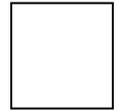


St. Anthony's Sem Alumni Assoc.
c/o Steve Raths '67, Director
5433 S Holbrook Lane
Tempe, AZ 85283



- **FIRST CLASS MAIL**
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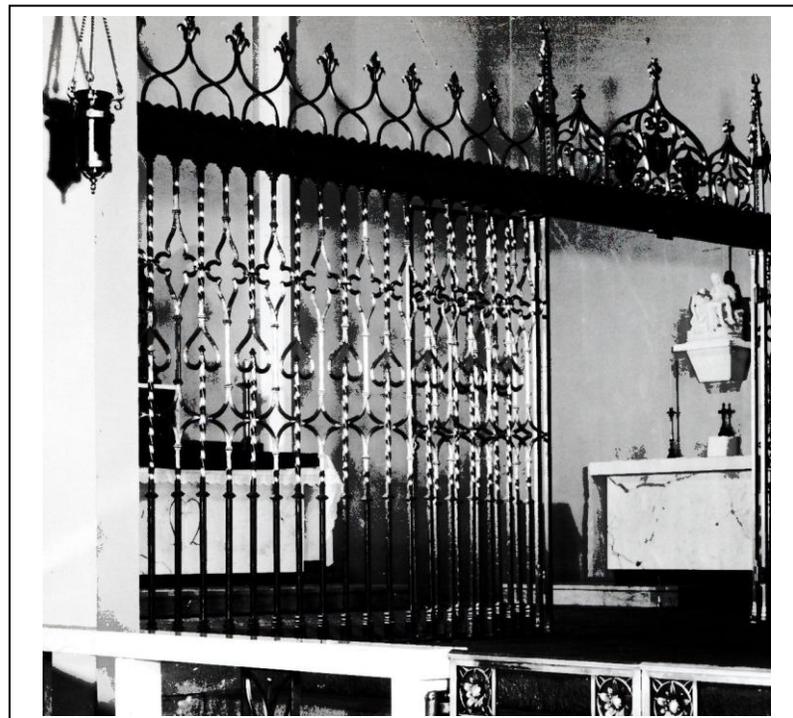
2025 - Fall Newsletter

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PLACE MAILING
LABEL HERE

Mystery Photo: Hmmm...Fairly easy





The Tower

St. Anthony's Seminary Alumni Association Newsletter
Volume 39 Sept 2025 No. 3



AUTUMN-GREETINGS

Hello all, here we are again on the cusp of the holiday/holyday season between now and **December 31!** I hope and pray that you will make it a good one! 😊

We are also on the cusp of the Class of 1975's 50 year reunion in Santa Barbara. I have decided to also attend, as we have received the 'OK' to visit the SAS grounds on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 12 noon. If any of you from various localities would like to 'drive up' or 'drive down' to Santa Barbara that day, you would be most welcome to stroll the grounds with us.



Full reunion dates are **Oct. 17 thru 19, 2025**, in Santa Barbara, with special rates at the *Lemon Tree Inn*, 805-569-0357, 2819 State Street.

(Mention you are with the SAS Reunion.) There will also be a round of golf on Saturday, October 18th, for those interested; and a special dinner that evening at 6 PM for the Class of '75. (Contact Michael at michaelvillegas57@gmail.com)

Speaking of reunions, several "Zoom Calls" are still taking place. About once a month the Class of 1960 (Happy 65th BTW!) have a 'zoomer' facilitated by Ed Moncrief. Fr. Ray Tintle OFM, a member of that class, is often in on the call. (Thank you Ron Langdon for this info.) My class of 1967 is planning to have one on Sept. 21. If any of you would like to get one started, just let me know and I can get you in touch with members of your class. 😊

