



## Perrysburg Alums Enjoy Helping WV Mission

By Joe Greene (Perrysburg '66/Epworth 1966-68)

*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.*

My classmate, Rich Rademacher, is by trade a master trim carpenter, but his skills include much more. His classmates from the Perrysburg class of 1966 benefited from these skills during our time with him at Perrysburg. When Father Stan Uroda, SVD, another P-burg 1966 classmate, was assigned to four mission churches in War, Welch, Powhatan,



Left to right: Jim Tucker, Rich Rademacher, Joe Greene and Frater Matheus Ro, SVD, scrape and paint the wall around Our Lady of Victory Church in Gary, West Virginia.

and Gary, West Virginia, Rich saw his chance to use some of his extraordinary practical skills to help out in the Appalachian missions. And Rich didn't stop there – he also recruited other classmates to help. Two years ago, Rich Vadnal (Girard '66) and his spouse, Mary (aka "Rocking Mama") joined Rich and his Perrysburg

classmates, Jim Tucker and me, to help out where needed in flood relief work.

This spring I was again delighted to get a call from Rich, who had conferred with Fr. Stan to come up with another project for a small crew: repairing, scraping, and painting the masonry wall that encloses Our Lady of Victory Church, rectory, and church hall in Gary, as well as the painting of

two rooms in the church hall. Convict labor had last repaired and painted the wall ten years ago.

So, Holy Saturday found Rich and me in War's Catholic Church, where Fr. Stan, ably assisted by Frater Matheus

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## Biennial Alumni Reunion Held at Bordentown Jack McCullough Receives Inaugural Ernest Collyer Award

By Fr. Ray Lennon, SVD

Bordentown Alumni celebrated their biennial gathering on June 18, 2005. The organizing committee of Mike Hanlon ('83), Kevin Kologinsky ('72), Peter Cerra ('73), John Sikorski ('75) and I (Bordentown '54/Conesus '56/Theology and Ordination in Brazil, 1963) worked enthusiastically since last fall to insure a good turnout and a day full of great entertainment. The June date was thought best due to the climate in the Bordentown area at that time of the year. Two years ago, the gathering date was in August and the heat was unbearable. This year, the day was literally picnic perfect – blue and sunny skies, warm but not oppressively hot weather to walk the magnificent grounds and reminisce the years spent in school here at Bordentown.

Some 150 people were present for the day. While most of the participants were former Bordentown students, others were from schools the SVD operated in Conesus, NY; Miramar, MA; Girard, PA; and one even from East



Alumnus Kevin Kologinsky presents Mr. Jack McCullough with a rocking chair for him to enjoy in his recent retirement.

Troy, WI. The food was plentiful. It was prepared by Fr. Steve Schuler, SVD, the Bordentown kitchen staff and many members of the Community. Lunch consisted of hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken breasts with all the trimmings! There

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## A Note from the Director's Desk

One of my goals this year was to make sure I published more than one issue of *Word Winds*. The Spring 2004 and Spring 2005 issues were year-in-review publications – hardly an effective way to achieve our motto of “Keeping in touch with you so you can keep in touch with others.” I am happy to report success!



Lenny Uhal  
Alumni Director  
East Troy '83  
Epworth '87

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With the summer issue of the alumni newsletter in your hand right now (or maybe you're reading the electronic copy on the website), you are able to catch-up on all the latest alumni happenings. Events were held in Perrysburg, Bordentown and East Troy. Graduation took place at Divine Word College in Epworth and there was an ordination ceremony at Techny (and in Mexico for one SVD who studied Philosophy and Theology here in the States). The annual mission experience to Jamaica took place again this year and a small group of Perrysburg alum worked in West Virginia during Holy Week and the first week of Easter. Groups of alumni met in New Orleans and San Francisco.

Also included in this issue of *Word Winds* are tributes to individual Divine Word Missionaries. Those of you who receive periodic e-mails from me know that I inform alumni of the recent deaths of other alumni. The main purpose for this is so that alumni may attend the wake and/or funeral if they wish. When I send out over 1000 e-mails, I often get several responses. When Frs. John Beemster, SVD, Gerry Garry, SVD, and Larry Poetz, SVD, died recently, several alumni wrote with comments about these men. I reprinted some of the responses here for you to read. What a significant impact many SVDs have had on our lives. If you have a story you would like to share, please forward it to me. In future issues of *Word Winds*, I would like to include a section of “Tributes,” but that will only be made possible with your stories.

In other news...I have been busy working with Alumnus Bill Warmouth (East Troy '64/Epworth 1964-67) in redesigning our alumni website. Over the years there have been three different designs. Bill and I are working with a company to help with the new design. We hope this will invite more alumni to visit the site and contribute to it. Future sections of the site call for reflections, a bulletin board for alumni to post information and an expanded section on each of the different formation programs and seminaries. I hope to have this new site launched before Christmas. You'll be notified when it's ready for you to visit!

Finally, take note of the Upcoming Events listed on the back of the newsletter. Events are planned for this Fall at Techny, Epworth, Miramar, Bay St. Louis and Pittsburgh. Yes, Pittsburgh! Following a survey of Girard alumni, the decision was made to move the location of the reunion. It had been held in Erie, PA for the past five years and will now be held in Pittsburgh, PA. We hope this move will spur more interest in the reunion. I hope to see you at one of these fantastic alumni gatherings.

### One Heart One World

Mission Center Fundraiser

Sunday, September 11, 2005  
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Music by:  
Chicago Philharmonic Quartet  
Dance by:  
Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Center

Support Bro. Damien Lunders, SVD  
Missionary to Thailand and  
Founder of  
Mother of Perpetual Help AIDS Center

## Perrysburg Alums Assist SVD in West Virginia

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Ro, SVD, (taking a year off from his theology studies for pastoral experience) conducted this church's first Easter Vigil service in ten years.

On Easter Sunday, Fr. Stan held morning Mass in Gary, where he resides. The rest of Sunday was a lazy day, with some planning of the week's activities. Classmate Jim Tucker, normally a deputy sheriff in Ludlow, Kentucky, arrived later on Easter Sunday to spend some of his vacation time to help out at the church.

Easter Monday saw our whole crew, including Fr. Stan and Frater Matheus, attacking the masonry wall with wire brushes and scrapers and a garden hose to remove the old paint and strip the wall down to its masonry surface. Before long, someone, probably Rich, decided we could work much faster if we had a pressure washer. By that afternoon he had located one in Bluefield, an hour away.



## SVD Spirituality

### Reflecting on the Centrality of the Eucharist

Fr. Charles Schneider, SVD

Pope John Paul II called us to make this the Year of the Eucharist. I think this means that we should make the Eucharist more central in our lives and in our ministry. We can do this through prayer, contemplation and study. Our *SVD Constitutions* can be our guide:



Fr. Charles Schneider, SVD  
Ordained 1946

*Christ is the center of our life. A living union with him brings unity and gives depth to our whole life with its many activities....We encounter Christ in others and in every aspect of our work as well as in the celebration of the liturgy, in the Word of God, in prayer and meditation. This encounter is a continuing challenge to conversion and renewal. The closeness of the Lord brings joy into our lives and enables us to follow him in our crosses and sufferings. Thus, we become like him in his self-emptying even unto death and so through the power of his resurrection enter into glory (Const. 401).*

This encounter with the Lord takes place in the celebration of the Eucharist, and “the Eucharist deepens our life with the Lord and becomes the source and strength for apostolic service and our union with all” (Const. 402).

