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2021 - Fall Newsletter

Vol. 35 ~ No. 3



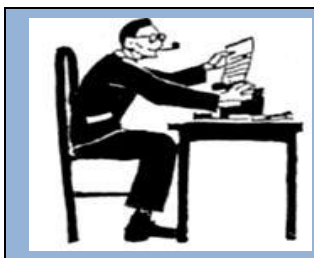
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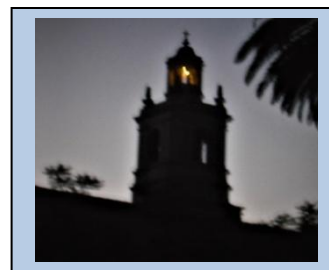
...HAPPY HOUR and HAPPier HOUR... ☺





==The Tower==

St. Anthony's Seminary Alumni Association Newsletter
Volume 35 September 2021 No. 3



OUR FINAL 'BIG' REUNION IS A BIG SUCCESS!

GREETINGS SAS Alumni,



OVER 60 Alumni and many spouses and friends attended our final convocation in Santa Barbara this past July!!! It was conducted as safely as possible, was well-attended, and was a whole lot of fun! ☺ 19 classes were represented, from 1954 to 1986. This final "swa-ray" started with a 'happy hour' on Tuesday, July 20, followed by an Italian dinner in honor of St. Francis. Then, over the course of the next two days we engaged in two sharing sessions, ate several more meals together, strolled the campus, and raised the chapel roof during the Alumni Mass! However, the future of the current school, Garden Street Academy, is up-in-the-air right now, as it did not convene this past school year due to covid, and is also not going to meet for this school year. There has been talk that it may be for sale once again, so if this writer hears anything, I will let you know.

We made a few changes this year because of the virus, such as individually-wrapped mini-pies for dessert, (but they were declared as acceptable for 'paying off' any 60 year old bets! ha). And, if you ever wondered about that \$35 'reunion fee,' it has helped pay for such things as the campus rental, paper goods, souvenirs, desserts, refreshments, chair rentals, name tags, and other miscellaneous items. Thank you for being so willing to pay it.



Also, after helping me for these past 15 years at the reunions, as well as in other ways behind the scenes, we recognized and thanked Bob Alderette, Class of 1969; and Rick Lang, Class of 1980, for being faithful helpers. Bob, our 'personal vintner,' has provided free wine for all these years, and Rick has handled all the meals, even picking them up from the caterers to help us keep the costs down and the meals affordable! ☺

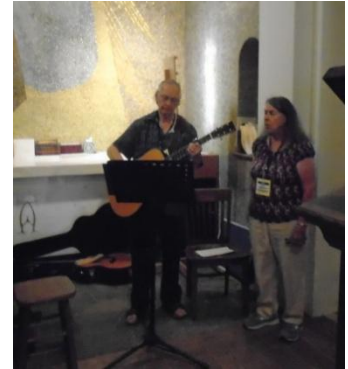


A big sincere THANK YOU to you both!

At the Alumni Mass, two of our brothers blessed us with liturgical hymns. Ed Moncrief, Class of 1960, and his wife, Judi, played and sang the Responsorial Psalm, and Carl Pierce, Class of 1972, played and sang the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love." Both were very powerful, and added to the solemnity of our special time together in the Chapel. Pictured to the left is Carl in 1971 playing his guitar in the SAS Music Room, and at the Mass playing his guitar 50 years later!



And here is Ed and Judi playing at our Reunion Mass in 2010, and 11 years later in 2021... ☺



THANK YOU VERY MUCH Carl, Ed, & Judi!!

I would also like to thank Jose Rubio, Class of 1975, who helped out at several recent reunions, and who had planned to take over presenting them; but unfortunately, medical issues prevented him from doing so. Please keep Jose in your prayers. Thank you and Thank YOU Jose! ☺



On Thursday, July 22, the reunionees blessed yours truly with an unexpected, but greatly appreciated, plaque and cash gift! Thank you so much to all of you! I love it! ☺

And, I want you all to know that I AM going to continue to be your SASAA director, sending out the newsletters, keeping up the websites, etc. We will also help you plan regional and/or class reunions! ☺

In fact, let me ask everyone one more time...

Is everyone OK if I share your email addresses with your classmates?

Please send only 'no' responses. That way, I will keep those private. But this will greatly help in putting together some Zoom calls, area get-togethers, etc. We have always been very protective of your information, and will continue to do so, except at your bidding. ☺

Finally, one more thing about the reunions...They were started by Fr. Finbar in 1986, and he sponsored the first five reunions. Fr Alberic Smith then took over, and he put together the next 15 reunions. Those of you who attended during such years may remember watching Fr. Alberic roll out a cart of 'boxed' wines into the refectory! He loved facilitating the sharing sessions, and celebrating the annual Mass.



