

January 9, 2014

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stephanie Politi and I have been the Director of Youth of Youth Ministry and Confirmation Preparation at St Rose of Lima Parish in East Hanover, NJ for the past eleven years.

Part of our curriculum and programming each year includes bringing in outside speakers from various agencies and organizations to speak to our high school students, catechists, parents and parishioners on a variety of subjects. The speakers will be from community food banks, homeless shelters, missionaries, as well from everyday life on a variety of moral and/or social justice themes. In my many years at St. Rose, I've worked with in excess of twenty –five or thirty such organizations and speakers.

With this being said, a stand out among these many worthy presentations , has been the annual visit these past three years from Bill and Debbie Streiter of Florham, Park, NJ.

Bill and Debbie bring a personal and unforgettable story of love, family and faith, and present it with dignity, strength and hope. The Streiters lost their two children, Billy and Ashley, to a drunk driver over ten years ago. Since that time they have been tireless in their mission to share their story. This story has multiple messages: Don't drink and drive is of course the most powerful, and extremely relevant to the high school audience and parents. However, Bill and Debbie and Billy and Ashley have so much more to teach. They show us what a family filled with love and faith and forgiveness looks like and how it sustains us. The Streiters raised their children with God and family at the center, and they share this with the audience, through an eloquent and moving presentation, in which both Bill and Debbie take turns speaking. Both are excellent speakers, in turn both are powerful, yet sensitive. They also share personal and moving photos on a large screen as a backdrop to this incredible story.

The reaction at our Parish each time they come has been the biggest response of any other speakers I have worked with in my tenure here. The students are mesmerized and ask sensitive and thought provoking questions, and continue to discuss with their classes for weeks to come. The parents have written me notes and called me, thanking me for bringing the Streiters to us. In short, the Streiters have made an indelible impact on hundreds of people, just at our small parish in an only a once a year, 90 minute visit. This year when they come, our Pastor is personally encouraging our parish bereavement group to attend, as he feels they will benefit from the inspiration and hope the Streiters invoke.

It is my honor and privilege to recommend Bill and Debbie Streiter to any group or organization looking for an inspiring, life changing presentation.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Politi