A great source of inspiration to me in reflecting on the Year of the Eucharist came in the form of an article I read in *Chicago Priests: Ongoing Formation*, Volume 9, No. 1, January 2005. The title of the article was “Stewardship Leads to Eucharist, Eucharist Leads to Stewardship.”

This article refers to a talk given by Fr. Ron Lewinski at the International Catholic Stewardship Conference 2004 in New Orleans. Lewinski gives a wise, inspiring and discerning treatise on the significance of the Mass for the Catholic community. Then he unfolds the deeper meaning of the offering we ourselves are to make as we actively participate in the Mass. He tells us how this offering of ourselves takes on a new meaning, so much so that we are transformed.

Finally, he describes what God does for us in the Eucharist: “God makes us Church, broadens our worldview and calls us to be Eucharist in the world.” This, he says, “transforms us from stewards into missionaries.” From this I gained a marvelous appreciation of the Eucharist in my own life and ministry.

My pondering on the Eucharist inspired me to place a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci’s painting of the Last Supper on the wall in my room. Now I am continually drawn to contemplate the drama of the Last Supper and reflect on how bountifully the Holy Eucharist fills and fulfills my own daily life.

#### Writers Welcomed

Thank you Father Schneider for submitting an article for this issue of *Word Winds!*

We are looking for other alumni, lay and religious, to contribute to this regular feature in the newsletter.

If you are interested in writing an article for the Spirituality Column, please contact the Alumni Office.

## Divine Word College holds Eighty-Ninth Commencement Exercises

The Class of 2005 received their diplomas on May 14, 2005. Of the eight young men graduating, five have applied to the novitiate, one will begin a journey with the Brother Formation Program and two have plans to pursue a priestly vocation with their home diocese.

Commencement activities also marked the completion of service for Rev. Gus Wall, SVD, who served as Dean of Students for the past four years. To mark the occasion, Wall served as presider and homilist during the Mass of Thanksgiving held on May 13.

Dr. Bob Morrissey, Vice President for Development, also completed over six years of service to the college. Morrissey delivered the commencement address during the graduation ceremony. Pictured here are (front L to R) Dominic Tho Tran, Thang Minh Cao, Anh The Dinh, Dominic Savio Huynh Pham. Middle; Toan Bao Huynh, Nam Quoc Vu, Kien Trung Kieu, Peter Ai Dang. Back; Bro. John Wozniak, FSC, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rev. Michael Hutchins, SVD, DWC President and Rev. Thomas Krosnicki, Provincial.



Photo by Sandy Wilgenbusch



## Jamaica: Out of the Cold and Snow

By Henry Pinson (Miramar '48)

In December of 2004, I received an e-mail message from the Alumni Office asking for volunteers to help Brother Bernie Spitzley, SVD, at Our Lady of Assumption Parish on the island of Jamaica. The invitation offered a “mission experience,” including a chance to help build a house for someone in need, and to offer assistance after Hurricane Ivan had hit the island. Looking out my window at the falling snow, already six inches deep, I very quickly decided, “I got to get out of here.” Asking no one’s permission (who would give it?), I sent a reply: “I’ll volunteer. When can I go?”

At Miami’s International airport I met Lenny Uhal and his son, John. Don D’Valle and Janice Turner were on the same plane, seated in the rear. We did not see each other until we arrived in Kingston, getting together at the baggage area. No problems going through immigration and customs, except for Don. He was carrying too much popcorn for Brother Bernie. Don had to pay a little fine, a small gift to the Jamaican economy!

The other member of the volunteer alumni group was DeWayne “Buzz” Heinzen from Arkansas. He was to arrive in Kingston five minutes after we got there, but Bro. Bernie informed us that his flight had been delayed. Buzz finally arrived the next day.

Having left the cold and snow of New England, I found Kingston’s temperature of 80 degrees welcoming. I did not need my winter coat and sweaters. Shorts, sport shirts and sandals were the order of the day.

Later that evening, Bro. Bernie offered a brief orientation to Jamaican history and culture. He explained that things are done a little differently in Jamaica. Lenny had forwarded a schedule to us that had been put together by Bro. Bernie: Up at six, Mass at seven, breakfast at 8, work to start at 8:30, etc. Bro. Bernie and Fr. Adam Oleszczuk, SVD (Associate Pastor of the parish) explained that we may stick to the schedule, but we should be prepared for changes. There was one constant in the schedule – Mass

was about 7:00 AM each morning, but we never started work on time, and work never finished on time!

The house that we set out to build was 12 x 18 feet, and was slated to be erected and finished in three days! Five days later, we drove in the last nail and applied the last

coat of paint. However, louvered windows had not been installed. They were on back order and were not in when we left Jamaica.

Could the house be built on level ground, close to the water, sand and other materials that we needed? Of course not! This being Jamaica, the house was to be built on the side of a hill (mountain). Three hundred yards up was where we were to dig a trench for the cinder block foundation. Dirt was filled within the blocks, and then a layer

of concrete poured for the floor and porch. It took two and a half days for us “missionaries” to get that far. We had plenty of young Jamaican boys and girls helping us, and women and young men bringing up the sand, water and material from below. But we Americans took our turn carrying up the 3-5 gallon buckets of sand on our heads the 300 yards, uphill!

The 12 x 18 foundation allowed for a single room 12 x 12 and a front porch 6 x 12. A corrugated tin roof covered the whole area. Most of the cooking is done on the front porch. A door and window are located both front and back. There is no running water or electricity. But this will be home to a single man who is a parishioner of the SVD parish in St. Thomas, Jamaica. We pounded in nails, mixed concrete and drank plenty of water. Oh, was it hot. On the side of the hill (mountain) there was a cool breeze coming from the Caribbean Sea. We worked at the Jamaican pace: Evenly, not fast, but not slow either. Things got done, but in Jamaican time.

Some of us walked up that hill (mountain) once in the morning, and then came back down once in the afternoon. I would huff, puff and stop every hundred feet. Again I would huff and puff till I finally reached the location of the house. But oh, what a view of the Caribbean Sea! As I



Mission Experience Team 2005 together with the SVD Community Members in Jamaica. Standing: Henry Pinson, Don D’Valle, Fr. Adam Oleszczuk, SVD, Janice Turner, Bro. Bernie Spitzley, SVD, Fr. Pierre Tevi-Benissan, SVD and Len Uhal. Kneeling: John Uhal, Irie, DeWayne Heinzen and Vinh Trinh, SVD.



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remarked to all several times, the home has a million-dollar view. But the house is a two-thousand dollar (USD) home without electricity, water or indoor plumbing. Which would I like to have -- my home in the cold and snow or the one with the million dollar view? I pondered that question every day I was in Jamaica, and even now I sit back and wonder -- who has the better home?

