

# Franciscan Alumni Association



Established May 28th, 1989

Serving Provinces of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John the Baptist

[www.franciscan-alumni.org](http://www.franciscan-alumni.org)

## Message from Alumni Assn Pres, Rick Gardner

The time I spent at the seminary was another life long ago. I look back fondly, thinking about all of the experiences and, more importantly, I remember those with whom I shared them.

I recall the classes, masses and meals, but also remember the hiking and camping in the woods. I reflect back on the evening walks, deep discussions, playing basketball and soccer... I enjoyed swimming in the pool and hiking into Winton Woods and Mt. Healthy. We sold raffle tickets door to door in the spring. I recall going to classmates' homes for weekends, Picnic Days and campaigning for Big Chief. I remember the study halls and work periods.

But, it was with whom I did all of these things and shared these experiences that makes these cherished memories. I lived with, and shared my life with, a hundred brothers. I remember a lot of my fellow seminarians as well as priests, brothers and nuns. I can still see the faces and hear the voices of fellow seminarians, some of whom I haven't seen in thirty years. We were a community. We shared a common thread in our exploration of the Franciscan ideals.

It was the chance to relive old memories with

friends from the seminary that got me going to the Franciscan Alumni Association chapter reunions, and it's that sense of community that keeps me going back. We come together again as a community and again share in the mass, meal and Franciscan fellowship. It's very special.

A couple of the goals of the Alumni Association are to foster communication among you, the members and to offer consolation and reconciliation to those who feel alienated or bitter. The annual reunion is a great way to help these two endeavors. I want to believe that even if you disliked your time at the seminary, you must have had some friends. And if you had some friends, you must have some good memories of times shared together. So, isn't it time you got together with your old friends? Don't you miss the fellowship? The reunion is a great time and place to get reacquainted with your classmates, schoolmates and faculty.

So, I now wish to extend to you an invitation to join us at our next Franciscan Alumni Association Chapter Reunion. Come back to St. Francis Seminary this summer. Take part again in the mass, meal, and entertainment with fellow seminarians and their families and have some fun!

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## 2005 Chapter June 24-25 at Former St. Francis Seminary

*Featuring Friday Social, Saturday Sports, Tours, Mass, Dinner, and Saturday Evening Concert by Gregg Martinez!!*

This year's chapter (reunion for all classes and friends) will again be held at "the farm." 10290 Mill Road in the Mt. Healthy area of northern Cincinnati.

Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there. More than 100 attended a couple years ago and had a great time at the former seminary! Quite a number of our members have already signed up to attend the June 24-25 event. You can see their names listed on the alumni website at [www.franciscan-alumni.org](http://www.franciscan-alumni.org).

There will be a social at a hotel on Friday, June 24, beginning at 6 pm. We've negotiated a reduced room rate of \$89 per night at Staybridge Suites, which is off I-75, just north of the intersection of I-75 and I-275. The address is 8955 Lakota Drive West, West Chester, Ohio 45069. The

*(Continued on page 2)*



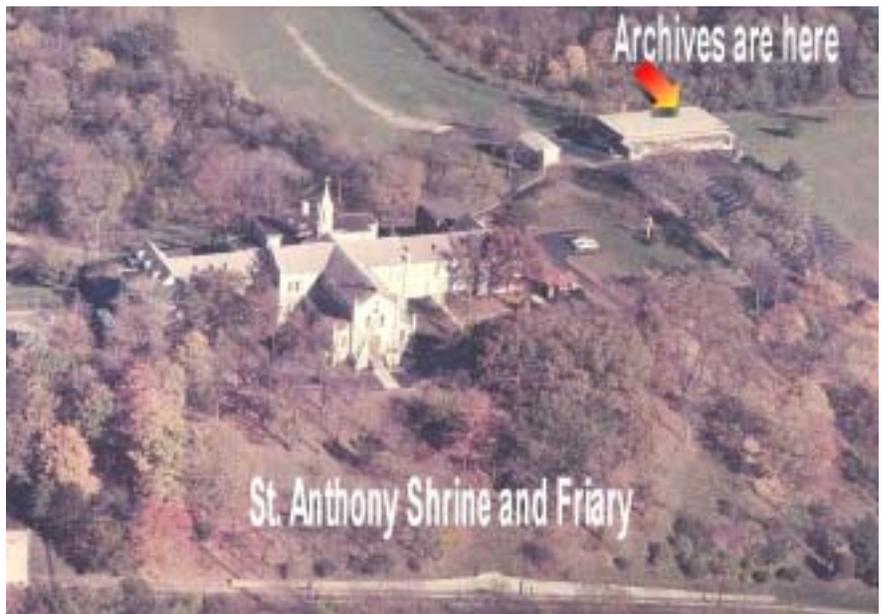
Brother Donald Lachowicz and Rich Daley are organizing something special for the class of '80 (and overlapping grad years '77 - '83) in conjunction with the Chapter reunion weekend. Donald wrote: "It will be 25 years since the closing of St. Francis Seminary. It'd be kind of neat to have the guys from 1955 and 1980 to have a chance to meet each other. Spanning the generations—25 and 50 year celebrations!"

Fr. Dan Anderson will provide a tour of the fascinating and beautiful Provincial Archives at St. Anthony Friary at 10 a.m. Saturday. 5000 Cole-rain Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio. The entrance to the Archives is at the rear of the building as shown in the photo below. We will also have a tour of the Friary and chapel immediately after the Archives tour.

phone number for the hotel is (513) 874-1900. When making a reservation, tell them you are with the "Franciscan Reunion." The hotel is about 15 minutes from Mercy Franciscan (the former St. Francis Seminary). Directions: I-75 exit 19 west on Union Centre Blvd, right on Mulhauser.

member of the class of '55 or an "associate" and plan to attend this dinner on Friday night, please inform Terry McNally, (859) 341-9128. His mailing address is 789 Woodbine Ct., Edgewood, KY 41017.

The class of '55 is having a dinner on Friday night for their class and "associates" whose seminary years overlapped with the class of '55. The Friday dinner for that group will be 6 to 9 pm in a room at The Manor House Restaurant, 600 Maple Trace Drive, Springdale, OH 45245 (513) 782-8241. (I-75 to Sharon Road exit 15, west on Sharon Road for two miles, right on Springfield Pike, right at first light, which is Maple Trace Drive, and go to the end of that road.) There's a seafood buffet that night for \$16.95 that also includes prime rib and chicken. There will be a cash bar. If you are a



Then we'll gather at the former seminary after 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 25 in the vicinity of Fr. Aubert's Peace Garden. There will be tours of old and new facilities, mass, dinner, entertainment, and additional time for socializing.

