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Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

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Irish American Gratitude.

By

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As Charlie Colombo confidently predicted when they set the date for the wedding, November 10th would qualify as one of the nicest days of the year. The wedding would be spectacular, every bit as spectacular as if it was planned by her mother. The difference was that they were relaxed, surrounded by real friends who care about them. It was a joyful, spiritual celebration. There were photographers because word leaked about the royal heritage of Grace. A co-worker joked about Grace being a descendent of the pirate queen and the company's leading fundraiser. Charlie and Grace O'Malley planned the entire wedding with a minimum of effort, without a wedding planner. Floral arrangements were just enough to blend with the beauty of St. Paul's church. Grace had made careful notes from Dierdre O'Rourke who was married two months ago. It was a celebration of family and friends. The organist was playing a Beethoven symphony that Grace had chosen as the procession of the wedding party began, led by Dierdre O'Rourke Farrell, the smallest of the bridesmaids. You could light the Church with the radiance of her smile. Theresa Malone Garvey, who followed her, was equally as radiant. Each bridesmaid wore a gown that was in her closet at the insistence of Grace. Blending rather than uniformity was the order of the day. There were three women who were obviously pregnant, each in their fifth month. Pregnant Maria Costo Dowd, pregnant Theresa Malone Garvey, and pregnant June Gilliam Garvey were positioned, not by pregnancy but by size, Charlie's sisters followed, Rosellen Dowd, and Susan Boyd Garvey completed the procession of bridesmaids. Little Emily Colombo walked next with her basket of rose petals that she scattered as she had practiced for over a month.

Maeve Garvey Malone was the Maid of Honor, she was a friend of June, in fact was June's roommate. Both had befriended Grace especially in their senior year.

The organ blared a Puccini processional adding an Italian flavor to the wedding. Grace walked proudly with her father who was as radiant as she was.

It was an unusual wedding procession. Dierdre was an awardee of the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre for her heroics on the battlefields of Afghanistan. Theresa was an awardee of the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her heroics for saving the Garvey family from the Colombian cartel. Maria was a Cuban escapee and an American citizen, a Ph.D. in History. June, also a Ph.D. is bi-racial. Both are acclaimed authors.

Grace and her dad are descendants of Grace O'Malley, the Irish Queen of Connaught, Ireland. As the Queen of Connaught, she stood up to Queen Elizabeth by insisting that they speak only Latin to each other, the language of royalty. That attracted the press and photographers who positioned themselves in the rear of the Church. Nine priests from the Jesuit Urban Ministry, would concelebrate the Nuptial Mass with Fr. Fred Milos, the pastor of St. Paul's. One of the Jesuits, Fr. Damian Kelly, SJ, who conducted the pre-Cana for several of the people in the Church will preach the homily. Using a teaching strategy devised by Maeve Garvey Malone, Fr. Kelly was seldom seen or heard until each session was completed.

Joe O'Malley kissed his daughter when they reached the sanctuary, shook hands with Charlie and placed his daughter's hand into his. As they walked into the sanctuary, Jimmy Byrne led a joyful post Resurrection hymn. Charlie and Grace chose the hymns that would be known in both St. Paul's parish as well as at St. Dominick's, the parish of Charlie's parents, and Charlie himself, until he started attending Mass at St. Paul's with Grace.

Before Mass actually started, Fr. Fred welcomed all the visitors to St. Paul's.

He encouraged their participation in every aspect of the Eucharistic celebration and encouraged everyone to receive the Eucharist. He then repeated the exhortation in flawless Italian for the benefit of Charlie's family and guests. I ask you to take a minute to reflect on your personal sorrow out of Love for God, and I will grant a General Absolution.

Fr. Kelly delivered a soul stirring homily featuring everyone's share in the love and joy of Grace and Charley. He went through biblical descriptions of love featuring sacrifice and subordination of each to the other in marriage. He promised them that as great as their love is for each other now, wait and see how it grows as the years pass. He pointed out how Grace and Charlie worked through all the issues of marriage in a remarkable six months of pre-Cana. It was in the third month that Charlie proposed, and Grace accepted. Fr. Kelly went on to briefly describe how he admired their faith in God, their faith in each other, and their love for each other. He finished his homily with a dramatic presentation of St. Paul's panegyric on love. Tears were streaming down the faces of the congregation including the hard-boiled reporters at the rear of the Church. After the homily, Fr. Fred came down to their kneelers and Charlie and Grace stood and faced each other and exchanged their marriage vows, loud and clear so the entire congregation could hear them. Immediately after which they embraced in a kiss, after which Fr. Fred said, "now you may kiss the bride." They kissed again to the joy and applause of the congregation. This was a light moment that further personalized the solemnity of the event.