Each evening after a light supper we would all jabber about life, the problems of the world, what the church should do or not do, how the Society of the Divine Word was increasing in the Third World, but Europe and North America were just holding their own. Janice's presence in the group provided a woman's perspective on the role of women in the Church. Janice is affiliated with the SVD through one of the parishes in Chicago where she serves as a board member. Our evening discussions were visited by such dignitaries as Red Strip and Mr. Gordon along with popcorn intended for Bro. Bernie.

After building the house, we traveled to the town of Yallahs where we painted a forty-foot trailer box used for food storage. An organization called *Food for the Poor* drops off large quantities of food which is stored by the SVD. Weekly, the parish distributes the food to those in need. We added a sun roof to the side of the trailer box to protect the volunteers who help distribute the food from the sun and rain. It also makes the location a bit cooler.

One day we visited a sugar cane cutters' village where Bro. Bernie and two members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society teach our faith to the young boys and girls. I sat with Sisters (a great term of respect in Jamaica – be they grandmothers, mothers or any woman) Brown and Smith to learn more about how Vincentians do their work in the Third World.



This "container" is used as the local food distribution center. Local residents come weekly for rice, flour, beans and other goods. Alumni painted the container and added a roof over the "windows."

Bro. Bernie told us that Jamaica's population is about 1% Catholic. Yes, there are other Christians present – Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Seventh Day Advents, and others. As Brother Bernie said, "We have only our Catholic presence, and you volunteers are a part of the presence of Catholics who show our faith." I pray there will be a greater presence of Jamaican Catholics with their own clergy and religious in maybe three or four generations.

At Our Lady of Assumption church there is the pastor, Father Pierre Tevi-Benissan, SVD, from Togo, West Africa; Fr. Adam from Poland; Bro. Bernie from USA; and seminarian, Frater Vinh Trinh, SVD, from Vietnam. These



Alumni and crew completed this house in just five days! It is the new home to a single man who belongs to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

four men, all from different countries, witness to Jesus' presence in the civil parish of St. Thomas Jamaica. Assisted by a deacon assigned by the Bishop, they cover three different Catholic churches. Thus, they are kept busy traveling around the parish serving the needs of the 100,000 people (of which about two percent are Catholic).

Our volunteer group of alumni came from Arkansas, Iowa, Maryland, Illinois and Massachusetts. As you can quickly surmise, being from all over and joining an international group for almost two weeks, we really used our training to get along with each other and work together as a group.

Had we not come together as a group, the house would never have been built. We all worked, prayed, and ate together. We shared stories, problems and solutions. Will we conquer the world? Probably not. Have we tried to make it a little better place to live in, to make ourselves a little more holy, to be more kind to our neighbor, to have patience with our companions, to understand and to sympathize with our next door neighbor? Yes! But we are to share ourselves, to be volunteers, not just in Jamaica, but in our own house and in our own communities.

I can only express my own thoughts about our experience in Jamaica. Each of us has his/her own reason for volunteering. Maybe mine was to get out of the cold and snow, or maybe there was more to it. Should you volunteer? I cannot answer that question. But if you want to obtain new insights, meet new friends, become more acquainted with new cultures, learn about the SVD work in the missions, and partner more with the SVD in their missionary work for the Church, or just to get out of cold and snow, WELCOME ABOARD!

### Canonization Films Available

VHS and DVD copies of the canonization ceremony of Sts. Arnold, Joseph and Dominic are now available.

A documentary by Fr. Jim Pawlicki, SVD, of the various canonization events has also been produced.

Cost:

3-hour ceremony: \$25

45-minute documentary: \$20

Both: \$40



## Annual East Troy Retreat

For over twenty years, a group of faithful East Troy alumni have been getting together for an annual retreat. Most are alumni from the years of 1960-65, but the doors are open for others to join the retreat. This year Alumni Director Len Uhal was invited to be the Retreat Master on March 4-6, 2005. Instead of asking the question, "Why do bad things happen?" Len guided the group through discussions centered more on how we, as people of faith, respond to tragedy in our lives. The Old Testament Book of Job was the central theme.

Those standing in the picture include Jim Weidner (East Troy '61/Miramar '63/Conesus 1963-64), Greg Laka, Jr., Dave Gorecki (East Troy '63), Pete Amelse (East Troy '60/Miramar '62/Conesus '65/Techny 1966-67). Those sitting are Larry Lulay, Greg Laka, Sr (East Troy '62) and Jerome Kowalski (East Troy '61/Miramar '63/Conesus 1963-65). In addition to those pictured, others attending the retreat included Jim Palm (East Troy '61) and Pat Leddy (East Troy '65/Epworth 1965-66).



### Alumni Search

Each week, new names are added to the alumni database. There are many alumni who are not receiving this newsletter or other alumni mailings because we do not have their current addresses. Please send the names and addresses of all alumni and former lay faculty/staff which you may have in your address book. This would be very helpful. Just because you have the addresses does not mean the Alumni Office has them. Thank you!

## Bordentown Reunion

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were three huge trays of cookies made by Mrs. Petrone of Trenton, mother of Alumnus Richard Patrone ('82) and a local woman well-known in the area for her famous baked goods. All the food and beverages were served in the spacious and air-filled gym.



Many enjoyed the alumni gathering at Bordentown. Alumni represented various SVD schools and age groups. Pictured here from left to right: Fr. Mark Swope ('81), Mr. Jeff Elzer ('84), Mr. Richard Stoecker ('83) and Mr. Jim McDonnell ('84).

There were games to keep the young ones happily occupied both outside as well as inside the gym. There were tours of the SVD residence, the old school dorm where many delighted in showing their kids where they lived and studied, the kitchen and scullery where many worked, the grottos, the cottage where the McCullough family lived (also known as "Jack's shack"), and the Gate House which was built by Joseph Bonaparte in 1819 and now regally

houses Fr. Paul Connors, SVD, and Fr. Patrick Connor, SVD. There were two well attended Power Point lectures on the history of the Bonaparte property (where the Bordentown SVDs live) given by New Jersey's well known art historian, Dr. Andrew Cosentino. Finally, there was the Mass celebrated at 5:00 PM that capped off a great day for everyone.

At the end of the liturgy, Philadelphia attorney, Kevin Kologinsky presented for the first time, the Ernest J. Collyer Award. Ernie was a famed and former teacher of English, Latin, and Public Speaking at Miramar, Girard, and Bordentown from 1928-1983. The inaugural award was given to Mr. Jack McCullough as the man who truly followed in the steps of his mentor, Mr. Collyer, and has left an indelible and inspirational impact on the lives of all the students who passed through his English, Latin, German, and Theater classes at Divine Word Seminary in Bordentown, New Jersey. Kevin did a superb job in summing up the life history and the many ways both Mr. Collyer and Mr. McCullough touched the lives of the students over the years they spent at Bordentown. A standing ovation given to Mr.

McCullough gave witness to the fact that everyone was in agreement with what had been said about him. The award was a rocking chair in which we all hope Mr. McCullough can enjoy rest and relaxation, knowing that he is deeply appreciated and esteemed by the alumni.

One of the most commonly heard comments upon departure was the phrase, "We'll see you at the next alumni gathering."

