

## Catherine Chiusano-Creen

My name is Catherine Chiusano-Creen, a/k/a “The Boiler Maker” by Uncle Tom, “Crazy Aunt Cathy” by Johnny Boy and “Chiacc-hie-rone” (talkative) by my Magoo-Ryan. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and moved to New Jersey in 2007. Also originally from Brooklyn were the Brooklyn Dodgers. I remember going to Ebbets Field.

I am one of eleven children. My mother, Anna, was a wonderful woman. My father. . . that’s another story. . . about forgiveness. My mother lived Voluntas before I ever heard of it. She wasn’t one to complain or criticize. She showed us love in so many different ways. Everyone loved Anna! I have six brothers and four sisters. You might see us driving around with our sisters’ license plates: Sister #1 – Madeline; Sister #2 – Joanne; Sister #3 – Cathy (that’s me); Sister #4 – Lorraine; and Sister #5 – Maryjane (also Voluntas). Sister #1 and Sister #5 live in the same community as I do. Maryjane is right across the street so I have to behave!

I have two children, Maryanne and Anthony, who was a New York City Firefighter on 9/11 and a cancer survivor. We lost our grandson, Ryan, at age 21. When Ryan was four years old his heart stopped and as a result was mildly impaired. He was special needs on earth, but is just special in Heaven. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

Fr. John Campoli and I met over thirty years ago and, as we say, the rest is history. He helped me to feel the love of God.



Fr. John is Christ living among us. I started meeting people in Voluntas and they were always so kind and loving, never talking negatively about anyone. I asked if I could attend one of their monthly meetings.

I thought that I shouldn’t find not complaining or criticizing too difficult. I’m not one to talk about people. Boy, was I in for a rude awakening! I try my best to live the three fives!

My volunteer activities include the Interfaith which hosts the homeless who are going through hard times, Eucharistic Minister at my parish, St. Domenic, and bringing Communion to seven homebound people, which I love. I also volunteer for the Frances Foundation which is for young children with cancer. On Thanksgiving I dress up like a turkey for the children. We do arts and crafts and I dance with the children at our Christmas party. You should see me trying to do the hoola-hoop!

I am very active in my community, Leisure Village, president of St. Mary’s Guild, a member of the Camera Club, Italian American Club, Women’s Club, and play shuffleboard.

I love nature, the fall season, taking pictures and listening to music. While driving I listen to my religious CD’s. Once while driving with my grandson, he said, “Grandma, put on your Jesus music.” I also listen to Catholic Radio, Domestic

Church Media, watch EWTN, Law & Order, Criminal Minds, and Blue Bloods. Most important to me is my faith, children, grandchildren, family, and friends.



I’ve been hurt, rejected and betrayed, but so has our Dear Lord. I am still under construction – a work in progress. I pray each and every day to do the will of God by following in His footsteps and saying “Yes” like our Dear Blessed Mother. Let us continue to pray for each other as we grow in His love.