Then, in 2006 he was transferred to Spokane, and he turned over the SASAA to us lay alumni; and we have put on the reunions for the last 15 years. It was a great 35 year run, and as we all continue to age, local gatherings seem to make a lot of sense! **AND, we found out that one person has attended all 35 reunions...**

DAN WINFREE, Class of 1967. Congratulations Dan! ☺

GENERAL ALUMNI NEWS

In May of this year a few alums from the late 1980s visited Bro. Jeff McNabb at Old Mission Santa Barbara. Here is a photo of that gathering. From left to right are Tony Vargas, '89; Jason Hennessey, '89; Robert Alvo, '89; Ray Solorio, '88; Rick Lang, '80; Tim Bateman, '89; and David Sandoval, '88. Bro McNabb, seated, worked at SAS in the 1980s as a teacher, moderator, and all around good egg! ☺



NEWS Con't...

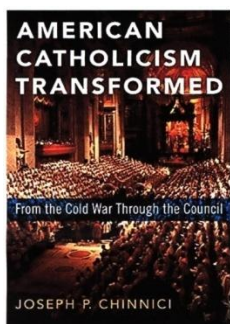


You may recall a few newsletters back, I mentioned the “crest” on the front of the study hall/gymnasium building. I had asked if anyone knew the meaning of it? I did get a few responses. A couple guys thought it might be the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of 1923 when the building was completed. But in my research, I found nothing similar to this. Another alum thought it might be Spanish because the building does have Spanish-Colonial, or Adalusian, architectural appointments. But I found nothing along those lines either. So... Dick Dangaran (Class of '64)



went to work, and found some interesting possibilities from the spindle on top of the crest to the Corinthian column below it. If you'd like to see his insights on it, check it out at:

https://64sas.rdangaran.info/?page_id=142 (If you only get the paper copy, let me know & I can send you the info) ☺



Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM, Class of 1963, has written a book, *American Catholicism Transformed: From the Cold War Through the Council*. It draws on previously untapped archival sources to provide background to developments within the American Catholic Church in relationship to American society at large from post World War II through the Cold War. It is available through Amazon. (Thank you to OFM-FYI for this info.) ☺

Several SAS alumni Friars Minor celebrated feast days recently: Congratulations to Fr. Ray Bucher ('56), Fr. Philip Garcia ('67) and Fr. Anthony Garibaldi ('66).

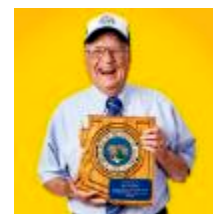
Also, on April 16, 2021, The St. Anthony's Dining Room in San Francisco served its 46 MILLIONTH meal, commemorating over 70 years of serving hot meals daily. For many years Fr. Floyd Lotito, OFM (SAS Class of '52-rip) and George Stenger (Class of '66) were administrators there! ☺

In recent correspondence, John Hawck, Class of 1954, told me a little bit about a play that his class performed in March of 1953 called *The Bat*. He said that, as the lead character, he can truthfully say that it was the “worst-performed play ever!” Ha! “We were still learning our lines the night of the performance!” Whenever his class gets together, they talk and laugh about “*The Bat*.” BUT, he also states, “Isn't it interesting that my experience with drama at SAS prepared me for starting a drama program at the high school where I taught, eventually directing over 60 plays and musicals!” The play program is posted under “Dramatics” on the archive website. www.sasarchive.org ☺

John also mentioned that in 1953 the Von Trapp Family Singers spent a spring day at SAS that culminated with a full performance on the study hall stage that evening. By 1953, the father, Georg, had passed away; but Maria and all the children were present. I have placed a mention of it in the “SAS Timeline” on the alumni site. www.sasalumni.org ☺

And, a little bird told me that Dave (Class of 1958) and Paulette Bullock celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary during the reunion. Congratulations Dave and Paulette!! ☺

