Celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

Join Us on May 18th
A Message from....

Sister Cecilia La Pietra

Dear Partners in Mission,

As we prepare for the 25th Anniversary on Friday, May 13th, the Board and I want it to be a wonderful celebration of what has been, what is, and what will be as we move into the future. We are mindful of God’s providence and guidance as Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, aware of needs in society, were directed to the immigrant population in their neighborhood. We celebrate the successes of our students and the generosity of all who have been a part of their journey as teachers, board members, staff, and benefactors. All will be honored and celebrated for their presence as hands reaching out and hands receiving.

We will enjoy a wonderful cocktail hour, dinner, and Viennese table as prepared by Angelo and his Staff. There will be music, dancing, and entertainment, and time to go down memory lane with families and friends. This is our first In-person Gala in two years and we just need to enjoy and be happy.

I hope that you will come and celebrate with us. This year we will have a 25th Anniversary Commemorative Journal that will also be virtual and saved on our website. Please take a celebratory ad, or one remembering a loved one who was a supporter of the mission. We have sponsorships that will help defray the cost of the event. Please buy a limited raffle that will be picked that evening.

We look to the future of “One to One Learning”. The next five years are crucial as we work through the strategic plan for new administration and program operation, which will require an increase in resources. Let this Gala be a social and financial success, not only supporting our present needs but funding our legacy into the future.

Blessings and peace,

Sister Cecilia

Celebrating 25 Years!
We have started our Second Semester with 140 In-person and 55 On-line students.

Most of our In-person students have been vaccinated with only a few with appointments for their first vaccination. The process has been slow with a lot of education, dealing with fears and mis-information about the vaccine.

We want to share with you, our supporters, the progress of our students. Amidst all the life-changing happenings in our students’ lives, we continue to have a good enrollment and attendance.

**OUR IN-PERSON CLASSES**

- **3 Beginner groups**
  - 1 very new;
  - 1 into the second pack
  - 1 just beginning the text

- **7 Beginner groups 2021**
  - Started in September
  - Completed and tested Beginner Packet
  - Are now in “Side by Side” Chapters 4-6

- **5 Beginner groups 2020**
  - 1 group beginning “Side by Side” II
  - 2 groups “Side by Side” Chapter 14
  - 2 groups Chapter 9

**SECOND YEAR CITIZENSHIP GROUP**

- Fourth Year Literacy Group
  - “Side by Side” II Chapter 11

- Advanced Group-4th level
  - “Focus on Grammar”

- Pre-Literate Group

**OUR ON-LINE CLASSES**

- **TASC Preparation**
  - 2 groups

- **Pre-TASC Group**
  - Focus on Writing Essays

- **Advanced Citizenship Group**
  - “Side by Side” II

- **Advanced**
  - 3 groups
  - Ranging from Chapters 5-6

- **“Side by Side” II Intermediate**
  - 4 groups
  - 2 groups Chapter 2
  - 1 group Chapter 4
  - 1 group Chapter 9

- **“Side by Side” Beginner**
  - 5 groups
  - Ranging from Chapters 14-16
  - 1 group Chapter 8

- **Pre-Literate Group**
TEACHERS...  

We take time to celebrate our teachers who are the heart and soul of the organization. Their time and talents are so willingly shared with our students who feel that their teachers really care for their well-being. This is so important since immigrants live in an atmosphere in which they are not always appreciated and many times ignored or scorned. Our students respect and appreciate their teachers. One to One Learning is a community of acceptance, sharing and gratefulness.

Our newest teachers have been young people, among them, students from St. Thomas Aquinas College from the Education Department. In the Fall Semester we were fortunate in having Gianna LaRosa and Jonathan Capellan who were excellent teachers but who could not continue because of class scheduling at STAC. Gratefully, Alessandra Enderley and Blerta Aslanovic who taught in the Fall continued into the Spring. Jessica Reck who had taught for two years, returned for the Fall semester. Amanda Jane Fuchs-White just joined us and as an art major did some art projects with our children. As Education majors, the experience they get from teaching in this program is invaluable. At the same time, they bring their excitement and newness to their students.

