



Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr.

May 30, 1944 - May 26, 2015

Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr., 70, of Baldwinsville, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. He was born to Joseph and Emily in Brooklyn, NY before building a life and home in Syracuse in 1977, eventually retiring from the Fulton City School District as a Latin teacher.

Beyond his contribution to the teaching community, he was a painter, writer, theologian, horticulturalist, landscape architect, historian, linguist, adventurer, cook, and animal lover with an enthusiasm and fervor for all of existence. Joseph died with a heart so large it contained love for all he knew and encountered. As a former Roman Catholic priest, he was not only father to his family, but to a larger family of anyone who needed him, as his love transcended to all of God's creation.

His memory and love are carried in his loving and devoted wife of 38 years, Josephine (LoSurdo) Crisafulli; his children, Joseph C. (Melissa) Crisafulli, III, Franc-Antonio (Jeni and Georgie) Crisafulli, Matthew David Crisafulli and Mary Joy (Thomas, Philip and Leela) Bernard; grandson, Christian Bernard and future grandson Bernard; brother, Ronald (Elsie) Crisafulli; sister, Joyce (Edward) Sabino; sister-in-law, Ellie (Paul) Clines and seven nieces and nephews. Greeting him in Heaven are Beaujolais, his sister-in-law Nina, cousin Ray, and godson Mackie.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, followed by a Funeral Mass in celebration of Joseph's life at 11:00 am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Baldwinsville. Entombment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum. Family and friends may call from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Monday, June 1, 2015 at the funeral home, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse, NY.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Cemetery

Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum

800 Grant Boulevard

Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum, NY,
13203

Events

JUN Visitation 04:00PM - 07:00PM

1

Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home
3401 Vickery Rd, North Syracuse, NY, US,
13212

JUN Service 10:00AM

2

Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home
3401 Vickery Rd, North Syracuse, NY, US,
13212

JUN Funeral Mass 11:00AM

2

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
3494 State Route 31, Baldwinsville, NY,
US, 13027

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home - June 01, 2015 at 01:30 PM



“ So sorry about Joes passing. He touched so many lives! He led so many young people in a wonderful direction. He deserved to find his. He is enjoying his place in heaven now! Rest in peace Father Joe!

Carol Imperiale - September 27, 2015 at 10:29 PM



“ Libby and The Jannuzzi Family join the Crisafulli Family in their sorrow. Joe was part of us here in Sorrento. He was not a friend but family. He will be missed by all of us here. He was a great father, grandfather and friend. He is with the God now and will be helping all of us who are still here on earth. You will Always be with us Joe!

Jannuzzi - June 27, 2015 at 01:28 AM



“ Josephine and family:

I am so very sorry for the sudden loss of your husband and father. I know he was an amazing man with such intellect and he was devoted to god and doing his work here. God must have needed him a little sooner than expected and I hope you all find peace, love, and grace surrounding you each and everyday in his absence here on earth. I am sure he is around you everyday.



Lynelle Francis - June 21, 2015 at 07:12 AM



“ So sorry to heard about Joe. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Margie and Ron nendza - June 14, 2015 at 08:14 PM



“ I only knew Joseph slightly from attending a few NYSUT and CNY Teaching Center classes he taught. He struck me as an intelligent, gentle, and caring teacher and I enjoyed my few classes with him.

Beth Robinson

Beth Robinson - June 09, 2015 at 02:40 PM



“ I am so very saddened by this news. Mr. Crisafulli as I knew him. My teacher from my seventh grade year of Latin through my senior year of Latin. I was never an exemplary student, far from it actually, but Mr. Crisafulli never gave up encouraging me, I always secretly felt he liked me just a little more than the other students because I am Italian, of course he never said that our loud. .. We had a love hate teacher student relationship, he wanted me to be a better student and apply myself, I thoroughly frustrated him on more than one occasion. However he knew I enjoyed his class more than any class. But thinking back it wasn't "latin" it was always him, his passion, his charisma, that had my attention. He used his position as a Latin teacher to be a teacher of culture and history, to enjoy life. To respect history. I remember him once telling me, you will never speak Latin, few people in this class will ever learn to speak Latin. It took some time to understand that to him it was the study of the language, its culture, and why it was importance to history that he wanted us to understand. I learned more from Mr Crisafulli about life than Latin, and that is what I loved about him.

