

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI EMISSARY

The Official Publication of the West Catholic Alumni Association

website www.WestCatholicAlumni.org follow us on Twitter @WCBurrs

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSN.
P.O. BOX 889
Ardmore, PA 19003-0889

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EXCLUSIVE
DIGITAL
DELIVERY

Our Mission Statement...

Our mission is to preserve the spirit and traditions of West Catholic High School by instilling fellowship among the faculty, friends, former students and graduates of West Catholic High School and to provide support to West Catholic High School and its students.

"West Catholic High School" is intended to be defined broadly to include the current West Catholic Preparatory High School as well as its predecessors.

The mission statement is read at every meeting of the Board of Governors and is intended to remind the members of the Board and the Association that all actions, plans and programs should be consistent with the purposes set forth in the mission statement.

A True Friend and Benefactor of WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Is remembered kindly
By: Ed Kerr,'60



John A. Duffy Jr., '51 of Saratoga, CA. age 84 passed away peacefully on December 28, 2017. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Joan Marie Duffy (McAllister), '50. John is survived by his five children and sisters, Sara Duffy Hughes and Marguerite Duffy McCutcheon and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was a devout Catholic gentleman, who will be missed and remembered by his classmates of '51 and all in the West Catholic family, who knew him and respected his works. Both John & Joan had a special connection with St. Jude and John would donate a beautiful statue of St. Jude from Italy In Memory of

Joan, to West Catholic High School in the 90's. John's generosity not only provided this beautiful statue for their chapel, it also included two statues of students, one boy and one girl; in addition, there were two kneeling benches, for all who would visit to pray. This kind act also included new carpeting for the chapel and fresh flowers delivered weekly. All of this from a man of faith who would not forget his roots in Philadelphia and Upper Darby, PA, where he attended St. Alice grade school before entering West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys' in September of 1947 until graduation in June of 1951. Following West Catholic, he went to The United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point NY; while serving both as a Merchant Marine and later as a U.S. Naval Officer that took him to the four corners of the world. He had grand stories to tell about it. John met Joan while on a Vacation at the Jersey Shore; they fell head over heels in love and married in 1956. Employment was to include Johnson & Johnson, Texas Instruments, Fairchild Semiconductor,

continued on page 3

JOIN YOUR CLASSMATES & FRIENDS APRIL 29, 2018 AT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 97TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST AT A NEW LOCATION!

The Alumni Association will hold its 97th Annual Communion Breakfast on April 29, 2018. This year will combine our longstanding traditions with a new location. Mass will begin at 9 am, to be immediately followed by the Communion Breakfast and Annual Awards Ceremony. All events will take place at the newly renovated Clarion Hotel, located at 76 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA 19029. The Clarion Hotel can be reached conveniently from all major highways, including I-95, I-76 and I-476. The Annual Communion Breakfast is the longest standing West Catholic tradition! It is a chance to demonstrate the Association's and the School's

guiding commitment to our Catholic heritage and to Catholic Education! The Communion Breakfast embodies the West Catholic Spirit. Join your friends and classmates at the Breakfast to share camaraderie and golden memories!

The Communion Breakfast traditionally starts with Mass for alums, family and friends. Immediately following Mass is the Breakfast and Awards Ceremony, at which the Association honors Alums and Friends of West Catholic that have demonstrated their commitment to the West Catholic family and exemplify the famous West Catholic Spirit! Information concerning this year's outstanding awardees are listed in a separate article.

More awardees will be announced as the Breakfast approaches. For updates, please check the Alumni Association's website, www.westcatholicalumni.org.

Each year, all funds received in the Offertory Collection are used to provide scholarships to Catholic students at West Catholic. Please give generously to the offertory collection. If you are unable to attend the Breakfast, but would like to support this effort, please send a donation to the Alumni Association, with the notation that it is for the Communion Breakfast Scholarship Fund! For more information, contact crowley@blankrome.com.

SUPPORT YOUR CLASSMATES, FRIENDS, FELLOW ALUMS & THE WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2018 COMMUNION BREAKFAST PROGRAM BOOK

PROGRAM BOOK ADS AND TICKET ORDER FORM: Be a part of the 97th Annual Communion Breakfast! Honor your class and award recipients, promote your business or be a patron!