We are a close-knit group. Just as most of our students come to us, recommended by present or past students, so do most of our teachers. Willy Aquilar, grew up knowing about “One to One Learning” because his mother and many of his relatives were beginning students, as young people coming from El Salvador. Willy had volunteered during High School and now, a student at Pace University, taught during the Fall Semester, also introducing his wife Claudia to teaching a group. Alfredo Castro, Board Member and in Finance at Mercy College, had taught when he was a student at STAC, returned to teach last year. Julie Keane, in High School, came to us recommended by her grandmother, Mary Taylor, a former volunteer. A mother and son team, Jennifer Fineran and Jasper Brady joined us, having heard about us from a friend. Clare LaDuke, our newest teacher and a retired teacher came to us from a recommendation of a new teacher Bill Kivlehan, his brother’s mother-in-law. Our in-person, new teachers, Eileen Wasserman, Candy Pittari, Rose Gavigan, Roberta Avantifiore were recommended by friends. It is all about being there for your neighbor and sharing the good news.

At the other end of the spectrum are our more seasoned teachers with lots of experience and who continue on because of special bonds and faithfulness to the mission:

27 years Sister Nancy Richter was involved in the Pilot Program for “One to One Learning”

11 years Paul Parsekian, Johanna Maye, Barbara Bedway, Ira Lipson

8 years Dan Callahan

5-6 years Linda Schwartz, Alexandra Lescaze, Dorothy Cox

3-4 years Terrance Amonica, Al Birkmaier, Ann and Red Rosen, Barbara Berasi-Rosen, Kathy Gnazzo, Genevieve Goswick, Marie Monteleone-Cohen, Mary Hagan, Monica and Jerry Powers, Oriel Eaton, Redmond Burke, Deacon Rob Pang, Robert Sbordone, Rita Sarubbi, Rosemarie Amabile, Martha Patterson, Vivean Yaker

2 years These teachers began teaching during the height of COVID, quite a show of commitment: Lori Grande, Marsha Lustig, Susan Hanna, Susan Fella, Theo Issari, Sylvia Blaustein.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our present teachers as well as those who have been with us through these 25 years. Our small-group learning method could not happen without the presence of so many faithful volunteers. We hope to honor them as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary.
Then and Now
by Maria Duy

When I was in my twenties, my big dream was to come to New York, work for a couple of years, and go back to my country, Ecuador. In 1999 I had an opportunity to come to New York. I left behind everything that I love: family, friends, job, even my language Kichwa that I was perfecting for my job as a teacher.

Here I started living in Queens with neighbors from Ecuador. It was not necessary to speak English because I was working with Spanish-speaking people in a dress factory. After one year I got married and moved to New City to be with my husband. One day he took me to meet his boss. He told me to say “hi” or “hello,” but for me it was so hard to pronounce any word in English. On that day I said, “Buenos dias.” I think he understood, but I felt uncomfortable and embarrassed. That day I said to myself: “One day I will learn to speak English.”

At first, I learned from people I worked for, and a couple months later I went to BOCES English classes. It was hard to go very often, between my job, family, my kids, and the worst part was I didn’t know how to drive a car. When my kids were at school, I couldn’t help them. My kids are now both in high school, in tenth and twelfth grades.

The years passed and now I feel like my dream to speak English became true in part.

In 2018 one of the ladies I work for told me about One to One Learning, and she gave me the number to call Sister Cecilia. When I called, she accepted me as a student. Now I am trying to practice my writing. It is a little hard, but this is my next goal that I want to achieve.

One to One for me is not only a school where we go to learn. It is a place where we can share our problems and what we need. I want to thank One to One for letting me be part of this big family. Thanks to my teachers Mr. Paul Parsekian and especially Ms. Barbara Bedway, for encouraging me to write and say, “I can.”

My first goal was to learn to speak English, but now my next goal is to write an essay, and more.

Then and Now
by Rosy Hernandez

When I first came to the USA, I was afraid: new language, new life, new everything! I was lucky that my sister was living here already, so she had a home for me.

I also was lucky that I didn’t have to learn English right away, because I worked with my sister cleaning houses. But everything changed when I had my daughter and needed to interact with doctors and then her school.

