

Trinity School

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary story by Eileen DiGiorgio

November 15, 2021

It was a regular school morning at my house with 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys eating breakfast when the phone rang. My friend who was driving carpool that morning called and said only, "Is your TV on and are you planning to send your kids to school today?" The date was September 11, 2001.

I turned on the TV and we quickly made a plan. We would both drive our own kids to school that day not knowing what to expect but knowing that we needed to be there.

Upon arriving at Trinity School, it was apparent that many other families had the same thought. The parking lot was jammed and as the children went to their classrooms, many parents stayed and quietly stood in the courtyard unsure what to do next.

In a few minutes, as usual, the teachers led their lines of children class by class to the courtyard for flag salute. And, as usual, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders assigned that day to lead the group confidently presented at the front of the crowd which now consisted of the entire student body, faculty, staff, and a very large group of parents standing in the back.

A third-grade voice addressed the crowd, "Put your right hand over your heart. I pledge allegiance..." We all followed the direction but by the end of the Pledge tears were freely flowing in our back row. When the announcement came to sing the National Anthem no one could speak, much less sing. The children's voices carried the group that day and then they filed into chapel. Not knowing what else to do, we filed in after them.

I can't remember exactly what was said that morning in chapel by Mary Menacho but I know that we all left feeling like a community and that our children were safe being at school that day. For me, Trinity School and Chapel will always be connected to that horrible day in US history as a guiding light of hope and the strength of community.