

ISTITUTO “SAN GIOVANNI EVANGELISTA”

Memories.



ISGE ROMA Paritario D.M. 4.12.2001
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GREETINGS FROM FATHER ANTONIO

8 June 2021

"Dear Students, dear Parents, dear Teachers, dear School Operators, I turn to you all, the "souls" of our ISGE School, after this year and a half of relationships, lessons, "suspended" meetings and of times and rhythms of a school and of life itself upset, to tell you that I too, like all of you, have been put to the test by this new and unpredictable situation, but I have continued to hope, pray, reflect, study and work, like you and with you, so that the seeds sown before and also in this time may come to maturity and bear good fruit.

We are satisfied, despite the unprecedented difficulties encountered, to be able to successfully conclude the school journey begun with you young people who are preparing to take the State Examination. I am happy for you that, in this situation of school "in presence" and school "at a distance", you will have at least one advantage: that of having, as last year's final year students did, all your professors present on the Examination Committee and that it will be they, who know you personally, who will accompany you to this important goal of your final year.

The San Giovanni Institute closes, with you, its long journey dedicated to the education of children and young people. There are many satisfactions to put in the basket of good things achieved. First and foremost, the possibility given to many generations, which have followed one another since 1949, of an education under the banner of values inspired by the Gospel, under the protection of Mary. We thank Mary and Jesus for giving us, the Marist Fathers, the opportunity to carry out our mission in the field of education for so many years. We have put our passion, our sensitivity, our faith in this mission, at the service of the educating community.

To all of you, from the youngest to the oldest, who this year will "leave us" without being able to shake hands, I wish you a beautiful, meaningful and true life. To you and to your parents, I simply say: THANK YOU! For this part of our journey together and for growing up together.

Together with you and your loved ones, I would also like to thank the teachers of the Kindergarten who, with the masterly support and coordination of the Headmistress, Professor Elena Schirano, have always worked with professionalism and dedication, guaranteeing the continuation of your educational process with willingness and generosity, even in this particular phase. A heartfelt thank you to the administrative staff and to the school operators who have ensured, with their usual availability, the concrete possibility of contact and logistical and technical support.

I pray for each one of you and for your families, for a future rich in satisfaction, always inspired by love for others, welcome, joy, and the highest values that we wanted to transmit to you.

A heartfelt thank you and a warm greeting to all"

Fr Antonio Airò s.m.

Roberta Mestichella



GREETINGS – HEADMISTRESS!

"I have never abused my power of speech. I don't like making speeches. I prefer, by nature, to be more present on the operational level, discreetly and silently. But I thought it appropriate, this time, in spite of the restrictive measures of COVID, to take some time to speak to you, the last pupils of the Istituto San Giovanni Evangelista, to the teachers of today and yesterday, to all the school staff whom I have had the opportunity to meet over the years.

I will not abuse your listening patience and I hope I will not bore you.

Today is one of those days when there are, in all of us, conflicting emotions: In you, the pupils, there is the joy of the conclusion of a journey in your lives and at the same time also the sadness, still barely perceptible, for an unrepeatable phase of your lives, with the inevitable abandonment of knowledge, habits, routines to which, in the years to come, you will look back with nostalgia, with affection; in us, there is the satisfaction of having worthily completed a commitment made to you and to your parents and also the sadness for an experience that concludes, however, a great mission of the Marist Fathers in Rome.

It is worth remembering that ISGE's 'adventure' began in 1948, in the midst of the post-war period, when human, civil and religious reconstruction needed to be considered alongside material reconstruction.

It was a time when large agglomerations were being built outside the historical centre, and most of them still lacked structures. The Marist Fathers, urged on by the Vicariate of Rome, bought a 11,000 square metre plot of land in the new district of Piazza Bologna and, with enormous sacrifices, built a school and parish church and set up sports fields that proved, and continue to prove, providential for the area. The building was constructed in 1948 and the school began in 1949. Underlying this choice was the conviction of the Founder of the Society of Mary, Father Jean Claude Colin, who said that, through education, one collaborates with God in the formation of the human person, as in a second creation.

Our Marist Fathers have interpreted the vision of the Founder in the best possible way, from the first to the last day of school, carrying out in their "IGNOTI E QUASI OCCULTI" way a very precious service to so many generations of children and young people. We wanted this day to be held together for one reason: to express our affection, our gratitude, our appreciation and our

appreciation to them, to the Marist Fathers. These are the feelings that prevail today. We are happy for what has been done, for what has been sown, for the road that has been travelled.