I went to BOCES in Nyack in the mornings, but the married life wasn’t easy, so I quit school. My daughter was growing up and needed more help with homework, and there was more interaction with teachers and more questions for her doctors. I remember in 2013 walking in Nyack Park down by the river, putting up my business cards on a message board, when I saw a flyer offering English classes for adults with the name “Sister Cecilia.” I thought they were going to talk only about God. But what caught my eye was that they offered babysitting, too. By that time I had my second child, so my husband, Edwin, and I went to school after work, and brought our two children, America and Eduardo. My kids were so happy to be there because there were more kids to play with, and the teen volunteers were always very nice, and helped them with their homework. They had arts and crafts, and they gave them toys, book, and snacks.

Unfortunately, our car broke, so we stopped going there.

One day Sister Cecilia saw me at the bus stop, and I was amazed she remembered me immediately! Also, since 2013, my beautiful teacher, Barbara Bedway, and I have been in touch. She is very special to me, always ready to help me and answer questions. When she told me about the remote classes, I decided to come back.

I think One to One is a pure-joy place, where you can find love and help from people who understand the needs and problems students have, and try to help quickly. Thank you to all the people who make this possible!
THANKSGIVING

This year as in 2020, outreach to students took the form of ShopRite and Stop and Shop Giving Cards of $75. In-person students received their cards on the Monday before Thanksgiving. Cards were mailed to our On-line students. These donations came from Albertus Magnus HS, St. John the Baptist Parish in Piermont, Leela Menon, and Karen DeMatteo from Cindy’s Pals. This year we did not get a donation from In-Serra Supermarkets, citing the great number of requests that they were receiving. Because of the number of our students and less money donated, we went to our Immigration Fund to purchase gift cards. Thank you to our benefactors to that fund.

CHRISTMAS

This year, as last, we were not able to celebrate La Fiesta de Los Reyes Magnus because of COVID. Hopefully, things will be better next year. However, this did not hinder our students from receiving gifts for themselves as well as their children. Our Circle of Friends came through with wonderful donations and we were able to make up family bags of clothing and children’s gifts. Every student received a grab bag clothing surprise.

Toys and games were donated by Albertus Magnus High School and West Nyack II Seniors. Thank God that we had surplus gifts for younger children from the previous years. However, we really were at a loss for older children. That is where the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill came in with help.

Sister Jeanine Nolan OP

Sister Jeanine was the Administrative Assistant at One to One Learning from 2007-2018. A time of transition to a fulltime operation at Marydell Faith and Life Center, Sister Jeanine provided her expertise in finances and administration And a caring heart to the students.

We are sorry that she could not be with us for the 25th Anniversary celebration. But she will be with us in Spirit.

IN MEMORIAM

Sisters Kathleen Gorres and Barbara Jane Falloon, Ceil Volpati and Tom McCabe

Senator Thomas Morahan

Msgr. John T. Mulligan

Ana Luz and Humberto Nazario

Maria Cartaya

In Memory of others who have been special in the life of “One to One Learning”

Many Dominican Sisters of Sparkill sharing their teaching experience from the start.

Senator Thomas Morahan

Provided the NYS grant for the purchase of the Van

Msgr. John T. Mulligan

Provided the space in Connelly Hall for classes for 10 years

Ana Luz and Humberto Nazario

Supported the original immigrants in Diplomat Housing

Maria Cartaya

Introduced us to the first students who lived in the Diplomat

Sisters Kathleen Gorres and Barbara Jane Falloon,
Ceil Volpati and Tom McCabe

Pilot Program

Judith Platt

developed the program and taught with Sister Cecilia from the beginning

Sisters Patricia Ann Reilly, Catherine Moran, and Margaret Murphy

Members of the Board

David Englander

teacher and board member.

Remembrance of Kate Gregg, teacher and benefactor, who recently passed
RESPONSE FROM OUR BENEFACTORS

We are grateful to you as you assist us in paying our monthly bills. Since our last newsletter, we have received the following donations totaling $23,270. We remember our friends and benefactors in prayer each morning.

