



Two biological brothers could not have shared a bond closer than the one that was forged between educator Timothy Hauprich and Rev. Anthony Maione during their years together at Saratoga Central Catholic High School. Common interests included the ABCs of athletics, birds and community service.

My Highway to Heaven journey with Father Tony

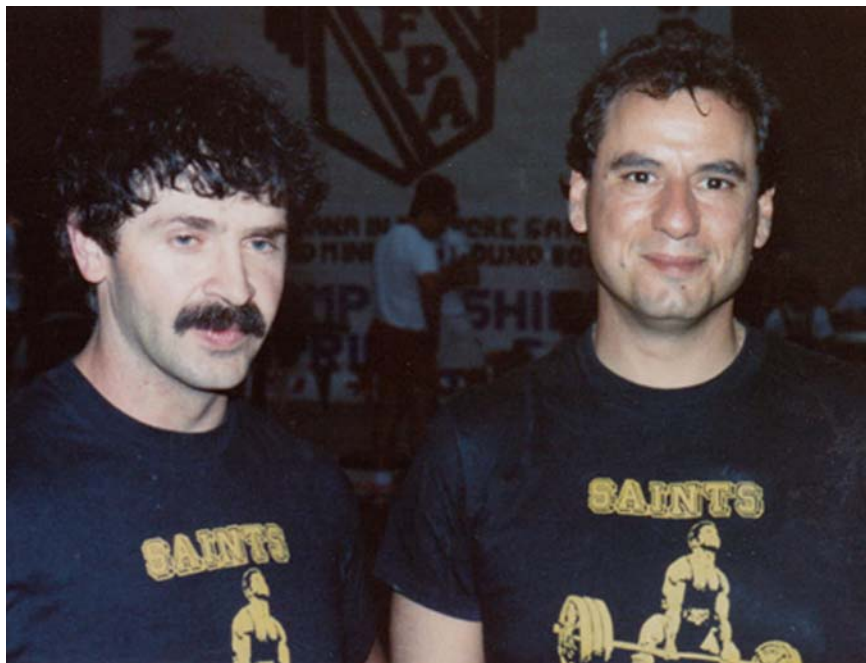
Special guest chapter by Timothy J. Hauprich

From September 1984 to June 1988 there was a popular TV show featuring the characters Jonathan Smith and Mark Gordon.

Jonathan was an angel portrayed by Michael Landon — who had earlier become famous for his characters on *Bonanza* and *Little House on The Prairie*. Mark was an ex-cop portrayed by Victor French. The show was called *Highway to Heaven* and was not about NASCAR.

It had no car chases and did not necessarily showcase beautiful women, but rather focuses on a pair of highway travelers intervening on the lives of ordinary people who were challenged by real life problems. I had no idea that by 1991 I would be the Mark Gordon character balancing Father Tony's real life portrayal of Jonathan Smith.

It was with memories of this program in mind that I wrote the eulogy that follows in letter form to be shared with those who attended a Memorial Service for the Rev. Anthony Maione at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Saratoga Springs, NY in 2006.



The Rev. Anthony Maione is seen (above) coaching along side SCC Athletic Director Timothy Hauprich at a drug-free powerlifting tournament in 1991; rolling up his sleeves with Tim at a Legends of the Fall event in 1994; attending to his Campus Minister duties at Saratoga Central Catholic High in 1998; and feeding Larry Bird -- who was left in Tim's care after the priest's untimely passing in 2006.



Timothy Hauprich delivered this poignant eulogy during a 2006 Memorial Service for Father Tony.

Dear Tony –

It's been about 16 days since you found that beach in heaven and settled into your lawn chair to work out the latest *New York Time's* cross word puzzle. There weren't too many of us back in Saratoga who could match you. Maybe Bill Shakespeare or Charles Dickens can give you a little competition up in heaven.

I hope you're hanging out with Larry the Bird or maybe one of your favorite dogs from your earthly days. I'm sure there aren't any cats on your side of heaven. They are all hanging out with Bob Cinq Mars over by the Chicken Wings and Strawberry short cake. I'm going to guess you've already talked to Casey Stengel about the Mets and Weeb Ewebank about the Jets. I'm sure those two teams will soon be moving up in the standings in the months to come.