Following the Saturday 5 pm Mass in the chapel, 6 pm dinner in study hall, and awards, there will be a special concert at 8:00 pm, featuring Gregg Martinez.

Gregg is a professional entertainer and a member of the St. Francis Seminary class



of '74. He gave an outstanding concert a couple years ago in Albuquerque for the alumni Chapter. His songs weave a Christian/moral message into a story of survival and reconnecting with God. But Gregg isn't your typical Christian singer. His roots are in blues, pop, Cajun, and rock music. His concerts are very entertaining, spiritually invigorating--and not too loud.

The concert will be in the SFS chapel. It's free, but we hope many people will buy a CD or two after the concert to help

support Gregg's ministry, which reaches out to adults and kids through church and school programs. You can read and hear more about Gregg Martinez at this website: [www.greggmartinez.com](http://www.greggmartinez.com).

At the end of the concert, there will be a short service where we recall the alumni who have recently died, and light candles in remembrance of them.

Most of the building exteriors and landscape at the old seminary have not changed much in the last 30 years, but many of the interior areas have been remodeled into apartments for the elderly. It was a natural transition, since many of the classrooms, offices and lounge areas were the right size for an apartment—but can you imagine sleeping in the biology lab?? It's interesting to see how they've modernized the buildings while retaining a sense of "old world charm" and peace.

Additionally, several cottages are being constructed on the acreage between the baseball fields and Calvary.



What about cost? The Friday social is free--there will be a basket for contributions to help cover the cost. We'll be requesting a \$20 registration fee per alumnus to help with general expenses and \$10 per person for the Saturday evening dinner. There will also be a silent auction in study hall to help raise much needed funds for the Alumni Association newsletters, website, and charitable works.



## Brown & White Reflections — '68 to '72

by Tom Baca '72

Taken together, all the stories, poetry, editorials and photographs published in the Brown and White (B&W) magazine throughout all the years of St. Francis Seminary's existence up to the spring of 1968, breathed directionality, certainty, strength of mind, heart, and soul; they breathed growth. These continued musings and my memories of the B&W during the years I was at the seminary (1968-1972) are intimately intertwined with the whole experience of being there.

The winds of tumultuous change hit the old school broadside in the fall of 1968. By then, the B&W began to document a profound contrast. The scores of years of relative peace and purity, of certain direction, of discerning a call to the priesthood, would give way to the contrast of years of upheaval, of uncertainty, and of determining who we were in the mix of life. In many ways, the priesthood was probably the farthest thing from our minds. For the next four years, the freshmen class sizes seemed to get smaller and smaller. In society, there were demonstrations against the Vietnam War. The lyrics of the Sounds of Silence, Eleanor Rigby, the Woodstock phenomenon, and the protest songs of Joan Baez and Arlo Guthrie seemed to become intertwined in the thinking of the student body. And while the band played on, the hair grew long. As more and more men were dying in Vietnam, as more and more hippie colonies became convinced that the enemy was not the Vietnamese, but established authority, so it seemed that the die was cast. The "righteous road" was that of the person who would be willing to offer protest, and undergo arrest and confinement "for the higher cause." Where was the peace that we sought after so much?

The civil rights movement was part of this panorama of emotion. It was not a far cry to connect the dots from the adulation of Martin Luther King Jr. to the idolization of Jimmie Hendrix, two black icons on completely opposite ends of the behavioral and moral spectrum. The B&W contained its usual collection of news stories, but where the difference was really evident was with those parts of the magazine that allowed the seminarians to reflect upon their own state of mind concerning a variety of issues. These mirrored the times. Editorials buzzed with advocacy for social action concerning war, peace, feeding the hungry, population control, etc. Former co-editor-in-chief, Fr. Jeff Scheeler OFM ('70) summarized it this way: "Those were the days of the Vietnam War; those issues were in the air." When one refers to "those issues" to those who lived those years, it's easy to make connections to all of the disestablishmentarianism that was pervasive with the Vietnam War at its core. Civil rights, the sexual revolution, the hippie movement, tied-dyed shirts and bell bottoms, the use of psycho-tropic drugs, all were wrapped around the anti war movement and anti-authoritarianism in general. This also manifested itself in the church wherein clerics participated in radical movements that bordered upon insurrection. The Barrigan brothers (Phillip and Daniel, two Jesuit priests) were already infamous for their determination to disobey specific instruction from their superiors when it came to anti-war and anti-nuclear proliferation protests. Of course, all of this affected what we as seminarians were learning, what we were beginning to think, what we were seeing as the environment within which we could someday minister as Franciscan priests and brothers.

The most visible change in the culture of the seminarian was our mode of dress and hair length. The pages of the B&W prior to 1968 clearly show conservatively dressed young men with reasonably short hair. Pages of the B&W during the next four years show that there was a level of flexibility or tolerance in allowing the students to reflect that we were not different than the student outside the walls of SFS. The poetry of that period was more morose, somber, cynical and dark. There seemed to be an air of unhappiness bordering upon angst in the eyes of the seminarian who were photographed during this time. Nowhere to be found was the sweet inviolate innocence apparent in the language and photography of days gone by. The B&W, nevertheless, continued to professionally chronicle all these things. And of course we didn't know there was a difference as we had not lived in previous times to have experienced the radical paradigm shifts in ethics, morality and culture. The B&W magazine continued to win awards as a result of the work of contributors, the editorial staff, and the faculty advisors.

Under the editorship of Robert Buescher ('68), the B&W took a larger, more magazine-like format of 8 ½ x 11 to allow for more creative approaches to the use of "white space" and graphic arts design. This new change was the brain child of the late, Bro. Kenan (Bob) Hozie, OFM with the help of Buescher, and associate co-editors, Greg Comey and Jeff Scheeler. The B&W was to hold that format until its last year of publication in 1980. The printing process was more sophisticated and dependent upon the work of professional typesetters at St. Anthony Messenger (SAM) Press. Articles submit-

ted by staff or others would be typeset by SAM Press and configured into column formats including headlines. These typeset articles would then be laid out along with photographs and other graphics for eventual photographic plates to be developed prior to printing. This “offset” process used for the B&W was state of the art, and it involved the learning of editing and layout skills by those of us who served on the B&W editorial staff. Former editor, Fr. Jeff Scheeler, OFM recalled the ideas to innovate with size changes took place when he and co-editor Greg Comey ('70) were Associate Co-editors in 1968-69. He writes: “Greg Comey (co-editor) had a vision for a new format for the magazine, and worked to implement it. Greg had an idea for using the same cover for each issue (a design) in different colors. We also went to a larger size. We introduced a comedy column. I used to enjoy figuring out how cropped pictures would look when finished, and be fascinated by the way we could do that! I remember going through the final draft making corrections just before printing.”