Photo courtesy of Jeff Elzer



## P-burgers Help in WV

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The trip to Bluefield for the pressure washer was interrupted when Jim, Rich, and Fr. Stan happened upon an accident. A young woman had spun her car out on a wet spot and ended up off the road and down near a creek. First upon the scene, our guys rescued the young woman, calmed her down, and took her safely home. Jim Tucker, who is familiar with crisis situations, helped reduce the victim's hysteria with his common sense approach. If you have ever traveled the roads in the Mountain State, you would appreciate the fact that Stan and Matheus spend a large part of their time driving these dangerous passes. The young woman in question was very lucky to have run off the road where she did – there are so many spots where she might never have been found. Meanwhile, Frater Matheus and I were back at the parsonage wondering what was taking the others so long to return with the pressure washer.



Rich Rademacker (foreground), Joe Greene (green shirt), Fr. Stan Uroda, SVD (hat), and Jim Tucker (blue shirt) paint the wall around the church.

The next morning I got to enjoy one of my favorite things about these mission adventures – my chance to use a tool that I had never used before. I spent all morning washing paint chips off the front of the wall with the pressure washer. I was wet and a bit chilly, and my hair, skin and clothes were flecked with paint chips, but it sure beat the heck out of a day at the office. I think that the nice parishioner lady who came by to ask whether she and another parishioner could prepare dinner for us that evening was a bit frightened by my appearance after I had been going at this for about four hours. But we were served up a wonderful meal by the ladies that evening anyway: stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, green beans, and Dutch apple pie.

We rented the pressure washer for only one day, so Jim Tucker took over the spraying in the afternoon until we

had to return it. Meanwhile, others on the crew had applied two coats on one of the interior rooms and Rich, our ramrod, was patching cracks in the wall's mortar. The following day saw the whole crew out with brushes and rollers, brightening up that wall considerably. We could not do the entire wall, but that leaves work for future volunteers. I should also mention here that the volunteers donated the cost of rental of the sprayer and 10 gallons of paint for the project.

The camaraderie of our group was, as always with our class, intensely enjoyable. I particularly enjoyed being a part of a community, albeit a small one, again, and sharing communal meals. Frater Matheus was a great sport in putting up with us guys who have known each other for over 40 years, and also showed off his amazing cooking skills for us. After dinner and dishes in the evening, we generally voted on what DVD or videotape to watch before bedtime.



Joe Greene (left) and Fr. Stan Uroda, SVD, apply the first coat of paint to a room inside the church hall.

Rich, Matheus, and I all enjoyed the opportunity to share a favorite movie or two with the group. Once our work projects were completed, Jim had to go back to Erlanger, but the rest of us went fishing at local streams and lakes. Actually, Rich just watched Fr. Stan, Matheus, and me fish, which would have proved pretty boring but for the incredible natural beauty of the fishing spots.

I, for one, look forward to making more such trips, and recommend the experience to all SVD Alumni and their families. The folks we met in West Virginia, both parishioners and non-parishioners, were kind and giving, and appreciative of our small efforts to help. If you get the chance to join an Alumni mission trip, I guarantee you will receive far more from the experience than you give to it. And I want to get a chance to fish that last lake we visited again.

Photo by Matheus Ro, SVD

Photo by Rich Rademacker



## Heartfelt Thanks from the SVD Community in Jamaica

*Director's note: Dwayne "Buzz" Heinzen participated in the Alumni Jamaica Mission Experience in February 2004. When Hurricane Ivan hit the island in the summer of 2004 and left many parts of the island and the SVD Community without power for several days, Buzz wanted to do something to help. He spearheaded a fund drive to raise money for generators and inverters for the SVD Community in Jamaica. Buzz did all the leg work to raise over \$5,000 in donations. As noted below, the generators and inverters were purchased and shipped to Jamaica. Almost \$1,500 was left and that was used to purchase new windows for the rectory. While the SVD Alumni Association is not a fundraising entity for the Society, many alumni generously contribute to many different SVD missions and projects. This is just another way that alumni today continue to partner with the Society in fulfilling the missionary mandate of the Church.*

To paraphrase St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians, "I thank my God each time the power goes out, and when I pray for you I pray with joy!" (Phil. 1:3). Yes, we all give thanks to you, our SVD alumni, for the two generators we received on April 8. They came just in time for the power outages we had on the 9th and 11th. God knows they will be used in the future! Special thanks are in order to Lenny Uhal who coordinated and Buzz Heinzen, who was the "master mind" behind the donation of two Generac 7500 EX1 generators.

Both generators came equipped with wheels so they can easily be pulled out for emergency work. We also received the cables necessary to hook up to the electric boxes of our three churches, rectory and convent. Yes, now we can be in the light even if the power fails.

Buzz also raised enough funds to buy two invertors, which are installed in the trucks so we have electrical power wherever we go. Money was left over to replace some of the windows in the rectory.



Left: Fr. Pierre Tevi-Benissan, SVD, Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Morant Bay, Jamaica and Dwayne Heinzen display one of the two inverters donated by generous alumni. Right: Bro. Bernie Spitzley, SVD, a member of the SVD Community in Morant Bay, Jamaica, marvels at one of the two new generators. The new Power supplies have been used in 2005 during the recent hurricanes that have already hit Jamaica.



Yes, we are most grateful to all who contributed to the generators, the invertors and windows. We do give thanks to God for your generosity, your prayers and the many wishes we received since Hurricane Ivan ravaged Jamaica last September. We will continue to pray for you with joy, now that the power is always on!

*The SVD Community in St. Thomas, Jamaica includes Fr. Pierre Tevi-Benissan, SVD, Pastor, from Togo, West Africa; Fr. Adam Oleszczuk, SVD, from Poland; Bro. Bernie Spitzley, SVD, from the United States; and Frater Vinh The Trinh, SVD, from Vietnam.*

## Nine Divine Word Missionaries Ordained

Eight members of the Society of the Divine Word were ordained to the priesthood at Divine Word International Church of the Holy Spirit, Techny, May 28, 2005 by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee.

In the picture on the page to the right are: From Vietnam, Fr. Dominic Trung Thanh Mai, 41, assigned to the U.S. Chicago Province; from China, Fr. Paul Zuqigng Xu, 39, assigned to the China Province; from Indonesia, Fr. Fransiskus Xavierus Magung, 30, assigned to Hungary; from Indonesia, Fr. Edmundus Sonny DeClass, 31, assigned to Angola; from Vietnam, Fr. Anthony Dai Ba Thai, 33, assigned to Vietnam;

from Vietnam, Fr. Duong Viet Nguyen, 32, assigned to the U.S. Western Province; from Vietnam, Fr. Joseph Danh Van Pham, 37, assigned to Argentina; from the U.S., Fr. Darrell Charles Kelly, assigned to the U.S. Southern Province. The ninth man in the front row is from Mexico, Deacon Juan Antonio Romo Romo, who will be ordained July 2, in his home parish in Jalisco, Mexico. He is assigned to the U.S. to work as a vocation director. In the back row, from left: the Very Rev. Thomas A. Krosnicki, Provincial; Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee; Rev. Quang Duc Dinh, Formation Director; and, the Very Rev. Edward Peklo, Rector of Divine Word Theologate, Chicago.