Kevin Chevinus Raponi - June 08, 2015 at 10:07 AM



“ Although our paths never crossed following our work at the Bishop Harrison Center I remember Joe as a good, humble and very intelligent leader who will always be remembered fondly. C. Welter.

Chris Welter - June 06, 2015 at 07:26 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Joseph was a classmate and colleague at Syracuse University. He was very helpful to me at an extremely difficult time in my life. I remain grateful to him and remember him in my prayers.
William P. Gooley, Ph.D.

William P. Gooley - June 04, 2015 at 03:22 PM



“ I only “know” Joseph through attending NYSCEA meetings. However, I remember him as a passionate, thoughtful, and eloquent speaker. I always listened when he spoke because what he said was always something important and made me stretch my own thinking. Those of you who knew him better were blessed. He will be missed.

Pauline Herr - June 04, 2015 at 11:39 AM



“ 59 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home - June 01, 2015 at 01:16 PM



“ Joe,

Without realizing it at first, you have been a part of my life for over 13 years. When I first met you at Latin Day when I was a junior in high school, your passion for the Latin language was evident as you handed us our 3rd place finish in the scavenger hunt. We re-met a couple years later, at Syracuse University, when you taught me Latin my very first semester in college. It dawned on me almost half-way through the semester that you were the guy we met on Latin day, and I offered my services should you need any help. You never failed to contact me, and for the next ten years, we met every Latin day on campus. I always looked forward to hearing from you. You also never failed to ask how my dad was doing, and to mention that you and your family kept him in your prayers. I will forever miss your stories, your gentle spirit, and the love you had for literally everything in life, that was evident in the way you spoke and laughed. It's funny how you mean to do something, but life gets in the way and you put it off. I had meant for the last couple months to ask you to coffee, but as things got hectic, my plans generally fell through. I will always regret not getting in touch with you sooner, and I can only hope you will forgive my oversight, and continue to spread your love and Latin in heaven. Ciao, Zio Pepe. Te amo.

nicole - June 01, 2015 at 07:28 AM



“ We had the good fortune and the pleasure to know Joe and his family, first in Italy and then in Syracuse. We lost a great man and a great and sincere friend. An educated man but simple and direct, a devoted husband and a great father for his sons. We'll miss you Joe ... You are now in the grace of God ... We imagine you smiling and present in everything around us... Vanni and Roberta Chioccoloni, Marcello and Silvana Canonico.



Vanni Chioccoloni - June 01, 2015 at 01:41 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 31, 2015 at 07:52 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 31, 2015 at 07:03 PM



“ Rina D. purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Rina D. - May 31, 2015 at 05:57 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 31, 2015 at 01:59 PM



“ Love always, Eddie and Lisa purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Love always, Eddie and Lisa - May 31, 2015 at 10:02 AM



“ Cousins Claudia and Tony LoSurdo and Zia Maria LoSurdo purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Cousins Claudia and Tony LoSurdo and Zia Maria LoSurdo - May 31, 2015 at 02:36 AM



“ CAES - fellow Board members, friends, and Latin family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



CAES - fellow Board members, friends, and Latin family - May 30, 2015 at 09:27 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 30, 2015 at 06:48 PM



“ Sharon Bubniak lit a candle in memory of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr.



Sharon Bubniak - May 30, 2015 at 05:01 PM



“ I had the honor of working as a substitute teacher for Joe at G.Ray Bodley High School. He inspired my husband and I to travel. We learned how to travel on our first European tour from Hadrians Wall to Sorrento with Joe. Joe loved teaching and had an amazing talent for languages. He always had loving things to say about his family. He cared for others outside his family. Joe was indeed a Renaissance man as someone mentioned. Kathleen and Robert O'Gorman, Oswego.

kathleen o'gorman - May 30, 2015 at 04:21 PM



“ I first met Joe when he came to Syracuse and I was an associate pastor. I remember his warmth, enthusiasm, wit, intellect, faith, and creativity. Many years passed before we crossed paths again in Faithful Catholic Concerned and I saw all those qualities once again grown even more vibrant through time. It was a joy to work with him in a few letters and projects and just share ideas with someone so smart, good, and positive. I appreciated a lunch together a few weeks ago and have had his name in my calendar to call for another such opportunity. It will not be... and I am so saddened by that... Deepest regards to his family that he so loved and may all of us who appreciated his light continue his glow.