The Holy Mass celebrated today is not the usual end-of-year Mass, it is a Mass of thanksgiving and joy for what has been achieved.

Some time ago, I received a letter from a person I do not know, but which struck me very much. I want to read it to you because it is from there that the idea of today's day started, and the joy that I feel prevails over the sadness, which is certainly not absent.

It is the joy that comes from knowing that we have done everything we could, right up to the end, right up to the last day. This is the letter:

"I attended ISGE from 1997 to 2004, first the Middle School and then the Classical High School, until I graduated in the 2003/2004 school year.

I am deeply grateful to the Marist Fathers and to the teachers I had, for the scholastic preparation and method of study they taught, which enabled me to cope brilliantly with university studies.

Even more, I am truly grateful for the human, Christian and ethical aspect of the training, for the constant attention to respect for others, to the value of the uniqueness of each person, to the exercise and care of ethics in relationships, in study and in work that they have been able to transmit.

Teachings that are rooted, alive in me, that I remember and try in my own small way to apply.

I will never be grateful enough to my parents who believed in the Marist educational mission and enrolled me in San Giovanni. I have been truly blessed.

Thank you very much!

Roberta Mestichella

Former student (1997 to 2004)".



Elena Schirano – Principal.

Roberta's is an important message, which made me reflect a lot and so, FROM THAT REFLECTION, this FEAST OF THANKSGIVING that we are celebrating today began to take shape.

I contacted a number of former pupils, teachers, parents, administrative and school staff and asked them to write a thought, a sentence, a memory, a testimony that could express their relationship

with San Giovanni. Something that came from the heart, without a doubt, without a doubt, but something that would be an expression of the past.

Something that came from the heart, without formality.

They did so, and what came out was an abyss of gratitude to the Fathers who have succeeded one another over the years. I will send all these thoughts to Father Martin, the Provincial, and I will give them to Father Antonio so that they can feel the satisfaction of the work done, so that they can feel the gratitude, the recognition, the affection, the closeness that so many people feel towards them.

Every action carried out in these years has the profound sense of the germination of seeds.

The Fathers have been a little like farmers, preparing the soil (the time of discernment), sowing (the time of formation), waiting (the time of expectation, of reflection), trusting in the mercy of the weather (the time of trust in God), working hard (the time of activity), reaping the fruits (the time of harvest). And then there is the time of thanksgiving.

There are many names of Fathers that have come up in the thoughts of the people who have written to me. Unfortunately, I only know some of them. Many are no longer with us, but we want to say THANK YOU to all of them. I mention them in no particular order, without chronological order:

P. BALLARIO - P. AGOSTINO - P. MACCARINI - P. LUIGI - P. VELUCCHI - P. IONTA - P. ANTONIO - P. GRANERO - P. LORETI - P. LO GIUDICE - P. PRESUTTI - P. SANTINI - P. SERAFINI - P. SOMMAZZI - P. DEL RE...

Many other Fathers have certainly filled the corners of San Giovanni, sowing goodness, seriousness and respect. Our thanks go today to all of them, "unknown and almost hidden".

From the letters I have received there emerges the style that has characterised these years of educational activity. From all of them emerges the sense of "community", of "family", of joy, of serenity, of trust, of human "promotion" that the fathers have been able to create in the pupils, in the teachers, in the school staff. It is not a common style and is therefore all the more precious.

ATTENTION LISTENING WELCOMING: these have been our watchwords. There is also a common trace of gratitude in the words that parents, former pupils, former teachers have sent us.

In all these years the world has come and gone from San Giovanni.

What do I want to say? I would like to say that many figures have brought their prestige, their value, their professionalism and their charisma to meet the pupils of our school. It is impossible to

mention all the personalities, but it is impossible not to mention the meeting in the school gymnasium with Pope John Paul II in 1983 or the meeting with the President of the Republic, Sandro Pertini, in 1984, and then the many personalities from the world of culture or sport who wanted to bring their experience and their testimony into San Giovanni.