For an offertory hymn Jimmy and Bobby Byrne alternated verses of Leonard Cohen's, Alleluia, verses rewritten by an Irish priest appropriate for a wedding. Grace and Charlie chose it so the entire congregation could sing the Alleluias in the chorus. Susan had included the lyrics in the beautiful wedding booklet she had prepared as a wedding gift, something that would be stored by everyone as a memorable keepsake.

After the Eucharist was distributed Bobby Byrne sang, Panis Angelicus, the familiar hymn at St. Dominick's for a meditation hymn after receiving the Eucharist.

Again, Fr. Fred came to the kneelers, and Anthony Colombo, a nephew of Charlie held the tray on which rested the wedding rings. Fr. Fred said the blessing over the rings and sprinkled them with holy water. Charlie placed the ring on Grace's finger and then she placed the ring on Charlie's finger. Fr. Fred started the prayers to finish the Mass and blessed the congregation. Before anyone could take a next breath Fr. Fred said, "Now you may kiss the bride again and I pray that your life will be filled with hundreds of millions of kisses." Jimmy and Bobby Byrne led the congregation singing a rendition of Beethoven's Song of Joy. Charlie and Grace led the procession to the rear of the Church, followed by Bridesmaids and Groomsmen.

At the rear of the Church, Charlie asked the press to give them space to greet their guests. At Coral Gables you can join our photographer at the outdoor Chapel. Please send us a copy of the photos you take. We'll give a fifteen-minute interview after our photographer is finished.

The Gable Chapel at Coral Gables was appropriately adorned by an Italian horticulturist referred to John Garvey, the Club's owner and manager, by Charlie Colombo. A vacancy occurred through the retirement of the club's groundskeeper. It was a remarkable setting for a wedding and even more remarkable for a photoshoot. When it was finished, Charlie and Grace sat down with the reporters. The first question was about the original Grace O'Malley." She was indeed the Queen of Connaught, one of four provinces in Ireland located in the Northwest of the country. She was indeed a pirate who regularly raided English and Spanish merchant ships. She was briefly in the custody of Queen Elizabeth, and they spoke to each other in Latin, the accepted language of royalty. Elizabeth admired a strong and tough woman, and she was released on the promise that she would not raid ships flying the flag of England. We are several generations removed from her but, yes, she is a legitimate ancestor. She was a feisty lady. Look her up. There are several biographies.

Your dad is a billionaire, and you are still working.

I never depended on my dad's income. I worked during high school. I had a scholarship to college during which I also worked part-time for whatever money I needed. I started working for Sotheby's right out of college. I am now a Vice President responsible for University fund-raising. Institutional Advancement is its pretentious name. I wanted to be independent, and I am proud that I did.

Will you remain in Philadelphia? Yes! I own a home here. I volunteer for the Jesuit Urban Mission. We are parishioners of St. Paul's Parish. I have real friends here, Charlie and I both work here. Charlie's family and now, my father lives here. We are here to stay.

Charlie, you are an Engineer. Will you continue to work?

Of course, I have roots here as well. I grew up in St. Dominick's parish as part of a large family. Attended St. Joseph's Prep, married a woman who lives locally, and I am blessed with many friends here as you may have noted from the crowd in church. We are committed Catholics.

You had a long pre-Cana. Were you nervous about marriage?

"Not a bit. Pre-Cana was a learning opportunity of considerable depth. The concept was developed by my Maid of Honor and college friend, Maeve Garvey Malone."

Charley quipped that the experience was amazing. It was challenging. It was informing. It was confirming that we both made the right decision and Fr. Damian Kelly provided great support.

"Thanks folks. I'm sorry I had to limit this to fifteen minutes. You won't see us for at least two weeks. And we have a previous commitment to a lot of guests. Thank you for your courtesy."

"Where will you honeymoon?"

"In the peace of marital oblivion. The bar is open. Stop in for a drink."