That concept of holding to a consistent design with only changes in photographic images and color held until my year as editor ('71-'72) when we decided to follow the lead of some of the publications on the commercial market that used an identifying typeface or logo in the title. It seemed less of a “boiler plate” to me, and it was a bit more risky and creative; but, it had its downsides. A different cover each issue certainly meant more planning and time involved. And when you are inching toward a deadline it would perhaps be better to have a consistent design that would save time.

The relationship between the SAM Press staff and the B&W staff was significant. SAM printing staff members Ms. Evelyn Ziesler and Mr. Bob Walden became advisors and consultants to the editorial and circulation staff during these years. They assisted with the process of developing alternative layouts and in the use of advanced reproduction techniques for photographs. It was this relationship between the B&W and the SAM that produced what other seminarians considered the “perks” of being on the editorial staff or circulation staff of the B&W. The perks involved our being able to procure one of the faculty vehicles. We usually signed out the 66 Chevy Bel air for a bi-weekly jaunt to SAM Headquarters near Liberty and Vine Streets in downtown Cincinnati. Former co-editor Fr. Jeff Scheeler, O.F.M. ('70) states: “I remember trips down to the St. Anthony Messenger to prepare for printing. Getting out and driving a car was special in those days.” My own recollections include those deep but sometimes very funny conversations with Rick McCoy ('72), Mike Gerencer ('73) and Steve Brunette ('73). Our bonding time was significant because it involved time away from other activities, either in the B&W offices or during our jaunts to the SAM in the '66 Chevy. We even had our own little hot water pot for tea or coffee in the B&W offices on the third floor. Now that's a perk if there's ever been one!

Not only was this an opportunity for us to improve our recently acquired driving skills, but it was a chance to go where other seminarians were unable during the week, namely, to Pizza Hut or La Rosa's Pizzeria. Other perks involved a kind lib-

erty to work in the B&W offices at hours normally scheduled for study hall or even bed time. Although, those perks go all the way back to the early 1950's when former editor, Fr. Thomas Richstatter '55, remembers the following: “We got to stay up after lights out when we were late in meeting a publication deadline - which was most every issue. I remember one night Fr. Warren (disciplinarian) caught me in the B&W office and asked why I wasn't in bed and I just told him because I had work to do. And he was so surprised at the answer he just said ok and left! I was sure I was going to get expelled but I guess he trusted me to do what had to be done.”

Editors were driven by the daunting task of producing an attractive and readable publication that represented the seminary; who we were as seminarians; and, what we believed as young Christians on our way along the Franciscan path. In many ways, I believe all former editors could attest to the fact that the experience of being editor was a factor influencing our future. Fr. Tom ('55) writes that being editor of the B&W, “...was certainly a sign of trust and we needed signs at that age.” Fr. Jeff Scheeler, co-editor in 1970 states: I think it did help me to be a collaborative leader, to love words (written and spoken). Working as a co-editor has definitely made me value collaboration. I also still value the power and beauty of words. In preaching, the crafting of a homily and the use of words is quite important.” I sometimes ask the question whether I would have aspired to be a journalist, work for a U.S. Senator, and serve the State of New Mexico as a Cabinet Secretary, if I had not been editor of the

B&W. More importantly, the perception of those in my Parish that I am a leader must come from a chain of experiences that take me back to my days at SFS and my experience of being the editor of the B&W.

During the years between 1968 and the fall of 1971, the B&W contained several departments, each maintaining its own editor. The departmental structure of the magazine was clear and evident in the layout from 1968 through 1971. One of those departments of great significance was the "Sound Off" department wherein seminarians would reflect upon a question posed to them in advance. In response to the question: Why did you come to SFS, freshman, Gary Recinella, ('74) writes: "I didn't come here to be a priest. I am interested in finding out just what my life's goal is." It is likely that this is a much different answer than we might expect from seminarians of an earlier era. Who would have known then that a column called "Remember Ol' What's His Name" was to be a precursor of the kind of commemoration of bygone days that we now see reflected in the Franciscan Alumni Association bulletin. Ironically, it was Frank Rozmus ('72) who served as the columnist who researched alumni stories and submitted them. Before his tragic death a year and a half ago, Frank would prove to be a real force in the dogged reconnection with fallen away alumni. Frank not only secured photographic histories of times past, but also audio recordings of glee club rehearsals that now are preserved for the future.

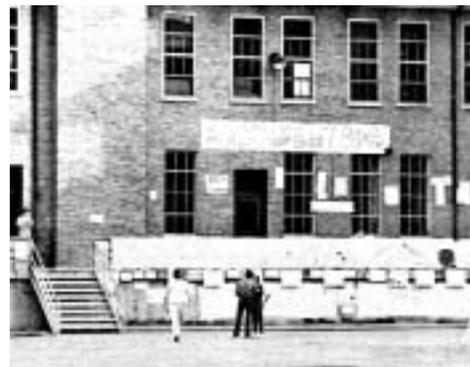
During the 1971-72 year, the editorial staff decided to use color, white space, photography, and font choices more extensively. From 1971 to 1973 the B&W included photographs for their artistic value along with poetry. Photos by Tom Lueders (73),

Larry Schulte (73) and Tony Schulte (73) grace the pages of the B&W during these years.

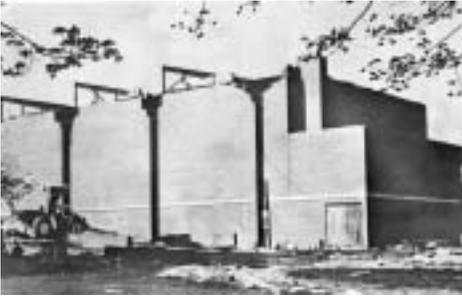
This new found ability to experiment was due in part to the fact that Faculty Advisors Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM, and Fr. Jim Fehrenbach, OFM thought it better for them to intervene only if they needed to. Issues throughout the four years clearly reflected a progression from the hands-on advising approach of Bro. Kenan Hozie OFM to a more hands-off approach under Frs. Murray and Jim.