GENERAL ALUMNI NEWS

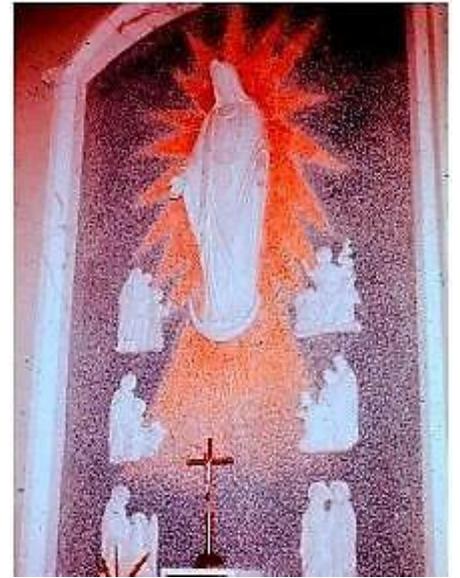
1-- I received a little bit of correspondence since my last newsletter, including a few responses about the little "SAS jargon" ditty that was in it. "Wow, did we really say all those things?" and "I completely forgot about 'I'm on ya' if we wanted something from the dinner table to the ping-pong table."

I also got a very nice letter from Stephen Speciale. I have mentioned him before, as he was an SAS 'wannabe', but decided at the last minute not to attend. He loves the "Franciscan Spirit" however, and asked to receive the newsletter back when he first found the website a number of years ago. Thanks Stephen for your prayers and for your peaceful message. That means a lot! 😊

2—Did you figure out the **MYSTERY PHOTO** yet? For those of you who were at SAS AFTER 1980, you would not have seen this, because it was the metal 'screen' between the main sanctuary and the side altars in the Christ the King Chapel.



There was a Marian "relief" mosaic above one of the three side altars. (See **right** photo) But in 1980 a 'make-over' covered that statuary, and the tabernacle was placed there instead. Then, the Garden Street Academy school made the area into a stage for various presentations. The photo on the **left** shows the screen from the other side. Does anybody know where it ended up?



3—**AND, IN THIS ISSUE, AS PROMISED, LET'S TALK PLAYS AND CONCERTS!**

I have mentioned many aspects of SAS life in past newsletters, but I haven't said too much over the years about class plays and school concerts.

This was actually one of *my* favorite activities because of my life-long love of the arts! I was so happy when I was chosen to design and build the sets for my class's plays; and I was also a "prompter" for the actors if they forgot a line during the actual performance.

Most of the school plays were dramatic, but there were also a few cometic presentations. And, everyone had a job to do, from set building, to lighting, to costuming, to acting. Students even designed and silk-screened the program covers. **We have over 50 programs** scanned and available on the archive website. And, several of the programs are followed by cast photos, or action pics!

They start with the class of '54 and **The Bat**, a play that almost didn't happen due to actors forgetting their lines, etc; (And that is according to an actual member of the class!) to the final concert presented in May, 1987. (THERE ARE TWO PAGES OF PROGRAMS at the site.)



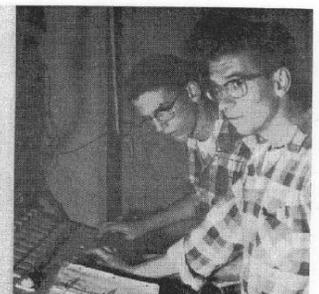
Rehearsing



Set Building



Costuming



Lighting

Here is a photo of the Bi-centennial Concert presented in ...of course ... 1976!



Please note how the scenery comes way out into the hall... with Mt. Rushmore, stars galore, balloons, and much, much more! It was quite a production with every boy in the student body having a role of some kind. The greater community also was very much involved, especially with costumes!

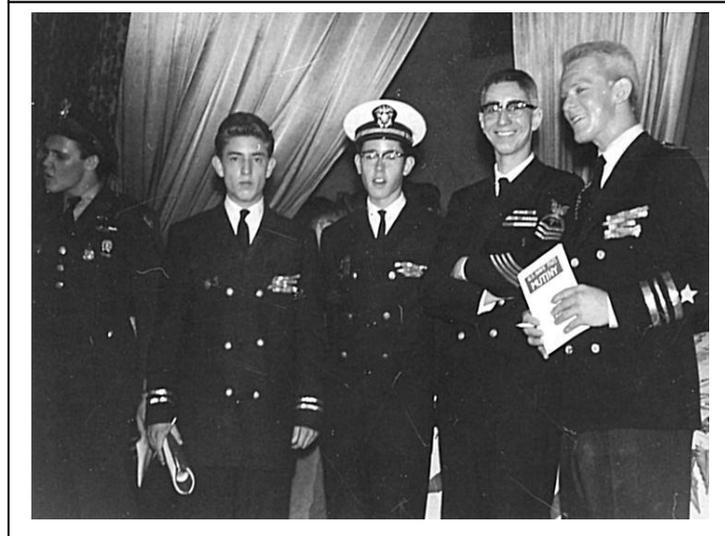
If you visit this archive link, perhaps you will find *your* name in a program or two, and maybe even in a photo as well! HERE'S THE LINK to 'yesteryear:' <https://www.sasarchive.org/dramatics>
(Remember, there's a page 1 and 2)