ADS:

Inside Front Cover.....	\$ SOLD	Half Page.....	\$ 80
Page #1.....	\$ 275	Quarter Page.....	\$ 60
Outside Back Cover.....	\$ 275	Business Card.....	\$ 30
Inside Back Cover	\$ 250	Patron.....	\$ 10
Full Page.....	\$ 150		

Please return the coupon below with copy, photo and/or art work, along with check or money order payable to West Catholic Alumni Association. Credit Card payments are acceptable for orders of \$100.00 or more.

TICKETS: \$30.00 in advance or at the door.

Tables may be purchased in groups of 8 or 10 tickets.

Name: _____ Class: _____
E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Number of Ads: _____ Ad Sies: _____
Total Payment Amount for Ad(s): _____

Number of Tickets: _____ Payment Amount for Tickets: _____
Total Amount of Check or Money Order: _____
(Optional for orders of \$100 or more) Credit Card Type: _____
Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____ CSV _____

CUT THIS ORDER FORM OUT

RETURN BY APRIL 16, 2018 TO WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,
c/o Fran Crowley'77, 612 Harper Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026 or by e-mail to Crowley@blankrome.com.
For tickets, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. If no envelope is enclosed, then the tickets will be held at the door under your name on the day of the Breakfast.

For more information, call 610-246-1020 or 215-387-8560

A Teachers Story Gerard Vernot PhD West Catholic H.S. Class of 1958



STUDENTS WHO MADE A DISTINCT IMPRESSION ON ME OVER THE COURSE OF MY CAREER AS A TEACHER AND COUNSELOR

I grew up in the Cobbs Creek section of Philadelphia and attended West in the mid 1950's. Having the Christian Brothers as teachers inspired me to want to be a teacher. As a result, I joined the Brothers completing my training and started my teaching career in 1963 beginning a 41-year career as a teacher and counselor. Over this period, I taught or worked with many students, and several of them made a distinct impression on me for various reasons which I would like to share.

The first student, J, was probably the brightest student I had in my 41-year career. I taught J geometry. His insights and understanding of the course

content impressed me. I remember thanking him for making the course material clearer to the class. When J took the SAT for the first time his junior year, he got perfect scores (800) in both the math and verbal sections of the test.

Four years into my teaching career, I transferred to a large school in a metropolitan area. The area was dealing with racial changes in the neighborhoods surrounding the school. JJ was student I taught at this school but got to know only briefly because he transferred to another school in the suburbs during the school year. His reason for leaving involved what was happening in the neighborhoods where students attending our school resided. White families were leaving, and black families were moving in, which created tension over how to deal with the changes. Many years later, JJ wrote two books about his experience living in an interracial neighborhood. After reading the books, I was surprised to learn that I was mentioned in one of the books as a teacher he liked and missed when he transferred from our school. I was able to contact JJ and thank him for his compliments and learn about his work. He wrote back with the following

message: *"Thanks for the note...you were a favorite teacher of many of us back in 68-69. I often wondered how the Christian Brothers, priests, and nuns viewed the situation that was unfolding on the streets of our neighborhood. The values that we were being taught in class... were usually in stark contrast to what we were dealing with on the outside that it really tested us in the worst of ways. Some of us struggle with it to this day, which is why my books seem to resonate with so many readers... Anyway, I am doing okay... living in Chester County. PA and writing technical manuals for a Fortune 500 company."*

As time moved on, my career took me to Florida and a job as guidance director at a private independent college preparatory school in the state capital, Tallahassee. As a guidance counselor, I worked with students from the grammar-school to the high school level. As a result, I got to interact with a large number of students of various ages. Three students in particular made a distinct