Under the editorship of Michael Walton, '71, the B&W introduced a humor column called, "The Underground Pomegranate Garden," by Bill Sanchez ('71) and Bob Wissel ('71). The '71 winter issue contained a "tongue in cheek" list of helpful hints for revolutionaries and protesters. The article begins: "What to protest should never be a problem to a creative revolutionary. Think destructive. If there is not a vice-president visiting your area, picket the city's sanitation department." Some of the ideas reflected, although done in humor, would never pass for humor in today's post-September 11th setting. The column listed a number of fictitious coming events including: the hijacking of certain airplane flights, and the honoring of Uncle Fidel's birthday. These thoughts were undoubtedly incredibly funny at the time. But no one in this day and age would do anything but grimace at that kind of satire. Who would have thought that times would change that much? But again, the B&W rings true to reflecting the talk of the times. It was a different world from the 1950's and it was a different world than the one we live in today. The "Underground Pomegranate Garden" contained a 1970s irony but re-

flected the wit and intelligence present in our ranks. With his great intelligence that merited him one of a handful of Summa Cum Laude graduate honors in the graduating history of SFS, editor Walton proved to be a great mentor for me personally during my year as associate editor. My nickname actually was coined by Mike when I had written him a note concerning the use of a T square for laying out the next issue of the B&W. I wrote out T Square as a T and a box, hence "T Box." Walton spread the word, and I was from thence known as T Box. It's interesting that even that icon was recorded in the B&W Fall 1973 issue under the title of a story on the previous year's picnic day when T Box was trounced in the elections for Big Chief by Frank Rozmus ('72). A photograph has a T Box banner hanging on the wall above the veranda.



The Class of '72 entered SFS in 1968 as the first freshman class to use both the old locker room facilities and the locker room facilities in the newly completed Activity Center. The Activity Center contained a full size basketball gym, exercise room, and shower facilities. This turned out to be a scaled-down version of the facility that had originally been planned. The newly developed library, science labora-



*From graduation 1966 issue*

tory, hobby shop and bowling alleys were signs of past hopes and optimistic expectations that there would be an increasing number of students to use them. Already, by the Fall of 1968, it was clear that enrollment trends had begun to slide and that the added costs of building maintenance and operation in view of dropping enrollment were to become factors in the eventual consideration to close the seminary.

Graduating classes dwindled down to a precious few students each year. Statistically, this would prove devastating for priestly and Franciscan formation programs “upstream.” In other words, there were fewer and fewer students matriculating from the minor seminary to Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan and St. Leonard’s College and House of Theology in Centerville, Ohio. The bottom line was that with fewer prospects in the hopper, there would inevitably be fewer ordinations to the priesthood. The entering freshmen in autumn of 1968 numbered 36, and in 1972, only 19 graduated. Previously, the class of 1971 only graduated 6 students. However, from the classes of 1971 and 1972 there were three ordinations to the priesthood; two of them are now priests in two different provinces of the Franciscan Order, (Fr. Charlie Mar-

tinez, O.F.M., and Fr. Albert Haase, O.F.M.), and one of them (Fr. Bill Sanchez) was ordained a diocesan priest for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. From the graduation class of 1972, only Albert Haase, Alex Mazon, Mike Kordenbrock, Ed Shellenbach, and I were to attend Duns Scotus College. No graduate from the Class of 1973 was ordained to the priesthood.

.The small amount of matriculation to the upstream formation programs was to become problematic. The maintenance of large physical plants and administrative infrastructures of both Duns Scotus and St. Leonard’s for so few students eventually played into the future closure of all these formation facilities. St. John the Baptist Province of the Order of Friars Minor was then induced to rethink its program for the fostering of new vocations to the priesthood and to the order.

Of course we didn’t know any of that as students. By the early 70’s, only a few in the Order were contemplating the inevitable; that if the trends did not change, the seminary would eventually have to close. There was already evidence that the

countdown had started. The B&W as an organ of communication for St. Francis Seminary reflected the signs of stress that we all were under on both a collective and an individual basis. I can remember the faculty struggling to be less authoritarian in their attempt to collaborate with students to develop a Student Handbook of Regulations that allowed the students to take more of a leadership role in the governance of the day-to-day living process at St. Francis Seminary. An article penned by Ruben Dominguez (’72) entitled, *In the Spirit of Uncompromising Challenge*, proffered the students as playing on an equal level with faculty in the development of the handbook. I look back now and see in hindsight how arrogant many of us were to approach our superiors as such, and how arrogant it was for me as editor to publish such a piece for outsiders to read. Nevertheless, while prudence might have been lacking on my part as editor, the B&W succeeded once again in reflecting what was actually occurring in our ranks. The article reflected the dominance of revolutionary and rebellious attitudes generated at a time when the seminary could no longer separate its heart (the students) from the outside





world, from the new generation of skepticism and disdain for authority. We could no longer be insulated from the pressures and forces of the times. How things had changed from the days of Fray Angelico (Manuel) Chavez ('26)

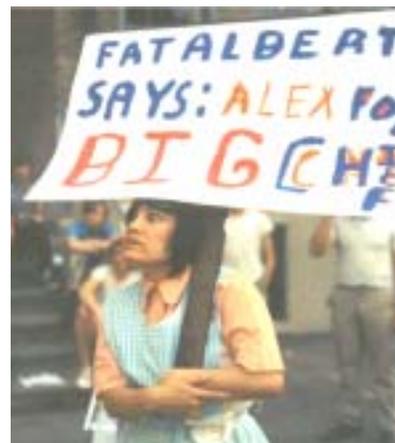
What was true about the years 68-72 had not been true of any previous time. There was a certain amount of tolerance in the allowance of fads, ways of speaking, music, dress and of course, hair length. The B&W, acting as a mirror of these realities, itself was reflective of the great urge of our generation to be different, freer and to a great extent, less structured. Fr. Theodoric (Ric) Schnieder OFM ('50) reminisced recently: "By 1970, it was obvious that we were not getting many through to ordination who started in high school, so my approach in vocation talks became, 'Come to the Seminary to see if you have a vocation. Consider a church-oriented vocation.' During the 70's, the discipline definitely loosened. By '75 already, I knew it (SFS) wouldn't survive. It was still a great school and producing great college-prep students and future leaders for the church, but it was not producing future Friars, priests and brothers. I cer-

tainly did enjoy my 20 years at the Seminary. My high school years were spent there, plus 7 as dean and 9 more as vocation director. Those years in the late '60's, when everything was in turmoil, were certainly interesting. Sometimes it seemed it was hard to please anybody. But there was always a sense of accomplishment on graduation day."

The next eight years to follow 1972 would prove to be torturous as the seminary was trying to find a niche in an uncertain world. But this again, was a national trend. Seminary populations for all religious communities and for diocesan programs were dropping severely calling into question the as to whether or not the minor seminary approach to recruitment for the priesthood was an anachronism. Somehow I have to agree with Fr. Ric's recent reminder that the Holy Spirit can always be depended upon to lead the Church in the right direction.