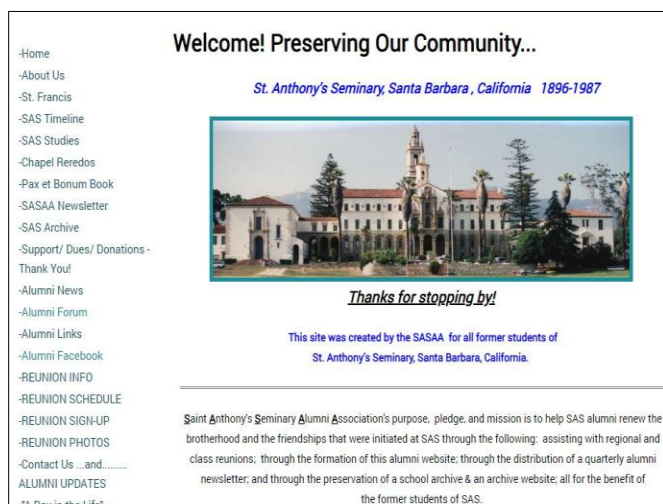
In the July issue of *Phoenix Magazine*, Jay Kilroy, Class of 1949, was featured as Volunteer of the Year! As a former OFM he helped build schools in the Philippines; and as a lay volunteer he has served with the St. Vincent dePaul Society for 45 years. At 92, this retired college professor is still going strong; and says, “I am here for a reason, and I'm trying to be of service to people.” Ya think? Congratulations! ☺



Also through correspondence, George Pesely, Class of 1966, wrote that his father, Edward Pesely, attended SAS from 1930 through 1932 (Class of 1934)! He was two years ahead of Fr. Peter and Fr. Ralph. In 1945, Edward's USMC division won the fierce battle for the island of Okinawa during WWII. That victory helped turn the tide in the Pacific Theater.

I received a letter from John Clavel, (Bro. Didacus), Class of 1952. He stated that after SAS he went on to the brothers school at San Antonio Mission, and entered novitiate in 1954. He was then assigned to various places. Brother Didacus is now retired, living at Mercy Center in Oakland; but recalls his favorite assignments as St. Mary's, Stockton; St. Boniface, San Francisco; and Ascension in Portland. ☺

Brian Moore also contacted me. Though he did not attend SAS, he joined his class at San Luis Rey; and he keeps in touch with several of his classmates from those years. He left the Order in 1967 during theologate at Old Mission Santa Barbara. Recalling many classmates, friends, and mentors throughout those times, such as Emory Tang, Kenan Osborne, and a very elderly Fr. Bonaventure, he was wondering if anyone might have photos of those SLR and OMSB years? Please let me know if you do. Thanks. ☺



Websites Update: As you know, we have been updating our websites recently, making them more secure and user friendly, (your 'dues' at work. ☺). The latest feature has been to make both websites more "**mobile device friendly**." In fact, if you bring up the sites on a mobile device now, you should see a "Make Page Mobile Friendly" message. Tap on that and it should look much better on your screen. Also, we have added more items to both sites, including a "Day in the Life" page on www.sasalumni.org. It pictorially depicts a 'typical' day at SAS throughout most of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s, though some schedules and sports changed as those years progressed.

And, some of you have said that the newsletter keeps going into your junk mailbox. To prevent this, add this address to your "email address book": newsletter@sasalumni.org. That should help prevent that from happening. ☺

At the reunion, one fellow, (sorry, I forgot your name), asked if anyone had a photo of the shower room/locker-room that was *under* the refectory, which has now been remodeled into a library. Here is the only photo that I know of. This is the area just 'outside' of the shower area. (Photo on right) ☺

And finally, just as a reminder to you... at the **2017** reunion, Steve Roberts, Class of 1975, taped some brief 'interviews' with the reunionees; and he has them on the internet. If you click on the link below, it should take you there. The audio isn't the greatest because of the refectory's poor acoustics, but they are still pretty interesting ditties. <https://tinyurl.com/yctgu8gs> ☺

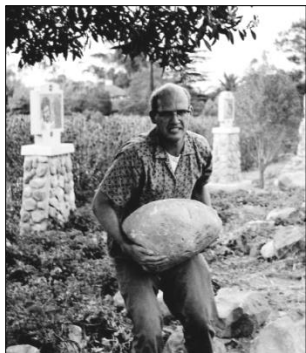


TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Please see the story about **Fr. Nevin Ford, OFM** (below) for this month's "Spotlight." I had planned to feature him as such, but then I also received word of his recent passing. Thank you.

Also, If anyone has a suggestion for a future "Teacher Spotlight," especially someone from the 1950s, 1970s, and 1980s, whom you would like to see featured here; please let me know. I am not very well-versed about the instructors who were at SAS during those years; so please send me some information about them. Thanks. ☺

IN MEMORIAM



Fr. Nevin Ford, OFM, (Class of 1947) passed away at 92 years of age on July 21, 2021. He was 74 years professed and 66 years ordained. Fr. (John) Nevin Ford took the religious name 'Nevin,' who is an obscure 5th century saint. Nevin's first assignment after ordination was to teach at SAS; and he once stated that he was asked to teach Algebra there because he happened to be good at it in high school. But art, in any form, was his passion! He usually was found in his campus 'studio' working on his latest projects, be it the mosaic Stations of the Cross, or limestone statues, or even a unique welded crucifix.



