

Every day is a celebration of mother's day

By Michaela Kennedy

Mother's Day falls on May 13, which is also the 15th wedding anniversary of Susan Baccari and Christopher Varrechione. The day may turn into a zany affair for Baccari, who is the mother of six. But then again, madcap adventures seem part of the daily routine at the big house on Rub Street.

Baccari was up early last Saturday to set up the concession at the ball field. "I'm here already, so I may as well run the concession stand," she said. Between work at the family business and running a household, Baccari chauffeurs her five boys to soccer, baseball or basketball games, with baby girl Isabella in tow. After the baseball game, Baccari went home to prepare for a 75-guest party to celebrate the First Communion of nine-year-old Giancarlo on the following day. She is the picture of organized success.

"I truly am blessed," Baccari said. She didn't always feel that way, especially after the second set of twins was born. Baccari confessed to crying a lot back then, asking, "How could this happen to me twice?"



The Baccari-Varrechione family includes, top row, from left, Christopher, Nicholas, 14, Isabella, 3, Susan, Alessandro, 14. In front are Dimitri, 10, Giancarlo, 9 and Antonio, 10. Photo by Michaela Kennedy

Even when the fifth boy was born, Baccari continued to feel a motherly search inside. When the sixth child and first girl was born, she knew she was done. "She completes me as a mother," Baccari said of her baby.

Baccari's life continued to be

prolific in strange ways. A few years ago, her boys insisted on buying a pet hamster. "Four weeks later, 15 baby hamsters were born, and the mother ate half of them," she related. The bewildered mother put the critters into a gift bag, and packed the bag and children

into the car to return the hamsters to Petco.

On the way to the pet store, she heard a voice from one of the boys, "Mommy, baby hamster." The animals had chewed their way through the bag and were running all over the vehicle. "I was afraid

they would run up my leg while driving," she recalled, adding that the store clerk spent an hour and twenty minutes catching them all.

The April Fool's Day joke that Susan continues to play on her husband, with success, is that she announces she is pregnant. "It works every year," she laughed. Because of the teasing, her husband didn't believe a true incident that happened early one April with another pet. A year after the hamster fiasco, a repeat incident with a rabbit occurred, and it was no joke. She bought the bunny for her children at a fair, insisting that the seller confirm the animal was a male and not pregnant. "Ten days later it gave birth to babies," she said. She had to convince her husband it was not an April Fool's joke. "Anytime we buy anything, it ends up pregnant."

Some friends and relatives see Baccari as a good luck charm. Her cousin-in-law who had been trying to get pregnant came and asked Baccari to rub her arm. "Within a year, she got pregnant," Baccari revealed.

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