Once again, the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem is a winding road 17 miles long. On foot, the trek would be formidable. Such is this trek along the hills and valleys of the lives of those who walked

the halls of St. Francis Seminary. It is clear that regardless of the inevitable, that all of us who traveled down this road were blessed with the seeds of our faith. During that time, we were in the company of servant leaders who provided themselves as living examples of self sacrifice even in the face of changing cultural norms. It's interesting that the names never disappear from our minds. The faces are as clearly carved into our minds as the faces of the Presidents on Mt. Rushmore. All are loving souls; some are alive and some in heaven; in the late 60's and early 70's, they included: Frs. Aldric Hiedlage, Jim Fehrenbach, Laurian Rausch, Ronan Hoffer, Murray Bodo, Tom Richstatter, Savio Russo, Marcos Lucero, Ric Schnieder, Gil Wohler, Valentine Young, Paul Jewett, Aubert Griesser, Loren Connell, Dean Pellman, Berard Doerger, Dismas Turnbull, Mrs. Carol Dressman, and Mrs. Dorothy Gilroy, Bros. Fabian Gardner, Leo Ruffino, Gus Steele, and Andy Huber. The faculty of SFS proved to be memorable parent surrogates that none could shake from our minds, and even so, who would want to? Next and Last Installment: [An Epitaph for St. Francis Seminary and the Brown and White. \(The Final Years: 1973-1980\)](#)



# Day of Recollection with Sr. Judith of Poor Clares

On April 9, Fr. Gil Wohler hosted a *Day of Recollection* at St Francis Seraph Church at 1615 Vine Street in Cincinnati (see map below).

The speaker was Sr. Judith Mescher, who resides at the Poor Clares' convent which is adjacent to Mercy Franciscan at Winton Woods, on the former St. Francis Seminary property. The convent is in the woods behind the Peace Garden (former swimming pool), just up the hill past the rock bridge. The entrance is on Miles Road.

Sr. Judith shared many interesting and inspirational stories about Saint Clare and Saint Francis. She informed the attendees of the history of the order and how Saint Clare had to plead with the pope for permission to live in poverty and humility. When the pope insisted that Clare must be the esteemed leader of the order — an Abbess — Clare reluctantly agreed, but then redefined the Abbess role as “servant” to the other sisters. Later in life, Clare was very ill much of the time, yet



made herself available to the many people who came to visit her and be healed. Numerous miracles of healing are attributed to her.

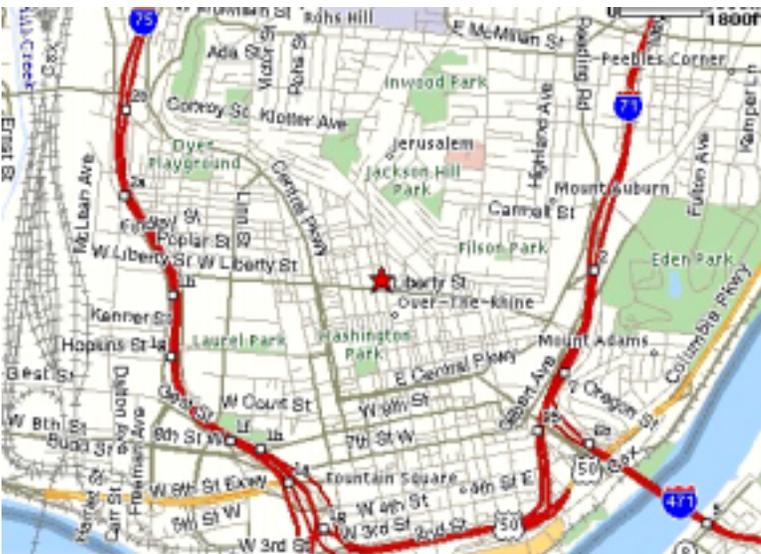
Sr. Judith also described her life with the Poor Clares, a life that is rich in prayer and community. Her day typically begins at 4:30 or 5 a.m. with private prayer. She and the other sisters gather several times each day for community prayer and meals. They each have daily chores and responsibilities.

St. Judith frequently speaks to groups about Clare, Francis, and her order. She said she enjoys interacting with people of all ages and spreading a message of peace. She also enjoys daily walks with the convent's mascots and protectors, a couple canines (4th order?)

She mentioned that their chapel is open daily and anyone is welcome to join them for community prayer and mass.

There are several Poor Clare convents in the United States and throughout the world. Until recently, they have not been able to communicate much with the other sisters because of limited mail service in remote regions. However, today they are able to communicate easily thanks to the internet.

Fr. Gil said he plans to host the 2006 Day of Recollection in the chapel of the former St. Francis Seminary.



## Brothers' Briefs



*Please pray for vocations to the religious life and encourage relatives and friends to consider a vocation as priest, brother, or sister.*

*If anyone knows the whereabouts of the seminary trophies and plaques associated with Glee Club contests and sports tournaments, please inform us. We would like to showcase the items at the Franciscan Archives museum at St. Anthony Friary. The Glee Clubs won several prestigious awards at regional and state level. Basketball and other sports teams won trophies over the years as well.*

Even though the friars "have left the building," Fr. Jim Mead, Pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Mt. Healthy, Ohio, says the *Franciscan Friars* sign will remain out front!

**Fr. Knute Kinross '42** is residing at Mercy Franciscan at Winton Woods (former SFS). **Fr. Gil Wohler '53** will be retiring and moving there soon.

**Chris Schneider '40** is recovering from a hip replacement operation.

**Butch Feldhaus '75** is involved in cave rescue in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. He's a real Batman!

I have read all 70 pages of the alumni guestbook and am moved by all the wonderful memories that have flooded back, and humbled that our good Lord and God has so richly blessed us. I attended SFS from '56 through the '60 graduation as one of the infamous gang of 13. Father Leonard Cornelius, currently assigned in Iron Mountain Michigan, is our hero and standard bearer. (A note to all of you later 60's and 70's guys, attempts to rewrite the SFS rules and disciplinary handbook had already been tried. So sorry. However, aren't we all so glad we never succeeded and instead actually learned to live the lifestyle that has so obviously stayed with

us all these years.) I then spent a part of the following year at St. Anthony's as Friar Capistran before returning to upper Michigan where I attended Northern Michigan University. I have always said that my SFS years were the best of my life. In closing, I ask how unimaginably good and forgiving is our God and Father, to take someone as lowly and weak and sinful as I and so richly bless him, and so easily and repeatedly forgive him. I am truly unworthy except by His Grace.

**Les Tolonen '60**

**Pat Daly '76** is recovering well from the severe gunshot wounds he received while rescuing several people from an attack at a K-Mart store in Cincinnati last year. Pat was able to return to work recently. Thanks to all for the prayers and expressions of concern.

I am a former SFS member, class of 1969, AKA John NEZ from Gallup, NM now residing on Whidbey Island in Washington State.

