered by tuition and program fees. Our expenses often exceed our income because all who pay privately to attend Clelian Heights receive a scholarship rate. It is our intention to keep Clelian Heights affordable for all who want to attend.

# Clelian Heights Pays Tribute to Four Special Friends

The United States faced a terrible tragedy on September 11, 2001 and our hearts were filled with pain for the victims who were killed in such a senseless manner and for the family and friends left behind to deal with the reality of this tragedy. We, at Clelian Heights, did not directly deal with the deaths of those that occurred in New York, Washington D.C. or Somerset, but we were not spared the grieving that comes when a beloved friend dies. We have lost four very special friends over the last few months.

**Joseph A. Calcutta, Sr.**, the father of Sr. Margaret Ann, died from natural causes on September 10, 2001.



Mr. Calcutta was a friend of Clelian Heights for many years. He was instrumental in establishing the greenhouse program, "Gardening from the Heart." This program gave the adults in the Clelian Center the opportunity to learn gardening skills from the experienced gardeners of the Men's Garden Club of Pittsburgh. These volunteers would come to Clelian and work side by side with our clients in the greenhouse. It was an incredible experience for all who expressed interest in learning how to garden. Mr. Calcutta was also responsible for framing most of the pictures that are hanging throughout Clelian Heights. He was an extremely generous man who believed in the mission of Clelian Heights and was considered to be an unofficial grandfather to many of the ladies living in Clelian apartments. His spirit remains in the works that he began and carried out so faithfully for so many years.

**Mrs. Ethel Greenaway Rathgeb**, the mother of our chaplain, Father Bill Rathgeb, died in her Greensburg home on September 26, 2001. Mrs. Rathgeb was a friend of Clelian Heights from the early years. She came out to visit the Sisters not long after they arrived in Greensburg and when Rathgeb Dairy was in business they always delivered milk to Clelian Heights. Mrs. Rathgeb was a frequent guest at Clelian Heights, and she attended most of our staff parties, shows, card parties, and other events. The children flocked to her when she would come to an event accompanied by Fr. Bill. We were blessed to have journeyed with Mrs. Rathgeb, and we offer our condolences to her sons, Fr. Bill, Dr. John Rathgeb, and Mr. Thomas Rathgeb and their families.



**Mr. Michael O'Brien**, who began working in the Clelian Heights Maintenance Department about a year ago, died after having a massive heart attack on Sunday, November 26, 2001 while visiting his son. Mike proved himself to be a fast and thorough painter, a tiler, a roofer, and a genuinely terrific guy. He accomplished a great deal of work in the time that he spent at Clelian. We are very grateful that we had the opportunity to get to know Mike and to witness his generous and selfless giving.



**Christian Redfern**, a young man who came to Clelian Heights when he was just fourteen years old, died unexpectedly on November 15, 2001. Christian spent ten years of his life residing at Clelian during the week and in New Brighton with his parents on the week-ends. He always enjoyed bringing in his new videos so he could watch them with all of his friends. Chris really loved listening to music of all kinds, and he could always be found right near the D.J. during any of our dances. His love of music also extended to the songs he sang in church. He always wanted to have masses videotaped so he could watch and listen long after the mass was over. He was especially interested in having Friday liturgies taped if he wasn't going to be present. Christian also enjoyed going bowling and out to eat with his friends at Clelian Heights. He always gravitated toward guests, especially Santa, and the happiness that he exuded made everyone feel welcome. The shock that we experienced on November 15th was unbelievable. It's hard to believe that someone who was so much a part of our daily lives for so many years will never come back. We miss Christian terribly, and we offer our prayers and condolences to his parents and his brother whose loss is far greater than our own. Now Christian is at peace, and he is able to intercede for all of us.



# 40th Anniversary Schedule of Events

If you are interested in helping us celebrate our 40th Anniversary, you might want to consider attending some of our upcoming events. They will all be fundraisers with the emphasis on FUN!

We will be hosting our first ever **Night at the Races** at the Harrison City Firehall. This is an event for all who enjoy a good meal and an evening of horse racing with friends.

We will also be having another first, a **Longaberger Basket Bash**, scheduled for April. If you know anyone who collects these beautiful baskets please let them know about our party.

## Please Mark Your Calendar Today

<i>Night at the Races</i>	<i>Feb. 16, 2002</i>
<i>Longaberger Basket Bash</i>	<i>Apr. 13, 2002</i>
<i>40th Anniversary Banquet</i>	<i>May 11, 2002</i>
<i>40th Anniversary Mass/Reception</i>	<i>Sept. 8, 2002</i>

R.R. 9 Box 607 • Greensburg, PA 15601-92131



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 134  
Greensburg, PA  
15601