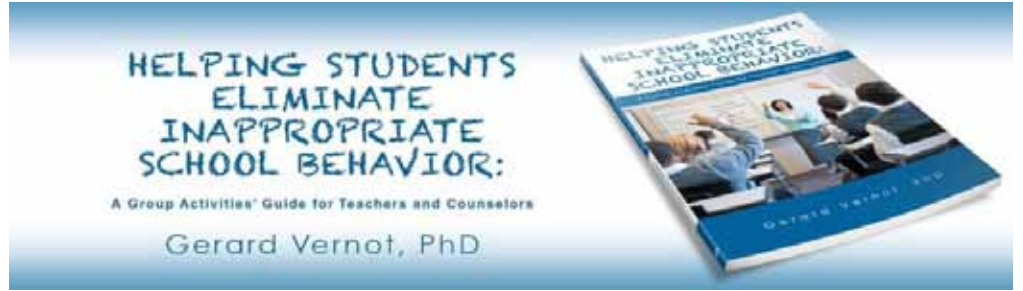
impression on me because of their backgrounds. Two were grandchildren of the President of the United States at that time, which I will not identify to protect their privacy. They were good students and a pleasure to work with. The third student was the granddaughter of a former governor of the state of Florida, Leroy Collins. Governor Collins and I had something in common: we shared the same birthday. His granddaughter, S, was a fine student. When she found out we shared the same birthday, she graciously presented me with a gift of a book written by her grandfather entitled *ForeRunners Courageous: Stories of Frontier Florida*. On the inside page she inscribed: *"Dear Dr. Vernot, I'm so glad that you and Granddaddy share the same birthday. Happy Birthday! Sincerely, S."*

Finally, one other student comes to mind who made an impression on me quite unexpectedly. The student attended the last school I worked at before retiring,

Again, as a guidance counselor, I had the opportunity to interview students for various reasons, like helping them with career planning or improving in their schoolwork. It was under these circumstances that I was talking with C. In the course of our conversation-and I don't recall what instigated it-C told me that his great-grandfather was Fulgencio Batista, the former dictator of Cuba. I took a deep breath and said something like "Wow." We then chatted about his great-grandfather, especially since I knew little about what happened to him once Fidel Castro ousted him in 1959. Again, C was a good student who I will remember because of his family background.

Submitted by: Gerard Vernot PhD, West Catholic H.S. Class of 1958

Author of the book: *Helping Students Eliminate Inappropriate School Behavior: A Group Activities' Guide for Teachers and Counselors*, published by Authorhouse.



Burrs At The Beach Weekend

By John Tomosky '63

It is that time of the year again when we plan for the 2018 version of "Burrs on the Beach".

The annual reunion of alumni held to support the West Catholic student community through student aid in the form of scholarships will be held on Sunday June 24th at The Inlet on Olde (formerly Westy's Irish Pub) in North Wildwood New Jersey from 1pm to 7pm.

To start off the weekend the West Catholic Alumni Association Veteran's Committee will be coordinating with the office of Wildwood Mayor Ernie

Troiano and members of the Southwest Football Coaches Association (SWFCA), The Disabled American Veterans and various other veteran service organizations to honor our own West Catholic Vietnam KIAs at the Vietnam Wall in Wildwood on Saturday morning starting at 10am. The wall is located at Fox Park (adjacent to the Wildwoods Convention center) at 4500 Ocean Ave. Plans are for the mayor and other Officials to join us to honor those Burrs who sacrificed their lives for our country and to have various Vietnam veterans present to assist in this process. Wreaths will be placed also at the Korean and World War

II memorial areas at the site in honor of West Catholic and other local veterans who served and sacrificed for their country and are no longer able to join in this weekend salute.

"This is the least we can do to honor our Comrades", said Joe McGowan, CEO of the coaches association and a former member of the West Catholic basketball team and proud veteran in his own right.

The SWFCA will be conducting its own 25th annual summer clinic during this Reunion Weekend.

In conclusion, the Alumni



**COMING SOON
ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS
IN THE
EMISSARY
AND ONLINE**

Interested in getting first in line?
Send us an email
westcatholicalumni@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You need not be a board member to participate in any of our committee's. If you see a committee that you wish to join please contact us via email at westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or submit your request through our website www.westcatholicalumni.org

COMMITTEE'S

- Young Alumni
- Communion Breakfast
- Membership
- Communications
- Spiritual Affairs
- Veterans Committee
- Scholarship
- Burrs at the Beach
- Fundraising
- Financial Review
- By-Laws

University of Pennsylvania Pipeline Program 2018 SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Another sign of the academic excellence at West Catholic Prep is the acceptance of five students into the University of Pennsylvania Pipeline Program. The five students in our junior class are (L-R): Sebleh Alfa, Myanah Martin, Elexys McDowell, December

Murphy and Chong Pham

The Pipeline Program is a two-year program offered by Penn to high school students. It's a dual program where students will work part-time at the University of Pennsylvania Health

