



Word Winds

The Newsletter of the SVD Alumni Association

Volume 10, Issue 1

Summer 2008

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through Him. What has come into being in Him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it.

East Troy picnic a success

What child doesn't delight in hearing tales of a father's childhood mischief? Plenty of children were satisfied at the 2007 East Troy reunion.

More than 32 alumni—almost 80 people total—attended the 2007 reunion, held June 29-July 1 on the shores of Lake Beulah. Those who arrived early enjoyed a Friday evening pontoon boat ride and dinner on the other side of the lake.

On Saturday, the reunion got into full swing as the rest of the alumni arrived and took part in a grand family picnic. No one went hungry or lacked for water fun.

Some participants took advantage of pontoon boating, sailing on a catamaran supplied by alumnus Colin Lamb, and canoeing with guides around the lake. Others stayed on shore to renew old friendships over yearbooks and share memories of their youth.

The wives and kids present were suitably impressed by the stories told of the trouble their husbands and dads used to get into. Through the stories, they gained a better understanding of the ties that bind us together.

Fr. Tim Lenchak, rector of the Collegio del Verbo Divino in Rome, paid a surprise visit. Fr. Lenchak served as vocation director at East Troy in the 1970s. Many alumni chose to attend the school because of his presence.

Late that Saturday afternoon, Fr. Lenchak said Mass in the boathouse, where a five-member guitar group of alumni and family supplied beautiful liturgical music. After Mass, alumni continued an old tradition—a visit into the town of East Troy and ice cream at J. Laubers Ice Cream Parlor.

While overwhelmed by the foot traffic and caught short on help, the owner did a wonderful job of satisfying everyone. While waiting, alumni caught up on what's been happening in each other's lives since last year's picnic.

Many families left on Saturday with the promise to revisit next year. Those hardy campers who stayed the night reunited Sunday morning at the boathouse for breakfast, clean-up and goodbyes.



Fr. Tim Lenchak shares the Good Word.



Alumni, family and friends enjoy a day on Lake Beulah about 30 miles west southwest of Milwaukee.

*Weekend attendees included Pete Amelse, Rich Badowski, Paul Brouillette, Mark Byerly, Michael Fox, Mike Goughan, Jim Kelly, Emmerich Koller, Colin Lamb, Pat Leddy, Fr. Lenchak, Paul Loewen, Denny Luster, Greg McCabe, Mike David, Dave Nadolny, John Panek, Peter Paul, Fr. Ed Peklo, Gerard Perez, Henry Perez, Ed Peterson, John Peterson, Andre Queen, Brian Ries, John Schmidt, James Schutman, Len Uhal, Bill Warmouth, Mike Wessa, and Mike Witte.**

* Please forgive us if we left your name out as we relied on the sign-in sheet to know who was in attendance.

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From the director's desk

MIKE COUSINS

PERRYSBURG '65, EPWORTH '69



Another year, a new position, many new friends, many unexpected experiences. I hope that the last 12 months have been as much fun for all of you as it has been for my wife and me.

The transition from alumnus to alumni director has been an educational one and a road trip of a lifetime. Chicago, Epworth, Jamaica, East Troy, Pittsburgh, Perrysburg, Miramar all played a part in the life of a director.

While there was a tremendous learning curve and many emails and phone calls between Len and myself, the lesson best enjoyed was the meeting and sharing between everyone who attended the reunions and made Kathy and me feel welcome.

Inside this issue there are the articles about the annual gatherings, the mission experiences in Jamaica and West Virginia, and a few extras. I have asked Len to send us an article on vocations for every issue, which he has agreed to do.

I hope by now you have had a chance to visit the website, review the bulletin page and consider using it as more than just an obituary page.

Postage has again gone up this year. If you have an email address, please drop us a line and give it to us. We would like to send flyers and newsletters to you electronically.

Our current printing and postage budget is around \$6,000, but we will have to increase that unless we can lower costs through electronic mailings.

I have had a good response from many of you, asking to place your name on the website with your current email address. However, we have more than 3,000 names and less than 200 email addresses, so please check it out. If your email address is not listed on the website, please send your most current address.

New this year is a reunion at Epworth in October. While details are being worked out, our initial plans are for alumni activities on Saturday and activities that are open to everyone on Mission Sunday. Hope to see you there.

Picture from the past

CARDINAL THOMAS TIEN VISITS PERRYSBURG



Back row (left to right): Fr. Charles Leisring, Fr. Melvin Quinn, Brother Ray McKenna, Brother Steve Steinhauser, Fr. Eugene Creedon, Brother Bernard Champagne, Brother Simon Maciolek, Brother Longinus Posch.

Front row (left to right): Fr. John McHenry, Fr. Christian Baker, Fr. Provincial Nicholas Bisheimer, Cardinal Thomas Tien, Fr. Raymond Weisenberger (rector), Fr. William Bauer.



Looping “the loop”: memories of a geezer road trip

BY NICK SCHROEDER
PERRYSBURG '65



Alumni enjoy a July 4th breakfast at Maricela and Ron Kramer's house. Around the table, from front left and going clockwise are: Maricela Kramer, Francis Konrad, Kathie Konrad, Joe Greene, Ron Kramer, Doug McNiven, Ken Krompak, Sheri Schumacher and Steve Schumacher.

In October 2006, a head popped into the doorway of my office at the University of Toledo (UT) and asked an unusual question: “Where did you go to high school?”

It was Ken Krompak, Perrysburg class of 1966. He thought the name on the door looked familiar. Ken had recently retired from Dana Corporation and was teaching a class at UT. I then introduced him to “the loop,” an email group consisting of many of our classmates and other SVD alumni.

We talked quite often during fall semester, and Ken became an active participant in loop discussions. At one point, one of us suggested that after I retired in June 2007, we should take a road trip to visit some of the guys in the loop.

Sometime during February or March 2007 Ron Kramer (East Troy '66), now U.S. Consul General in Tijuana, Mexico, invited the loop to join him for his consulate's Fourth of July party. It took me about 30 seconds to realize that the timing was perfect. I would teach my last class on June 21, and my wife Colleen and I would hold my retirement party on June 23. That left plenty of time for Ken and me to make it to Tijuana for July 4th.

Over a couple of beers at Dale's Bar and Grill in Maumee, Ohio – and with the help of a small road atlas – we sketched out a trip plan on nap-

kins and scrap paper. We would visit as many loopers as possible, taking a semi-southern route west and returning by a semi-northern route east. We engaged in continuous plan improvement and refinement during each of our perch-fishing expeditions in Ken's boat on Lake Erie.

I contacted Joe Greene (Perrysburg, '66) in Louisville, Ky., asking if we could visit and spend the first night with him. Joe agreed but had one question, “Can I join you guys?”

So we had our third geezer road-tripper. Later in the spring, at a planning session in Louisville, we realized that it would be better if Joe drove north to join the crew for a Bowling Green road trip send-off.