I'm also sure you'll be getting a good seat for the Belmont this Saturday. Eddy Arcaro and Willie Shoemaker can probably get you some good information on the Big exactas coming up this weekend. If you see *Seabiscuit*, tell him we liked the movie. Julia Childs is probably happy to trade recipes with you in the kitchen and Victor Borno is likely writing a poem on some of your short order Super Bowl party specials.

I still see our Special Olympian power lifters from time to time. None of them forgot who you were. That "How's Father Tony?" question is going to be a tough answer from now on.

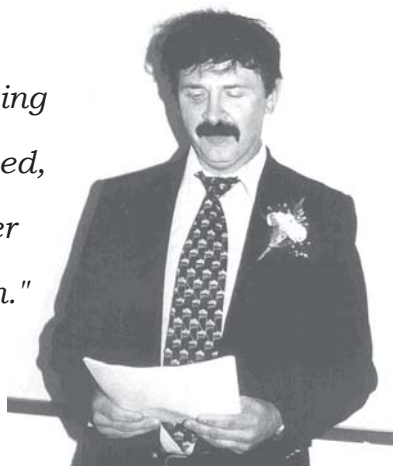
We just had our eighth Hall Of Fame induction this past Tuesday. We inducted several of your friends and ex students into the club. I think you would be real happy with the choices this year.

Oh yeah, that football thing we were working on back in 1991 and 1992 finally was approved. The Saints will be back on the Grid-Iron this Fall. We'll have to dust some of those weights off and get our junior high guys going so we can uphold the honor of all you heavenly Saints in the future.

I'm sure you were busy during the past few years in Orlando. We didn't always get answers on our e-mails. I guess the answers will now come only through questions in the form of a prayer ... but ... we understand.



*"You're going
to be missed,
but never
forgotten."*



A lot of Father Tony stories are coming out of the archives lately — many with a humorous twist— like the time you were at a Super Bowl party and somebody asked: “Tony, what do you do for a living?” and you responded: “I’m a priest.”

I know you didn’t want the behavior of the room to be in any way affected, but I tend to believe differently. When you weren’t wearing the collar, you caught a lot of people by surprise.

I know you really loved kids, especially babies and Baptisms, but you were a little disappointed if the boys were not named Anthony or the girls named Antonia. You were just kidding, weren’t you?