System as a paid employee, while also taking college courses at Community College of Philadelphia, which will count towards their credits when they're off to college in two years. Essentially, they will have a semester or more of college credits before they step on campus. West Catholic is the only Archdiocesan School participate in the Penn Pipeline program. Thanks to the University of Pennsylvania for having West Catholic as part of the program, and congratulations to the students

The planning for the 2018 Sports Hall of Fame Dinner is beginning. Although an exact date has not been set, an Alumni Weekend is being planned for October 2018. The Weekend will include a Friday night football game with the Inductees being introduced at halftime, followed by the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday night. Who is going to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame? We do not know that either, however, we are asking you, the Alumni of West Catholic to nominate deserving individuals or teams. The criteria for induction into the Sports Hall of Fame is quite simple: All athletes, coaches, and moderators who have distinguished themselves in

their specific sport(s) during their years at West Catholic are eligible to be a candidate for the Sports Hall of Fame. To be considered for the Sports Hall of Fame, all candidates must be formally nominated by completing the nomination form on the School's web site (<https://www.westcatholic.org/alumni-support/school-and-sports-hall-of-fame-nomination-form/>), or by sending a letter to the school explaining why you believe your nominee is deserving of being inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. All nominees will be considered by the Sports Hall of Fame Committee who will make the final decision on those inducted.

ROAD TO WEST CATHOLIC BOYS' TEAM BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By: Ed Kerr,'60

The 59th anniversary of 1959 Championship game is coming up soon; since this is the last Philadelphia Catholic League Basketball Championship captured by a West Catholic Boys' team, we are revisiting and hope to provide a view our readers will enjoy. The period 1949 through 1959 had West Philadelphia Catholic both competing every year and capturing their fair share of championships. In 1949 the Burrs had a 9-5 regular season record or third best entering the playoffs. With Ernie Beck and Ed Garrity, a transfer from St. Joe Prep, the Burrs defeated regular season leader, LaSalle with sophomore star Tom Gola 41-34 and then defeating Southeast Catholic behind Ernie Beck's 20 points, 53-47 for the Catholic League Title, before matching up with Overbrook High for the City Title. Once again, Ernie Beck and Ed Garrity led the Burrs with a 41-38 thriller against the Brook and their star, Jackie Moore. LaSalle and St. Thomas More would shine in '50 and '51, although West would go 20-8 in regular season play during those years. The 1952 team had West at 12-2 and second place for the regular

season; playoffs offered St. James and high scorer, Bill Lynch. West would score a record number of points behind Williams, Sturgis, Singley and Maxwell to win the semifinal game 76-49. They then faced defending Catholic & City champs, St. Thomas More for the Catholic title & 8,000 fans, the Burrs ended the Golden Bears 26-game streak in OT by the score of 50-46. Ed Williams, Walt Maxwell, Jim Smith and Joe Sturgis led the Burrs while John "Misty" Fannon led St. Tommy with (16). Ben Franklin with Claude Gross and Bill Nelson were next. West countered with Joe Sturgis, Jim Smith, Walt Maxwell and Charles Singley (Who would join with Tom Gola at LaSalle College) to help West win yet another City Championship by the score of 57-46 under Coach, Jimmy Usilton. 1953 would be a year that Burr fans would remember for years and years to come. The defending champions came out hard and fast which resulted in a 13-1 regular season. Playoffs offered Southeast Catholic, Bill Lindsay and Bob Devine (a junior) would lead the Burrs to victory by 59-33. La Salle High School, always a difficult opponent came to play behind Tom Derago and his (21)

points. West would defend and win a second consecutive Catholic League Championship, 53-52, as Bill Lindsay, Bob Devine and Jim Mc Nicholas and teammates delivered once again. What would follow, almost everyone in Burrland remembers being there. According to our friend, Ted Silary 8,461 fans (4,000 were turned away), at The Palestra as West Catholic held '61" Wilt Chamberlain to 29 points by surrounding him with four defenders. Wilt Chamberlain would shoot 9-for-25 from the floor and 11-for-19 at the line. Bill Lindsay played the floater in West's defense and also scored a game-record 32 points, shooting 12-for-13 from the field and 8-for-11 at the line. *This is* what would follow, as the draw the plan, practice the plan and execute the plan, *put together* by Coach Jimmy Usilton and staff and moderator delivered a second consecutive City Title by the final score of 57-46. '54 was a very good year with a 12-2 record but a final loss to Southeast Catholic 51-45. In '55, a team that included Pat Carey who scored 47 points in a regular season game along with Jack Rowan, Joe Spratt, Joe McGinn, Jim McNichol, Paul Wallin, Gerry Donaghy; Jim Dunn; again, under the guidance of Coach Jim Usilton posted a 9-5 regular season record as they prepared for playoffs. The Burrs defeated both North Catholic (11-3) regular season and the LaSalle Explorers also with a 9-5 record to win their third Catholic League Championship in four years. The Public League Champs, Overbrook waited in the wings, now prepared with senior All-American Wilt Chamberlain and a solid lineup. West would not win this game...It was Overbrook's year once again. The '56 Team was