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**WRITERS
WELCOME**

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this issue of *Word Winds*! If you are interested in writing for future issues, please contact the alumni office at svdalum@mwci.net.

Jamaica experience

BY BROTHER BERNIE SPITZLEY
PERRYSBURG '72, EPWORTH '77

“This is what I was looking for!”
“I’m so glad I had the opportunity to make my dream of a missionary a reality.”
“The time was short, but this experience will live on in me.”
“I was so happy to put my faith into action.”

These are just a few of the responses of participants from the SVD Alumni Mission Experience to Jamaica. We, the SVDs here in Jamaica, look forward to receiving the alumni and sharing the vision of St. Arnold Janssen: namely to make the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.

A highlight for all who come is the building of a house and the ritual of passing on the house key to the new owner. In addition, so many other memories are created by interacting with the people—spending time with the children, sharing the Bible with the youth in Golden Grove, attending a concert, and yes, joining in the singing, making a joyful noise for God!

We have been blessed with so many repeaters, men like Dwayne “Buzz” Heinzen, Henry Pinson, and Richard Schumacher. The relationships they created here have brought them back, and we are so glad they do.



Age is no obstacle to attending the SVD Alumni Jamaica Experience. We’ve had volunteers from the age of 14 to 75 put their heart and soul into building community, building the right relationships, and creating memories that will live a lifetime.

Women, too, have played an integral part of the experience. Wives of SVD alumni, former SSpS members, and a dedicated woman from the staff of the Brother Jim Fisher Center at St. Anselm’s Parish came and left their mark here in Jamaica.

One does not have to be a master carpenter nor a mason. One does need to have an open heart and willingness to dialogue and work with the people—not for the people but rather alongside the people, enjoying the struggle of creating a house within three days and giving thanks to God who is so generous.

If you want to put your faith into action and make the dream of being a missionary a reality, then come to Jamaica and you, too, can say, “This is what I was looking for!”

ORDINATION 2007



Most Rev. Curtis Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, ordained seven men, Sat., May 26, 2007, at Techny Towers.

Front row (left to right): Fr. An Dinh Vu, Fr. Paul Prince Appiah-Kubi, Fr. Vinh The Trinh, Fr. Simon Thoi Hoang and Fr. Long Phi Nguyen.

Middle row (left to right): Fr. Vinh Daniel Nguyen, Deacon Matheus Bitin Ro (who was ordained Oct. 18, 2007, in Indonesia), Fr. Urey Patrick Mark.

Back row (left to right): Fr. Quang Duc Dinh, formation director; Fr. Mark Weber, provincial; Bishop Guillory; Fr. Stanley Uroda, theologate rector.



Summer mission experience

BY GREG HANNAHS

EAST TROY '57, TECHNY '59

GASSAWAY, WEST VIRGINIA, 2007. Why in the world would I want to go to West Virginia and fix up old trailers?

I recently retired from the printing industry after 52 years, the first five at the Mission Press in Techny, Ill. There were plenty of things that needed fixing around my house—doors, windows, plumbing—but there I was in West Virginia.

I often visit the SVD websites, so I was aware of the Appalachian Mission. In fact several years back, I attended Mass in Welch, W.Va., another SVD mission.

The alumni newsletter of Summer 2007 announced the “Mission Experience.” It would be an adventure, and another week wouldn’t make much difference to an already outdated list of things that needed fixing at my house. I called Mike Cousins, and the hook was set.

At 5 a.m. Sunday morning, I was on my way to Gassaway, W.Va. The plan was to arrive at St. Thomas Parish, the SVD mission pastored by Fr. Elmer Nadicksbernd in time for the 11 a.m. Mass.

I just made it, give or take five minutes. I was under the impression that I would be working with three other alumni, John Myslak from New York, Ron Magin from New Jersey, and Richard Matthews from North Carolina.

I knew that high school students from Charleston Catholic High School would be involved. As it turned out, there were 65 high school students and adults from Charleston, all armed with the tools of the building trades.

Instead of assisting two families as planned, we ended up assisting nine families. The alumni did not work as a crew but teamed up with crews from Charleston Catholic. If I knew this from the beginning, I probably would have stayed home and that would have been a big mistake.

We, the alumni, stayed each night at the rectory with the exception of John Myslak who stayed at Risen Lord Catholic Church to be closer to his work site. Fr. Elmer proved to be a most gracious host.

Meals were available at various schools. Lunches with gallons of Gatorade were delivered to the work sites. If you think kids today can’t or don’t want to work, then you need to meet these



Left to right: Ron Magin, John Myslak, Fr. Elmer Nadicksbernd, Richard Matthews and Greg Hannahs.

students—under trailers, installing insulation, on top coating roofs, building steps, painting, hauling trash, replacing windows, putting in 8, 9, and 10-hour days.

The four alumni spent evenings at the rectory and relived many seminary and mission house days. Names would pop up that were familiar to us all even though we were from different houses: Conesus, Bordentown, East Troy, Epworth and Techny.

We found that we were all cut from similar cloth, just different geographies. I used to think that the only alumni event for me would be at Techny. Not so anymore.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of this adventure was being in the company of SVD alumni and Fr. Elmer. Perhaps working with high school students and adults from Charleston Catholic was the best part. Maybe the best part was living in “wild and wonderful” West Virginia for a week. It is a breathtakingly beautiful state.

Or maybe the best part is helping people you don’t even know. It’s a retreat without all the rigors of a retreat. You get more out of the sermons. The Gospel message is louder and more meaningful. The Mission Experience really makes you think.

Do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat.



Miramar meeting a success

BY JIM MCDERMOTT

Miramar Alumni Association Treasurer Jim Callanan reported that thanks to all who paid their dues, donations, and the generosity of two major donors our association is in good financial shape. As a result, we have money to give to another mission project.

Fr. Joe Connolly showed pictures of the wells and a small chapel in Africa built with donations from last year. He made a motion to have more wells dug in Africa and to send money for medical supplies to counteract Buruli ulcer, a terrible skin disease caused by a germ associated with stagnant and polluted water. The association voted to send \$5,000 to Fr. Connolly's project in Africa.

I had the pleasure of presenting a plaque to Len Uhal, thanking him for his great assistance to all our alumni associations during his tenure as SVD Alumni Association director. Len gave a lengthy progress report on his vocational work. Although numbers are down, he has sought creative ways to attract new vocations.

President Henry Pinson spoke of previous building projects in Jamaica and plans for a return trip in February, inviting anyone interested to come down. John Paulauski presented a slide show of Techny pictures and summer shots from Lake Gogebic and Lake Clear. Many of us were amazed at how good looking we were way back when.

Jim Harvey suggested a donation to Fr. Edmund Fitzgerald, a diocesan priest, who celebrated his 50th ordination anniversary. The association voted to do so.