Dave Pasinski - May 30, 2015 at 02:11 PM



“ Requiescat in pace, Iosephe. Sincere thanks for all that you brought to the teaching and advancement of Latin. You will be sorely missed.
Thea Sadlon

Thea Sadlon - May 30, 2015 at 01:59 PM



“ Felicem natalem tibi, Joe. We will miss your boundless energy and commitment to our beautiful Latin language. I remember when I was travelling in Italy with Rowena, we met at the base of the Arch of Constantine. There you were! So excited to introduce us to the side of Rome not seen by the occasional tourist. We walked, talked, ate at your favorite local trattoria. I will always think about your smile and love for humanity. Requiescat in pace. Peg Minnick, CAES board member and friend.

peg minnick - May 30, 2015 at 08:34 AM



“ One of the finest teachers I ever encountered. I told my kids they might never use Latin, but the life lessons in Mr. Crisafulli's class would go with them always.

Brigid Rauch

Brigid Rauch - May 30, 2015 at 08:17 AM



“ To aunt Josie and family. I'm so sorry to hear about Joe.my thoughts and prayer go out to all of you.

Margie and Ron nendza - May 30, 2015 at 08:13 AM



“ Joe was definitely a Renaissance man who modeled for everyone how to be a lifelong learner and live life to the fullest. Each year I would travel from St. Louis to New York for the NYSUT-ELT summer training and deliver a class. As the instructor, I was fortunate to have Joe as a participant in almost every class I delivered. He always had such interesting stories and information to share. He was so respected by all of his peers. He was also very proud of his kids and their accomplishments in life and was one of the proudest grandpas I have ever seen. As we visited during lunch and dinner he would talk about his family and you could tell they were a huge blessing in his life. My granddaughter and Christian were born around the same time so we would exchange photos of them throughout the year. I know that if Joe could make a wish, he would want his children to be adventurous, successful, and happy in life and he would want to know that his grandson would ever be reminded of what an amazing and loving grandfather he had. The world has lost a wonderful man and my sympathies go out to you and your family as you absorb and acclimate to his loss.

Love and Light

Dana Simpson West

St. Louis, MO

Dana Simpson West - May 30, 2015 at 07:54 AM



“ With Deepest Sympathy, Octavia Wilcox and Family purchased the Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



With Deepest Sympathy, Octavia Wilcox and Family - May 30, 2015 at 06:34 AM



“ Joseph Crisafulli: A rare and beautiful spirit

An ethical man, innately humble

Filled with energy, strength, kindness, and generosity

A man who loved God, family, and knowledge

One who looked for and saw the beauty and good in all things, man and nature

Where he saw a need to right a wrong, he met the challenge with a rare combination of

justice and compassion.

From where he is, he can feel proud of his accomplishments.

We can honor and emulate all that he was.

People of faith know he's not gone, but we will miss his physical presence.

He had children, grandchildren, and family who share his essence. They will sing on his behalf.

And his whispered messages of faith, love, and understanding will be heard with each successive generation.

His was a life well lived.

Paul and Cookie

Paul Roy - May 29, 2015 at 11:13 PM



“ To the Crisafulli Family

At our recent NYSCEA meeting Joe gave a one of the most eloquent responses to a speaker about the needs of NYS students I have ever heard. It was made with conviction, compassion, and love. Joe could always be counted on to stand up for our students and the needs of educators everywhere.

Joe was a constant for NYSCEA. We benefited from his knowledge and conviction. He took NYSCEA information and made sure others benefited from our resources. He was taken from us way too soon.

His family was of utmost importance to him and he shared his pride of each of you -- with us individually at meetings. We hope your memories of him will help you smile in the future.

On behalf of the NYSCEA Family, you have our sincerest condolences.