## REMEMBER WHEN...

Submitted by: Jim Harvey (Miramar '50/Conesus '52/Epworth 1952-54)

In the last issue of *Word Winds* (Spring 2005), this same picture appeared in the "Remember When..." feature column. The photo was taken on September 8, 1951 at St. Michael's Mission House in Conesus, New York. The picture represents three different classes: The first were those entering their second year of novitiate, the second were those professing first vows, and the third class were the new novices entering who received their cassock. The first class would have been ordained at Techny in 1959, the second class in 1960 and the third class in 1961. Most of these students were from Girard, Bordentown and Miramar.

The question was asked, "Can you pick out any familiar faces?" A few alumni rose to the challenge, and identified most of the men in this picture. Thank you Jim, Don Geisler (Girard '50/Conesus '52/Epworth '54/Techny 1955-57), Joe Flanagan (Girard '49/Conesus '51/Techny 1951-53) and others for tapping into your memories! Only 13 were unidentified.



Left to Right: **Row 1:** Jack Bingert, Charlie Armstrong, Jack Slattery, Vin Burke, Joe Dolan, Phil Lynch, Louis Mulligan, Leo Murray, Joe Fertal, Don LeBrun, Leo Pinson, Ted Humaninsky, Fr. Wilbur Wagner, Joe Mikovits, Jack Farley, Bill Dietsche, Francis Michelongo, Gerard Barry, Dean Murnane, John McSherry, Bob Dugan, ??, ??, Rich Conley, Jim Walsh, ??. **Row 2:** Gene Hays, Bob Coleman, Rich Coleman, Bob Jones, Pete Zemanick, Jim Henry, Mike Carol, Don Strike, Don Mulrenan, Jim McKinnon, Tom Bilsak, Tom Winslow, Vince Becker, Bob Zinke, Jack McCullough, Ed Herberger, Don Mattingly, Jim Janucci, John Scanlon, Tony Neuherz, Jim Welch, Ken Feehan, Frank Shigo, Joe Knoebel, Bob Duboise. **Row 3:** Jim Donovan, Joe Flanagan, John Eddy, Frank McCarthy, ??, Mike Ceklosky, ??, Bill Caffrey, Tom Radicks, Terry McGurke, Andy Hadalski, Hugh Stout, Jim McDermott, ??, Don Bates, Pat Wheatley, Fred Stoesse, Dick McGervey, Fred Slavin, Joe Trinka, George Koynok, Jim Harvey, ??, ??, Mangles, ??, ??, Bill Raker. **Row 4:** ??, Tom Nealon, Bob Elliot, Ray Hannah, Larry Hambach, ??, ??, Ray Hober, Pat Brown, Don Murrin, John Gilmore, Ed Touhy, Joe Aul, Walter Bunofsky, George Kovac, Marty Padovani, Francis Price, Art Cogan, Don Geisler, Bill Stillier, Joe Connolly, Leo Wimett, Jim Franks, Roger Arnold, Leo Dusheck, Dan Collins, Bob Hoffman, Jim Clarkin.



ORDINATION CLASS  
2005

TECHNY, ILLINOIS



## Sixth Annual Perrysburg Reunion Class of '65 Celebrates 40 Years

By Fulton Martin (East Troy '65/Epworth 1965-67)

Through a somewhat convoluted set of circumstances, I attended the Sixth Annual Perrysburg Alumni Reunion. I had been in off-and-on touch with my college classmate, Nick Schroeder, who informed me of the reunion. In need of a destination for my summer motorcycle ride, and having recently retired, I decided to drive to Ohio. Although I did not attend the minor seminary at Perrysburg, I knew a lot of the guys from Epworth where we had met as classmates. And after all, it was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our high school graduation.

I rolled into Nick's driveway on Wednesday afternoon (that would have been June 8<sup>th</sup>). He wasn't home from work yet, but the saintly Colleen (Nick's wife) welcomed me and helped me get settled. When Nick walked in, 38 years dropped away – he looked almost exactly the way I remembered him from college. He claimed the same of me. We reminisced for a while, and when John Koelsch arrived, the three of us repaired to the Bowling Green Country Club. While they played golf, I walked around with them and kibitzed. I do not think they kept score – higher math may have been required!

By the time we got back to Nick's place, the Uhals were installed. Shortly thereafter Bob Engemann showed up and the reunion was officially on. Nick barbecued a feast of ribs and chicken, with side salads and brownies for dessert. After the meal had settled for a while, we trooped over to Jim Grilliot's place, where we hung around his roofed pool, schmoozing, drinking and listening to the rain on the corrugated tin roof. Too soon, it was time to call it a night. On Thursday we caravanned up to Sterling Heights, MI, (after a stop to harass Jeff Schmakel) and invaded Greg Stapels' estate. Greg gave us the run of his place; he and Jerry Van de Vyver fed us (gourmet cold-cuts for lunch, barbecued chicken and ribs for dinner), offered a variety of beverages to slake our thirsts and entertained us with stories, music, games and big-screen TV's. Many joined the party at Greg's, including Larry and Dave Seluk and Paul and Judi Van Herten.

Friday we went back to the Toledo area, where Nick Schroeder, John Koelsch, Dave Zwyer and Jim Grilliot played another round of golf, while Bob Engemann and I harassed them.



Members of the 1965 Class in attendance to celebrate their 40th Reunion. From left to right: Charlie Curro, Jeff Schmakel, Sam West, Bob Engemann, John Landen, Mike Cousins, Fulton Martin (East Troy '65), Jim Grilliot and Nick Schroeder. Also present, but not pictured were: John Koelsch, Mike McCormick, Dave Zwyer, Kim Middleton, Leonard Simpson and Jerome Horstman.

The reunion began in earnest with the traditional gathering at Tony Packo's for dinner on Friday night. In addition to those already mentioned, we were joined by Paul Matura, Sam West, John and Pat Landen, Andy Yaronczyk, and Joe and Anne Greene. After a great meal, most folks repaired to Fifth Third Field for a game between the Toledo Mud Hens and the Pawtucket Red Sox (which the locals won in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup>). After the game, many ventured to the "gambling suite" at the Holiday Inn. The gambling was just talk – nobody could stop talking long enough to get any poker played. Finally, the long day caught up with us, and we retired to our various sleeping arrangements, some as early as midnight, but others as late as 4:30 AM!

Most of Saturday was spent in and around the hospitality suite at the Holiday Inn, catching up, reminiscing, and looking at pictures in old yearbooks and photo albums some of the guys had brought. Many alumni attended the day's events, most from various classes of the 1960s. Around 5:00 PM, Fr. Charles Heskamp SVD, (the honoree of this year's festivities) celebrated Mass, accompanied musically by John Uhal (Lenny's son), Jerry Van de Vyver and Paul Kutyllo. After the Mass, it was time for the banquet, accompanied by a trivia quiz and a drawing for door prizes. There were enough door prizes that nobody went away empty-handed. The forty-eight people in attendance listened to Mike Cousins and Joe Greene offer reflections on how Fr. Heskamp touched our impressionable lives when we were younger. Lenny



## P-burg Reunion Fr. Heskamp Honored

Continued from Previous Page

presented Father with a plaque on behalf of the SVD Alumni Association for Fr. Heskamp's years of dedicated service to students at Perrysburg, East Troy and Bordentown. Too soon, the party was over, although many folks continued to schmooze in the hospitality suite into the early morning hours.