In the evening, Fr. Jerry Theis from Mt. Hagen, Papua New Guinea, spoke of his mission work and the great progress of SVD activities in his area. It was surely good to have a missionary at the meeting. Fr. Connolly and Fr. Theis's presentations about the missions were the highlight of the weekend.

Fr. Jack Farley with the assistance of Fr. Theis, said the morning Mass. After breakfast, our resident poets (Rich Daigle and me) treated everyone to some selected readings.

This year was perhaps our largest group meeting. Thanks to all who attended. Our mission projects received generous donations. We discussed plans for future meetings, and a spirit of camaraderie was most obvious.

In addition, we all left with a special good taste in our mouths: Rich Bordas brought a large jar of honey from his bee farm.



From left to right: Len Uhal, Rory McFee, Brother Don Champagne, and Kathy and Mike Cousins meet in front of Rory's house.



The Miramar Alumni Association boasts a good turnout for their latest meeting.

Attendees included Gene Boyle, Dennis Burns, Jim Clarkin, Fr. Joe Connolly, Mike Cousins (new alumni director) and his wife Kathy, John Curran, Rich Daigle, Jim Donovan, Mo Donovan, Ed Farley, Fr. John Farley (now assigned to Miramar), Fr. Ken Feehan, Fr. Edmund Fitzgerald, Joe Flanagan, Joe Green, Greg Hannahs, Fr. Jim Heiar (assigned to Miramar from Epworth), John Kiely, John Paulauski, Henry and Fran Pinson, Peter O'Keefe, Len Uhal, and Jim Welch.

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

The Miramar Alumni Association has contributed more than \$12,000 to the missions over the years and continues to take on projects. I would like to say thanks from the rest of the alumni and the SVD. A special thanks to the rector, Brother Don Champagne, for our wonderful meeting and visit. One interesting side trip was a visit with alumnus Rory McFee. He graciously entertained us on his boat with a trip around Buzzard's Bay and a wonderful visit at his home.

--Mike Cousins



7th annual alumni golf outing and picnic

By the time you read this article, the 8th annual alumni golf outing will have taken place on Mon., June 2, 2008, at Willowhill, the nine-hole public links-style golf course built over the old Techny landfill. Check out the alumni website for photos and a report on the winners ... and losers!

The 2007 golf outing was plagued by rain – as had been the case the previous year. A storm pounded Chicago all weekend, catching Jim Grilliot and Mike Cousins in a deluge on Sunday at a course in Waukegan. Mon., June 4, didn't look any better.

Still, Len Uhal and Mark Singsank decided to take advantage of a break in the weather and play a morning practice round. They managed to get in seven holes before a rain delay. At the 1 o'clock tournament start, the Weather Channel showed more severe weather coming in. Four golfers (Pete Smyzek, Pete Amelse, Len and Mark) opted for golf clubs rather than ark-building tools – until finally, based on the club manager's advice, we decided to cancel golf for the afternoon.

And that's how Pat Leddy, Greg and Carol Laka, Jim and Mike ended up at Pinstripes, a new bowling alley-bocce court-restaurant downhill of the course, where good company and refreshments were enjoyed.



Front row (left to right): Bao Nguyen, Fr. Mark Weber, Len Uhal, Emmerich Kohler, Fr. Walt Bracken, Tom Artz, Fr. John Swift, Fr. Sunny Francis.

Back Row (left to right): Fr. Jim Bergin, Pete Smyzek, Pat Leddy, Jim Hannon, Peter Amelse, Fr. Ray Quetchenbach, Jim Grilliot, Mark Singsank.

Despite predictions that the weather would remain cold and wet for the evening, Len Uhal took on the task of chef and grilled steaks on the Techny picnic grounds for 30 hungry alumni. The rain stopped. Dinner started. And we had great food and even better conversation. Prizes were raffled off and 16 hearty souls had their picture taken at the end of the evening.

Alumni tidbits

DUANE MOUSSEAU (PERRYSBURG '61-'62)

I left after the sophomore year, and I figured if you didn't graduate from the school, then you were not included in anything. My last year at the school was 1963. In the fall of 1963, I went to school at Corpus Christi high school in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Here we call it grade 11, and in 1964-1965 I was in grade 12. I graduated in the spring of 1965, and that summer I was lucky enough to land a job with the Windsor Police Department.

I was a constable on the Windsor Police Department for four years when I applied for the Windsor Fire Department. Again I lucked out and landed a position on the Windsor Fire and Rescue Services.

After fighting fires for 24 years, I transferred into the Fire Prevention Division and became a fire inspector. A fire inspector in Canada is like your fire marshal. We enforced the fire code, determined the cause and origin of fires, enforced the building code for new construction, and fostered public education.

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ALUMNI SEARCH

Each week, we add new names to the alumni database. Some alumni do not receive this newsletter and other alumni mailings because we do not have a current address. If you know an alumnus or former lay faculty/staff member who is not receiving the newsletter, please ask them to send their current contact information to: SVD Alumni Association, Post Office Box 6038 Techny, IL 60082-6038 or svdalum@mwci.net

ALUMNI TIDBITS continued from page 7

I retired as the chief fire prevention officer June 1, 2006, just short of 41 years of service with the City of Windsor. I have been married to the same girl since May 27, 1967.

We only were able to have one child. However, our daughter Shelley has a great husband and three wonderful boys. The oldest is nine years old, and he has twin 7-year-old brothers. Being a grandpa is great.

I used to think of the guys from the seminary often. I always wondered and worried about who went to the war and who didn't make it back. I know Phil Westhoven was in Vietnam because I stopped at his house one time when I was passing through that area.

His mother told me all three boys were in Vietnam. I have never heard from Phil since. I know that Walter Bracken made it all the way. I didn't hear about anyone else. Any news you have would be great.

Tell me about yourself. Do you keep in touch with any of the guys from school? It would be great to hear any news you have.

I suppose I could ramble on forever. I think I'll just pass this over to you for now. It was awesome to hear from you. I'm looking forward to your response. Bye for now.

JAMES CZARKOWSKI (EPWORTH '72)

Thanks for taking up the torch of new leadership in the SVD alumni. Even though I have been retired for a year now, I have been busy. Thank God, I am retired. Shortly after retirement, I had to define some tingling in my hands.

It has been a great experience. Thank God it is not handicapping, and I am learning much about medical systems and neurology. God has led me on the right track, both in my advanced knowledge of neurological medicine (with respect to my own condition) and my time and skill to help others.

I also am involved with the Eucharistic ministry at the hospital to keep myself in contact with the hospital environment. I have developed

some thoughts about university medical hospitals versus the Mayo Clinic.

If things get worse, I will go to Mayo. I love learning new systems. It has been a great year. If I feel well enough, I will do more with activities with SVDs, have some contacts with the Maryknoll order, and my nursing organizations.

It's also time to become more informed about politics and what I can to share some information and gain more information.

I retired from the military. Even though I started my career late in life, it turned out great. An early retirement allows me to help care for my elderly parents as I edge to the zenith of life.

