



NAZARETH ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Friend,

On October 11th, heaven greeted an extraordinary angel while we here on earth mourned the peaceful passing of Michelle Lynn Mayer --mother, wife, daughter, sister and friend. At age 39, Michelle had touched so many lives through her numerous achievements. From her work as a Research Fellow and Research Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she reached students in the classroom and beyond. She demonstrated her faith and beliefs by establishing The Elizabeth Ministry at her parish, St. Thomas More, and volunteering tireless hours helping women, children and families. People were better for knowing Michelle.

Touching more than 115,000 people through her written word, Michelle began a blog in May 2008 – *Diary of a Dying Mom* (<http://www.diaryofadyingmom.blogspot.com>). The blog chronicled her long battle with Scleroderma – the good, the bad and the ugly - as well as providing a legacy that will endure forever. Through writings, she chose to educate and comfort us even as she faced an unimaginable challenge. Through her posts you immediately find yourself face to face with Michelle – laughing and crying as you hear her speak every word.

Michelle's greatest love was her family – her husband Bill; children Amelia and Aidan; her parents; her brothers and her friends. They continue to need our love, support and prayers throughout this difficult time.

Michelle's journey began in Northeast Philadelphia and among many avenues, took her down Grant Avenue and through the doors of Nazareth Academy High School. At Nazareth, Michelle's indelible mark can be felt 20 some years later. Vividly, we remember her as being involved, eager, enthusiastic, dependable and fiercely loyal. The relationships built within the halls of Nazareth and with the Class of 1986 served as lifelong friendships for Michelle and ultimately as a strong support system for her family. It has been said by many that Nazareth Academy evokes a feeling of family. We are indeed a family who prays together, works together, cheers together, cries together and sticks together.

I am humbled to announce, in partnership with her family, the establishment of the Michelle Lynn Mayer Memorial Scholarship Fund at Nazareth Academy High School. In a tribute by Michelle's brother Keith, he talks of her writings and how they centered upon her childhood memories including, "her fabulous high school years and the lifetime friends she made during those four years."

Michelle's legacy will continue through her children, her writings, her life and now through her alma mater. The Michelle Lynn Mayer Memorial Scholarship will assist an incoming freshman with financial support, thus enabling another young woman to make Nazareth a cornerstone of her life. Many families wish to send their daughters to Nazareth; however, due to a variety of circumstances, they simply cannot. This scholarship will make a critical difference and continue Michelle's fine legacy.

I hope you will join me in providing a tribute through a gift to The Michelle Mayer Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be made to Nazareth Academy High School – Development Office– 4001 Grant Avenue – Philadelphia, PA 19114 or via the website at <http://nazarethacademyhs.org/Alumnae/alummemorials.html>. Please note "Mayer Scholarship" in the memo field. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui McClernan Makowski, '85 at 215.268.1032 or makowski@nazarethacademyhs.org.

Although we are saddened by the tremendous loss, Michelle is now pain free and at peace – free to serve as a special guardian angel to us all. Together with the Mayer and Steinbach Families, we leave you with Michelle's words from her goodbye post, "*until we meet again, Godspeed.*"

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Joan Jacobs, CSFN, Ed.D, Principal

The Mayer and Steinbach Families
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