On Sunday morning, those who were left (and so inclined) met for brunch at the Holiday Inn for a final round of food and foolishness. Those attending this year's reunion included: Frank & Mary Jo Antalek, Jack Schwab, Charlie Curro, Pete and Eileen Ueberroth, Dave Zwyer, Kim Middleton, Rich Rademacher, Leonard and Sally Simpson, George Irish, Tony Westhoven, Jeff Schmakel, Jerome Horstman, Fr. Walt Bracken, SVD, Tom & Anne Hoeing, Vince Bakle, and Pat McKenna

I had a much better time than I anticipated. It just goes to show that no matter how far we wander, or how much time has passed, friendships forged in the crucible of our formative years have more staying power than we ever anticipated. Given the fine job done by certain 66'ers (and you know who you are, Jerry!) I'll make every effort to return for next year's reunion and the class of 1966's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



Alumni Director Len Uhal presents Fr. Charlie Heskamp, SVD, with a plaque in gratitude for Father's many years of service to the SVD, particularly for his ministry in formation at Perrysburg, East Troy and Bordentown. Fr. Heskamp had served as teacher, principal and rector.

## Divine Word College Seeking Reaccreditation General Public Announcement

Divine Word College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit October 17-19, 2005, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Divine Word College has been accredited since 1970.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of six regional accrediting agencies in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Institutional accreditation evaluates an entire institution and accredits it as a whole. Other agencies provide accreditation for specific programs. Accreditation is voluntary. The Commission accredits approximately 950 institutions of higher education in a nineteen-state region. The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.



For the past three years, Divine Word College has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's requirements and criteria for accreditation. The evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the college; following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college:

Public Comment on Divine Word College  
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education  
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Written, signed comments must be received by September 17, 2005. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

Note: Individuals with a specific dispute or grievance with an institution should request the separate Policy on Complaints document from the Commission office. The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education cannot settle disputes between institutions and individuals. Complaints will not be considered third party comment.

### Promote Vocations

- Pray daily for vocations
- Ask someone if he/she has considered a religious vocation.
- Contact the Vocation Office if you know of someone who may be interested in the seminary:

Mr. Len Uhal  
Divine Word College  
Vocation Office  
PO Box 380  
Epworth, IA 52045

(800) 553-3321

dwm@mwci.net  
www.svdvocations.org

### Pray for Religious Vocations

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



## The Return of the “Masters of Disasters” East Troy Alumni Gather

By Michael Witte (East Troy '80/Epworth 1980-81)

Just saying the words “East Troy” brings back memories of a time not too long ago. So it was on June 25, 2005, that alumni journeyed to the Divine Word boathouse on the shores of Lake Beulah to celebrate the annual reunion of classmates and fellow Titans from other years. Yet this year was different. There was a different feeling – a sense of something special in the air.

Upon our arrival, my wife Barb and children Lyle and Rebekah found a nice flat spot to pitch our tent, as this was to be the first time Rebekah was to camp and she was very excited about it. Then

suddenly an unforgettable giggle came from near the beach. I looked at my wife and said, “Henry!” Only Henry Perez has that distinctive laugh. Looking up, I saw a familiar face walking down the front hill. I waved, recognizing him immediately, yet he was not quite sure who I was at first, but Wendell Roberts started walking over to us and then recognized me. He said his eyes must be getting bad – no wonder he is a “senior” agent with ATF in Los Angeles.

More familiar faces continued to arrive, including Rick Panesi, Isaac Gaston and Michael Fox. The class of 1980 was assembling for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. No way – not 25 years! Sure we are a little heavier, with a little less hair (except for me - but Henry’s hair plugs are doing well). We are still classmates, and as Rick Panesi so eloquently put it, we are family. So we got the class together to talk about what “was” and also about who we have become.

We got on the phone with Elgie “Pistol Pete” Harris, and all of us had the opportunity to say “hello” and to talk with Elgie. It had been 24 years since I last saw him at Epworth. Still missing was Michael Moriarity and Joe Nguyen. However, past classmates Mark Byerly and Tony Laruso who left after sophomore year are still part of the family and came back to help celebrate.

Including the class of 1980 there were more than 40 alumni in attendance, with about 110 people gathered for the day’s events. As always, there was the smell of delicious food grilling, banter and laughter as we thundered in and around the boathouse all day. At 5:00 PM, Fr. Bob Mertes, SVD, celebrated Mass. This was followed by the usual trip into town for supper at Laubers Ice Cream Shop. My children thought it was awesome to have ice cream for supper!

Upon returning to the boathouse, Captain Lenny Uhal took a group of us out on the pontoon boat for an evening cruise. All was well until we started making our way back



Left to right: Wendell Roberts, Mike Witte, Tony Laruso, Henry Perez, Isaac Gaston, Mark Byerly, Mike Fox and Rick Panesi.

to the seminary grounds. While in the “No Wake” zone, a bolt of lightning shot across the sky and Skipper Len sped up to get us off the lake. We docked and got everyone off the boat just as the rain started. Most of us did a quick run up the hill to our tents to make sure the windows were closed, and then we came down and continued to talk, laugh and remember. Some people had to leave and our group kept getting smaller, but none of us seemed to tire of saying – “I remember when... . . . .”

My wife and kids ran up to the tent at about 10:00 PM to go to sleep as my classmates and other alumni continued to talk and have fun. About 11:30, they came back to inform me that the tent had just about blown away and was filling with water. I grabbed some garbage bags and started up what used to be the stairs; however, they had turned into a two-inch-deep waterfall! Despite the water, I managed to move our gear down to the boathouse as did most of the people in tents. A few hardcore campers made it through the night in their tents, but the majority of people (about 25) slept in the upstairs of the boathouse. We all slept as well as possible for awhile. I just could not allow Henry to sleep on the couch so peacefully, so I rolled off the back of the couch on top of him. The look on his face will be etched in my mind forever – I finally got revenge after 25 years!

Another East Troy reunion is in the books. But from a sunny and hot Saturday to an evening of torrential rain and high winds, which turned the boathouse into a makeshift dorm, we extended our close-knit family that we had at Divine Word to include our own families, allowing them to experience a bit of what it was like when we were students – which seems like yesterday.

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> to the Class of 1980 and to all of the Divine Word Alumni across the country and world. Remember, we are family, still!

### Word Winds Online

Our newsletter is now available electronically. You can find it posted on the Alumni Website at:

[www.svdalumni.org](http://www.svdalumni.org)

If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, please call Len in the Alumni Office.



## “The Big Class” Celebrates 45-Year Anniversary

By Jim McDermott (Miramar '50/Techny '60)

From April 1 – 4, 2005, a dozen of the 32 men ordained at Techny in 1960 met for a weekend of celebration in the nation’s party town – New Orleans, Louisiana. Bishop Dominic Carmon, SVD, hosted his classmates for four days of organized frivolity. We enjoyed each other’s company, tasted some wonderful cooking, and experienced beautiful weather. We spent time walking on Bourbon Street and in Jackson Square. We dined at Dooky-Chase Restaurant and had a most enjoyable evening. A highlight of the weekend was a drive to Bay St. Louis to join the confreres for dinner.