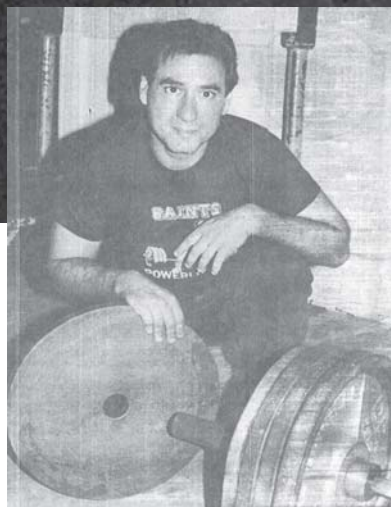
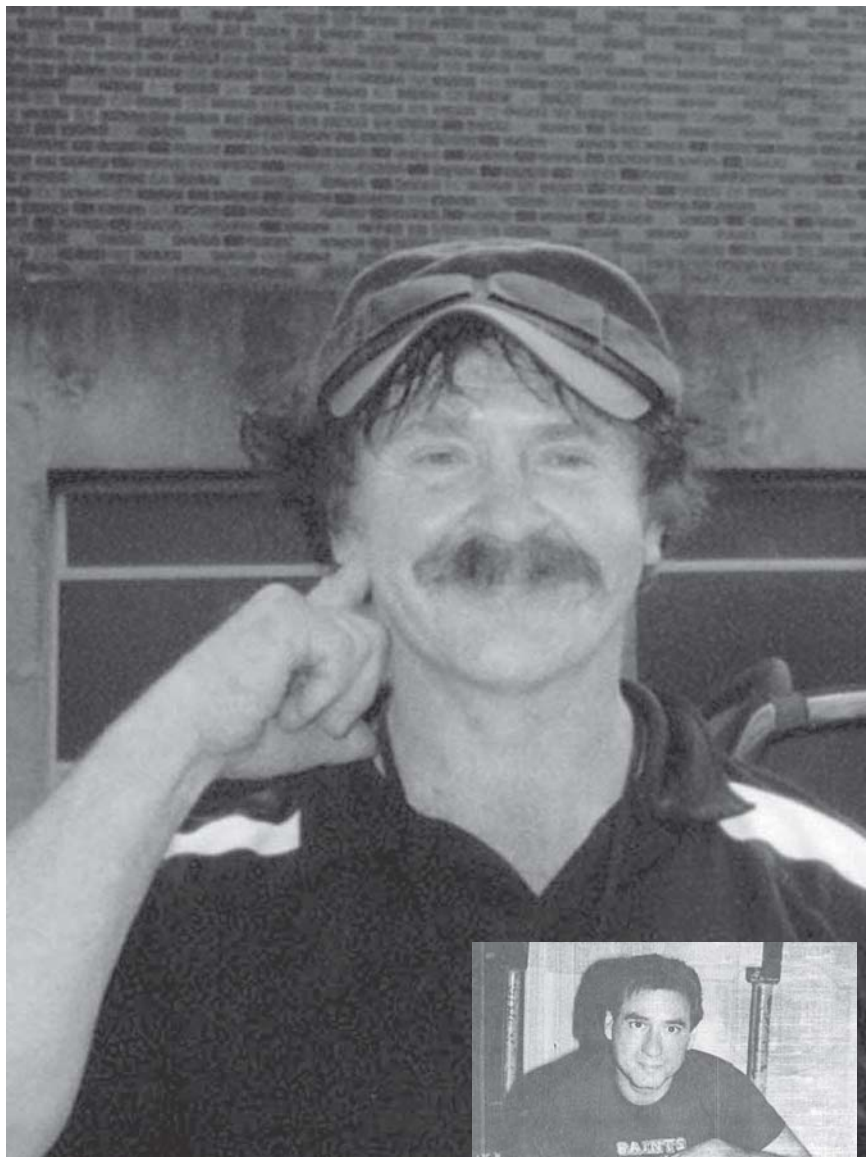
I hope all the trouble caused by the Rameses–Hunt trouble is behind you now. It was getting tough when you could only swallow food by washing everything down with water. Now you can eat what you like and not have to visit the treadmill the next day.

I haven’t really changed much myself . . . all those tricks you tried to show me like how to drive ridiculous distances in short times without any sleep. I’m not there yet. The ability to run a retreat at 8 a.m. when you started planning at 4 a.m. — that’s not me. Those amazing trips to Europe where we would walk 12 miles and then ride a bus for 12 hours . . . I never caught on.

But your overall goodness . . . the ability to hear out every one’s problems... or organize a relief fund for hurricane victims or a Thanksgiving luncheon for the challenged youth or your countless trips to the hospitals to visit the sick or your amazing homilies at weddings and funerals. We are all still in awe.

You’re going to be missed, but never forgotten.

God Bless You, Tony!



Ann Hauprich caught brother Timothy J. Hauprich placing a *Highway to Heaven* call to Father Tony Maione in the Saratoga Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School parking lot just before a chapel was dedicated in honor of late friend. As per the 2010 news story written by Ann for the *Saratogian* on the facing page, the chapel that bears the former SCC Campus Minister's name is situated in a part of the school where Tim and "The Powerlifting Padre" once trained student weight-lifters. A 1991 article Ann wrote for *The Evangelist* can be found on a subsequent page.



DEDICATION

Spa Catholic chapel memorializes chaplain

BY ANN HAUPRICH
CORRESPONDENT

A former weight training room at Saratoga Central Catholic High School is being transformed into a chapel dedicated to the weight room's best customer.

In the 1990s, Spa Catholic campus minister Rev. Anthony Maione earned the nickname "the powerlifting padre" for his weight training exercise routine. The priest died in 2006, but his legacy lives on in Rev. James Ebert, who credits Father Maione with heavily influencing his decision to enter the priesthood.