And the world came out of San Giovanni. I am referring to the many generations of students who have come out of here to live their lives in society, to pursue their professions, to make a name for themselves through their training, taking with them a little of the style that characterised San Giovanni. Young people like yourselves who today are writers, artists, directors, teachers, priests, professionals in various fields and who continue to carry out that mission of 'collaboration with God' that was their formation.

"TODAY EVERYONE OF US BRINGS WITH US NOT SO MUCH A MEMORY OF SAINT JOHN, BUT A SEED, A PRECIOUS CORN" writes Carlo D'Amicis, a former pupil, writer and RAI collaborator whom we have often met here at school and in the television studios, where many of our pupils have had the opportunity to meet and interact with so many personalities from the cultural world.

And he is right. Together with our memories, we carry with us a precious kernel that will bear fruit throughout our lives, which will not be exhausted in a single harvest but will continue to sprout. Always. That is the power of education, of good education.

This is the thanks we all give to the Marist Fathers.

I would like to add my own.

Eight years ago, when I arrived here called by the Fathers to run the School, I thought that the task would last no more than three years. They have not been easy years, there is no point in hiding it. In every institution there are days, bright periods and others that are more tiring, more difficult, harder. And those first three years were tiring, difficult, hard. When the congregation then had to realise, for various reasons, that it was no longer sustainable to continue the scholastic mission, it would have been much easier for me to conclude my experience and return quietly to my life. Instead, I wanted to continue until the end, until my last day, to share with the community of Saint John every moment of difficulty, every anxiety linked to the material life of each one, to reassure, to make each one feel how important and precious each one is.

Running a school of 1,500 pupils, as I did before coming here, is demanding. But it is no less demanding, I assure you, to run a school, a very small one, like this one here today, gathered in this chapel.

I am happy to have been with you, right to the end, and, together with my thanks to the Marist Fathers, I thank you all, pupils large and small, parents, teachers, professors, school staff, administrative staff.

Like all of you, I too will carry with me not so much a memory as a living seed that grows and germinates. And which reproduces itself throughout life.

Thank you all.

Father Martin, the Provincial, and Frank Dowling, the Marist contact person for education, have sent us a small souvenir gift from St John's. I thank them for their sensitivity and will be pleased to give it to each of you.

Thanks again to everyone!"

Elena Schirano

Principal of ISGE since September 2013



Luciano Fagiolari

"72 years have passed since 1949/50 and, thanks to the work of the Marist Fathers, St John the Evangelist has been able to grow, improve and maintain its strength and vitality over the years, becoming a benchmark educational facility. A school that everyone knows and still appreciates.

For me, as an employee, it has been a long, wonderful journey lasting 38 years.

I know every corner of this school and each one reminds me of something or someone: episodes, people who will always remain in my mind.

It has been a truly wonderful experience, which has broadened my knowledge, which has allowed me to grow in human and professional terms.

Today, at the end of this last school year for ISGE, I feel it is my duty to say goodbye and thank you to the people who have been part of my career and life for a long time: the Community of the Marist Fathers.

I have been able to appreciate your openness to dialogue, your generosity, your dedication to the needs of pupils, families and employees.

The sense of family, of group, of community that you have succeeded in creating and making breathe within this Institute.

A special thought goes to the Fathers and colleagues who are no longer with us.

Some of them welcomed me with affection when I was very young, and in the years we spent together they taught me so much.

They will all remain forever in my mind and in my heart. Thank you for all that has been done in these years, for the atmosphere of serenity and cooperation in which we have worked.

Thank you, Marist Fathers, for being present at the most exciting moments of my life: my marriage, the birth and baptism of my daughters. Thank you also for your closeness and support in sad moments.

I cannot, because it would be too long a list, and I do not want to name names. There are so many Fathers I have known that I would risk forgetting someone unjustly. But to all of them goes my appreciation, my gratitude, my friendship.

To the Fathers with whom I have shared these last few years of work and commitment to St John's, a sincere thank you for having always placed great trust in my work.

Last but not least, a thought of esteem and affection goes to 'our' headmistress. She has managed St John's for the last eight years. She has done this with great professionalism and, working tirelessly, has managed to reorganise the entire activity of the school.

She is a very well-prepared, authoritative headmistress, but also a kind, sensitive person, always ready to listen, talk and help, who has quickly become our point of reference.

It was a pleasure working with her.

A big hug."

Luciano Fagiolari (ISGE secretary since 1983)



Adele Rizzo

"I am ADELE, one of the teachers at the ISGE kindergarten.