Sue Bogdan-Ritty, NYSCEA President 2013-15

Susan Bogdan-Ritty - May 29, 2015 at 07:03 PM



“ Randi Azar sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr.



Randi Azar - May 29, 2015 at 05:47 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Joe at GRB. I instantly respected and admired him. As I got to know Joe more, I adored and loved him. Josie, Douglas and I are so very sorry for your loss.



Jennifer Kells - May 29, 2015 at 05:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 29, 2015 at 05:10 PM



“ Requiescat in pace, Joe. Ut desiderium meum.

Joe and I met years ago at a Nysut training and became instant friends. I think it was because I wowed him with the one sentence that I remembered from my three years of Latin in high school. He pretended to be so impressed....he was a "bucket filler" way before it was fashionable. I admired him immediately: he was intelligent, sincere, warm, optimistic, witty and creative. We laughed so much during the first training and it has continued all these years in every training. I loved seeing the pictures of his family each year. His eyes lit up when he spoke about them. He loved them so.

Renaissance man, parent, grandparent, husband, teacher, leader, landscape architect, travel agent, friend...he was amazing at everything! We all wanted to have him in our class! Where he was, the party was!

My condolences go to his family. I know all too well what you are experiencing right now.

I'm sending you prayers and hugs and I hope that the support of all your friends and family will help you get through this most difficult time.

Randi Azar, your New York friend. Your passing is a real "Oy vey, Joe!"

Randi Azar - May 29, 2015 at 05:01 PM



“ Joyce, Eddie and Eddie & Lisa purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Joyce, Eddie and Eddie & Lisa - May 29, 2015 at 04:21 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 29, 2015 at 03:23 PM



“ To the Crisafulli family..I'm so very sorry to hear of your loss. Thoughts and prayers to you

Sara S - May 29, 2015 at 03:01 PM



“ Joe is a great guy. We had a great time with him in Italy. He is so full of the Lord and he shared so much of Jesus' and his own loving spirit with us. He treated us like family. That was so special to us because he shared how much he loved Josie and his children. We are sure that he is already helping the Lord with whatever needs doing and talking His ear off about his loved ones who are still here. I know Joe will let you know that he is in heaven but still VERY active in helping you in this life
Deb and Bob Crandall

Deb and Bob Crandall - May 29, 2015 at 01:41 PM



“ Raffi, Tulio, Davide, Kristel, Chiara, Giada, Noemi e Sofia purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Raffi, Tulio, Davide, Kristel, Chiara, Giada, Noemi e Sofia - May 29, 2015 at 01:01 PM



“ I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Joe, but I have had the pleasure of working with his wife and knowing her I am sure he was a wonderful man. My heart goes out to you and your family.

Linda Simonetta - May 29, 2015 at 12:54 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 29, 2015 at 12:13 PM



“ Your Loving Brother and Sister-in-Law Ron and Elsie purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Your Loving Brother and Sister-in-Law Ron and Elsie - May 29, 2015 at 11:15 AM



“ I am so so sorry to hear of your loss.....I know that Joe was a wonderful man and fabulous father - I met him when I had several of his children in English class at Baker High School. May your warm and loving memories of your dad help you during this difficult time.....he will always live on in your hearts.
with sympathy and love, Rockette Pirro Brunetti

Rockette P. Brunetti - May 29, 2015 at 08:09 AM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I taught with him for many years and shared some great classroom capers. Marti and I went to Greece and Italy with him on one of his great tours, A perfect guide to the classical world. He will be missed.
Guy and Marti Abell

guy abell - May 29, 2015 at 07:16 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



May 28, 2015 at 10:04 PM



“ Dear Jo and Family,

I am very sorry to learn of the sudden loss of your dear husband, father and grandfather. My sympathy to you all; may your glorious memories sustain you.

Mary Ellen Andrews
San Diego, CA

Mary Ellen Andrews - May 28, 2015 at 09:18 PM



“ When my friend Lynne and I were doing some presentations in Fulton, Joe insisted that we come to his home for dinner. Those of you who know Joe well know there was no refusing him. We were amazed as we toured the house, the art work and the gardens. Who knew? That was the first time we realized that Joe had an artist soul and a green thumb. He then cooked dinner and insisted we try just a touch of Limoncello.. By the time Josie got home she had to drive us to our hotel...Joe, Lynne and I were not able. We laughed about that so many times...over Limoncello, of course.