The music from the Byrne's Brother's Band was slow and gentle. Guests were mingling, talking and enjoying themselves. Susan's Mom's assistant summoned the wedding party for the grand entrance to the thunderous applause from the high-spirited crowd. Each couple was introduced. The young cousins, Dominick, the Mass server, and Emily the flower girl, were in their glory. Emily won't forget this moment forever, at least until her own wedding. John got to dance with his sister, Maeve and Theresa had the opportunity to dance with Charlie's younger brothers. At a grand moment, Charlie and Grace, Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Grace Colombo were introduced as such for the first time for the edification of their many guests. They danced to a favorite tune of days long gone by, *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*.

The reception was spectacular thanks to Joe O'Malley and his collaboration with Ms. Boyd. Dinner was served as Bobby Byrne sang the Irish Wedding Song. You can't choreograph spontaneity, and spontaneity kept everyone on their dancing feet. There were Italian and Irish folk songs and folk dances. John and Theresa Garvey sang two Irish love songs, in Irish, and after the Tarantella folk dance that they also led, they danced to a slip jig and a series of Irish Reels. Bobby sang Nessum Dorma and Jimmy sang Che Galida Manina. Puccini was an enchanting guest at the wedding. Grace and Charlie made their rounds and stopped at every table. They thanked Fr. Jim and the Jesuits and asked them to be kind to Fr. Fred who was sitting with them. Grace kissed Fr. Fred on the cheek and thanked him for the wonderful celebration and his warmth for all the guests.

She also thanked Fr. Kelly with a kiss on the cheek for the homily that should be published for all the world to see and hear. Charlie's family were in their glory. They introduced Charlie and Grace to relatives he had never met who were so enthusiastic. A cousin said he hadn't been to church in years, "but you can bet your backside that I'll be at St. Dominick's next Sunday."

Charlie's mom and dad were tearful with happiness. Their first-born baby was now married, and he picked the most beautiful and the sweetest spouse possible. "No mom. It is all Grace's fault. She picked me." Everybody at the big table had a huge laugh. At Dave Garvey's table, with his wife Brigid now admitted to the young women's circle of friends, there was the obvious experience of love and warmth. Dave said that they would look forward to seeing them at Maeve's dinner on the eve of Thanksgiving. They went to the tables of the Bridesmaids and Groomsman to profusely thank them all. Grace hugged Susan to thank her for the amazing artistry of the folio for the Mass and the ceremony. It is truly a work of art. You should sell it.

"Grace, the muse only works when I do things out of love."

When Grace and Charlie cut the cake, they had a chance to address their guests. Grace thanked everyone for attending. Planning the wedding was fun and without stress, she had special thanks for her close Philadelphia friends, and special thanks for the wedding party. and she named all her bridesmaids who so generously embraced her and made her part of their lives. You have influenced and enriched my life and Charlie's immeasurably. She thanked everyone for their wedding gifts but reminded them that the value of the gift that they considered should be sent to St. Paul's. You all found the place, so you know the address. This money will help support the food pantry and the Thanksgiving Kitchen open house.

Finally, I want to thank Fr. Fred who has saved my faith. I love the Lord and his Church, and my friends from the Jesuit Urban Ministry. We'll have a lifetime of work ahead of us thanks to Dierdre O'Rourke Farrell, one our bridesmaids. Her creative mind and deep spirituality are even greater than her legendary heroic courage. We are also due for another Jesuit Gala next year, the brainchild of Groomsman Patrick Malone.

Charlie was equally grateful to his family and friends and the friends that he met and made when Grace invited him out for their first date. Everyone laughed. Charlie just said it was a true story. Then he introduced the groomsmen, his nephew Dominick and his niece, Emily. He thanked Fr. Kelly for six months of pre-Cana because they liked it so much. He also commented on the beauty of the homily. Finishing up he thanked everyone for their love. "The people who love each of us form and shape our lives. The people in this room are very fortunate that we have each other. That was part of the Gospel message today. Special thanks for Joe O'Malley without whom none of this would be possible, starting with providing the bride. Yes, the original Grace O'Malley was also a fund raiser. As the Queen of the province of Connaught, Ireland, she terrorized the British shipping lanes. My wife is her successor and I hope you follow our recommendation to fund St. Paul's food pantry. A lot of people will benefit from your generosity. May God bless you all."

The wedding cake and coffee was served. The Byrne Brothers whipped up a series of Irish and Italian folk dances. Bobby sang a Puccini aria, . and Jimmy sang the Ave Maria to which everyone slow-danced including, of course, the bride and groom, who didn't miss a beat of their banquet.

