Sr. Thomasine Knowlon, CSJ

It is impossible to think of the influence the Sisters of St. Joseph had on our school on the hill without thinking of Sr. Thomasine Knowlton, CSJ. Sr. Thomasine began her career at Spellman in 1974. “From the moment I stepped into homeroom 103, I knew these Spellman young people were special… [they] really were extraordinary in their friendliness and warmth.”

Sr. Thomasine was born and raised in Framingham, the younger of two children. She spent her first twelve years of education in Catholic schools, and continued onto Framingham State College upon graduation. However, after only one semester, Sr. Thomasine entered the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph and continued her education at Regis College in Weston. She obtained a degree in Latin and Greek. Her teaching career began at St. Catherine’s in Somerville, where she taught the eighth grade for several years. Sister was then missioned to Matignon High School. During her time in Matignon, Sister was assigned by the community to study Russian at Fordham University. She graduated with a Master’s degree in Russian Language and Literature, and brought those talents back to Matignon. She taught Russian not only there but at Marian High School as well. For the next few years, Sr. Thomasine worked at Marian and Matignon alternately. Little did she know, her next step was going to be far more permanent.

Sr. Thomasine was invited to teach Latin and Religion at Spellman by Sr. Jamesine, Spellman’s fourth principal. Sr. Thomasine served the Spellman community as a teacher and Assistant Principal to Sr. Ursula. In that role, she was primarily responsible for scheduling, grade reporting, setting up school programs, and managing the school’s fundraising programs. In 1985, Sr. Thomasine was urged to apply for the position of principal after Sr. Ursula’s term. After much contemplation and many prayers, Sister went through with the application process, and went on to become Spellman’s sixth Principal. As Principal, Sister still managed to make
time to manifest her active support of the students in their many activities. She was an avid athletics fan, and made a point to cheer on the Cardinals at home games.

This love of the school and passion for the students was only enhanced when Sr. Thomasine took on the role of the very first President of Cardinal Spellman High School in 2009. This step to a President-Principal model was a big one for Spellman, and many would agree there is no one they would have rather had leading the charge than Sr. Thomasine. Many of Spellman’s most notable and highlighted attributes can be credited to Sr. Thomasine’s constant forward thinking and devotion to the betterment of the school, including the campus ministry program, the music program, and the Garden of Reflection. She worked to encourage a sense of school spirit, while complimenting academics with the necessary current technology. Under her guidance, Cardinal Spellman High School had continually adapted its academics and programs to maintain its stance as a premier provider of Catholic college-preparatory education in the community. She has personified wisdom and vision in her role as leader, and has blessed the Spellman family as a gracious and astute teacher, Principal, President and friend.

Gail Douglas

Among today’s Cardinals, Gail Douglas is primarily known as their beloved math teacher and senior homeroom moderator. However, her many roles at Spellman over the years truly speak to her personality. At Cardinal Spellman High School, the roles of educator, coach and Dean are smoothly intertwined in Gail Douglas. Whether explaining the intricacies of Geometry or guiding students through the challenge of being a teenager, Ms. Douglas, or “Dougie” as she is affectionately known by her students, is a constant and accessible presence to all at Spellman. Her life long love of sports dates back to her college experience as Captain of her Boston State College volleyball, basketball and softball teams. She has coached all three of these sports intermittently over the years at various locations including Spellman. Gail continues to share her enthusiasm and expertise with our Spellman athletes from the stands in the role of “Super Fan”. Her many roles of educator, coach and Dean during her time at Cardinal Spellman High School and her special friendship and loyalty to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph have provided many blessings to the entire Spellman family.

Jane Connor

Jane Connor epitomizes the spirit of the unsung hero, a behind-the-scenes cog in the Spellman wheel who truly keeps our school going. Ms. Connor graduated from Spellman in 1965. She continued her education at Regis College, but found herself coming back to her alma mater. Generations of