As I listen to folks, struggling with college level computer classes, the stresses of grades, with somewhat an artificial/virtual context of reality, I thank God I am retired. I am more in contact with real life. If things keeping going well, I will sign up for an SVD experience in the near future.

Thank you for your work in keeping the spirit of the SVDs alive. I am inspired by the last issue of *Divine Word Missionaries* magazine, and the growth of the SVDs in Africa. It reminds me of Techny in the '60s when I joined. Life is still exciting, even at this late stage in my life.

JAMES NGUYEN (EPWORTH) EMAIL: JAMES@TECHNISOURCE.ORG

For the last 10 years, I have been living with siblings in the Greater Metro Milwaukee Area. In 2005, I moved and bought my own place out in the suburbs, about one hour from East Troy. I have worked for the same company since 1996 and have now moved to packaging sales and travel throughout the United States.

I am also part of an educational organization that helps kids to succeed in school. I spend a majority of my time traveling for work, working on a spiritual-sci-fi novel, and completing an album. On the side, I work with small minority and women-owned businesses to foster and grow their businesses.

Continued on next page



Techny dinner honors Fr. Bill Shea

BY MIKE COUSINS

People came through the doors of Techny Towers, looked around and greeted old classmates and friends with warmth and smiles at the Nov. 17, 2007, dinner that honored Fr. Bill Shea.

A prominent member of the SVD community, Fr. Shea is accustomed to change. He was at Girard when it closed. As Eastern Province provincial, he successfully closed that province and integrated it into the Chicago Province. And, yes, he lived at East Troy when the high school seminary closed. For 15 years, he taught at Epworth, and this year, while he still resides there, he is taking a break from the academic world.

From the lobby of the beautiful Techny Towers, we went to the African Chapel, a side chapel on the third floor where African-themed stained glass windows by Brother Ray Albers and the handmade altar of Fr. Ray Weisenberger created a sense of serenity and prayer.

Fr. Shea said the Mass and Novice Jesus Mata Martinez, a former Epworth student of Fr. Shea, provided the liturgical music. Warm and inviting, a sense of SVD community enveloped the chapel.

After Mass, we retired to the lower level in the Indonesian room for refreshments and a catered buffet. As alumni director, one of the toughest parts of my job is to get everyone to sit at the same time.

Guests were visiting, renewing old acquaintances and reluctant to stop visiting. Fr. Shea was

surrounded by a large group of his former Epworth students, a heartening sight-- younger men willing to make time and a long trip to honor their former teacher.

I personally knew Fr. Shea from Perrysburg, where he coached basketball and taught history in 1965. Unfortunately, after that one year, we lost touch with each other. As Fr. Shea talked, I realized how many men's lives he has touched over the years.

What a wonderful and humble man. It was good to renew his friendship after 40 years. After the dinner, he graciously sent a thank you note in which he expressed his joy in receiving the honor.

Attendees included Divine Word Fathers and Brothers James Bergin, Andrew Biller, Joseph Bugner, John Donaghey, Sunny Francis, Charles Heskamp, Francis Kamp, Dennis Newton, Vincent Ohlinger, Fred Rudolph, Francis Theriault, Stanley Uroda, and Matthew Zemel. Fr. Bryan Pham, S.J., represented the Jesuits.

SVD novices Jesus Mata Martinez, Antoine Nguyen, and Richard Vu attended, as well as alumni, spouses and friends Eugene Ahner, Herbert and Flora Breidenbach, Mike and Kathy Cousins, Greg Hannahs, Loc Le, Michael Huan Le, Tam Nguyen, Ed and JoAnne Peterson, Nam Vu, Bill Warmouth, Linda Weidemann (Epworth staff), and Florian and Marilyn Wisniewski.

As alumni we continue to share our upbringing and honor the men we know as SVDs. Please mark your calendars for Sat., Nov. 22, 2008, when we will honor Fr. John Donaghey. The event will once again be held at Techny Towers, Techny, Ill. Mass in the African Chapel will begin at 5 p.m. A social will follow at 6 p.m. with dinner and a program at 6:45 p.m. For more information, contact the SVD Alumni Association at 888-276-6536.

ALUMNI TIDBITS continued from page 8

DAVE ROLPH (PERRYSBURG '66)

Just a quick update. I was going nuts sitting in an office in Arlington, Vir., day after day, staring at a computer. I wanted to get the blood flowing again, use long-acquired skills, and make a contribution. So I'm back in Iraq on a professional service contract.

There are lots of questions and no easy answers, but remarkable progress has been made during the last 12 months. Take care and thanks for the newsletters and updates.

GORDON BATEMAN FORMER LAY MISSIONARY IN NEW GUINEA

It is now 50 years since I went to Wewak, New Guinea, as a lay mission pilot and the first person to fly in the bush for the missions. Memories are flooding back to my mind, and I guess that happens when we are in our latter stages in life.

I remember well flying with Bishop Leo Arkfeld and under Fr. Ivo Ruiter. I also met Fr. Ralph Wiltgen, who later came into such international prominence writing about Vatican II.



Alumni again experience Jamaica the SVD way

BY MIKE COUSINS

Once again, Jamaica was the focus of the winter alumni activities. My wife, Kathy, and I were the newcomers, joining Buzz Heinzen and Henry Pinson, Fr. Walter Mendonca and Brother Bernie Spitzley for a weeklong missionary experience.

The first full day was an education in the art of the possible.

The first full day was an education in the art of the possible. Our task involved filling in and laying the cinder block for a house for Mrs. McCarty, a parishioner. To our surprise, the original foundation site had been moved further down the hill from the site agreed upon, making our task more daunting than originally expected. We had to go from three blocks high to five high to compensate, and the backfill also was more of a job than we had expected.

Next, we gained first-hand experience with Jamaica time. The gravel was supposed to be delivered at noon. It seems the truckers had been paid, but “soon come, mon” was the phrase of the day. Bernie’s industrious German heritage – developed on a farm in Michigan – put him in a different time zone.

Finally, he took the white Toyota pickup to the gravel bed at the river and brought back five loads, all of which had to be shoveled out by hand and transferred down the hill in a wheelbarrow.



Back row (left to right): Brother Bernie Spitzley, Mike and Kathy Cousins, Fr. Walter Mendoca. Front row (left to right): Henry Pinson, Buzz Heinzen, CTU student Linh Duy Pham.

In the end, we rejoiced in the fruits of our labor: a wonderful house for a proud new owner. We were a tired but satisfied work crew.

As the journey continued, we spent time at a healing Mass on Sunday, a gospel sing, visiting the sick, Bible study with the kids, and in the wonderful shared companionship of the Jamaican evenings.

Many of you have been down there, and I have not heard anyone say they regret the time spent. This year, we are working with Len Uhal and the college. Thanks to those efforts a potential seminary candidate might join the alumni volunteers. Please continue to say a prayer for vocations.

