

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

# Patty Quinn, St. Raphael's teacher, is remembered for filling her students' hearts and lives with Christ

By Maureen Boyle  
Special to the Standard

Patricia "Patty" Quinn, a beloved and longtime archdiocesan Catholic elementary school educator, was remembered during a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Raphael Parish, Rockville, as a dedicated, faith-filled teacher who had a positive and lasting influence on countless local students throughout a more than 30-year teaching career. Quinn died on June 16. She had been recently diagnosed with cancer. She was 52 years old.

A winner of the prestigious Golden Apple Teacher Award in 2014 for excellence in teaching Catholic education, Quinn taught fifth grade at St. Raphael School, Rockville, for the past eight years. During her career, she also taught at St. John the Evangelist School, Silver Spring; St. Jude School, Rockville; and St. Elizabeth School, Rockville.

Among the more than 1,000 mourners who filled St. Raphael Church for the June 20 funeral Mass were her students and their families, both past and present, members of the Quinn family, as well as her numerous friends and colleagues. Father Lee Fangmeyer, pastor of Mother Seton Parish, Germantown, was the main celebrant, and was joined by several archdiocesan priests in concelebrating the Mass.

In his homily, Father Fangmeyer recalled Quinn's friendship, her strong Catholic faith, her quick wit and her zest for life. "She touched so many lives...She could make people laugh. She was full of wonder and an incredible friend...She was fiercely loyal, vulnerable and humble. Kids loved



CS PHOTO BY LESLIE KOSSOFF

In a 2014 photo, students at St. Raphael School in Rockville congratulate fifth grade teacher Patty Quinn after the surprise announcement that she would be receiving the Golden Apple Award.

her so much," said Father Fangmeyer.

He said the entire framework of her life pointed toward Christ, a lesson and example for all. "She filled hearts and lives. Her passing leaves a gap, but she would want us to look to Him... She loved life and people. Her last words were, 'Jesus, I trust in You.'"

A native of Silver Spring, Quinn grew up the ninth of 11 children in St. Bernadette Parish, where she attended elementary school. She later graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in early childhood education. She also earned a master's degree in education from Loyola University in Baltimore, where she received the John Wise, SSJ Education Medal.

Quinn had a great devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux, "The Little Flower." She was a member of Communion and Liberation in the archdiocese. She served as a parish youth minister, a Girl Scout leader, and was the longtime coordinator

of swimming lessons at Franklin Knolls Pool in Silver Spring.

In a 2014 interview with the *Catholic Standard* following the announcement of her Golden Apple Award, Quinn said her own Catholic school experiences shaped her life, and inspired her life's work. "I knew I just didn't want to transmit information to children. I wanted to teach them how to live life, for now and forever," she said.

In the front of her St. Raphael's classroom, and in nearly all her previous classrooms over the years, Quinn displayed a large sign that read, "JESUS LOVES ME!"

"I tell them the most important thing for you to leave class knowing is that," she said in 2014.

In a eulogy, Tom Quinn, Patty's youngest brother, spoke of his sister's many God-given gifts - her unfailing generosity, her caring and sympathetic nature, as well as her great listening skills and storytelling abilities.

me and tell me it's okay, that I could do better next time," she said.

"She was a teacher to the end. She had courage, endurance and trust in God," said Terri Dwyer, principal of St. Raphael School. "We loved her." Dwyer noted that the funeral Mass's altar servers and choir members were all Quinn's former students.

In her interview with the *Catholic Standard* after winning the Golden Apple Award, Quinn said that in her years of teaching, she learned to let students "know that you love and care about them, that they matter, and that you will listen to them and be fair."

After the funeral Mass, as a send-off to their

beloved teacher and colleague, Quinn's students and co-workers stood outside St. Raphael's, lining the beginning of the motorcade procession to the cemetery, and they sent a flurry of bubbles into the air, like "prayers rising to Heaven." The St. Raphael School families hosted a repast in the gymnasium following the funeral and burial.

Patty Quinn is survived by her father, Richard, her four sisters, Diane, Irene, Linda, Teresa, her six brothers, Richard, Joseph, Michael, James, John and Thomas, 13 nieces and nephews and eight great-nieces and great-nephews. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring.

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