He taught hundreds of students the appreciation of art,... from the paintings of the truly great masters, to helping with stage set designs, or with the simple art of silk screening a class mascot onto T-shirts. Other times he was out building rock walls! He, and many students, built a wall across the back of the SAS campus; and he, and many students, built a wall around the perimeter of the playing field. Both walls still stand to this day. He impressed upon his students the recognition of artistic beauty not just visually, but also intellectually!



After 16 years at St. Anthony's, and after achieving a Master of Arts degree at Notre Dame, Fr. Nevin went on to teach at St. Mary's High School in Phoenix for the next 16 years. Then, he was assigned as pastor at St. Francis de Paula Parish in Tularosa, New Mexico, until his retirement to OMSB. Once there, he set up another little 'studio,' and evolved his talent into working with yet another medium...bronze! He cast many miniature mission bells that were sold in the Santa Barbara gift shop. Nevin gave us many treasures. Thank you Father, and rest in peace. Some former students put together a tribute to him that can be seen at: <https://www.sasarchive.org/sas-tribute-to-fr-nevin-ford-ofm>

Jim Brunetti, Class of 1960, died on July 19, 2021. He was the brother of Jerry Brunetti, Class of 1956. After college, Jim worked as a carpenter and contractor; and then trained to become a fireman, working his way up to Fire Chief in Salinas, CA. After retiring, he was very active in his parish, especially involving music, playing the organ and directing choirs. He is survived by his wife Toni, five children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Jim remained close to the Franciscans and to many of his former classmates. His ashes are now interred at San Luis Rey Mission.

Very Reverend Walter Raymond, OGS (Oratory of the Good Shepherd), SAS Class of 1967, won his battle with cancer and 'entered into glory' on July 13, 2021. After graduation from SAS, "Wally" traveled a bit, and eventually ended up in Canada for his college education; and he stayed on there to teach high school. But still possessing the desire to be a priest, he entered an Anglican seminary in 1988 and was a 'late vocation' being ordained in 1993. His favorite calling was to be the Rector at St. Paul's Parish in Monaco. (Yes, *that* Monaco!) After 25 years in the Order, he retired back to Quebec in 2017 as a Dean Emeritus.



Frank Rau, Class of 1958, of Cerritos, CA, passed away on August 23, 2021. I am sorry that I do not have any further information about Frank at this time.



Lawrence Thoreson, Class of 1965, and brother of Bob Thoreson, Class of 1962, died on August 19, 2021. Larry earned a degree from the University of Texas, married Rose Marie Tedesco, and began to raise a family. He served in the US Army, the Escondido PD, and as a science teacher, helping to shape many young minds. Larry was also very involved at his parish, serving in many capacities, including as a Eucharistic Minister, and as a Knight of Columbus. His epitaph reads "Well done, good and faithful servant."

William Webb, Class of 1953, passed away on March 28, 2021 at age 85. In the words of his daughter, Diane, Bill was always telling his family and friends about his days at SAS, spinning many tales of both mischief and fun with his classmates. He led a full life of travel and of constant learning. Bill is survived by his three kids and his four grandkids. This wonderful storyteller, friend, father, and grandfather will indeed be missed by all who knew him.

Fr. Maximillian Hottle, OFM, Class of 1953, went to his reward on June 22, 2021. Fr. 'Max' was ordained in 1961, and his first assignment was to the Philippines where his zeal as a missionary there for the next 23 years proved invaluable. He once stated about returning from the mission field: "When we come back, we have changed; and we sort of become like 'missioners' back home." In 1991, Fr. Max was called to the Tohono O'odham Nation and to Mission San Solano in the desert regions of Arizona. He faithfully served the Native Americans there until 2009. He was then appointed to represent the Commissariate of the Holy Land for the western region in California. In 2016, he took up residence at Mission San Xavier del Bac, near Tucson, AZ. He recently passed away there surrounded by his fellow Franciscans. Also, some of you may recall that he was also the "star" of the vocational film *It Takes a Man* which was produced in 1959.



Karl Holtsnider, Class of 1947, died on February 8, 2021. He was 91. For 35 years, while he was with the Franciscan Order, he was instrumental in producing hundreds of radio and television programs, including *The Hour of St. Francis* program, which featured the films *It Takes a Man* and *Challenge!*. Later in life, he served in many other capacities, including as an administrator for Holy Family Parish in Pasadena, CA. While there, his goal was to do all that he could to help the people of Haiti. His communication skills allowed him to create a network of individuals and companies to help provide resources to the island. Karl also served as chairman of the St. Francis Center in downtown Los Angeles. In 2017 he was honored by Pope Francis for "a lifetime of work in the Catholic Church."