When Father Antonio Airò and the Headmistress Elena Schirano proposed to me six years ago that I should collaborate in the project to create the preschool section as coordinator, I was frightened. I

admit that I only accepted thanks to the enthusiasm and immense love for the teaching profession I exercise and the trust they gave me.

This is how the wonderful adventure at San Giovanni Evangelista began, supported unconditionally by all the management, secretarial staff, school operators and teachers. The cordiality, positivity, availability, attention, openness to discussion, and collaboration made it possible for me to breathe a family atmosphere in the Institute, and today I thank the Lord for having included me in the extraordinary project of the Marist Fathers, certain, even though the adventure is over, that I will always continue to be part of the Marist family.

I thank everyone one by one, aware of having become, thanks to you, a better person".

Adele Rizzo (nursery school teacher since 2015)



The final year students of the Liceo Scientifico-Sportistico.

"Dear all of St John the Evangelist Institute,

we would like to write you a small thought from our side, as we were the last pupils in the last class to attend ISGE.

You have welcomed us with open arms and we thank you for these five years alongside you, full of friendship, joy, fun and much study. We will miss the "I haven't studied", "I'm not coming to school today", "help me with this assignment" expressed by us students in moments of difficulty and anxiety.

We would like to thank the teachers for guiding us along this path and for being very patient with us because of our liveliness.

We would also like to thank Cinzia for supporting us on our way to maturity. We would like to thank the kindness of the secretary who allowed us to print and photocopy the notes and the book when we did not have them!

We would like to thank the Marist Fathers for giving us the opportunity to use their beautiful facilities with ample space which allowed us to have a moment of leisure and fun with our companions who are now considered family. Thank you for the values you have transmitted to us through this school.

Finally, a special thank you goes to our dear Headmistress who has welcomed us from the first year onwards and has allowed us to grow culturally thanks to the study trips organised. She has not only enriched us culturally but has also managed to create wonderful relationships with all the school staff and especially with our classmates and teachers.

Thank you for having accompanied us on this school journey made up of many small moments and many great experiences that we will always carry with us!

Thank you all!"

The students of the final year of the Liceo Scientifico-Sportistico.



Franco Colajanni

"I joined the Marist Community of ISGE as a pupil back in 1975 and left as a teacher in 2016, after 28 years of teaching.

The memories are many, strong and intense.

Even today, we former students and teachers are bound by a thin thread that will unite us forever.

We are scattered throughout the world carrying out the most diverse activities, some have formed splendid families, others have made different choices, but we all have a stamp on our foreheads: the mark impressed on us by the Founding Marist Fathers who formed us and educated us according to an educational and faith project that makes us recognise ourselves among many, giving us that uniqueness typical of those who have experienced San Giovanni at first hand.

Our gratitude for the Community of the Marist Fathers will remain forever alive in our hearts."

Franco Colajanni (former pupil and former teacher)

Matilde Del Gallo

"Along the journey that the Marist Fathers have made with the children and teachers, forming generations and lighting the way for children, adolescents and adults, Colin's charism has combined Faith and Culture, accompanying those who attended the Institute through bright days and dark days, along stony paths and through flat places.

Each one, from now on, will proceed along the road that he or she must travel, without regrets, but not without a dream: that of always having, like a North Star, what the formative effort of the Fathers has patiently woven over these seventy years.

Matilde Del Gallo (insegnante di Italiano e Latino nei Licei dal 2012)



Rita Di Domenicantonio

"My relationship with St John the Evangelist was very special. What you establish in a family. And that's not a figure of speech. I met the fathers in 1954, the year I was born, because Father Dante Serafini, one of them, was my mother's brother.

On 1 October 1971 I entered the Institute as a classical high school student: it was the year the girls entered. (In alphabetical order, I was the first girl to graduate from high school at I.S.G.E.)

I went back in January 1981, as Father Granero's assistant in the secretariat. I worked at his side until September 1999, dividing my time between the secretary's office and substitute teaching in all classes, in all grades.

In September 1999 I became a teacher in the primary school until it closed.

In 1985 my son Damiano was born. It was wonderful, but also very difficult because he was not well. The fathers put up with me and supported me in every way.

They allowed me to be as close as possible to my son and they allowed him to live the school years "well".