Those attending the event are pictured. Those unable to attend the gathering included Fr. Walter Bunofsky, SVD, in Iowa; Fr. Joe Connolly, SVD, who was in Africa at the time of the reunion; Mr. Bob Harman in Delaware; Mr. Pat McHale in Ireland; Mr. Bob Hoffman in Hawaii; Fr. Don Mulrenan, SVD, in Massachusetts; Fr. Larry Nemer, SVD, in Australia; Fr. Marty Padovani, SVD, in New Jersey; Fr. Jim Perry, SVD, in Ireland; Fr. Bob Riemer, SVD, in Japan; Fr. Charlie Russell, SVD, in Australia; Fr. Jerry Theis, SVD, in Papua New Guinea; Mr. Kevin Walcot in Australia; and Mr. Hans Weigl in Germany. During our weekend gathering, we remembered our deceased classmates: Mr. Tome Bilsak, Fr. Jim Franks, SVD, Mr. John Gilmore, Fr. Terry McGurk, SVD, Fr. Karl Specht, SVD, and Mr. Don Strike.

Those attending the reunion were (front row) Joe Aul, Fr. John Shevlin, SVD, Fr. Jack Farley, SVD, Fr. Frank Shigo, SVD, Fr. Don Murrin, SVD, and Fr. Ray Hober, SVD. Back row: Dick McGervey, Fr. John Rodney, SVD, Bishop Dominic Carmon, SVD, Fr. Ray Hannah, SVD, Jim McDermott and Pat Wheatley.

## Bay Area Alumni Organizing

### North CA Alumni Meet

By John Moore

San Francisco Bay...not Bay St. Louis! That was the place to be.

Alumni Phil Tennant (Miramar '58/Techny '68), Perry Julien (Bay St. Louis '61), Percy Julien (Bay St. Louis 1953-54) and I (Bay St. Louis '53/Tecny '55/Conesus '57/Techny '59/Bay St. Louis 1959-60) met at St. Bernard’s Parish in Oakland on April 24, 2005. Our plan is to begin to organize the Northern California area SVD alumni. We were invited by Fr. Roberto Flores, SVD, to have our first meeting at the SVD parish in Oakland. To kickoff our meeting, Fr. Herman Manuel, SVD, presided at the Liturgy to the accompaniment of Negro spirituals and Tongan music. After a short meeting at the rectory, we enjoyed a pleasant lunch at *Horatio’s on the Bay* in San Leandro.



Those who gathered at the first ever meeting of the Northern California alumni included Joella & Percy Julien, John More, Mischa Lorrain (John’s daughter) Solita and Perry Julien, and Dosi and Phil Tennant. Plan to join them this fall for the next organizational meeting.

partner with the SVD in some of their projects. For example, we might get together socially on a quarterly basis for lunch or dinner, maybe an evening cruise on the Bay, or a ballgame. We could assist with a local project here at St. Bernard’s Parish or at other locations in the Western Province, or help in some way with the restoration of the Chapel in Bay St. Louis. Initial plans include participating in short-term projects and mission experiences that do not carry a

“marriage” price tag with it.

Our purpose for organizing the Bay Area alumni of all SVD schools is to share in the camaraderie we all have in common. We hope to enjoy some social get-togethers, possibly participate in some outreach in the local area, and also

Our next meeting is scheduled for sometime in the fall at St. Bernard’s. If you live in the Bay Area and would like to meet other SVD alumni and get involved, please contact me, John Moore. My phone number is 408-298-9721 or 408-509-0521. You can also reach me by e-mail at [jaimoore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jaimoore@sbcglobal.net). I look forward to hearing from all San Francisco Bay Area alumni. Hope to see you at our next meeting!



## Tributes to Memorable Divine Word Missionaries

### SVDs Touch Our Lives

By Len Uhal

Every now and then alumni receive an e-mail from me sadly announcing the death of a Divine Word Missionary. As Alumni Director, I have the unfortunate responsibility of passing on the sad news. A few folks have complained about getting such e-mails. They say things like, "It's morbid...it makes me depressed...it ruins my day." Other alumni have thanked me for sending the notice in a timely manner because they were able to attend the wake or funeral of an SVD who made a difference in their lives.

Following the announcement, I often receive a couple return e-mails with thoughts and reflections about the deceased SVD and how that person influenced the life of some young student during their days in an SVD school. Usually, I am the only beneficiary of such open expressions of gratitude.

During the month of March, four SVDs died at Techny during a 10-day period. I received some e-mails that I wanted to share with fellow alumni and members of the SVD Community at large. I hope you enjoy these reflections:

#### Fr. John Beamster, SVD

Len, I also remember Fr. Beamster quite well from my days at East Troy. Fr Beamster, along with Frs. Jacoby, McHenry and Richards, made a lasting impression on me. I'd be very interested in his obit when it's available. Thanks, George Hefter (East Troy '63)

Thanks, Len. I will attend the funeral service Tuesday, God willing. I knew Father since back in the 40's at E. Troy. John Leahy (East Troy '44/Techny 1944-46)

There are a lot more personal experiences I could share about Fr. Beamster. He was a real railroad buff. The trains still came through Epworth when I was there in high school, and I shared many trips on Thursdays to the railroad station to watch the trains come through. He had an extensive collection of photos of train engines -- to him they all had names or numbers. I think his father worked for the railroad. Ed Geers (East Troy/Epworth/Techny/Bay St. Louis)

Lenny, I had Fr. Beamster both as a teacher in East Troy 76 - 77 and as an associate pastor at St. James. I, like you, can't count the number of times he had impacted my life over the many years. He was kind enough to spend lots of time with me. He was a K of C member as well. I will be at the wake on Sunday night. If there is anything I can do let me know. God bless his journey into the goodnight. Lou Anich (East Troy 1976-77)

I went to the wake this evening. Beamster was a great one! Pat Leddy (East Troy '65/Epworth 1965-66)

Len, I also had Fr. Beamster while at East Troy in the late 60s. We called him "Beemo." Nobody took his teaching math more seriously than he did. Ron Gajewski (East Troy 1969-71)

I, too, had Fr. Beamster for Math in the early 60's at East Troy. When I stopped out to "visit" East Troy some 15 years ago, about the time the main building was scheduled to be razed, I encountered Fr. Beamster and he remembered me immediately (after 30 years or so). WOW! He still had the very same characteristic nature and style. "Well done, good and faithful servant. I shall put you in charge of much." Father, it is my prayer this evening that you in your all-abiding peace accompany our friend and brother through death into his wonderful eternal reward. Amen.

