



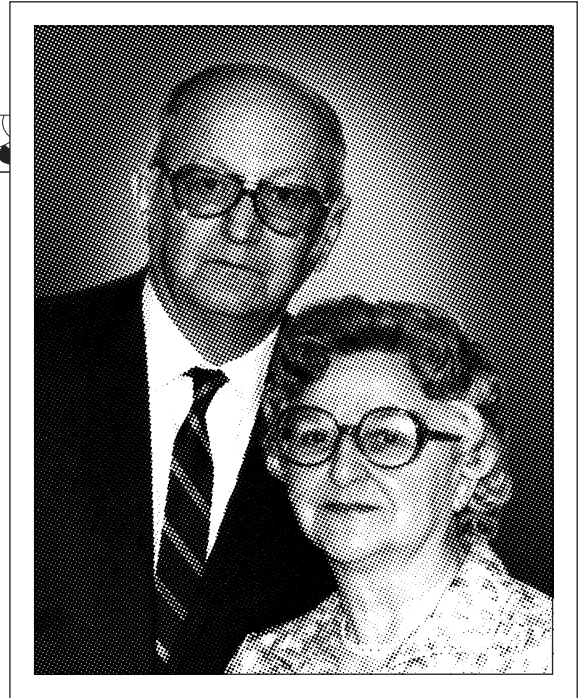
2007

Frank V. Ludka

1910-1999

and

Lillian (Antony) Ludka



In their humble way, Frank and Lillian “Tony” Ludka represent the dedicated faithful of their generation. Over the decades, they worked unselfishly on events and fundraisers for the Catholic schools while making enduring friendships.

Frank, an Immaculate Conception westsider, played on the St. Francis 1926 District and 1927 District & Regional basketball championship teams. Tony played girls’ basketball from 1924-1927. The Sodality of Our Lady helped form these future Catholic leaders. They graduated in 1927 and attended Western State Teachers College (WMU).

In 1933, they began a 65 year marriage in which their love and caring was ever present. They mentored many young families. As their eight children grew in faith at St. Francis School, Frank and Lillian’s involvement in the schools intensified.

Frank was determined to give students every possible opportunity to participate in sports. He helped form the St. Francis Athletic Association and in 1951 Gladiator football took the field. He was the unpaid athletic director for years and volunteered as a ticket seller well into his eighties. Frank often phoned the young athletes before games to wish

them well and to remind them about “defense.” It was said that Frank probably knew more students by name than anyone.

Frank served on the St. Francis Parish Council and Tony was a member of the new church building committee. They spearheaded the annual Bishop’s Clothing Drive for Catholic Relief Services with the students’ help.

Tony was a proud member of the Parent Teacher Association for 28 years. As president, she helped make it a vital organization. She was a lifetime member of the St. Francis Altar Society. In 1967, she was elected to the St. Francis School Board and continued as secretary on the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Board of Education through 1974. During this difficult era that challenged the very existence of Catholic education, she encouraged board members to persevere. Lillian considered her part in the effort to unite and keep the Catholic schools open one of her life’s greatest achievements.

Frank and Lillian’s support of Catholic education was total and unwavering. They approached all trials prayerfully and lived by the words of Saint Francis – “It is in giving that we receive.”