Lynda Deluca
ELT Colleague

Lynda DeLuca - May 28, 2015 at 08:54 PM



“ Your ELT Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph C. Crisafulli, Jr..



Your ELT Family - May 28, 2015 at 08:33 PM



“ Mr. Crisafulli was my favorite teacher from 8th grade until the end of high school, as much as he taught me Latin, he also taught me what it meant to be a priest a legacy I hope to live out some day in the Episcopal Church. When he e-mailed me to come speak in Albany 10 years after I graduated, there was no question by to drop everything and be there.
-Rosaleen (Rauch) Nogle

Rosaleen Nogle - May 28, 2015 at 07:50 PM



“ I had the pleasure of being Mr. Crisafulli's student from seventh grade and throughout my entire high school career. He was a traveling companion on a trip to Europe, and I could not have been luckier to experience so many new and wonderful things from such an experienced and patient teacher. I will always remember how well he understood the importance of allowing each child's own strengths to shine in the classroom. He never expected any one of us to follow the book, and instead, allowed us to learn and grow in whatever way God had meant us to. He has forever made an impression on my life and I am grateful for that. I will remember his infectious smile, his ability to instill passion and curiosity for life in each of his students, and his genuine kindness. I am donating to St. Jude's in his honor in the hopes that the world will be able to continue to experience love and hope because of him.

Hannah Moyer - May 28, 2015 at 07:26 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Crisafuuli. He was a wonderful human being and like the obituary said, a father to a much larger family. He will be remembered fondly and with great admiration.

Mary Arnold - May 28, 2015 at 07:20 PM



“ I have known Joe for many many years through NYSUT/ ELT. Each summer when we would see each other he would make me smile and laugh. He was a person I looked up to and admired. Always with a quick wit and a very warm and heart felt word. He was so humble, a humanitarian, and a teachers teacher. I am blessed to have known him

Jim Desimone - May 28, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ I met Mr Crisafulli as a Latin student but he was much more than a teacher. He was a mentor, a counsellor, and a friend. He had such passion for everything he did, which was amazing considering just how many obligations he had. He never complained, just took everything as a blessing.
Condolences to Josie and the family, he really was an amazing person.

Katelyn Gllbert

Katelyn Gilbert - May 28, 2015 at 06:53 PM



“ I had the great good fortune of training for several ELT courses with Joe. He was so intelligent, funny, empathetic and insightful. He always brought so much to the training. I will miss him greatly. Trish Burr

Trish Burr - May 28, 2015 at 06:05 PM



“ I worked with Joe at NYSUT. I have never met a more caring man who seemed to love life. He will be sorely missed. My prayers and condolences go out to his family. Barbara Luna

Barbara Luna - May 28, 2015 at 05:28 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He has touched the lives of so many teachers, and students as well. Joe was always such a sweet guy...he will be missed by all of his family at NYSUT ELT! I will keep the family in my prayers. Jane Lombardo

Jane Lombardo - May 28, 2015 at 05:23 PM



“ What a wonderful man! I had the pleasure of working with him for a few years at NYSUT. He was committed to spreading the love of culture and language. His warmth and humor will be greatly missed by all. My deepest sympathy to family and friends. Tammy Green



Tammy Green - May 28, 2015 at 03:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Reem - May 28, 2015 at 02:57 PM



“ So sad to hear the news of Joe's passing. He was a true Renaissance man who made a difference in the lives of hundreds of students at G. Ray Bodley High School. I consider it an honor to have known and to have worked with such a knowledgeable and wonderful person, and to have had the chance to travel to Canada with him on French Club trips. Mr. C. was always a great supporter of GRB Journalism and was always available for an excellent quote. I personally referred to him as Caesar in a most affectionate way, as he truly was a leader and mentor to those he encountered and will miss seeing him at faculty gatherings. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Crisafulli family. len & Barb Senecal

len senecal - May 28, 2015 at 09:59 PM