William Josinger and Janet Keyes  
Gus and Liz Nolan  
Memory of Sister Jeanine Nolan  
Patty and Tim O’Neil  
Sophie Platt Pollock  
Memory of Judy and Frank Platt  
Sister Nancy Richter  
Mary Spengler  
Ugo Volpati  
Memory of Cel Volpati

Michael and Helen Brady  
Morrie and Marianne Brown  
Rita Callan  
Memory of Lily Callan  
Judith Dolfi  
Kerry Anne Hagerty  
Susan Hanna  
Jim and Mary Joyce  
Margaret Kromhout  
Memory of Bob Giacobbe  
Regina Kelly  
Memory of Sister Jeanine Nolan  
Marcia and Dennis Lynch  
Sisters Nora Doody and Elizabeth McAleavey  
Gwen Merolle  
Susan Petro  
Sister Catherine Rose  
Jody and Paul Richards  
John Scileppi and Lynn Rugiero  
Gino and Flavia Silvestri  
Memory of Sister Jeanine Nolan  
Michael and Marian Smith  
Chris and Susan Toher  
Mary Ann and Peter Turrise

Mary E Bickel  
Jo Capone  
Sister Margaret Carey  
Honor 2022 Diamond Jubilarians  
Sisters Maureen and Pat Conway  
Memory of Terry Chanda  
Sister Joan Correia  
Sisters Mary Dempsey and Kathleen O’Connor  
Regina P. DeRise  
Sister Aileen Donovan  
Sister Genevieve Dorrian  
Oriel Eaton  
Sister Ann Eigenbauer  
Memory of Sister Jeanine Nolan  
Joseph and Denise Ferrandina  
Eliot Freifeld  
Karen and Bob Lancellotti  
Mary Lemney  
Mary and Bill Loftus  
Diana Mena  
Gerald and Michelle McCarthy  
Julia O’Toole  
Sister Barbara Paul  
Honor 2021 Jubilarians  
Theresa Paladino  
Alice and Ken Parchinski  
Sister Maureen Robinson  
Sister Elizabeth David  
Ted Simone and Paul Johnson  
Sister Margaret Strychalski  
Joy Sullivan  
Memory of Sokira Varona  
Sister Anne Tahaney  
Roberta Zampolin  
Doris Zuckerberg  
Memory of Kate Gregg

DONATIONS TO THE IMMIGRATION FUND

This fund is earmarked for special needs of our students or other immigrants for food, rent, application fees, attorney fees, and special programs (EG nurses’ aid classes).

Cheryl Burton  
Phil and Paula Schonberg  
Mary Ann Turrise

Sister Leslie Block  
Mary Candullo  
Sister Amelia DeMarco  
Sister Susan Dunn  
Mary Ann Miller  
Andrea Dolce Singer

PARTNERING

Paid for cost of educating a student ($400/yr)  
John and Eileen Lawler (3 students)  
Peter and Mary Beth Modifieri (Memory of Chris Arroyo)

INSTITUTIONAL DONATIONS

- St. Francis of Assisi Parish-West Nyack $6,775
- Ridgewood Savings Bank, $2,500 Requested by Paul Fitzpatrick
- St. Anthony and St Paul School Mission Donation $529
- Knights of Columbus $300
- John Cardinal McCloskey Council 4565

FOUNDATIONS

ACHILLES FOUNDATION $10,000  
Memory of Frank and Judy Platt

THE EWIG FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

GIVING TUESDAY

Every year this Tuesday occurs in connection with the shopping days after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and supporting the work of Non-Profits on Giving Tuesday. This year, thanks to our supporters, Sabrina Greco, Sister Nancy Richter, and Cheryl Burton, who sponsored One to One Learning on their Facebook pages, we received $3,332. Thanks to all of you who donated to those pages. This year was our highest profit. Hoping that we might double that in 2022.
Upcoming Events

Friday, May 13, 2022
6:30 25th Anniversary Gala

June 15, 2022
8:00 Awards Ceremony

September 12, 2022
Classes Begin

Sunday, September 18, 2022
Star-Fest XIII

Interested in becoming a member of the One to One Learning Family?
Call Sister Cecilia at 845-512-8176 / 845-216-9799
clpangei59@gmail.com
and sr.cecilia@one2one-learning.org

ONE TO ONE LEARNING IS ON AMAZON SMILE
Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to us

GOODSEARCH (1 cent for each search)
GOODSHOP (% of your purchase price)