An alumnus of Spa Catholic, Father Ebert recalled the first time he met Father Maione at a parish picnic: "He was wearing shorts and a t-shirt and didn't look much like a priest to me, but over the next several years, he became my role model and my friend."

Today, Father Ebert is associate pastor at St. Mary's Church in Ballston Spa. He appreciated being asked by Spa Catholic principal L. Stephen Lombard

and development director Jean Taylor to provide input on plans for the new chapel.

Closer to home

"Although St. Peter's Church is next door, going there requires students to leave the school building. There is currently no designated place inside of the school where students may go for confession or to receive one-on-one spiritual counseling," Father Ebert explained.

Renovations on the room are beginning this month, with help from the Saratoga Knights of Columbus. Plans include new drywall and carpeting and the installation of a window in the chapel's main door so that staff and students may see what's happening inside, but may not eavesdrop on counseling or confessions.

"The ceiling will be dropped and the fluorescent lighting will be replaced by recessed lighting to create a warm and welcoming ambiance," Father Ebert said. The priest's "wish list" also includes stained glass windows.

Father Ebert expressed gratitude to St. Paul's parish in Troy, which closed, for donating pews, paneling and an altar. St. Teresa of Avila School in Albany which merged with Holy Cross School to become All Saints Catholic Academy, offered a crucifix and statues.

In addition, Rev. Thomas Morenc, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Broadalbin and St. Francis in Northville, is helping to secure vestments and liturgical ware for the chapel.

It was during Father Tony's



FATHERS MAIONE AND EBERT. To donate toward the chapel, visit www.saratoga-catholic.org or call Jean Taylor at 587-7070, ext. 108.

tenure as campus minister that [Spa Catholic] was named one of the 25 most innovative Catholic high schools in the nation," reflected Father Ebert.

Lasting legacy

While that honor was an important part of Father Maione's legacy, Father Ebert believes the addition of the chapel with the eucharist — which he describes as "the heart of every Catholic school" — will strengthen Spa Catholic's campus ministry program.

"One of the things Father Tony said that helped me with my decision to become a priest was that my concerns about priests not being able to experience the joys of fatherhood were unfounded," recalled Father Ebert. "He said: 'Look at me! I've got 250 kids' — a reference to his students. These days, I tell people I have 450 kids — 217 at SCC and another 235 at St. Mary's in Ballston Spa."

Father Ebert hopes that, through the chapel in his honor, Father Maione will continue to inspire young hearts and minds.

Members of the Saratoga Knights of Columbus march to St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church en route to a service honoring the Rev. Anthony Maione in 2010. The Rev. James Ebert (seated above left with Past Grand Knight Rich Gorman) told those in attendance at the chapel dedication ceremony how Father Tony had helped to inspire him to become a priest. Details of the event were captured in the above article Ann Hauprich wrote for *The Saratogian* in which Father Ebert described the padre at right as having been an important spiritual advisor and mentor. "One of the things Father Tony said that helped me with my decision to become a priest was that my concerns about priests not being able to experience the joys of fatherhood were unfounded," shared the then newly ordained Father Ebert. "He said: 'Look at me! I've got 250 kids — a reference to his students.'"



The Powerlifting Padre made uplifting headlines in 1991...

28 **WEIGHTY TOPIC**

THE EVANGELIST October 17, 1991

OOOF!

Priest hefts weight to keep his down

By ANN HAUPRICH

Mention Clark Kent sneaking into a phone booth to emerge as the crusading "man of steel" and Rev. Anthony Maione can't help but flex his facial muscles into a powerful grin.

While he doesn't aspire to be a "Superman," the 33-year-old priest has learned to respond good-naturedly to his nickname: "The Powerlifting Padre."

That's what happens, he says, when the teenage students you counsel find out you can deadlift 390 pounds. What many students at Saratoga Central Catholic High School don't know is the extraordinary story behind their campus minister's commitment to weight-training.

Beginning

"I had kidney disease when I was 10 years old and was bedridden for a year," explains Father Maione. "During that year, I gained a lot of weight, which became virtually impossible to lose. The disease kept me athletically inactive throughout high school, and I just kept gaining weight, which stayed on. I began trying to eat — not eating so I was dealt with the stress in my life by over-eating."