**John Duvenez '69**

I just wanted to say that I enjoy receiving the alumni newsletter. It reminds me of the great years spent at the Seminary. I will always be thankful for the academic and moral education I received from the Franciscans.

**Michael Higgins '62**

I read the Newsletter from cover to cover. I am a 1958 grad of the Sem. As a Franciscan until 1972, I am deeply grateful for the training, education and community given to me. I hope my heart still has the Franciscan "shape." I am sending a donation to the Alumni Fraternity. Thank you and continued blessings to all.

**Russ Dahlem '58**

**Brennan McNulty '58** was featured in a *Cincinnati Enquirer* March 21 article: If something goes wrong or right in the neighborhood, or there's a need to be



filled, Bettyann and Brennan McNulty's phone starts ringing. They're known communitywide as the "go-to" people. They're there to help the elderly neighbor who needs groceries or a little yard work, to plow snow-covered driveways, to get a much-coveted bike for a needy child or to take care of a stray dog. Bettyann calls Brennan the "grunt" of their team. He calls her "the organizer" and contact person. Others call them both dedicated, concerned, hardworking, caring and loving. Brennan, a former teacher, now a Cincinnati Public Schools mechanic, is called "Goodwill ambassador," for the good will he spreads and his trips to the store.

I went to the seminary in the fall of 1976 until the summer of 1978. Tom Cruise and I used to have my parents and his mother pick us up or bring us back after our home weekends. I have been trying to find something on the web about my school and it is a special day now that I have. It is good to read about you all.

I rode bulls in the rodeo for about six years and God watched over me. Only one really bad wreck on them but i'm ok, just more stitches and now a group of people know me from the inside out, after

my surgery. I would like for anybody who remembers me to email me at cowboyinthehole@aol.com. I live in southern Indiana in a valley. My wife and I just had twin boys last July 21, and here I am 43 years old with babies, my first!!

**Mike Bramer '80**

Terry Jarvis, part of the class of 1964, who attended SFS from 1960 to 1962 passed away suddenly in Trenton, MI on February 16th, 2005. Terry attended the 40th class reunion in June of 2004. He is fondly remembered. Prayers and sympathy to his wife, mother, sister, brothers, four sons and three grandchildren. Rest in the arms of the angels, Terry.

**John Roberts '64**

**Steve** and **Perri Froehle** got married in Sarasota, Florida on December 31, 2004. They reside in Burlington, Kentucky. Steve is a member of the class of '75.

Just a short note to inform you of the death of a friar alumnus, **Fr. Larry Landini—class of 1952**—who died suddenly on Friday February 4, 2005. May he rest in peace!

**Bill Pellman '52**

Fr. Larry Landini was in Africa with **Fr. Gil Wohler '53** for several years. Gil commented that Larry was a "brilliant, apostolic man. He will be missed."

Greetings to all my brothers from St. Francis Seminary!

I was a member of the class of '83, incoming freshman the year of the closing of the Seminary. I have many fond memories of our friars, las hermanas, and my brothers of the sophomore, junior & senior classes.

I have worked these last 8 years for an online computer game company; I've been a landlord for three years, and a church musician just about every Saturday/Sunday since leaving the seminary.

It still chokes me up to think of the truly

final Ultima we sang in the chapel during the closing Mass.

**Andy Finkenstadt '83**

It's been awhile since I got to see and talk to my classmates of the class of '72. I retired six months after the 2002 reunion and moved to Arizona. Kind of lost touch, but have been thinking about all of you.

**Michael Francis '72**

The last reunion I attended was in Albuquerque ('99), but have since moved to Tracy, California, by my employer. I have hopes to attend the 2005 chapter and see you all there.

**Tony Vieira '78**

My prayers go out to **Pat Daly**. I used to play basketball with his brother and brother-in-laws. My kids are grown now. My youngest is 19. I am an inventory control specialist with Owens and Minor. Been there going on 10 years. I think about the farm very much and all the good times I had there.

**Ken Kramer '79**

Best to all! I, too enjoyed my seminary days. We all learned from talented and caring teachers. Although never an honors student, I think I had a first-rate education. Our class, too were nice folks.

Best to all

**Esqui (BIG CHIEF '68)**

Congratulations to one of the newest members of the Board of Trustees of St. Bonaventure University—**Fr. Fred Link '61**. "I feel honored to be elected to the Board," Fred says. "I was impressed by the school on two previous visits there, especially by the strong presence of Franciscans."

The Provincial Council of **Our Lady of Guadalupe Province** approved a grant in the amount of \$10,000 which will be sent to the Minister General in Rome for distribution to Franciscans in Indonesia,

Thailand, and India who are ministering to the victims of the Tsunami of December 26, 2004.

**Frs. John Boehman '50** and **Hilarion Kistner '46** recently received an inquiry about a former student from an unexpected source—the British Broadcasting Corporation. "I was contacted several months ago because they're doing a documentary on Tom Cruise," says John,



who was rector and guardian in 1978, the year **Tom Cruise Mapother ('80)** attended St. Francis High School Seminary in Mt. Healthy. But the phone call wasn't the end of the story. June 6, the BBC sent a crew to Cincinnati to interview and film John and Hilarion in the chapel of the old seminary, talking about their former student. They asked John about Tom's background: "His mother was struggling to support three children," John recalled. They wondered about any budding showbiz talent: "He was in the glee club, and

anyone who sang with **Aubert Grieser** would have to show emotion and expression." They asked if Tom was happy there—"He always had a smile"—and whether he was well behaved. John told them, "He stood out because he was the smallest in his class and he couldn't get away with anything." Hilarion's recollection of Tom was that, "I used to shoot basketballs with him," each of them standing at the free throw line until one of them sunk a basket. Asked what he thought about Tom's practice of Scientology, Hilarion replied, "God's probably leading him in God's own way." The documentary should be finished in a few months. John says he saw Tom's recent movie, the epic *Last Samurai*, and, "That's not the little boy I remember."

In a recent letter to **Fr. Fred Link '61**, Provincial Minister **Robert M. Campagna, OFM**, expressed the gratitude of Immaculate Conception Province for the service of **Bro. Ron Bolfeta '67** as its general visitor. "The Order and our Province were well served by Ron, and he is truly a credit to the Province of St. John the Baptist," Robert wrote. "You yourself know what a kind and gentle spirit Ron possesses, and it was evident to all the friars of our Provincial fraternity, both on an individual basis and in the communal setting of our Provincial Chapter. Without exception, the friars of our Province were forthcoming in their praise and appreciation."