I had all of you close to me in the days of greatest sorrow at his death.

You were with me at his funeral,

What do you want me to tell you about St John the Evangelist? It's my family.

I can't tell you everything that's in my heart in a few words.

Rita Di Domenicantonio (former pupil and former teacher in the Primary School)



Rita Fasciano

"I have 'lived' at ISGE for more than 25 years! They have been the most significant years of my life. I 'lived' the first ones with trepidation, fear of making mistakes and the desire to do well. The following years I "lived" with lightness, reassured by the constant practical, moral and spiritual support of all the Fathers who, by granting me their full trust, welcomed me and confirmed me in their noble and ambitious formative project. I have "lived" the last few years with that thin veil of melancholy that envelops every traveller at the end of the journey... They have all been years lived intensely, with the joy and awareness of being part of a large, protective, welcoming and generous family. All the Fathers I have met along the way have a special place in my heart, and to them goes my heartfelt gratitude for allowing me to grow and progress not only as a teacher, but above all as a person.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

Rita Fasciano (primary school teacher since 1994)



Francesca Pacifici

"I will always remain attached to St John the Evangelist. It was the place where I learned to be a teacher, where I understood more than anything else that you never stop learning if you want to be a teacher. And this happened thanks to the confrontation and thanks to the support of an entire educating community, which, beyond the different perspectives and characteristics, has always had one and the same objective: our children, their education and their future. THANK YOU!"

Francesca Pacifici (former teacher of History and Philosophy in high schools, since 2012)



Michele Palomba

"I don't hide the fact that I find it very difficult to write something. So many beautiful and also sad episodes come to mind.

It seems like only yesterday that while accompanying a friend of mine who was to be hired to teach science in high schools, I met Father Ballario, the headmaster.

After a brief chat he asked me if I wanted to take the chair of Drawing and History of Art.

I accepted! It was 1978.

I started almost for fun and instead lived for 40 years at ISGE. I often remember the fathers I met: Paolo Ballario (headmaster) a gentleman!, Giuseppe Granero (secretary) I never saw him nervous, when a problem arose he would answer: don't worry, we'll sort it out, Claudio Loreti, the bursar, goodness in person, Sergio Velucchi, a friend.

And then there are all the others whom I often feel like remembering: Sebastiano Lo Giudice, Giuseppe Maccarini, Stefano Principiano, Pasquale Presutti, Santini, Serafini, etc., etc., the many lay colleagues.

the many lay colleagues... many..... the secretarial and service staff.

And then the most important thing.....the children, so many....

For me the SGE was not just a place of work but a kind of place of belonging, a second home.

At the ISGE, all of us - priests, lay people and all the staff - have worked together to create a serene, serious but pleasant atmosphere in the school, where interest, commitment and mutual respect are the starting points for good students and good people. Attention to the children was always the main thought. Helping them in their fears, in their difficulties, highlighting their abilities and rewarding their efforts are the things I breathed at the SGE. Personally, these have been the only unwritten and unspoken instructions and/or instructions for use, together with the freedom of thought and teaching, that I have had from the Marist Fathers.

40 years at ISGE: great professional and above all human experiences."

Michele Palomba (Art teacher)



Rossella Spinelli

"At the end of this intense and fruitful journey, I would like to express my gratitude for these six years spent together, where I was given the opportunity to grow professionally and personally.

It has been a wonderful experience with wonderful "travelling companions".

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for the trust they have shown me, their continuous support, their helpfulness, but above all for having had, in the darkest periods of my life, the continuous closeness and affection of all the staff, who have always known how to stand by my side and transmit strength and positivity: ALWAYS.

Since I can no longer continue on this path, I can only carry in my heart these wonderful years spent in an atmosphere of serenity and respect that was established day after day and the indissoluble friendship that will bind us.

Thanks to ISGE and the Marist Fathers for all this!"

Rossella Spinelli (teacher in the Kindergarten since 2015)



Nicolina De Cicco

The time has come to say goodbye.

An important milestone is approaching for me, retirement, after 37 years of work at San Giovanni Evangelista..... is a lifetime. Yes, a life that sees you run, get excited, tire and get attached. Every day and for many years, the same path towards that place which I now know as if it were my second home, my second family.

I want to thank the Marist Fathers for the many things we have done together, the availability and the collaboration we have received in all these years.

