

NANCY MORIARTY, Ed & Ken “A Parish Family”



There have been multiple Moriarty families involved with St. Anne Parish over the years. However, not all of them have been related to each other. This Moriarty clan started with Edwin and Alice Moore Moriarty when they moved to the bottom of Queen Anne Hill in 1940 and belonged to Sacred Heart Parish. Several years later, they joined St. Anne Parish when they moved to the top of the Hill. They had four children, Patricia, Edmund, Rosemarie and Mary Alice. All of them graduated from St. Anne School and received some of the Sacraments at St. Anne.

St. Anne Parish continued to maintain the long-term relationship with this extended Moriarty family. Both Patricia and Mary Alice were married in the original church at St. Anne. Patricia and Ken Gilroy remained in the parish and raised five children, Sheila, Paul, Colleen, Michael, and John, in the parish and school until they moved off of Queen Anne Hill. Mary Alice and Jay Lee also raised their five children, Monica, Mary Jo, Steven, Theresa, and Michael, here. All of them received some of their Sacraments at St. Anne. All of the four siblings passed away in 2014 and 2015 and were buried out of St. Anne.

Nancy Micheli Moriarty, daughter of Rena and Domanica (Dan Micheli, has been a member of St. Anne Parish since birth in 1937. Both Nancy and her brother, Louie, received the Sacraments of Penance, First Communion and Confirmation at St. Anne.

Nancy went to public schools and met at the convent one day a week with the nuns who taught her religion. She basically received individual teaching since there was only one other student besides herself at the religion classes.

Nancy was told by one of the nuns that her mother was going to hell because she wasn't sending Nancy to a Catholic School. Nancy started crying one evening; her mother asked her what was wrong. Nancy said "you are going to hell". Her mother immediately marched down to speak to Fr. Quain. Fr. Quain spoke with the nun and made her apologize. It was "fire and brimstone" within the church during that period of time.

Ed had fallen away from the church when Nancy met him. Fr. Henneghan was at the parish. Fr. William Traecy was a good friend of Nancy's family. They both wanted to start the Legion of Mary program (originally started in Ireland) at St. Anne. Members of the Legion of Mary would meet weekly and pray the rosary. "Eddy was the same age as Fr. Henneghan and started going with me. Fr. Henneghan told Eddy that he had to go to church if he wanted to marry me." Fr. Hennaghan started a class for individual's wanting to become Catholic; Ed started to attend those classes to become reacquainted with the Catholic religion. They were married in the original church in 1958.

Nancy basically started working with the homeless population when she joined the Legion of Mary organization. They wanted young men and women to join the group. Each person who joined committed to work two hours a week with a partner. They would call on fallen away Catholics. One of the priests would go and say Mass at various locations and would discover who may have fallen away from the church.

Nancy remembers meeting a woman who was 42 years old (Nancy was 21 or 22 yrs old at the time). This woman's husband had left her and she had MS with two children. The woman was very bitter. Nancy would bring her magazines and sit and talk with her. She eventually went back to the church as a result of these visits. The woman passed away one year after rejoining the church.

Nancy and Ed were married in the original church in 1958. They raised their family in the home that her parents built when Nancy was five years old. Nancy stopped with the Legion of Mary after having her first baby. Nancy and Ed had eight children, Barbara, Linda, Dan, Ed, Ken, Mario, Joe and Tim. Their children received the Sacraments at St. Anne

Parish and all attended and graduated from St. Anne School. Their son, Dan and Lori are currently members at St. Anne Parish. Their daughters, Ashley and Allison, also graduated from St. Anne School.

St. Anne is a very caring community. There have been great priests, for the most part, who wanted to help others. Ed indicated that St. Anne provides a sense of community, instills great values and the golden rule provided a good foundation. Both Ed and Ken said that their best friends are connected with St. Anne. These are the people who are always there for you; "St. Anne was the glue that held everyone together."

Ed and Ken remember having lots of preparation for their First Communion. It was a really big event where they got dressed up with a tie. One of them got to walk down the aisle of the church with his cousin which made it especially significant for him. Confirmation was also a big event. There were always celebrations in the hall after events such as these.

One of Nancy's sons remember loving to serve as an altar boy especially at funerals. They were able to get out of school and got paid \$5 each. After the funeral, they were to return immediately to school. One day, they decided to head up the street to Nelson's Grocery to purchase candy. They returned to the playground and started to sell the candy they purchased. They had shoved the candy in their socks when they got busted. Sr. Mary, the Principal, had them pull up their pant legs and licorice ropes fell out. She took all their candy and told them never to do that again.

Nancy loved the old fashioned original church with the choir loft and having church in the basement. Fr. Tracey would always say one of the 11 am Masses on Sunday. She remembers that the walls were painted blue and there was a maroon rug on the floor. Her mother always would light votive candles after Mass.

One of the houses across the street from the original church served as a nursery during Mass. Parents would leave the younger children at the nursery to allow them to attend Mass. Both Nancy and Charlene DeRosier worked in the nursery. Fr. Henneghan would give his sermon, and if he wasn't saying Mass, would head over to the nursery to play with the kids.

Ken and Ed remember one of the sisters who would tell the students to pray for the poor souls in Purgatory. They were afraid of the nuns because of their habits that they wore. They were scared that they might go to Purgatory, although they didn't really understand what Purgatory was and they were afraid to ask.

There was Sr. Theresa who was a tiny nun from Italy. She would pick the students up by their ears and the student would be put into the cloak closet. They had some lay teachers while attending St. Anne. Mrs. Orr was the 2nd grade teacher. The boys were big into hockey and thought she was the wife of Bobby Orr, but discovered she wasn't.

Nancy said her husband told her that his sister, Rosie, had to take the ruler to the knuckles of his hand. She was directed to do this by one of the nuns that taught them. He always felt this was to humiliate him. Eddy, however, taught his children to be very respectful of the sisters. If they got a call from school about one of them misbehaving, Eddie would assure the teacher contacting them that he would handle the situation and it would never occur again.

When Vatican II occurred, people liked having the prayers and Mass said in English and having the priest facing the congregation. It was a positive time and it changed the thinking of the rules of the church.

St. Anne is a very welcoming church today. She has heard from non-Catholics who have had funerals at St. Anne how wonderful it is here. Ron Ryan welcomes everyone. Both Ron and Fr. Tony are there for you when you need them. Nancy indicated she couldn't have gotten through the death of her husband without her own family and parish family.