Bill Lindsey (10) scoring one of his 32 points in the 1953 City Championship while Overbrook's Wilt Chamberlain (5) looks on.

12-1 regular season but would fall to North Catholic Falcons who had an 11-2 regular season. The '57 Team had promise and injuries resulting in a 10-3 regular season; would fall in a heartbreaker to North Catholic Falcons by the final score of 58-57 despite a 20-point night from Ray Brown. The '58 team showed lots of hustle and a gritty 8-6 regular season which would include late season injuries but no playoff opportunities. The '59 Season is where first year Coach, Jack Devine didn't know it, but he had a team to include future college coaches, an NBA executive and a Basketball Hall of Fame College coach. Jack Devine,'51 excelled at West and Villanova; West Catholic would be his first coaching assignment as he was to follow Jim Usilton and

his three Catholic and Two City Championships. A 12-2 regular season record was the way to begin. This team included Jimmy Lynam, an All-Catholic point guard and leader, Jim Boyle, Herb Magee, Jim Flavin, John Beck, (Director of Defense) and Rich Moore, Bill Miller; Goose McAndrews. They won key games over Cardinal Dougherty and a nailed biter over Father Judge, 59-58 behind Boyle, Flavin & Magee to capture the 1959 Philadelphia Catholic League Championship. *What a Night!!* Overbrook would collect the City Title.

"Support Your Alumni Association"



The bench during a Burr win (L-R) Pat Carey, manager Joe Dragonette, Jim Dunn, Joe McGinn, Don Campbell, Jack Rowan, Bill Maguire, Coach Jim Usilton and Brother Anthony

Class Reunion & Luncheons

Your Alumni Association can provide your Reunion Committee with a current listing of your classmates. Any Class planning a reunion or that would like to plan one, please call the Alumni Office at 215-387-8560

If you are having a gathering of any kind let us know about it. We can post it online at www.WestCatholicAlumni.org as well as put it in print for your right here in the Emissary. Just send an email to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or call the alumni office at 215-387-8560

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

2018 Communion Breakfast Honorees!

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 97TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Each year, at the Communion Breakfast Awards Breakfast, the Alumni Association honors alums and friends of West Catholic who exemplify the West Catholic Spirit by their actions. Nominations are received from all facets of the West Catholic Family – the Alumni and Alumnae Associations, individual alums, and the School's administration. The number of nominations far exceed the number of awards that can be chosen.

While a number of the awards are given for different accomplishments, the criteria for each award require that the recipient be a person that exemplifies Catholic values and beliefs and has contributed significantly of their time, talent and treasure to West Catholic Family and their communities in general. In addition to the individual awards, the Alumni Association honors members of the 25 and 50 year classes who deserve recognition in their own right and who exemplify the achievements and spirit of their classes as a whole. A list the criteria for the different awards are listed elsewhere in this edition.

At this time this edition of The Emissary was going to print, the Communion Breakfast Committee was still in the process of selecting and notifying the honorees for the 97th Annual Communion Breakfast (April 29, 2018, beginning at 9 am at The Clarion Hotel, Essington), so the following list is NOT complete. Please check the Alumni Association's website, www.westcatholicalumni.org, for the complete list. Announcements will also be made through Facebook and Twitter.

The honorees for the 2018 Communion Breakfast Awards include the individuals listed below. Bull biographies will appear in the Communion Breakfast Program Book as well as on the Association's website.

Edward P. Carey, Esquire, Class of 1952 – Brother G. John Owens Award:

Mr. Carey, while a member of the Christian Brothers, taught at West Catholic Boys where he is fondly remembered by

many alums from both West Boys and West Girls for his contributions to the Drama Program. He remains active with the drama alums. After serving in the Brothers, Mr. Carey embarked on a distinguished legal career, including serving as Regional Counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, arguing and winning landmark cases before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and, after leaving DPW, specialized in working with clients on special needs planning and elder law planning.