A pleasantly hung-over group gathered for the 10:30 AM Mass at St. Paul's the following day. The bride and groom were at an early Mass and by now were on their way to Mackinac Island. Joe Garvey joined them at Mass, his first outing without Grace or Charlie. Dave and Brigid were also there, so the senior group was well represented.

“Don’t we ever have spectacular weddings,” remarked Theresa? “I hope our children grow up to have as much fun as we do,” said Susan. “If they are watching their parents, you have to believe they will,” quipped Maeve. “Are you kidding,” said Dave, the father of all the Garveys! “We spent some time with Charlie’s family hoping they would be comfortable. They were in their glory, having a wonderful time. The family was very impressed with the Italo-Irish flavor of the wedding. Charlie told me that there were relatives that he never met before. They must have been impressed. Charlie’s mom was nervous about the cost of the reception.”

“Grace told me that her father insisted on picking up the tab,” said Susan. “Apparently Grace’s mother had her claim on Grace’s life from the day she was born. Her father let his wife have her way. She wanted Grace to be the Grande Dame of society, just as she was. She was preparing for Grace’s wedding while she was still in high school. She was aghast when Grace abandoned the company of cheerleaders and developed a relationship with her Italian boyfriend who belonged to the parish youth group and played basketball. He excelled on the court and in the classroom at Stamford. After graduation, he played on an Italian professional team, and the Italian national team and played in the Olympics. He made millions as a pro. After his injury, he had to retire and even though he is still young, he receives a generous monthly pension. He went to work as an American in the Italian Embassy. He married the Ambassador’s daughter. Grace says that if her mother had been able to live longer, she would have thrown a social gala for her daughter’s friend, the Ambassador. “How do you know these things,” asked Maria? “I have my ways,” said Susan. “But I’ll never betray anyone or reveal anyone’s secrets. By the way the Ambassador’s wife is wonderful. I hope Grace can involve them, in the Gala, for instance.”

“Dierdre, I thought you were the computer investigator,” asked June?

“Well, I just finished a successful project in Rochester, and now I’m working with John on a project for our firm. We can’t and won’t talk about it because there may be litigation involved. But working with John is fun.” “By the way, nobody has mentioned it, but Theresa is an accomplished hacker.”

“Shhh,” said Theresa. “I don’t want anybody to know about that, now that everybody knows.”

Brunch ended early from wedding fatigue. Fr. Fred did not come on that day. The babies were restless without having Emily to push them around in the carriages and play with them.

Later in the week, Dierdre and Dave made a presentation before the City Council about Dierdre’s Urban Renewal Project. Optics are important, so Joe McGreevey drive them to the City Hall in the firm’s limo. Dave knew all the Councilors and introduced Dierdre, who, of course, was well-known to them from the huge amount of publicity that she generated.

After hand-shakes and chit-chat, Dierdre settled into her presentation. Her presentation lasted an hour that went by rapidly with a power-point presentation. flash boards that Susan had skillfully prepared, and spiral bound booklets that outlined her presentation as an urban development project of the Jesuit Urban Mission. After her presentation, she gave them the opportunity to comment and ask questions. The mayor commented, “That is quite a project young lady,” I don’t mean to minimize it. I am impressed. A project like this will cost billions. How can we pay for it?”

“Sir, responded Dierdre, “The Second Ward gets the lion’s share of Federal Funds for ‘infrastructure.’ It is also the Ward that embraces the lion’s share of per capita wealth among our citizens, and that definitely increases their lobbying power. Many of the other Ward’s are deteriorating from a lack of support. We have lobbied strongly with the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives, and we have the direct support of

the President. That doesn't mean we won't have to fight for the money, but it does put us in the ring. We have a long way to go before we spend any money or have to ask for it."

"Ms. O'Rourke, thank you for your heroic service. What is the next step that you want us to take?"

"Obviously this has to be considerably refined. What I am looking forward to is your commitment to take the next step. I would like to work with your Urban Planners. There are many surface projects we can study such as traffic patterns. linking parks throughout the city, re-examining zoning laws to build neighborhoods rather than skyscrapers. Meanwhile, while that is being addressed, we can critically plan the development needs of the city. The Jesuit Urban Mission is in the 11th ward. The needs of that community are those with which we are most experienced. The Fourth Ward has a serious need for flood control and new water and sewage pipes. Philadelphia is a beautiful city. With Philadelphia's history it could be and should be the shining city on the mountaintop, even though we have no mountaintops, and a beacon and model for every American city that is experiencing deterioration.