Promote Vocations

- Pray daily for vocations.
- Ask someone if he or she has considered a religious vocation.
- Contact the Vocation Office if you know someone who might be interested.

Mr. Len Uhal
Divine Word College
Vocation Office
P.O. Box 380
Epworth, IA 52045
ph: 800-553-3321
dwm@mwci.net
www.svdvocations.org



Our Lady of Hungary Parish celebrates one of their own

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL BLUME, APOSTOLIC NUNCIO, RETURNS TO HIS HOME PARISH
BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — Who was to know what God had in mind when eighth grader Mike Blume from Our Lady of Hungary Parish answered a vocation ad about the Divine Word Missionaries? Forty-five years later he returned to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for his ordination as Archbishop of the Alessano and the Apostolic Nuncio of Bénin and Togo, West Africa.

In his opening remarks at a Mass of celebration on Oct. 9, and especially in his homily, Father Mike, as he is affectionately called, gave a lot of credit to Our Lady of Hungary for instilling the values necessary to bring him where he is today.

I knew the Bishop when he still was Father Mike. He had such a beautiful way of praying. I used to love to attend his Masses.

The archbishop spoke of the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep and how God entrusted the care of his flock to his apostolic successors who continue to nourish his people with the sacraments.

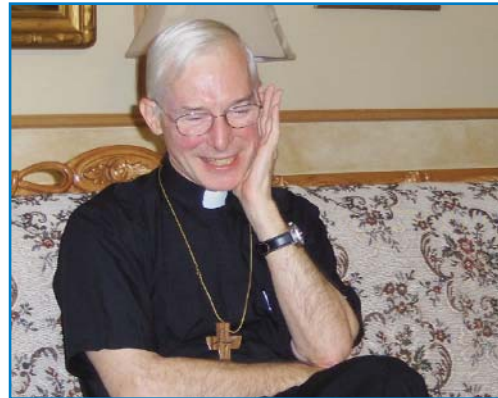
At his ordination he was given a ring to symbolize God's fidelity, similar to the rings exchanged in the sacrament of marriage. He also received a staff, a crosier, that shepherds use to gather their flocks. As archbishop he, too, will gather and protect the people under his care.

In his humble, gentle manner, Archbishop Blume said he was grateful that his superiors judged that he had the gifts and skills necessary to be a leader of the church and reinforced the fact that it was the priests, sisters and parishioners of Our Lady of Hungary who planted the seeds.

In a profound attitude of gratitude and humility he said, "As for me, the only response I have is 'Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.' This response asks me to take on the attitude of the blessed Mary at the Annunciation, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word.'"

The archbishop concluded his homily by asking "that the spiritual communion that we experience today, this high point of being together in the liturgy, may continue on as a prayerful support for one another." He told the people that this was the only way he could remain faithful.

After the Mass, family, parishioners and friends gathered in the school hall to continue the celebration with a delicious dinner cooked by parish members. Good food was shared as well as many memories. Present was Sister



Archbishop Michael Blume at the residence in Techny.



Paul and Charlene Kutylko with Archbishop Blume at Bob Chinn's in Waukegan, Ill.

Mary Martin Kosik, a Daughter of Divine Charity, who taught Mike in the third grade. She remembers him as outstanding.

"There was something about him. He was a good person and always loved to serve Mass."

Father James Seculoff, who once served at Our Lady of Hungary, said about the archbishop, "I knew the Bishop when he still was Father Mike. He had such a beautiful way of praying. I used to love to attend his Masses. So I was overjoyed when I learned he was an archbishop and an apostolic nuncio. That means he gets to choose other bishops." He went on to say, "Father Blume was always very close to Jesus."

From the large number of people at both the Mass and dinner, it was evident that Father Mike, now archbishop, is a beloved son of Our Lady of Hungary and is a gift to the people of West Africa.

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ALUMNI DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Some of the alumni, Lee Roy Schweiterman, Paul and Charlene Kutylko, Nick Schroeder, and Mike and Kathy Cousins got together with Archbishop Michael Blume at Techny in August when he was on home leave and had a wonderful visit. We learned a lot about his Mission as papal nuncio. Paul treated it as if he were still Mission Club president, and Mike explained the political situation in the country along with the multi-cultural issues that divide the countries.



PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Dear Jesus, please send us holy and dedicated brothers, sisters, priests and deacons who will spread the Good News. Open wide our hearts, and stir in us a desire to serve you. Amen.

“LOOPING THE LOOP” continued from page 3



Food was the order of the day on July 5 as the friends eat at La Escondida Restaurant in Puerto Nuevo, a town halfway between Tijuana, Mexico, and Ensanada, Calif. Beginning on the front left and going clockwise are: Ken Krompak, Sheri Schumacher, Maricela Kramer, Ron Kramer, Joe Greene, Steve Schumacher, Doug McNiven, Kathie Konrad and Francis Konrad.

Doug took us to his favorite brew pub, and Dolores prepared more desserts than any road-trip crew should see in a week. After another great breakfast, including Dolores' wonderful homemade blueberry pound cake, we headed out.

Our first night on the road was spent at the home of Mike and Joy Kozuszek (Perrysburg, '66) near St. Louis. We were fed incredibly well and consumed much of their beer supply – mostly because Bob Engemann (Perrysburg, '65), another St. Louis-area looper, joined us for the evening.

After an astonishingly huge and wonderfully delicious home-cooked breakfast, Joe, Ken and I pointed the car toward Oklahoma City. Neither Mike nor Bob joined us; both of these poor souls are still gainfully employed.

In Oklahoma City, Doug and Dolores McNiven (Perrysburg, '66) showed us the sights. We found that Oklahoma City had a lot of sites that deserved more than the limited amount of time allowed by our tight road-trip schedule.

Doug took us to his favorite brew pub, and Dolores prepared more desserts than any road-trip crew should see in a week. After another great breakfast, including Dolores' wonderful homemade blueberry pound cake, we headed out. Oh, Doug is also retired – so now there were four of us steaming toward Tijuana.

This was our third straight day of driving, so we had planned a break. Since there were no looper homes within a one-day drive from Oklahoma City, we spent two nights at a hotel in Santa Fe, N.M. We took in the sights, spent a rousing evening locally – where we were entertained in spectacular fashion by the “Soul Deacons” – and ate at a couple of fine Southwestern restaurants.

Ken's friend, Tom, who lives in Santa Fe, is a docent at the Georgia O'Keeffe Art Museum. Joe was delighted to have his own personal docent-escorted tour of the museum but was disappointed to find that his daughter had misled him about the theme of many of O'Keeffe's paintings.

Continued on next page



After leaving Santa Fe, we drove to Sedona, Ariz., the home of Francis and Kathy Conrad (Girard, '66). The scenery was spectacular. Francis took us on a hike along a small stream and, knowing a bit about our tastes, the Conrads led the crew to a great restaurant for dinner.