Count your blessings. In last month's letter home, **Fr. Max Langenderfer '64** wrote: "Here in Nairobi I do not think we have had rain for more than seven weeks. Everything is really dry and dusty. I went to Machakos on 05 July and the maize was already dry in the fields there. As usual the city water supply is also becoming intermittent. We had full tanks on Monday morning the 26<sup>th</sup>, but by Friday evening all the tanks were almost empty. Luckily, enough came on Friday night to get us through Saturday, and then a good supply came on Saturday night and Sunday. With so many people in the house and no water coming, it was a bit rough."

**Fr. Arturo Daquilanea, OFM**, the provincial minister of San Pedro Bautista in the Philippines, sent a personal note of condolence to the friars of SJB Province on the passing of **Fr. Malachy Brogan '42**. "In his commitment, dedication and missionary zeal, he has certainly touched the lives of so many of our people and the friars," he wrote. "The Province is indeed grateful to God and to your Province for his gift of person and self-offering to the Church." Malachy ministered in the Philippines for 26 years.

The stories and the smiles were testament to an undisputable truth about **Fr. Al Hudepohl '47**: "He led a fun life," said sister-in-law Pat, one of dozens of family members who crowded St. Clement Church for Al's funeral on June 28. Although the last few weeks before his death on June 24 were sometimes awful—the pain he suffered was excruciating—Al still managed to flash a thumbs-up sign to the relatives who came to visit him at Mercy Franciscan Terrace the weekend before he died.

The Gospel reading Al chose for his funeral—the Road to Emmaus from Luke—"was a fitting theme for his religious life," said **Fr. Howard Hudepohl** in his homily for his younger brother. "Jesus in his public life was constantly on the road looking for souls, people to be cured, devils to be chased out of people." Likewise, "All of us are on a journey of life. We can go willingly where the Spirit leads us, or we can go unwillingly." After 48 years as a priest, "Fr. Al has finished his journey now."

"He had an easygoing, likable personality," Howard said. "He was not looking for tension, confrontation." Unfortunately, tension is a fact of life in the modern Church. "Today our Church is in crisis on various fronts." And partly because of that, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." Al's ministry, conducted with much enthusiasm, was a valuable example for others. As Howard said, "I think Fr. Al by his work can truly be an inspiration for laborers." One who was obviously inspired was Al's nephew, Joe Hudepohl, a swimmer who competed in the 1992 and '96

Olympics. "What can you say about a man who devoted his life to God, family and community?" Joe said in a reflection he read after Communion. Voice quaking with emotion, he called his uncle "one of those rare people you always wanted to be around." Even in Al's lowest moments, "Every time we'd visit he would reach out and squeeze your hand like you wouldn't believe and say, 'What's cookin', man?'"

Provincial Minister **Fred Link** talked about how important St. Clement's was to Al and about "the special gift he gave by restoring the grotto downstairs." It was Al who wrote this note to Alphonse Hoff soon after he moved to St. Clement's: "Dear Shorty: I hope you get down on your knees and thank God for being so good to you to allow you to live in the next best place to heaven, St. Bernard, Ohio."

In tribute to Al, his body was later taken downstairs to remain overnight in his beloved grotto until he could be laid to rest. The congregation nodded its approval of a gesture they knew he would appreciate.



**Fr. Mel Brady '41**, a Detroit native who spent the past nine years at St. Aloysius Church in Detroit, died in

April of an aneurysm at age 82. He had lived at the church, at 1234 Washington Blvd., since returning to the city in 1996. He was its associate pastor and helped guide a congregation of 100 parishioners. "I was the pastor, but he was like a father to me," said the Rev. Mark Soehner. The congregation is mourning the passing of a man who helped launch Oasis Detroit, a nonprofit organization that provides housing to mentally impaired homeless people. "The congregation is incredibly saddened," Soehner said. "We're dealing with an outpouring of sadness." Mel was born in Detroit and grew up attending Gesu Church near the University of Detroit-Mercy. He left high school during his sophomore year and headed to St. Francis seminary. He continued his Catholic education at Duns Scotus Seminary. He

went to a seminary in Indiana before getting his doctorate in canon law. Mel taught at Duns Scotus for several years before pursuing his dream -- spreading the word of God around the world. He had several roles within the Catholic Church, but all had the common traits of reaching out to those in need during a crisis. Parishioners remembered him as a man who followed God's call. In 1962, Mel was among the first priests at the new seminary of Our Lady of the Angels in the Philippines, where he taught. After 15 years in that position, he headed to Rome to oversee the missions of the Franciscan Brotherhood throughout the world. The brotherhood works to help impoverished people. Mel's job was to visit an area in need and then coordinate future Franciscan involvement. Soehner said the missions spanned the globe and numbered in the thousands. "I can't even begin to imagine how many missions," Soehner said. "Millions of people were helped." Mel remained in Rome for eight years. He moved on to smaller projects and spent time in Houston and Cincinnati before returning to Detroit. "He could have retired and lived quite comfortably," Soehner said. "But he wanted to come to the center of Detroit and live with those that were down and out." That desire led to the creation of Oasis Detroit, which currently provides permanent housing to 16 mentally ill and formerly homeless residents. St. Aloysius also feeds about 2,000 homeless people every week. Memorial donations can be made to Oasis Detroit, 1234 Washington Blvd., Detroit 48226.

**John Lanzrath '47**, OFM, died on December 31 in Albuquerque, NM. **Fr. Valentine Young '47** wrote, "We had known each other for over 61 years, since we both started at St. Francis Seminary in Cincinnati back in September 1943. We studied together for 13 years until we were ordained priests. Then we were both assigned to the Navaho Reservation, which was in 1956. It was just a coincidence but I had the privilege of preaching at the funeral of Fr. John's mother in 1987 in Wichita, KS. I was also asked to preach

at Fr. John's funeral, which I did at Queen of Angels Chapel in Albuquerque. Fr. John has an older brother, **Fr. Curt Lanzrath '45**, OFM, currently serving as



chaplain to Poor Clare nuns in Brenham, Texas."

**Fr. Pacian Meyer '37** died in March in Albuquerque. He had been placed in hospice care following a recent hospitalization from which

he never fully recovered. Pacian was a delightful friar and had a tremendous network of family and friends with whom he kept in touch over the years. He always carried several decks of cards with him to provincial assemblies and meetings where he could be found at one of several card tables in the recreation room in the evenings, "raking in the chips" as he was wont to say. During a recent visit with the OLG provincial, Pacian commented that he had lived a "long and full life" as a friar and was ready to embrace Sister Death. When asked about extraordinary measures for lengthening his life, he replied, "What more could I want after eighty-seven years?!" Pacian was truly a faith-filled, happy and contented friar. He spread good cheer and life-giving spirit wherever he found himself and touched many souls with his humble ministry.

