

## Parishioners' Corner

My name is Frances Calvacca.

I grew up on the Northwest side of Chicago, and I went to Our Lady of the Angels School at the time of the fire in 1958. When I was in the third grade, I came down with measles, and four days later, I came down with the mumps.

That year, I missed over three months of school, and I was required to repeat the third year of school again. I was on the first floor.

My teacher, Ms. Pearl Tristano, had pulled the fire alarm for us. We were informed that it was a practice fire drill around 2:35 p.m.

If it wasn't for myself being sick that year, I would have been on the upper floor of the school, and either I would have been hurt severely or dead. I was fine.

As I ran through the crowd, I spotted my mother climbing up one of the firemen's ladders, and then a fireman stopped her from climbing.

At the end of April 2001, I was thinking of my Aunt Eleanor and Uncle Jim in Florida. I had written a prayer and sent it to them. At that time, I had a feeling that our country needed this prayer, as the prayer is about staying within God's directions. My Aunt Eleanor was the sister of Mr. Frank Arciabira, who earned a Purple Heart in the Air Force. His niece was Antoinette Patrasso, who died in that fire. My Aunt and Uncle were in the process of having my prayer published, but they had taken ill and then passed on. Here is my prayer:

Keep us in your guidance dear sweet Jesus,  
never let us stray from your guidance.  
Lord our world is a very troubled, misunderstood,  
and doubtful one.  
We ask that you come to us and  
help us, Jesus.  
We love you always Lord.  
Amen

On another occasion, I was living in New York, at the time it was 1992. I applied for employment at the World Trade Center. I had put in my application on the 80th floor.

After one week, I called them and mentioned that I was returning to my husband in Florida and I was not available for employment at the time.

If it wasn't for my decision at that time, I would have been on the 80th floor on 9/11.

I give thanks to God for my decision.