The Mayor said, "Gentlemen, I recommend that we take these ideas, work with our planners and take cautious steps forward. When we get a handle on the costs, we'll look for the money." Agreement was unanimous. The Mayor asked, "What is your involvement, Dave? This is a little out of your jurisdiction."

"I'm the Chairman of the Board of the Jesuit Urban Mission. Dierdre, as I mentioned earlier, is a Board Member. She has the talent and ingenuity to make things happen. She is a walking genius, as you may have noticed. She has proven her mettle in over fifty combat missions. There really much, if anything, that describe her. I believe this project has merit. Philadelphia is her adopted city, and she certainly has my support."

"Thank you, Dave. We'll go forward. This meeting is adjourned. I'll speak with our planners and direct them to work with you. Thank you for coming to us."

Dave and Dierdre collected their materials, shook hands with everyone, and gracefully left the building. It wasn't until they were a block away from city hall that they laughed and bumped knuckles. "Thank you, Dave. You provided credibility. I'm thinking that I wouldn't have gotten to first base without you. This project is so big, I can't do it justice in an hour's presentation."

"All politics are local, Dierdre. You set the table nicely, but you really caught their interest when you talked about infrastructure projects that they know they need, that would be a good beginning step. Money is always an issue. Initiative is the other issue. We can provide both and these guys are really good at their job, and you just promised them the tools to do their job. We can start with low cost, visible projects that lay the groundwork to reimagining the city.

Leaving Mackinac Lake was a sad task for Charlie and Grace because they were quickly swept up in the old-world ambiance. There were no automobiles. They did take a romantic horse and buggy ride around the lake. They took long walks together on the trails in the woods, the fall foliage still spectacular. They enjoyed the meals with fine dining at every sitting. Most of all they enjoyed the company of each other and making love for the first time in their lives. For first-timers, they rocked each other's world. Each embrace was innocent, free, and intensely passionate. Everything they did together was also innocent and erotic from the cloud of love with which they shrouded themselves. They had previously expressed their love for each other in so many delightful ways, but this was the ultimate when they just melted into each other.

Alas, a weekend was too short, but their next adventure was a cruise down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. The hotel livery service took them to a local airport for the short trip to Chicago where they were to board the Mississippi Queen, a 5-deck luxury paddle boat. Both Charlie and Grace travelled for

business and their companies usually booked them at the most luxurious hotels. However, the luxury of The River Queen was something else again. Their stateroom was over one thousand square feet, with a sliding glass door out to very comfortable balcony. They were on the fourth deck. Attendants are selected for their charm and courtesy, and they couldn't do enough for Charlie and Grace. They had a huge king-sized bed, comfortable chairs in the room, a TV screen almost as large as a movie theater screen, a lovely coffee table suitable for snacks and drinks, a walk-in closet with drawers. Everything was in good taste without any hint of tourist gaudiness. Dining would be on the second deck and evening entertainment would be provided in a theater, also on the second deck.

The first deck provided pricy shops, a drug store, and video games, mostly for children. All of this luxury was part of this Mississippi River paddleboat steamer. The first stop was at St. Louis followed by Natchez, and Memphis, finishing at New Orleans. There were two and a half hour stops to view the battlefields at Vicksburg, The WW II Museum, and the Civil Rights Museum plus four days of all-day river cruising. The distance of the trip was 1000 miles.

Before the ship even left its berth, Charlie and Grace decided to try out the king-sized bed. Like children in a new playground, they frolicked around the bed, laughing hysterically, until the crowning glory of just melting into each other. They were having honeymoon fun. They didn't remember if St. Paul said that love is playful. If he didn't, then he should have, Playful is the interaction of love that is the Trinity of God that resulted in creation and how blessed they are for enjoying that. Love God, love each other is the highest creative calling of marriage. God must be very pleased with Grace and Charlie because their love is constantly nourished by their deep spirituality.

