

# Therese Reiser Zamboldi '62

## *Villa Maria Academy President's Hall of Fame*



**T**herese Reiser Zamboldi was the third of six children in the family of John ('27) and Grayce Marie Reiser. Therese, and siblings, John ('58), Mary Ann ('60), Mark, Peter and David, spent their formative years at their always busy family home on West 8th Street in Erie.

Therese had a very natural progression through her educational years. She went from St. Andrews School to Villa Maria Academy and then to Edinboro where she received her B.S. in Special Education in 1966. Education is a cornerstone of her life; she states, "I strongly believe that my Villa years and the life lessons I learned during those years formed the values that have guided me throughout life."

Her years at Villa were filled with creating what would be lifelong friendships with the beloved "Class of '62." She recalls planning dances, attending "YCO," savoring the Villa traditions of Mary's Day, Ring Ceremony, Sports Day, Commencement Ball and, most memorably, performing "Fractured Fairy Tales" with a few special friends for the entire student body.

Therese credits her mother for "teaching me, by words and by example, the most important elements of a successful life are the things you give away every day – kindness, love, trust, support and appreciation of the importance of **every** friendship." Therese also received daily guidance at Villa from Sr. Brenda Marie, an excellent, positive role model, who demonstrated self-confidence and kindness and who had such faith in her to do well that, "I just couldn't disappoint Sister."

After graduating from Edinboro in 1966, Therese accepted a position teaching Special Education in the Pittsburgh School District. In Pittsburgh, she met Dick Zamboldi and the two were married in 1967. Therese and Dick returned to Erie in 1969 and settled into their Erie life. Dick engaged in the practice of law and Therese devoted her time to raising their three children, Bissa ('87), Richard ('88) and Maggi ('91) and passing on to them the lessons she had learned from her mother. One very special step in that process, when the children were old enough, was being a "foster family," supporting five foster children through various periods from birth until adoption.

During those nurturing years, Therese completed her Masters Degree at Edinboro. When their children were mature enough, she returned to her role as an educator, first at the Barber Center where she initiated the Supported Employment Program, then at the Erie School District, teaching Special Education and Special Kindergarten.

Her role as mother, teacher, friend, mentor and role model continues as she shares the joy of life with her five grandsons: Junior, George, Nicholas, Luke, and Rex.

Villa remains a strong presence in her life. She and "the girls of '62" gather regularly for lunches and social events. She and Dick host reunions and milestone celebrations with her classmates. Therese states, "I truly believe educated, principled, women are vital to our children, our community, and our future. Villa taught me values and showed me how to be strong and how to pray. I want to continue to support a school that produces women of principle and character tempered with care, love and kindness."

Thank you, Therese, for your commitment to Villa Maria Academy. Congratulations on your induction into the prestigious Villa Maria Academy's President's Hall of Fame.