

EX-BOXER PAUL DOYLE GIVES BACK TO THE YOUTH OF THE COMMUNITY **by Mickey Finn**

St. Peter's Parish, in the Meetinghouse Hill area of Dorchester, Massachusetts has always been one of the most devout areas of Catholicism in the Archdiocese of Boston, and still continues in its strength of faith. Going back to the old days of The Flip and Flop (where the trampolines were the attraction), the Saints (not canonized but a group who hung at the drug store), and the Lyons Club who dominated the Boston Park League as a football team, the Parish has seen many great athletes and neighborhood people who never forgot where they came from. Amongst the most popular and memorable of the neighborhood is the well respected retired Boston Police Officer Jimmy O'Malley, the late Johnny Donovan, out of Cathedral High, who was a great baseball player and whose dad made it to the professional ranks, as well as Arthur 'Hawk' Metz, an outstanding football player and coach.



Paul Doyle (left) and Father Richard 'Doc' Conway

From Fr. Gil Phinn to Fr. Dan Finn St. Peter's has maintained a proud stability and pride. Sports has always been a dominate measure amongst the residents and these days the tradition is carried on due to the presence of former Dorchester resident Paul Doyle who runs a Boxing Program for the youth in the school hall twice a week. Doyle, a Rutgers University grad, is a well schooled boxer who held several titles in his day, and now devotes his time to instructing younger people in the art of the Sweet Science. This weekly get together has helped to discipline and build confidence in those who are at a fork on the road of life. Many young people may have gone down the wrong path but Paul has been there to show them the right road and have them travel in the proper direction. The boxers have learned the way to succeed in the sport and although they may not make a living from it, or hold a title, they realize that their confidence and stability have come to the peak of where it should be in order to know right from wrong.

Throughout the years the resident priests have always worked within the community to bring encouragement and peace to the forefront. That effort is now carried on by Fr. Jack Ahern and Fr. Richard 'Doc' Conway. They, along with Paolo Barros, who is the Director of the Saint Peter's Teen Center have done a superb job in bringing harmony to the Bowdoin Street area. Catholic Charities has enabled the progress of this program to a great degree, therefore there is a solid backing and participation in this program.

On the nights of the gym classes, which are Tuesday and Thursday with two sessions each night, an array of concerned people are there to encourage and insure a safe and rewarding environment. A number of the youth have seen the light, so to speak, because of this program which is under the supervision of those who have been there and done that. They all speak from experience.

Doyle is a retired agent of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. He is the author of a best seller, entitled Hot Shots and Heavy Hits, which was published several years ago. The book reports on his life with the DEA and how he not only prosecuted the bad guys but assisted many who were innocently dragged into the habit get the help they needed for a recovery. Several years ago, while Ring 4 was assisting Fr. Bob Reed on Catholic TV, a woman asked for his intervention with a relative and at once he made a phone call to get the ball rolling. That is his nature to get the first punch in as soon as the bell goes off in order to set the pace for the tough fight ahead.

Behind every good man there is a good woman and behind Paul is his wife Pam who is as energetic and dedicated as he is to many causes. They have both been active with the Mother Teresa Missionaries and engaged in many events to help children enjoy their lives.

Arthur Ciriello and Stephen Doran assist with the boxing program and help develop the interested youth into well rounded citizens as well as potential boxers. Doran is a Boston Police Officer at Area C-11 who has been active as a sparring partner for some top notch boxers and a model for physical fitness. He is always there for advice to those who seek the right path to walk. Arthur devotes a great deal of time to this program and is very diligent in his work to benefit the youth who are involved. Many others are to be commended for the success of this program which in reality is a fifteen round title bout since all unselfishly dedicate their precious time for the benefit of others.

Paul is known for his strength both in and out of the ring. His punching power is close to being unequalled and his zest to help others is on the same parallel. The combinations of his punches during his ring days brought victory. He continued to combine his talents and experiences for the welfare of others in a very unselfish fashion. The young boxers he coaches at St. Peters have developed into young adults who appreciate what hard work can accomplish. Doyle has a great deal of talent to pass on in regard to a successful boxing program. Of the many who have been there for the workouts Radino Lima, who is a freshman at the City on a Hill High School, takes his workouts seriously and is guided and encouraged by the instructors. He is timed at his workout segments and instructed not to quit but keep going with the heavy bag, The punch pads and the jump rope. Not an idle moment for a young boxers is warranted if they intend to be part of the sport. Strict discipline replaces the friendly smiles when the punching bags start to sway. Radino is a heavy puncher with the will to be the best and no doubt one day he will accomplish that feat.

Paul Doyle is a very unassuming man who seldom speaks of his accomplishments but has an outstanding record to prove his status. His storied career in Boxing consist of the New England Diamond Belt Title and the Pacific Coast Heavyweight Championship among his trophy collection, not to mention over fifty amateur bouts with a record he refuses to make public due his personality. Paul and I started boxing in the Boston Parks Department Program in the late 1950's and at that young age he showed a definite talent that usually escapes other boxers. He stays active in competitive Boxing as a referee and judge at both the amateur and professional level. To his credit Doyle has been inducted into both the Ring 99 and the Ring 4 Veteran Boxers Hall of Fame. He has also been welcomed into the New England Amateur Boxing Hall of Fame as the only uncontested nominee. Paul also serves as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Ring 4 Inc., Veteran Boxers Association, which responds to the needs of the club and its members. Ring 4 is known as the Brotherhood of Boxing because of contributors such as Paul. I can attest to Paul's ability in regard to the Sport of Boxing whereas we have sparred many rounds together over the years. Many of these rounds have come in our days of retirement and he never lost his knowledge of the Sweet Science. Like the song goes 'Rock Me' - he rocked me many times.



Paul Doyle, right with 15-year old Jason Pires

Doyle, who is devout Catholic, also serves the Church as a Eucharistic Minister and has always had the utmost of respect for Cardinal Sean O'Malley, whereas he admires him for his humility and dedication to his flock. He has based his association with the program at St. Peter's on the qualities that the Cardinal has displayed since being appointed to lead our Diocese. Paul has stated that "In a day and age when violence seems to headline our lives this nonprofit program and the time donated by many caring people at Saint Peter's has proven that peace on earth can become a reality in our own back yard, or should I say at Ringside."