

St. Francis Athletic Association-CYO

Anthony "Andy" Sorendo Annual Memorial Scholarship

"Andy" Sorendo started coaching at St. Francis in the late 1960's until his passing in 1992. The night he died he had just returned from basketball practice and was still wearing his coach's whistle. He loved working with the youth in the community. He was not only a coach but a mentor to young people. His son, Tony, remembers that he was well respected and treated every child as one of his own. He founded the "Little Tots" program with kindergarten age

children and taught them the fundamentals of the game.

Andy also organized special events at St. Francis Church. He started the Oktoberfest and New Years Eve parties featuring bands from all over New York State. He also held an annual sports banquet which hosted many sports figures from SU coach Jim Boehiem to champion boxer Carmen Basilio. The sports banquet honored graduating Cayuga County seniors with plaques stating their sports achievements. The plaques were presented in memory of a deceased St. Francis parishioner with a relative presenting. Also recognized with awards were noteworthy adult members of the community.

His longtime CYO board members included Marco Orasi, Jim McGrath, Eddie Picciano, Nick Kuncio, Cy Germano, Bob Mazzeo, Tony LeFabvre, Mike Deyneka, Bill Bellerdine, Irv Wilmarth, Joe DeMaio, and Arlene Ryan. He also founded the St. Francis Athletic Association Hall of Fame which boasted 100 inductees with its last entry.

In 1989, Andy initiated a minimal scholarship for a graduating Auburn High School Senior to encourage secondary education. Upon his death the scholarship was named in his honor. Andy was a true figurehead at St. Francis always ready to sell raffle tickets to build up CYO finances. He is remembered for beginning and ending each practice and game with a prayer. He will remain in our

memories and in our prayers as an icon at St. Francis.

The Anthony “Andy” Sorendo Scholarship is based on academic ability and financial need. The application is available in the scholarship application packet handed out at Auburn High School. The deadline for application is May 1st with the award being presented at the evening awards assembly.

**Submitted by Arlene P. Ryan
(secretary from 1981-2011)**