By the time he was 30, Father Maione, 5'11" tall, weighed almost 300 pounds.

His obesity was causing health problems ranging from dangerously high triglycerides that threatened to suffocate his liver to a disabling case of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. During a mandatory physical given to all priests in the Albany Diocese in 1989, a doctor ordered Father Maione to lose weight — preferably about 100 pounds!

Changes

At first, the challenge seemed overwhelming. "It meant changing my entire lifestyle," recalls Father Maione. "I had to re-learn how and what to eat as well as adding exercise to my already packed regular schedule."

At the time, Father Maione, who was ordained in 1985, was working as associate pastor at St. Gabriel's Church in Rotterdam. (Prior to that, he served Clinton Park's St. Edward congregation.) Signing up for aerobics classes was definitely out of the question. Participation in strenuous team sports like basketball and volleyball was also limited by his excess weight. Indeed, the only exercise the doctor initially recommended was walking — something akin to a penance for the then 292-pound padre.

"The diet part went well, but I just couldn't bring myself to do a lot of walking," confesses Father Maione. "The result was — after dropping more than 100 pounds (he got down to 185) I went from being fat to flabby. I had to do something to tone and tighten."

Health club

The first step toward physical renewal was joining a health club where Father

Maione was introduced to exercise machines, aerobics and some light weights. It wasn't until last winter that he was convinced to give powerlifting a try. By this time, he was counseling and teaching peer ministry at Spa Catholic. It was a plea for temporary coaching assistance from the school's athletic director that ultimately landed the mild-mannered cleric in a powerlifting suit!

Father Maione began rather cautiously, benching 120 pounds, squatting 135 and deadlifting 185. Nine months later, he benches 180, squats 315 and deadlifts nearly 400 pounds!

The Powerlifting Padre is humble about his accomplishments, insisting they were the result of a lot of good, old-fashioned, unglamorous "effort and hard work." He also points to the power of prayer. Posters on the walls of Spa Catholic's weightlifting room feature such inspirational slogans as "Do your best... God will do the rest" and "See yourself through God's eyes, and you will know that you can do anything."

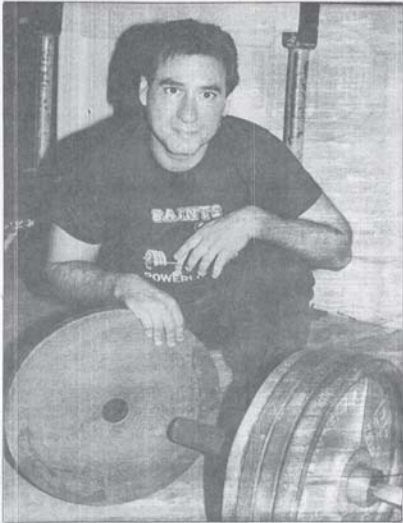


Benefits

Watching Father Maione and others turning purple, veins bulging under the stress of the weights, one cannot help but ask "Why?" The answer, he says, is that weight-lifting increases physical stamina, exercises the heart muscle, and helps tone the body — things that remain important following drastic weight loss.

Now in his third year at Spa Catholic, Father Maione also encourages some of his students to participate in the school's powerlifting program as a way to build not just muscles — but self-confidence!

"The teen years are a turbulent time when it comes to a young person's sense of who they are," he said. "A lot of kids lack self-esteem. Weight training is good for them because they are almost guaran-



teed to see steady increases in their abilities from week to week."

Goal

Father Maione's personal goal is to reach numbers where he'll be able to "lift to win" in competitions for his age and weight class — hopefully by late 1992 or early 1993. To achieve that goal will mean benching 250 pounds, squatting 400 and deadlifting 450.

Will he still be a "Powerlifting Padre" 40 years from now?

"Let me put it this way," he says: "I recently saw an 84-year-old man deadlift 350 pounds at the national drug-free championships. That made me realize this is not an activity that will have to end with youth. Seeing that old man in action really inspired me to want to stick with this as long as I am able."

Lift that bar

Father Maione is shown in various stages of his weight training. Helping him out is Tim Hauprich, powerlifting coach for the Saratoga Catholic Central High Saints.