They are all important people in my life, and I will keep fond memories of all of you.

Nicolina De Cicco (School Collaborator, since 1985)_



Simonetta Pappagallo

_"San Giovanni Evangelista was first my school, where I attended the Liceo Classico, and then the place where I worked as a teacher: for 38 years it was part of my daily life and left me with precious and indelible experiences and memories.

I feel lucky and honoured to have had as teachers Father Aulo Sommazzi, to whom I owe my passion for Greek literature; Father Ballario, my literature teacher and my first headmaster. To a clumsy 24-year-old girl, as I was, who was starting to teach, he gave confidence, advice, encouragement and a healthy cheerfulness and ability to play down.

What a thrill it was to take the teaching desk in the very classrooms that had seen me as a pupil and to carry out my teaching mission with seriousness and passion, serenely in what I felt was my second home.

How could I fail to remember my first colleagues: Father Serafini, Father Maccarini, a gruff man with a tender heart, Father Lo Giudice, Father Santini and Father Ionta.

With Father Del Re, the strict Latin and Greek teacher, the only one to wear the cassock, and a lover of puzzles, we exchanged "rebuses" to see who was better.

In the shadows, silent but present, was Father Loreti, my confessor.

Father Granero the Secretary, "Peppone" for the pupils: a great reference figure for everyone.

There are many other names of fathers who have made the history of St John the Evangelist, making it great... not least Father Luigi Savoldelli, happy in the heart of Africa in the implementation of the 'Laudato Si' project.

And now that the Institute is about to "close its doors", the memories and experiences become even more important, a treasure to be treasured by those who have had the joy of being part of the great family of ISGE.

THANK YOU!

We have been a fantastic team!"

Simonetta Pappagallo (former pupil and former teacher of Science in High School and Mathematics in Middle School)



Paolo Samà

"Reverend Fathers,

I write to you with the same enthusiasm and depth of a man writing to his beloved woman, of a prisoner writing to his family, of a soldier telling his wife thousands of miles away about himself.

In my three years in your service, I have had the rare privilege of discovering people full of principles and values, people ready to pour their love and wisdom into others, people dedicated to bringing out the best in others, without reservation or prejudice of any kind. I have known women and men of extraordinary sensitivity, and every time I crossed the threshold of your school, my heart vibrated and I was invaded by the desire to make my pupils grow, inspired by your teaching.

Most reverend Fathers, you have accomplished in these years, with great refinement, the mission desired by Jean-Claude Colin.

Special thanks to Professor Elena Schirano, who has worked with extreme professionalism and passion for the human growth of the students and all of us."

Paolo Samà (Law teacher at the Liceo)



Carla Allevato

"Dear Headmistress, Prof. Elena Schirano,

With this letter I would like to say goodbye to you and thank you for what you did for my son Francesco during his high school years, allowing him to attend the scientific high school at the San Giovanni Evangelista Institute, taking into account his peculiarities, in perfect harmony with his family and the team of health professionals who have followed Francesco over time.

They were complex years in which the school played a fundamental role, precious years for his growth, in which, in addition to the scholastic skills appropriate to him, obtained through a personalised programme, he was able to interact with other children, always being welcomed with great respect and sympathy. Your professionalism, Headmaster, your seriousness and perseverance, your welcome, guided us until the end of Francesco's school career, allowing him to obtain the certificate of attendance at the scientific high school and to establish relationships that are still precious today. Yours, Headmistress, is an example of what the Catholic school of the Marist Fathers can offer to children in their growing years, not only on a scholastic level but also on a human level.

San Giovanni was precious to Francis and I thank from the bottom of my heart the Marist Fathers who gave Francis and so many boys the opportunity to experience school in a condition of serenity, acceptance and commitment.

We will always remember you with great esteem and affection."

Carla Allevato, Francesco's mother



Alessia Simeone

"San Giovanni has meant a great deal to me, not only professionally but also and above all personally. For me it has been a second home from the moment I first set foot there at the age of six and it was there that I grew up and matured, that I experienced moments of joy and sharing, that I faced the first challenges of my life. It was there that I returned as a teacher and as the mother of a pupil, that I made deep and lasting friendships and affections. Every corner of San Giovanni, which I still call 'my school', is full of memories of faces, episodes and emotions. It was in that school that I grew up and trained as a teacher and even now, even in other institutes, I still wear the recognisable mark of San Giovanni. I have lived through the golden years and the crisis years of our

school's history and I would never have imagined that I would have to say goodbye to San Giovanni and all that it represents for me.