Tom Toschik, Class of 1965, passed away peacefully at his home in York, PA on June 26, 2021. Tom was only at SAS for two years; but, through the words of his sister, he steadfastly held onto the teachings of St. Francis for his entire lifetime. For one, Tom loved the great outdoors, and all of God's creatures; and he helped fight forest fires in his native Arizona during his younger years. He was also an excellent woodworker, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, helping to build houses in York, PA. Tom, and his wife Carol, taught Bible classes, as well as adult formation classes, at their church, St. Joseph's Parish in York. He loved golf from an early age, and he loved the Lord and his family 'almost' as much! Tom lived an accomplished life with much dignity and grace.

Gabriel Cadena, Class of 1964, actually died on April 20, 2020, but his sister just recently contacted me regarding his passing which was due to renal failure. Gabe worked at Valley Medical Center in Santa Clara, CA for 45 years, starting out as an orderly, but he soon proved his talents in technology, and eventually achieved the position of IS Director. Gabe was active at St. Christopher's Parish in San Jose, CA.



Gerald Kinneavy, Class of 1958, actually passed on December 20, 2018, but I only recently heard of it. He grew up in San Luis Obispo, CA, and lived a life of joy, learning, and humor. He enjoyed a teaching career that spanned 35 years as a professor of English at the University of Colorado, and as a leader in his community. Gerry attended Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Boulder, CO, and is survived by his wife Kay, six children, and thirteen grandchildren.

Hal Conklin, though not an alumnus of SAS, was indeed "all things SAS" during the 1970s and 1980s. Hal and his family were very supportive of the seminary back when the greater community of Santa Barbara participated in the Sunday Masses and other celebrations, such as Christ the King Day. He was always there to lend a hand wherever it was needed. Hal also served as a Santa Barbara council member, and later, as mayor. Thank you Hal for all that you did for SAS and for Santa Barbara.

-MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE COMMEND OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS INTO YOUR HANDS. AMEN-

As I close this newsletter, let us remember that St. Francis' Feast Day is just around the corner on October 4th; and as we enter these autumn months, we begin by remembering the 3000 Americans who lost their lives 20 years ago on September 11, 2001; and we pray for their families and for the world.

I hope you all have enjoyed the reunions over the years. I tried my best to "sweat the details" at each reunion to hopefully give everyone a good experience.

The websites and the newsletters will continue for as long as there is an interest in them. So please keep those cards and letters coming in. Thank you to all who have supported the SAS Alumni Association through the years. It is very much appreciated! ☺

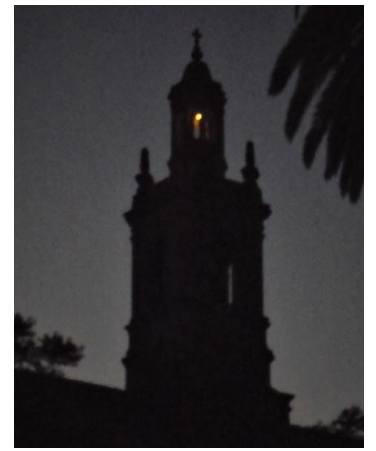
Sincerely,
Steve Rath's '67

Your SASAA Director 480-831-6205 guardian@sasalumni.org www.sasalumni.org and www.sasarchive.org

A FEW MORE REUNION PHOTOS!



The Opening Meal



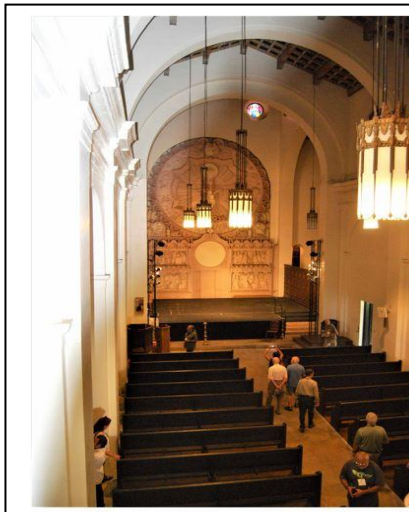
Wed. Morning Sharing Time



Class of 1971 in 2021!



From the "other side" of the lens





At the “junior diamond” plate



And what I saw!



Last remnants of the handball courts



West dorm hallway



‘til we someday meet again...