Early the following morning, we took two cars to one of their favorite breakfast spots and, after breakfast, both cars headed west. With the addition of Francis and Kathy, we were now a caravan of six headed toward Tijuana.

We arrived at the border late in the afternoon of July 3. We were met by two vehicles driven by His Excellency, Señor Kramer, and his driver. We parked our vehicles on the U.S. side and piled ourselves and our luggage into the two consular vehicles.

Ron and his driver proceeded to play NASCAR/demolition derby as they engaged in a friendly race south to Ron's Tijuana residence. It was not a trip for the faint-hearted! Ron introduced us to many interesting Spanish terms for other drivers on the road.

Tom and Marsha Wasserman (Perrysburg, '66) and Steve and Sherri Schumacher (Perrysburg, '66) were already at Ron's house when we arrived. Ron and Maricela, his wife, could easily be the world's best host and hostess.

They pretty much gave us the run of their house. Like most homes in the area, it's surrounded by a high wall. Unlike many homes in the area, there are security guards, a separate party building and a beautiful outdoor swimming pool. The U.S. government believes a consul general needs a large home. I'm sure that I never saw the entire place.

Maricela and her assistants cooked a wonderful dinner, which included huge amounts of mouthwatering, incredibly tender roasted beef filet, a shot of tequila served in a jalapeno pepper for Joe, and a chance to see Joe sip olive oil, mistakenly served as white wine. Maricela, Ken and I missed it because we were outside enjoying cigars from one of the Kramer humidors.

After dinner, we sat around the pool, enjoyed Ron's company and refreshments, and reminisced until late into the night. Ron had a lot to do the next day, so he retired relatively early. Many of us moved to the TV room and its well-stocked bar

Ron and his driver proceeded to play NASCAR/demolition derby as they engaged in a friendly race south to Ron's Tijuana residence.

for a couple of hours of additional eloquent and highly meaningful discourse.

On July 4th, Jerry and Lin Van de Vyver (Perrysburg, '66) and Fulton and Susan Martin (East Troy, '65) arrived early in the day. We also were joined by Fr. Joe Miller and Fr. Melvin James of the Western Province.

It was a great outdoor party. The weather was great. The string quartet was great. There were guests in the hundreds. The food and open bar kept us all satisfied (other than the governmental requirement that only American beer could be served).

Ron had alerted the consulate staff about the SVD alumni's presence, so they kept a close eye on us to ensure that we were sometimes on our best behavior. The party lasted until well past the official closing time. Ron serenaded the last guests out the door.

We had expected to need a day of recovery before departing Tijuana, and we were right. After a lazy morning spent chatting and sitting around the kitchen and the pool, Ron and Maricela rounded up the survivors – the road-trip crew and the Schumachers – and we headed down the coast to a seafood restaurant in Porto Nuevo, Mexico.

We ordered the combination platter, which turned out to be huge platters of lobster halves, at least two kinds of shrimp, baked fish filet, fried whole fish, abalone, calamari, steak and a suspicious tuna-salad-type concoction.

We ate and ate and ate and ate. We couldn't eat it all. Ron called over a strolling Mariachi band and joined them in serenading the crew. Later in the evening, we sat around in the party building and had one final evening of wonderful Tijuana camaraderie.

Continued on page 14



“LOOPING THE LOOP” continued from page 13



On the journey home, (from left to right) Ken Krompak, Nick Schroeder, Doug McNiven and Joe Greene stop at a restaurant in Santa Fe, N.M.

Doug had to fly back to Oklahoma City – some nonsense about wanting to be home for his wedding anniversary. Francis and Kathy stayed in Mexico for a few more days. However, the core road-trip crew hit the road early in the morning.

We cruised through southern California, into Nevada, and through Las Vegas. We spent the night in Mesquite, Nev. Not much there other than casinos, but two of us were grateful for the stop. We had unexpectedly brought along an uninvited guest from Mexico: someone called Montezuma. The opportunity to rest was appreciated.

The next morning, we drove through beautiful scenery to Moab, Utah, where Joe and Jini Kiffmeyer (Perrysburg, '66) made us feel incredibly welcome. Joe did an awesome job on the grill and, later in the evening, on the guitar.

The next day, Joe took us for a float trip on the Colorado River. We returned for Jini's incredible lasagna, followed by more homegrown music and a quick twilight trip to see the closest ancient Indian drawings on a rock wall near Moab.

With no loopers to visit for hundreds of miles, we drove straight through the Rocky Mountains, through Denver, and into Nebraska. The next day, we hit the road early and eventually arrived in Dubuque, Iowa, to sponge off of Art and Diane Roche (Perrysburg, '66) for a day or so.

The first evening included recovering from two long days of driving. The next day, we saw

Ron had alerted the consulate staff about the SVD alumni's presence, so they kept a close eye on us to ensure that we were sometimes on our best behavior.

the sights of Dubuque. Yes, there are sights to see. Among other things, we walked along the mighty Mississippi and sampled Iowa wines.

In the evening, Art and Diane treated the road-trippers to a local SVD alumni reunion with Joe Featherston (East Troy and Epworth), John “Hop-a-long” Sarnowski (Girard, '66), Fr. Bill Shea, and Lenny and Sue Uhal (East Troy and Epworth). The always enjoyable, probably patented, Roche sing-a-long took us far into the evening and the night hours.

Finally, on July 12, we headed back for Ohio. Joe Greene extended his own road trip a day by visiting with Hal and Gini Mann (Perrysburg, '66) during the evening of the 12th. He then headed back to Louisville, and the great SVD alumni cross-country geezer road trip of 2007 was history. Fantastic memories, only a few of which could fit into this limited space, will live on and on.



The laity's role in vocation ministry

BY LEN UHAL, NATIONAL VOCATION DIRECTOR
SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD

As I was walking around the grounds at East Troy during the reunion of June 2006, I ran into one of my classmates. I mentioned to him that I had just had a nice chat with his 11-year-old daughter moments before. She told me about her school and what she was doing on summer vacation.

We talked for a bit and as we ended our conversation, I handed her a small bookmark. It had a picture of St. Arnold Janssen on it and "A Prayer for my Vocation," asking for strength "to follow Your will for me."

I said to her, "You never know, maybe God wants you to be a religious sister someday." She smiled and said, "Maybe," and we went separate ways.

While I was telling my classmate about my discussion with his daughter, he interrupted and asked, "Are you kidding?" and exclaimed, "I want to walk her down the aisle on her wedding day. I want to have grandchildren."

He was all smiles and chuckling a bit, but it was obvious he was serious as well. I asked, "Harry (the name has been changed to protect the guilty), you're kidding me, right? You haven't talked with Lisa about the possibility of God calling her to be a religious sister?" He indicated that he had not.

My East Troy classmate must have been shocked at my response. He must have been taken aback at my surprise that he had not talked with his daughter about the possibility of a religious vocation.