I thank all the Fathers from the bottom of my heart and especially you, dear Headmistress."

Alessia Simeone (former pupil, former science teacher in middle school and high school, parent of a student)



Cinzia Capezzone

"THANK YOU

A small word that encompasses so much.

Thank you for welcoming me into your family.

Thank you for giving me a job opportunity.

Thank you for the trust you have always placed in me.

We have shared a lot over the years... good times and also difficult and sad times but always united and ready to support each other.

I know every corner of this school. Every memory is linked to each and every one of you: Father Agostino, Father Ballario, Father Maccarini, Father Luigi, Father Ionta, Father Velucchi and all the other fathers I met who left me an indelible mark that I will always carry with me until I reach you, Father Antonio, with whom we share a unique and almost certainly unrepeatable experience.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!"

Cinzia Capezzone (School Collaborator since 2007)



Fabio Verduci

"ISGE means a lot to me, very much. It is the environment where I met the woman I live with, where I met a fantastic group of friends with whom we experienced intense, difficult but also very, very beautiful moments. In the seven years that I have been teaching there, I have always perceived the school as something to which I belonged and never as a mere place of work. I am convinced that

the same wonderful feeling was shared by all those involved in an environment where a piece was put in place every day to build first and foremost good people and then good students.

In fact, the attention paid to the children, to their difficulties, but also the exaltation of their qualities, is one of the main features of the idea of the school that one breathed. A school in which, with mutual respect, teachers, students and all the staff worked together to create a place where serenity, seriousness and commitment should be the distinguishing features. And so it was!

ISGE has allowed me to live highly formative professional experiences, making me feel important every day and increasingly confident in my abilities. The many projects carried out and the satisfaction I have gained are the result of work based on the desire to bring out the professionalism that that environment had nurtured.

Those who know me know that when I talk about ISGE I always repeat the same sentence: 'My real training as a teacher took place at San Giovanni. What I am, how I think and how I behave with students, families and colleagues I learned at San Giovanni.'

This school has allowed me to mature in my profession while never losing sight of the most important thing, which is the ability to understand children, because that is how good educators are.

For all these reasons San Giovanni is and will always be a part of me!

Thank you all!"

Fabio Verduci (former History and Philosophy teacher)_



Valeria La Rosa Fascianelli

_"At the end of my daughter Silvia's schooling at this school, I feel the need to thank all the teaching staff of this high school not only for their excellent professionalism, but above all for their concern and attention to the pupil as a person in training, aiming to eliminate the many adolescent uncertainties and to enhance her cognitive abilities. Special thanks to the Headmistress who welcomed my daughter Silvia with enthusiasm and self-sacrifice and who will remember San Giovanni as a true example of a 'good school' in her lifetime.

Thank you to the Marist Fathers for this wonderful opportunity for human, civil and religious growth".

Valeria La Rosa Fascianelli (Silvia's mother)_



Carlo D'Amicis

"During the penultimate year of high school, Father Sergio Velucchi (who, more than the other Marists, maintained relations with those who had already left the institute) suggested that my classmates and I play football against former students. Most of them were 24-25 year olds, but I remember perfectly well that, before taking to the field, we studied a tactic based on resistance: they were old, they would soon get tired and we would wear them out...

I tell you this little episode to make you understand the way in which my companions and I at that time, at seventeen years old, looked beyond the shadow line represented by the end of our studies. Unbelievable changes were waiting for us, we would have been exhausted at the age of twenty-five and then who knows how many other metamorphoses we would have encountered, for better or for worse: epochal events that would have inexorably taken us far from our youth...

We were prepared for everything, except for the state of mind that I felt today as I returned to the walls of St John the Evangelist to celebrate the closure of this glorious institute (a momentous event). I am talking about the state of mind of someone who, at a certain point in his life, clearly realises that, given the time that has passed and all the things that have happened, no metamorphosis has really taken place and that in a certain part of himself (the most important part, I would say) the 57-year-old of today is not at all different from the boy of forty years ago.