They didn't go to the battlefield. Charlie started reading a Nora Roberts paperback while Grace napped. Both enjoyed their outdoor balcony and the all-day cruising. The WWII Museum alone was worth the trip. They were stunned by the Civil Rights Museum and the presentation of the 2700 Jim Crow hangings, the perpetrators were never caught, in most cases, never even pursued. They were also surprised that though they were highly educated, they never learned about the contributions of members of the Black community to Science and Medicine, as well as the clever inventions that made life easier for all Americans, the extensive body of literature from the minds of great professors and the presence of Black leadership at all the great universities of America, as well as the contributions of Blacks in all the great companies of America. "Charlie, I didn't know anything about this. I would love the opportunity to do a study of the Black experience and their contributions to American life. I am really struck by the contributions of Black Women. Any time I come to Memphis, I'm going to ask the company for an extra day just to do research. Jon Meacham is the Chairman of the History Department at Vanderbilt. Whenever I am there, I'm going to ask for some of his time."

Dinners aboard ship were fascinating. They enjoyed the company of the guests they met and promised to stay in touch with them. They exchanged personal business cards.

New Orleans was an adventure all by itself. They ate at the great restaurants, Charlie did a quick survey of the levies and pointed out the strengths of the newly reinforced levies and the potential weaknesses he was sure that engineers were addressing. They enjoyed walking through the French Quarter and enjoyed purchasing "touristy" souvenirs, especially the cookbooks of the great chefs, and beads her friends could wear to church. They also had a far more expensive collection of gifts purchased on the ship.

On the plane on the way home Grace talked about the wonderful shower their friends celebrated for her. She never had the opportunity because the guys had a bachelor party for Charlie. Charlie was so excited he talked about it all week and Grace let him just ramble on. In the plane, he was going to be a captive audience for at

least four hours. He was excited that Grace's dad and Dave Garvey were part of the celebration in a private room at Bookbinders. Charlie's dad and brothers-in-law was also present and had a wonderful time. It wasn't really a shower for Grace. Showers provide gifts for the bride to get started in life. Grace had lived alone for a few years and had as many gadgets as Maeve. But her spa day was fun and the evening with her girlfriends couldn't be duplicated anyplace. Her friends touched her soul with genuine love. She enjoyed friendships at Immaculata, but nothing like the warmth she experienced from her St. Paul's friends. At college June had the camaraderie of the basketball team and Maeve had the special camaraderie of her equestrian teammates. Though they were friendly with each other, she really didn't make a connection until their Phi Beta Kappa induction. When they had their special day in town, she experienced for the first time that friendship was a form of love.

They went separate ways after college. Maeve received her Law degree and became an attorney only to start a public relations business the hard way, built from the ground up. June taught high school, and no one ever knew that she was the top women's basketball player in the country, an All American, as well as valedictorian. She studied for her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, among the best of the academically elite Ivy League schools. She published her dissertation that has become the current last word on the story of African American women in Philadelphia from emancipation to the present. Yet, she genuinely wanted to become the President of the Jesuit Urban Center. She built on the strong foundation that Theresa built from the start-up. and now she is expecting a baby next March. The money has rolled in, partially thanks to Dierdre and now they are looking forward to their second Gala in the fall of next year.

Actually, Charlie was amazed and grateful since he was still in the process of getting to know the Garvey clan and their relatives. Fr. Fred and Fr. Jim were also their in casual clothes.

When they landed at Philadelphia, Patrick was there to pick them up in Maeve's big van.

On Monday, Dierdre and John met with Dave and Ed Ciczek to discuss the information they had and evidence that would certainly support the conviction of sex offender, Sal Nicosia, a Department Director for Garvey Legal Associates.

Back at Dierdre's office, Jerry Boyle come in with his report. Tuition for the four boys was paid with notes from the investment account of Mrs. Nicosia. She did receive a discount. She promised that all four of her boys would register. So, the tuition total was half the regular fee.

Sal did well at the school. He never had any trouble. He was an outstanding football player. That and his good grades got him to Villanova. After graduation he was accepted into Law School. He never had obvious problems at Law School and had no problems with students and their families. I started tracking down girlfriends at Villanova. Understand that these are three women in their 40's who have great experience with careers and families. Here is where I found the problems. He dated several women at Villanova, but problems popped up. He never had a long-term relationship. He was known to be "handsy" and sometimes abusive. As word got around, he had a great deal of difficulty dating women. He tried dating undergrads, but the word spread around that he was "bad news." In those days at Villanova you had to be tough to be a female student in the graduate schools and even more tough to be an undergrad. Sal apparently never saw that memo. This is anecdotal to support the direction you are taking but is hardly evidence. He did well at Law School, even winning a couple of prizes and scholarly citations. That is what caught Ed and Dave's notice. "Catholic School, honors student, Hey, what could go wrong?"