**Bro. Donald Lachowicz '80** (that's pronounced "Luh-HOE-vitch") of the Franciscan Sacred Heart Province is founder of the Stone-by-Stone Project, a group that performs minor home repairs for senior citizens and low income families in South Saint Louis. Their website ([www.thefriars.org/connection](http://www.thefriars.org/connection)) begins with this story:

Once there lived a simple man by the name of Francis of Assisi. He spent his days feeding the hungry and cleansing the wounds of lepers. One day, while praying in

the tiny chapel of San Damiano, he heard a voice call to him, "Francis, go, rebuild my church, which as you can see is falling into ruin."

And so Francis did. Stone by stone, he began repairing the walls of this forgotten chapel. His labors and outpouring love for the poor attracted a band of followers. Together - stone by stone - they began rebuilding the walls of the whole Church, bringing to life God's love and care to the world. Some eight hundred years later, Franciscan Friars continue to heed this call to serve the poor and marginalized. In a very real way, the Franciscan Connection is seeking to bring to life that hands-on ministry among the poor. The Stone-by-Stone program began two years ago through a lot of hard work, long hours and determination, and continues today as a portable "handy team" doing everything from unclogging gutters and repairing leaky pipes to remodeling bathrooms and building wheelchair ramps for the needy.

**John Schreck '62** OFM was hospitalized April 5 with severe jaundice, his first hospital stay since birth. He had a lot of kidney and liver malfunction. He was in and out of ICU several times. He died in the early morning of May 5. John was a year ahead of me in formation. We lived together in the mid-60s. Other than to say hello at various friar gatherings, we didn't interact much until I moved in with him 14 months ago. In those 14 months I found a brother.

The suddenness of his illness and death is quite a shock.

**Loren Connell '61**

Thanks for the reminder of the upcoming reunion. I would love to there but for health reasons will be unable to attend. I graduated in '53 and was wondering if any of my old class mates should show up would appreciate your giving them my e-mail address: [bigdad70@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigdad70@sbcglobal.net) They used to call me Dad when at St. Francis Seminary and the novitiate. I hope this reunion will be a success. I just celebrated my 71st birthday and 46th wedding anniversary may 9th.

**Chuck Phillipp '53**

## Focus on Classes of '55 and '80

It's a landmark year for these guys, as they celebrate the 50th (left) and 25th (right) anniversaries of their graduation from high school.



*Did you know the class of '55 invented the leisure suit?*



*It's a shame Tom Cruise (#21) didn't hang around for graduation*



## Jokes

A man's car broke down as he was driving past a beautiful old monastery. He walked up the drive and knocked on the front door. A monk answered, listened to the man's story and graciously invited him to spend the night. The monks fed the man and led him to a tiny chamber in which to sleep. The man thanked the monks and slept serenely until he was awakened by a strange and beautiful sound. The next morning, as the monks were repairing his car, he asked about the sound that had awakened him. "We're sorry," the monks said. "We can't tell you about the sound. You're not a monk." The man was disappointed, but eager to be gone, so he thanked the monks for their kindness and went on his way. During quiet moments afterward, the man pondered the source of the alluring sound. Several years later the man happened to be driving in the same area. He stopped at the monastery on a whim and asked admittance. He explained to the monks that he had so enjoyed his previous stay, he wondered if he might be permitted to spend another night under their peaceful roof. The monks agreed, and so the man stayed with them again. Late that night, he heard the strange beautiful sound the following morning he begged the monks to explain the sound. The monks gave him the same answer as before. "We're sorry. We can't tell you about the sound. You're not a monk." By now the man's curiosity had turned to obsession. He decided to give up everything and become a monk; for that was the only way he could learn about the sound. He informed the monks of his decision and began the long and arduous task of becoming a monk. Seventeen years later, the man was finally established as a true member of the order. When the celebration ended, he humbly went to the leader of the order and asked to be told the source of the sound. Silently, the old monk led the new monk to a huge wooden door. He opened the door with a golden key. That door swung open to reveal a second door of silver, then a third of gold and so on until they had passed through twelve doors, each more magnificent than the last. The new monk's face was awash with tears of joy as he finally beheld the wondrous source of the beautiful mysterious sound he had heard so many years before... But, I can't tell you what it was. You're not a monk.

A visiting minister waxed eloquently during the offertory prayer. "Dear Lord," he began with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you we are but dust. . . "

He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter (who was listening carefully for a change) leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little girl voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

A powerful politician dies after a prolonged illness. His soul arrives in Heaven where he is met by St. Peter. "Welcome to Heaven," says St. Peter. "We seldom see a high official around these parts, so we're not sure what to do with you." "No problem, just let me in," says the guy. "I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in Hell and one in Heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity." "Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in Heaven," says the politician. "I'm sorry but rules are rules!" And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to Hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a club and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him. Everyone is very happy and in evening attire. They run to greet him, hug him and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster and caviar. Also present is the Devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, is time to go. Everyone gives him a big hug and waves while the elevator rises. The elevator goes up, up, up and the door re-opens in Heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. "Now it's time to visit Heaven.", he says. So 24 hours pass with the senator joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns. "Well then, you've spent a day in Hell and another in Heaven. Now choose your eternity." He reflects for a minute, then the senator answers,

"Well, I would never have said it, I mean Heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in Hell." So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to Hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he is in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags. The Devil comes over to him and lays his arm on his neck.

"I don't understand," stammers the senator. "Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and club and we ate lobster and caviar and danced and had a great time. Now it's a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable." The Devil looks at him, smiles and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning. Today you voted for us!"

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure He's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and He is always ready to help when you need Him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

Bumper stickers:

A day without sunshine is, like, night.  
On the other hand, you have different fingers.  
Honk if you love peace and quiet.  
He who laughs last thinks slowest.  
Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.  
Be supportive of bacteria—they're the only culture some people have.  
The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.  
Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!

# Franciscan Alumni Association



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

In June 2004, the class of '64 had its 40th anniversary reunion at St. Francis Seminary. Here on the front steps of the main entrance are Jim Beyer, Luke Camarata, Fr. Frank Jasper, Terry Jarvis, Mike Haig, Peter Feichner, John Roberts, Tomas Romero, Scott Steckler, Terry Tomasic, Ron Weeks and Tom Naegle.



The Franciscan Alumni Association newsletter is published twice annually and mailed to approximately 1,300 members for whom we have addresses. The only cost of production is the expense of printing and mailing, which amounts to about \$1,200 per issue. The editor is Mike Niklas. Other writers are identified with their articles. Thank you for your interest and support.

## The 2004-2005 Franciscan Alumni Association Board

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