This awareness, let me be clear, has nothing to do with nostalgia for times gone by, nor with clumsy and somewhat ridiculous youthful pretensions. Rather, it has to do with the awareness, which becomes clearer and clearer as one moves on, that youth is a kind of inextinguishable and irreducible kernel, and that from there, even in old age, our curiosities, our dreams, our passions continue to spring.

The endurance of this kernel in adulthood, I believe, has a lot to do with the way the kernel has been planted, cared for, watered. And it is for this, above all, that I am grateful to St John the Evangelist and to the many years, from third grade to the classical maturity, spent in its classrooms. Because every effort made by my teachers to make me grow up (among the many, I remember the teacher Antonino Trifirò, Father Maccarini and then Father Ballario in high school, and again - among the

laity - Professor Giulio D'Onofrio of philosophy) was never separated from the preservation of this precious core.

I do not have enough experience of religious orders to know whether this is a characteristic of the Marist Fathers, or of this specific community of priests (and of the teachers they chose), but I do know for certain that in their teachings - whether they were inspired by the school curriculum or by precepts of life - there was always a gap, something traceable to the serene awareness that human nature is imperfect, and that precisely for this reason it is good that it encounters divine grace.

In the serious work of San Giovanni I have known, there was always room for irony, in the order there was always room for something out of place, in the community there was always room for the diversity of each individual. Historically, perhaps progressive and post-conciliar influences could have been discerned in that way of doing school and promoting the faith (I entered San Giovanni Evangelista in 1971, only four years after the publication of Don Milani's Letter to a teacher and his Barbiana boys), but I prefer to think that it was a sensitivity independent of the winds of history, to which the students themselves contributed, as well as the teachers and Marist fathers. Even those who were convinced that they were better than the others, because they were richer, better at school, or simply cooler, over time conformed to a dominant spirit, to a genius loci that prevailed in this place, through which passed the concept that we were all equal, and - above all - that everyone was equal in his own way...

Fifty years have passed, I repeat, since the first time I set foot in St John the Evangelist, and my arguments may seem dusty and dated. But, if you know how to see them, life always draws circles, and the circle that brings me back here today, as an old boy, passes through an unequivocal sign of destiny: it will be my wife Laura, for four years a physical education teacher in this institute (and with the surname Evangelisti), who will ideally close the last classroom (the same one where I entered in the year of her birth) and the gym in which I learned to love sport.

In her, in the way she has always lived her relationship with her children - a girl herself in their midst - I find confirmation of the existence of a principle, of a style, of a soul, which governs and has always governed this place. And that today each one of us, not as a memory but as a precious kernel, takes away with us".

Carlo D'Amicis (Writer - former pupil)



Manuela Moretti

"It is good to be able to say a heartfelt "THANK YOU", a thank you to all the Marist Fathers for their long activity of teaching, of love for culture in its aspect of instrument of spiritual, human and social promotion of the young generations.

The activity of the Marist Fathers is not "only" educational work, but has distinguished itself in praiseworthy missions in various parts of the world. In this regard, I would like to thank Father Luigi Savoldelli, 'the friend of the Poor', for his missionary work in Cameroon and for having enthusiastically brought me closer to this wonderful reality. Thanks to the support of the Marist Fathers and the contribution of small and large benefactors, wells and roads have been built, new agricultural cultures have been created, and schooling for the children of local farmers has begun, continuing the profound educational work even in faraway countries.

Five years have now passed since my first day at ISGE. I remember everything: from my first phone call to Luciano, to the meeting with the Headmistress, the period of cataloguing the books in the library, the complicity between colleagues who over time have become more than colleagues 'friends' etc..

I would like to thank all the Fathers, those I did not have the pleasure of meeting directly, but only through the words of great esteem and gratitude of the old pupils, and those who have supported me over the years, in particular Father Antonio Airò and Father Mario Castellucci, the Headmistress (always attentive to the needs of all of us and always available), Luciano (our precious and patient Personnel Manager), for the initial welcome, for giving me a job and for the opportunity to learn so many new things through courses, your help and activity directly in the field!

THANK YOU for creating over time an atmosphere of serenity, of complicity, of family.

THANK YOU for always making me feel at home.

THANKS FOR THE TRUST!

THANK YOU also for the "afterwards", for having spent beautiful words for me with the new school.

I embrace you all with immense affection and esteem and with great gratitude for everything you have done for me!!!"

Manuela Moretti (secretary employee since 2018)