Dierdre replied, "If we are conned by that, we better start making a checklist of behaviors we want to investigate."

“I’ll talk with John and see who will speak with his wife.”

The next report came from Patricia Scoloppini, one of the sweetest women in the department and a retiree from the Philadelphia Police Department. She was as tough as they come, a veteran of the Vice Squad, though there was no evidence of that in their work together, thus far.

“How did the week go?”

“Great, I resigned this morning. I thought I was going to have a little fun, but it was really a sad atmosphere. Veronica Lefkowicz is really a sweet person, and this wasn’t a career opportunity for her. She told me that she throws up before work and again after work. She just needed a little money to help cover basic expenses. She had no idea who Sal was. He was using a fictitious name. Apparently, no one knew him. The letters that he wrote were passed around for giggles. No one could guess his profession. He was considered to be a poor excuse for a man who didn’t have a satisfactory sex life.”

“How was your week of work?”

“I thought it would be fun and I could tell my husband about all the sexual techniques we missed out on. It wasn’t. It was really a sad experience. I was grateful when Veronica left. I was right behind her out the door. We definitely know from our in-house investigation that Sal used their services. However, he used a fictitious name, paid his bills in advance with cash by sending them money every month.”

“What company name and bank routing numbers were on the check you received?”

“I have it here. Frank Terolla and the bank is Patriot Savings. Isn’t that the bank where our victim’s father works?”

I’ll alert John to that. I’ll also give Terolla’s name to John and see what he comes up with.

“So that is the plan, Joe. What do you think?”

“How did we ever live and conduct investigations without computers? John certainly has enough material to make a case. But we still don’t know enough about Sal. I have a feeling that we have to keep probing. There is too much obvious information missing. For instance, is it a common practice for private schools to offer tuition cuts for multiple sibling students. Was there coercion and if so, by whom, and what is the connection to Sal’s parents.”

“That is interesting. I’ll give that note to John as well. You are considering a link to one of the crime families.” Dierdre fired off an e-mail to John with the information and suggestions.

The next day she had a reply from John. “Good pickup, Dee. That account is owned by Salvatore Nicosia doing business as Frank Torella Associates. I wonder what else Sal owns on the side. I’ll continue searching. His uncle, his mother’s brother was Salvatore “Salty” Tortorella, a Pennsylvania Capo Regime for the Boiardini Family. What are we stumbling into? I want to do a little more digging before I meet with Sal’s wife. Speak with my Dad. He may want to alert the FBI. Dee, you and I should never mention our association with this case. We certainly don’t want to put ourselves on a Mafia hit list”.

Excitement for the holidays began to build after Halloween. It wasn’t that long ago that Thanksgiving introduced the Advent season, culminating in the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas. Now with the challenge of Internet sales, stores are intensely advertising as soon as they reasonably can. The Christmas

season now starts with All Saint's day. The fun of the exchange of Christmas cards is diminished by the expense of postage stamps. On their honeymoon, Charlie and Grace picked up some interesting gifts in Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, and Louisiana.

Maeve's annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner was an event that no one wanted to miss. It was at this dinner that Susan met Maeve's brother, Michael, the first step to their eventual marriage. It was where Brian and June connected, Grace and Charlie had one of their first dates there, the date that determined that they were now deeply into a relationship. At the same meal, John began to develop an interest in getting to know a possible relationship with Theresa. With extra help at Bookbinders, Desmond Dowd was able to accompany his wife, Maria, and be with her the entire evening. Dierdre and Tom enjoyed the festivities and the affection of their friends. And, of course, Patrick was one of Maeve's first dates at what was then a small Thanksgiving party. Rosellen and Tom were present at this party for the first time. While she denies it, Maeve bought the adjoining apartment just for these parties. She never had parties in her apartment until she started dating Patrick. Another nice touch, Joe O'Grady escorted Susan's mother. This was her first date since her first marriage, now annulled.

Dave and Brigid thoroughly enjoyed the company of the young people and their two grandchildren. The next Thanksgiving, there will be five.

The night was thoroughly fun-filled with ringing laughter and babies passed from person to person. Dierdre distributed her gifts to everyone as did Grace. It was almost like a Christmas party as everyone oohed, aahed, and laughed.