There we were, standing on the seminary ground where we attended school as teenagers, discerning our own vocations as possible priests or religious brothers. We talked for a bit. In the end, he agreed that he would support whatever his daughter chose to do.

If God called her to be a religious sister, and she responded positively by saying "yes," my friend would love her and support her vocation. If she married or remained single, he would love her the same. I think it helped when I reminded him that parents get to walk their sons and daughters "down the aisle" during vow ceremonies and ordinations.

My conversation with Harry was not an unusual one. Many young parents today have the

I think it helped when I reminded him that parents get to walk their sons and daughters "down the aisle" during vow ceremonies and ordinations.

same hopes and dreams for their children—to watch them grow, get married, have successful careers and have children.

There is nothing wrong with these goals. For most people, this is the norm. My surprise with my classmate was that at age eleven, *he* had thought about the priesthood and brotherhood. At age eleven, someone—actually many people, including his parents—had talked with *him* about the possibility of entering a seminary. And at age fourteen, *he* did enter a formation program.

For more than five years now, I have been working in vocation ministry. One thing I have truly come to believe is that the laity has a role in calling forth new leaders for our Church.

Some believe that the diocese or religious communities are responsible for "recruiting" and "replenishing" their ranks. Indeed, all dioceses and most religious communities do have members actively involved in vocation ministry. But does that relieve the laity from our role in making sure we have enough religious sisters and brothers, deacons and priests to lead us on our faith journey? Certainly not.

Years ago, in the day when Catholic couples had large families, no one thought twice about "giving" a son or a daughter to the Lord. In fact, it was rather expected. Parents talked with their children about becoming a priest or sister. What has happened?

We still need priests, brothers, sisters and deacons! Family size has decreased, but the need for leaders in our Church has not disappeared. So many barriers today seem to prevent us from inviting and encouraging our youth to consider a call from God to the ordained or vowed life.

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THE LAITY'S ROLE IN VOCATION MINISTRY continued from page 15

Encourage the young man or woman you see at Church who is always helping out, the neighbor child who is always visiting you, or the student in school who displays characteristics you think would make a good priest or religious.

Maybe it is our desire to pass on the family name, to walk our kids down the aisle, to have grandchildren, or to see our children be incredibly successful and wealthy. Maybe it is our fears that they may be lonely, poor or unhappy.

But the fact is—we still need leaders in our Church. We, the laity, the folks in the pews, need to be concerned about and involved in the promotion of ordained and religious vocations.

While the laity has increased its leadership role in our Church, we still need religious brothers and sisters, priests and deacons. God does call certain men and women to these roles. As laity, we are entrusted with the responsibility of inviting young men and women to consider the different ways God may be calling them to live out their Baptismal call to a life of holiness and service.

Yes, most will get married, some will remain single, but some are also called to service in the Church. We are entrusted with the task of encouraging those who are called to this life of service to respond to God's call by saying "YES!"

What can we do? There are many things, such as talking with our children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews. I am not talking about coercion! But as young men and women consider becoming computer programmers, farmers, engineers, auto mechanics, doctors, teachers, construction workers and the like, invite them to pray, "Thy will be done," and ask them if God might be calling them to be a priest, brother or sister.

Encourage the young man or woman you see at church who is always helping out, the neighbor child who is always visiting you, or the student in school who displays characteristics you think would make a good priest or religious.

Direct invitation is always the best. However,

you can also get involved in promoting religious vocations by joining your parish vocation committee (or starting one at your parish), joining your local Serra Club, volunteering with a religious community or for the diocesan vocation director. Be creative. Do what you can do. Be active. And do not forget to pray: prayer is powerful.

Even though neither Harry nor I nor any of our East Troy classmates became SVDs, people planted the seed when we were young and let us know that maybe God was calling us to a religious vocation.

Our parents, friends, priests, religious, members of our parish and others invited and encouraged us to consider pastoral ministry as an option—just as they did for all members in the SVD Alumni Association.

In addition to married life and a variety of occupations, we were all asked to consider what else God might be asking us to become. We were invited and encouraged to truly pray "Your will be done in our lives."

God led Harry and me on a different path, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to discern a religious vocation in the context of a seminary formation program. Today, as a layman, I get to visit with young men considering a religious vocation. I have the privilege and responsibility of walking with them on the journey to helping them understand God's call in their lives. What an awesome blessing!

If you know of someone who would like to receive more information about becoming a priest, brother, sister or deacon, please contact me at 800-553-3321 or luhal@dwci.edu, and I will do whatever I can to help.

Editor's note: A version of this article was originally published in the Spring 2006 issue of Together in the Word.



New attendees at the Perrysburg reunion

July 27-29, 2007, faithful alumni once again gathered at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg for fellowship, food, fun and golf.

Friday morning, a group of alumni worked up an appetite. Len and John Uhal, Jim Grilliot, Mike Cousins, and Nick Schroeder played a round of golf with Mike getting the award for a hole-in-one.

That evening, the gang wandered over to Tony Packo's Hungarian restaurant. In 1932, factory worker Tony Packo opened the restaurant with a \$100 loan from relatives. Today it's Toledo's—and possibly the nation's—most famous Hungarian restaurant.

In 1972, actor Burt Reynolds visited the establishment and signed a hot dog bun. He was the first of a long line of celebrities whose autographed baked goods are displayed in the eatery. However, the event that truly put Tony Packo's on the map was a 1976 episode of M*A*S*H in which Jamie Farr (a.k.a. Corporal Max Klinger) improvised in a scene with a television reporter.

Both Farr and the character he played hailed from Toledo. When the fictitious reporter asked about his hometown, he told him to be sure to visit Tony Packo's. Scriptwriters were so pleased with the improvisation that they wrote Tony Packo's into four more scripts, including the historic 1983 final episode.

Perrysburg alumnus Nick Schroeder continued a tradition of his own. As a salute to Fr. Dan Bauer, a Toledo alumnus whose appetite is unrivaled in alumni history and is stationed in Taiwan, Nick ate a MOAD (mother of all dogs). At the restaurant, he was joined by John Koelsch, John Ruble, Joe Ott, Jeff Schmakel,



Front row (left to right): Tony Westhoven, Mike Cousins, John Ruble, Tom Zoltansky, Len Uhal. Back row (left to right): Jeff Schmakel, Greg Novak, Joe Ott, Nick Schroeder, Jim Grilliot. Not pictured: Bob Trepinsky and John Koelsch.

Len Uhal and family, and Bob Trepinsky.

Families made use of Saturday morning's free time by shopping, eating and visiting. In the afternoon, they gathered for Mass at the local parish church, St. Rose of Lima. By coincidence, it was the church where alumnus Jeff Schmakel and his wife Kathy were married many years ago.

After Mass, the group returned to the French Quarter for a social hour and a catered dinner where no one went away hungry.