Michael Moteleone (East Troy 1962-64)

Dear Len, thank you for sending me the information about Father Beamster. You are right, sir. Like yourself, the good Father also played a great influence on my life. In high school, I was petrified of him because he seemed so tough and gruff. But one day, as I was struggling in math, he asked me to meet him in his office. The tough old guy had a heart of gold and he tutored me. I was amazed that day because I actually saw him smile. He will be missed. Take care, Len, and keep up your good work. Dennis Bingham (East Troy '70)

Hi Len, I had geometry with Fr. Beamster at East Troy. He was one of the more colorful and interesting people I have ever met. I am really saddened to hear of his passing. Take care, Steve Hesper (East Troy '87)



Fr. John Beamster, SVD  
1913 - 2005



## Fr. John Beemster, SVD Continued

Dear Lenny, I remember Me, Hector, Tom Rielly, and maybe one or two others had Fr. Beemster for fourth year math – were you in on that? I have often thought of Fr. Beemster and what a fine teacher he really was – I would not have made it through two semesters of calculus without that fourth year. He was always doing the Lord’s work – even when it made him personally uncomfortable. What a trooper. I miss him. Its really super they are having a wake for him in Mukwonago. Colin Lamb (East Troy ‘83/Epworth 1983-84)

I agree with your words about Father Beemster. I’ve long rated him (as I recall my life) one of the most selfless, saintly men I’ve know. I even wrote to support him when he once wrote in an SVD publication that it was foolish to push out old but good teachers for new ones. No BS about him. One example: sharing his darkroom meant working carefully and cleaning up after ourselves. Fr. Beemster was available with a smile to help, never on an ego trip even with us students. THANKS for the opportunity for this memoriam. Dan Smith (East Troy 1953)

## Fr. Gerry Garry, SVD

Dear Len, I would be interested in seeing Gerry Garry’s obit. He was always very good to me in the seminary and during my Epworth days. If you do group mailings of any of the others, I wouldn’t mind being on the list. Thanks, Ed Vargo

Lenny, do you have an obit for GG? I was saddened to learn of his passing. He had a direct influence on my life, as well, and will be missed. Jim Donovan (Epworth 1986-89)

Len, just read your email. Did Fr. Gerry Garry (GG) die? Sorry I missed that one. He and I were very close at Epworth from 71 through about 78 when I left the active SVD. He and I stayed in touch over the years, including me being able to attend his 15th anniversary. Please confirm and send anything you have about him. Thanks for all you do Len. Michael Luksich (Epworth ‘76/Bay St. Louis/Casa Guadalupe)

Sir, would you be kind enough to please send me the obit for Fr. Gerry Garry? I have heard of the other two men of whom you speak, but never met them. However, I have many fond memories of Gerry Garry. Thank you. Respectfully, Jack Minch (Epworth)

Thanks for the note. Hope you get lots of feedback on Garry: he was the listening ear for many a student. Fr. Ed Peklo, SVD

## Fr. Larry Poetz, SVD

Thanks for the info. Sorry to hear of the deaths of Frs. Garry & Poetz. Not sure I knew Fr. Garry, but I had Fr. Poetz for music at Girard in 1946-50. He was a wonderful priest and a great person. He was talented in music, art and sports. He encouraged me to take up the violin my freshman year, but I dropped it during my second year because I didn’t feel I was making much progress (probably due to lack of practice!). I preferred to spend my free time playing sports rather than practicing violin lessons. He was very disappointed when I stopped playing the violin, but I wasn’t enthralled by the sounds I made. Don Geisler (Girard ‘50/Conesus ‘52/Epworth ‘54/Techny 1955-57)



Fr. Gerald Garry, SVD  
1928 - 2005



Fr. Larry Poetz, SVD  
1917 - 2005

## **Reflections Welcome**

As the above examples clearly show, many alumni have had wonderful experiences with the Society of the Divine Word and with individual Divine Word Missionaries. As part of upcoming issues of *Word Winds*, I would like to include some of your reflections. If you have a memorable experience of an SVD and would like to share it with fellow alumni and friends of the SVD, please put into writing how a priest or brother touched your life. If several of these reflections are received, I can make this a regular feature article in future newsletters. This would be in addition to our “Tid Bit” section that has not appeared in the last two issues. Please submit your reflections and updates. Include a picture when you send in your article. I look forward to hearing many stories! --Lenny

### **Promote Vocations**

- Pray daily for vocations
- Ask someone if he/she has considered a religious vocation.
- Contact the Vocation Office if you know of someone who may be interested in the seminary:

Mr. Len Uhal  
Divine Word  
College  
Vocation Office  
PO Box 380  
Epworth, IA 52045

(800) 553-3321

dwm@mwci.net

### **Pray for Religious Vocations**

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



## Upcoming Alumni Events

### ➤ **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Golf Outing at Techny**

**Monday, September 12, 2005**

Willowhill Golf Course (across from Techny)

9 Hole Game – Steak cookout to follow

Golf & Meal: \$40 / Meal Only: \$20

Tee Times Starting at 2:00 PM

Cookout on Techny Picnic Grounds



### ➤ **Annual Alumni Reunion at Miramar**

**September 15-16, 2005**

Overnight: \$65 (four meals) / Commuter: \$30 (four meals) / Single Day: \$20 (2 meals)

RSVP by September 9, 2005 / Send reservations to:

James Callanan at: 211 Central Street, Unit 101A, Norwood, MA 02062

Contact James at: jimmariecal@mwn.com or 781-329-0253

### ➤ **Reunion 2005 at Divine Word College — Epworth**

**September 23-25, 2005**

A full weekend celebration! Activities planned.

Arrive Friday evening and depart after Mass on Sunday!

Cost: \$50 for socials and meals at DWC

Lodging at a local motel

### ➤ **Annual Alumni Reunion at Bay St. Louis**

**September 30 – October 2, 2005**

Contact Fr. Tom Potts, SVD, for more details at:

228-466-5618 or ussdevoff@aol.com

### ➤ **6<sup>th</sup> Annual SVD Alumni Association Reunion**

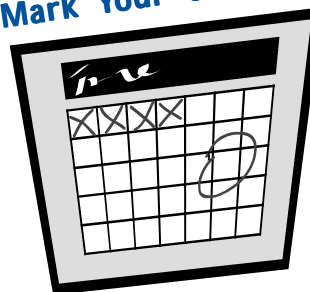
**October 7-9, 2005**

**Pittsburgh, PA – New Location!**

Hospitality Room / Saturday Activities / Banquet

Watch for more details.

**Mark Your Calendar!**



### ➤ **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Dinner at Techny**

**Saturday, November 19, 2005**

Mass: 5:00 PM / Social: 6:00 PM / Dinner: 7:00 PM

Cost: \$30 per person

### Questions?

If you have questions, or would like further details about any of these events, please feel welcome to contact the alumni office at any time.

(888)276-6536

svdalum@mwci.net

## **Remembering our Deceased Alumni**

### **Requiescant in Pace**

Mr. Hugh O'Leary -- October, 25, 2004 (Conesus 1947-48)

Fr. John Beemster, SVD -- March 15, 2005 (Techny)

Fr. Gerald Garry, SVD -- March 12, 2005 (Bay St. Louis)

Fr. Lawrence Poetz, SVD -- March 12, 2005 (Techny/Girard '37)

Fr. Louis Luzbetak, SVD -- March 22, 2005 (Techny)

Fr. John Koster, SVD -- June 21, 2005 (Epworth '36/Techny '44)

Mr. Guido Mirabile