The meal was fantastic, and Maeve celebrated harder than anyone since she didn't have to cook or clean up. Fr. Fred came in after the preparations for his Community-wide Thanksgiving Feast the next day. The next morning, Fr. Fred celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00 AM. Maeve was the first to slip into a pew, Maria slipped in next to her, Susan followed, and Theresa followed. The last ones in were Dierdre and Tommy. Brian and June were on their way to spend the weekend with her parents. Grace and Charlie would be at St. Dominick's with Charlie's mother. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Irish American Gratitude.

ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - NOVEMBER

1st

1883 - Mater Infirmorm Hospital in Belfast takes in its first patients.

1920 - 18-year-old Kevin Barry executed for killing a British soldier.

3rd 1841 - Foundation stone is laid for St. Malachy's Church in Belfast.

4th

1957 - Éamon de Valera attends the coronation of Pope John Paul XXIII.

2001 - Police Service of Northern Ireland established.

5th 1992 - The Irish government loses a vote of confidence and the Dáil is dissolved.

7th

1924 - Amnesty declared for politically motivated crimes committed during the Civil War.

1940 - Éamon de Valera lets it be known that Irish ports will not be handed over to the British.

1990 - Mary Robinson is elected seventh President of Ireland.

8th

1949 - Street names in any language other than English are banned in Northern Ireland.

1960 - Nine Irish soldiers serving with the United Nations are killed in the Congo.

1987 - The IRA kill eleven people at a Remembrance Service in Enniskillen.

9th

1907 - The Irish International Exhibition ends after six months.

1919 - Labour leader James Larkin arrested in New York for attempting to overthrow a government.

10th 1966 - Jack Lynch receives his seal of office as the new Taoiseach.

11th 1997 - Mary McAleese inaugurated as the eighth President of Ireland.

12th 1957 - Brendan Behan's Borstal Boy is banned by censors.

13th 1991 - Defence Secretary Jim McDaid resigns following criticism of his attending an IRA funeral.

14th

1866 - St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast is dedicated.

1923 - William Butler Yeats is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

15th 1985 - Taoiseach Charles Haughey and British PM Margaret Thatcher sign the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

16th 1994 - The Fianna Fáil-Labour coalition collapses.

17th

1890 - Captain Willie O'Shea divorces Kitty O'Shea, naming Charles Stewart Parnell as co-respondent.

1926 - Following the killing of two gardaí, President W.T. Cosgrave introduces the Public Safety (Emergency Powers) Bill.

1948 - The Republic of Ireland Act 1948, aimed at repealing the External Relations Act of 1936, is introduced in Dáil Éireann.

19th

1913 - Irish Citizen Army founded by James Connolly to protect workers in the general lockout.

1971 - An Taoiseach Jack Lynch holds talks with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

20th 1936 - General Eoin O'Duffy leads 600 men to fight for Franco in Spain.

21st

1920 - Bloody Sunday. Following the assassinations of 14 undercover British agents by Michael Collins' men, British forces kill 12 people at a GAA football match at Croke Park.

2001 - GAA abolishes 'Rule 21' so that members of the security forces and British army can play.

22nd 1932 - Prince of Wales opens the new parliament building in Belfast.

23rd 1867 - William O'Mera Allen, Michael Larkin and William O'Brien are executed at Manchester.

24th

1922 - Erskine Childers is executed for the possession of a gun which Michael Collins had given him as a Christmas present.

1995 - A referendum in the Republic narrowly passes in favour of allowing divorce.

25th

1890 - Charles Stewart Parnell re-elected leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

1892 - Douglas Hyde delivers a lecture to the Irish National Literary Society on 'the necessity of de-anglicising the Irish people'.

1913 - Irish Volunteers founded.

1948 - The Republic of Ireland Act is passed in Dáil Éireann.

26th 1998 - Tony Blair becomes the first British Prime Minister to address the Oireachtas.

28th

1863 - First edition of The Irish People.

1905 - Sinn Féin founded.

1913 - Andrew Bonar Law addresses a huge Unionist rally in the Theatre Royal in Dublin, encouraging Ulster to resist Home Rule.

1920 - Flying column led by Tom Barry kills 16 Auxiliaries at Kilmichael in County Cork.

29th

1955 - Bord na gCon set up under the Greyhound Racing Bill.

1979 - Taoiseach Jack Lynch greets EEC heads of government in Dublin.

1999 - Ten designated ministers appointed to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

30th

1947 - A sixty day transport strike ends in Dublin.

1956 - Petrol rationing is introduced in response to the Suez Crisis.