Sunday, the tradition of meeting for brunch, final visits and goodbyes continued. The one unique thing about this year's reunion was the fact that four men were new attendees, and that is a great thing.

Alumnus Greg Novak from Lima, Ohio, joined the reunion for the first time. Greg sent a note afterward to say what a great time he had.

At the 2008 reunion to be held June 20-22, alumni will honor Fr. Walt Bracken, an alumnus originally from Belle River, Canada.

Come and share stories with us.

Remembering our Deceased Alumni

1/9/07	Fr. Otto Shelly (Schellenberger)	10/18/07	Fr. Fisher Robinson, Jr.	4/25/08	Fr. William Hegarty
1/25/07	Fr. Harrie Vanderstappen	12/6/07	Fr. Ralph Wiltgen	4/30/08	Fr. Joseph Gunning
2/21/07	Brother Richard Morrill	2/6/08	Brother William Morgan	Obituaries for members of the Chicago Province can be found at www.divineword.org .	
2/24/07	Fr. Edward Tuohy	2/17/08	Fr. Raymond Weisenberger		
3/26/07	Fr. Chester Nowicki	3/18/08	Fr. Matthias Lunzer		
7/18/07	Fr. Joseph Simon	3/19/08	Fr. Andrew Masters		



A weekend with Fr. Tim

GIRARD ALUMNUS FR. TIM LENCHAK HONORED

BY MIKE COUSINS

With Fr. Tim Lenchak on home leave for the summer, the Girard alumni moved their reunion to July in order to honor one of their own. Fr. Lenchak, a former vocation director in East Troy, currently is the rector at the SVD Collegio in Rome, Italy.

More than 30 alumni and their families met July 6-8, 2007, in Pittsburgh to share memories of Girard. Many of Fr. Lenchak's classmates made a point of attending this year's gathering, which included reminiscing, enjoying a great meal, dessert and drinks at Pittsburgh's Georgetowne Inn, and watching the sights high atop downtown and the river.

The following morning, although the hotel provided transportation, many alumni chose to walk to the newly restored St. Paul Cathedral for a guided tour. The guide fascinated the group with the cathedral's history and a list of noteworthy speakers who preached from the pulpit over the years.

After the tour, participants could choose to see other attractions, such as the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, where world-renowned glass-blowing artist Dale Chihuly has installed his artwork among plants, flowers and trees. The blend of nature's and man's artwork was simply stunning and a wonderful exhibit.

From there, alumni and guests leisurely drifted back to the hotel and the hospitality room to enjoy each other's company or rest before a liturgy service and dinner.

By 5 o'clock, the group headed up the hill to the SVD house chapel, where Fr. Lenchak celebrated Mass. The historic SVD house displays lots of character and beautiful woodwork, highlighted by Brother George Haegele's well-appointed update and restoration. After Mass, the group enjoyed a much easier walk downhill to the Holiday Inn, where they again gathered for dinner and drinks.

Following dinner, a few of Fr. Lenchak's classmates respectfully took the floor to share their memories. Fr. Lenchak had shown scholarly talents early in his academic career as he developed his own shorthand system for taking notes.



Attendees at the gathering included: Carl Bastiani, Rich Lauer, Matt Golias, Joe Aul, Mike Ruegg, Al Dingman, Andy Yaroczyk, Bill Crowley, Mike Leschak, Larry Jones, Bill Rossiter, Fr. Tim Lenchak, Len Uhal, Dan Gabelman, Pat McMahon, Bill Pappas, Fr. Walter Ostrowski, Phil Akre, Tom Arens, and Dick Schaff.

Many of the men also had ties to Epworth, Techny, and Conesus. Participants came from as far as Nevada, Minnesota, New York, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Rome, and of course Iowa.

Then Fr. Lenchak took the floor—as if his years in Rome had left him longing to speak his native tongue. He regaled us with stories of his youth, mission work, and current assignment.

Then Fr. Lenchak took the floor—as if his years in Rome had left him longing to speak his native tongue. He regaled us with stories of his youth, mission work, and current assignment. For those used to hearing sermons of 20 minutes or less in church on Sundays it was nice to hear from someone who is passionate about his vocation and service to the SVDs.

The evening ended up back in the hospitality room with individuals renewing old friendships, making new ones and just enjoying themselves.

Sunday morning, there were 18 people still around for breakfast as they gathered in the hotel restaurant. With a little help in moving the table, the hostess managed to seat all 18 together for a wonderful last visit and goodbyes.



Upcoming Events

DATE/TIME	EVENT	OTHER INFORMATION
Friday, June 20- Sunday, June 22	8th Annual Perrysburg Reunion Fr. Walt Bracken, honoree Mass Saturday at 5 p.m. Social at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.	Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg Dinner Friday: Tony Packo's Dinner Saturday: \$45 per person Extra activities: golf, Toledo Museum of Art, Saunder Village, Fort Meigs For rooms, call the Holiday Inn at 419-874-3111
Saturday, June 28	12th Annual Picnic at East Troy	Gathering at the Boathouse: Noon Grills and refreshments provided Camping overnight on The Hill <i>No rooms available at Tien Hall</i>
Sunday, June 22- Saturday, June 28	Alumni Appalachian Mission Experience	Gassoway, W.Va. Work with Catholic high school students and alumni Contact Mike Cousins: svdalum@mwci.net For detailed information, call: 888-276-6536
Monday, Sept. 22- Tuesday, Sept. 23	Annual Miramar Alumni Reunion	Details forthcoming
Friday, Oct. 3- Saturday, Oct. 4	Pittsburgh Reunion	Holiday Inn–University Center, Pittsburgh Friday night dinner at Mt. Washington Saturday: local activities Mass at 5 p.m. Social and dinner following Mass For rooms, call the Holiday Inn at 412-682-6200
Wednesday, Oct. 17- Thursday, Oct. 18	Epworth Reunion Fr. Michael Hutchins, honoree	Divine Word College Friday: Evening Social at the college Saturday: college tours, meeting, lunch, afternoon boat ride, museums Saturday evening: Mass, dinner and program Sunday: Mission Sunday activities Further details coming this summer
Saturday, Nov. 22	Techny Dinner Fr. John Donaghey, honoree	Techny Towers Mass at 5 p.m. in African Chapel Social at 6 p.m. Dinner at 6:45 p.m., followed by program



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What happens
in Tijuana
doesn't stay in Tijuana
SEE PAGE 3

Mission Statement

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE SVD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS TO KEEP OUR SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP ALIVE. AS EXTENDED FAMILY OF ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN, WE:

Participate in the SVD Mission

- By promoting vocations
- By sponsoring mission experiences
- By praying for missionaries around the world

Promote Togetherness

- By sponsoring regional gatherings
- By publishing newsletters
- By hosting a website

Offer Opportunities for Spiritual Renewal

- By conducting recollections and retreats
- By encouraging prayer for one another
- By writing spiritual reflections in the newsletter
- By sharing spiritual reflection on the website