Fr. James Lane: Honoring a True Hero

by Nancy Byrne

When you walk into the auditorium of the South Boston Boys and Girls Club and look up to the right hand side of the back wall, there is a photograph of Father James Lane. Under the photograph, the words "Think Hero" are written. Father Lane was truly a modern day hero. His acts and words of kindness enabled others to also strive to act as he did: Make a difference in the world every day.

Father Lane had an immeasurable impact on so many families, affecting every generation of South Boston and Dorchester. He has meant so much to so many: He shared in the hardships as well as the joyous times; he was there when we lost a loved one or if someone was sick; he celebrated the joyous moments such as matrimony, graduation, or a time to reconvene with familiar faces of the past at the Boys and Girls Club Reunion.

But he did so much more. As a young member of the Club himself many years ago, Father Lane was extremely involved in the South Boston Clubhouse. He continued a close relationship with this community institution throughout his life: He coached in-house leagues and volunteered at events; he participated in Club Mayoral events and Keystone canned food drives. When Father Lane would walk through the doors of the Club on Sixth Street, he would greet each staff member and Club member by name. He'd check in with their current situation and recall happenings of their life.

He was most active with Keystone Images, the Teen Leadership Program that provides experiences for the teens of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. And this is the reason why honoring his memory on race day means so much: The Keystone Club organizes the road race to raise funds for its participation in the annual

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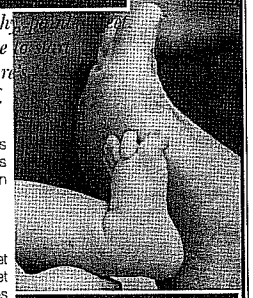

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Father Lane

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leadership conference, hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Fr. Lane gave of his time, his money, his knowledge and insight to build the Keystone Club's success. And even more importantly, he encouraged others to join him.

On Parade Day, March 16, 2008, join us in honoring this modern day hero at the annual Road Race. The Keystone Club and the entire Boys and Girls Club community hopes to provide the recognition, gratitude, and appreciation to Father Lane for the extraordinary contributions he has made to so many.

For more info on the event, you can email Pattie at pmccormick@bgcb.org or you can go online to make a gift, register for the race at active.com. If you are not able to attend the race honoring the memory of Father Lane, you can still participate by making a gift in his honor or forwarding a personal Fr. Lane story or note that will be shared with the community. Have a great St. Patrick's Day and we hope to see you at the race!

For more info:

http://www.active.com/page/Event_Details.htm?event_id=1506520&assetId=a711a016-3466-4c65-a465-6539af8f851f

Please contact at the South Boston Boys and Girls Club at 617-268-4301.