We do have one old picture of a play that has no description on the back. Perhaps some of our 'senior' alumni will recognize it. If you do, please let me know. Thanks! Here it is: ➡

Regarding program covers, I learned quite a bit about 3 color silk-screening, and actually used that skill years later at a summer job back when I was teaching. Fr. Nevin Ford OFM was my mentor at SAS.



Here are a few more photos that you can find at the archive website either at the link above, or this link: <https://www.sasarchive.org/browse-pictures> Have fun browsing! (Those of us who scanned them in will be happy! 😊)



REST IN PEACE DEAR BROTHERS

I received word that these fellow alums have passed on:

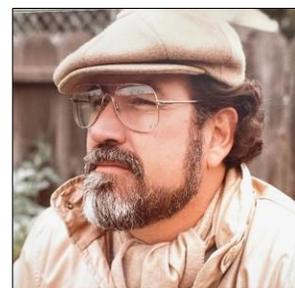


Gene Ford, Class of 1967, died on May 21, 2025 while working on the grounds of his beloved St. Philip's Byzantine Church. After SAS, Gene attended CSU Sacramento, and then enjoyed a full career as a teacher in the Sacramento Unified School District. He was also a studio teacher for the acting community. His passion was the arts, especially singing as lead cantor in his church. And Gene's other love was travel, from photo safaris in Africa to pilgrimages to the Holy Land. I had many telephone conversations with Gene. He was a gentle soul who enjoyed waxing philosophic, and enjoyed time with his siblings, nieces and nephews.

Charles Barker, Class of 1956, passed away on November 4, 2024. As an Air Force Master Sergeant, Charles worked for the American Forces Radio Network. As his obituary states:

"In the soft embrace of remembrance, we recall the profound impact that Charles had on all whom he encountered. Though Charles may have slipped through the veil of mortality, his essence lingers like a faint fragrance in the air." He was preceded in death by his dear wife Rueyrin (Rin), and his service was at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Fairfield, California.

Dennis Rockstroh, Class of 1960, died on July 18, 2025. Born in 1942, Dennis was raised in Southern California. His first job was at the *Santa Paula Daily News* as a reporter, but then moved on to the *San Jose Mercury News*, and thrived on a career in writing. He was well-respected for his series of articles about political prisoners in Vietnam, and the horrors of their captivity. Toward the end of his career, Dennis wrote *Action Line*, providing consumer protection for residents of the Bay Area. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, and five siblings.



David Gorsich, Class of 1958, passed on peacefully in his sleep on May 20, 2025. Here is part of an account of his life as told by a fellow classmate: "Dave was brilliant! 'Cursed' with a photographic memory, he skipped junior year entirely, and joined the Class of 1958 as a senior. He sailed through college (USD), and then took a job at University of San Diego High School. His future wife, Liz, was also a teacher at the school, and in due course, Cupid played his role, and marriage and children followed. Eventually, Dave segued out of that profession and opened his own income tax service. He retired from it about five years ago. Another star in the SAS firmament has winked out. God rest you Dave, good and faithful servant."

Ronald Dindia, Class of 1954, (I just found out), died on August 11, 2023, in Fresno, California. I'm sorry that I have no further information about his life, except for a little obituary that said it was a good life!

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND MAY THE PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. AMEN

Well, my brothers, ST FRANCIS DAY is just around the corner, and many Christian churches will have their annual blessing of pets. May the wonderful peace of St. Francis be yours today and every day!

Until next time... God bless you, and please keep those cards and letters coming in! 😊

Steve Rath's '67, SASAA Director- 480-831-6205 dipper40@hotmail.com www.sasalumni.org