Rev. Robert F. Crawford, M.M., Class of 1952- Brother Edwin Anselm Award:

Father Crawford has devoted his life to spreading the Gospel and ministering to God's poorest children. After receiving his education at St. Anselm's Parish in Drexel Hill and West Catholic, Father Crawford joined the Maryknoll Missionaries. Serving as a Maryknoll father for over 50 years, Father Crawford spent much of his ministry in Taiwan. He now resides at the Maryknoll residence in Maryknoll, N. Y.

Marie Petolicchio, Class of 1962 – Margaret Porter Gold and Blue Award:

The Margaret Porter Blue & Gold Award exemplifies the dedication and commitment of the award's namesake, Margaret Porter '40, to the Alumnae Association. Maria upholds that tradition. As stated in her nomination, "Maria contributes a huge amount of time to [the Alumnae] Association in support of the school." Maria has been a long time member of the Alumnae Board, and currently serves as the Alumnae Association's Treasurer. Maria also has been very active in organizing the Class of 1962's reunions.

William P. Conway, Class of 1968 – 50th Anniversary Golder Burr Award:

Bill is being honored for his own successes in the business world and for his commitment to the community, which make him an apt representative of the many accomplishments of the 50-year Class of 1968. After graduating West and LaSalle University, Bill

embarked on a long and successful career in the paint industry. However, Bill always found time to devote to the community, spending many years in leadership positions and supporting the Holy Cross CYO in Springfield. He continues to be active with his Class.

Richard Spires, Class of 1968 – 50th Anniversary Golden Burr Award:

Rick is being honored in his own right for his many contributions but also because he exemplifies the Spirit of the 50-year Class of 1968. Since graduating from LaSalle University in 1972, Rick has devoted his career to Catholic education, enriching the lives of thousands of students. Stating his career at Holy Name of Jesus, St. Edmond's and St. Dominic's grade schools, Rick began teaching high school students at West Catholic Boys from 1975 -1977. He also has taught at Archbishop Prendergast, Cardinal O'Hara and Archbishop Kennedy High Schools. Currently, he volunteers at St. Katherine's Day School. Rick continues to be active in class and alumni events.

Joseph J. Houldin, Class of 1969 – William H. McGarvey Award:

Joe founded the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center, a regional economic development organization established in 1988 to support the growth of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies. DVIRC provides consulting services, training and educational programs and executive networking opportunities to manufacturers and is a highly regarded national model for manufacturing innovation. As

a longtime advocate for career and technical education, Joe works with private, public and technical schools to promote manufacturing education and careers, and creates partnerships between local manufacturers and local universities' engineering programs. He is a frequent speaker at statewide and national manufacturing conferences and has testified before state and federal committees on public policy issues affecting the manufacturing sector. Prior to founding DVIRC, he served as Vice President of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation. He recently completed his terms as a member of the Board of Trustees of West Catholic, chairing the Institutional Advancement Committee, and he is also a founding member of the Advisory Board for West's ground-breaking Engineering Technology Academy.

Johnnie Walker, Jr, USMC Ret., Class of 1986 – Brother Martin Strickroth Award:

Johnnie has been an example of tireless energy ever since joining the Alumni Association's Board of Governors. He is in his third term as Recording Secretary but, more importantly, he has been a moving force - often a force of one - to improve the Association. He has been instrumental in the Association's recognition of alumni Veterans, through events like the annual Veterans' Mass and the rebuilding of the Grotto in 2017. Along with fellow awardee, David Joslin, Jr., he was committed to opening the Alumni Association to all alums regardless of which West Catholic they attended and when they attended. He has helped the Association refocus its mission to assist

and support the current students of West Catholic while also continuing to honor our long traditions. Johnnie promotes every Alumni event and is always the first to offer assistance.

David Joslin, Jr., Class of 1988 – Brother Aloysius Lumley Award:

In addition to being a successful businessman in the real estate field, Dave has devoted huge amounts of time to the Alumni Association, of which he is currently the President Emeritus. During his terms as President of the Alumni Association, Dave worked tirelessly and ceaselessly to revitalize the Association, initiating new programs and spearheading the efforts (along with fellow awardee, Johnnie Walker, Jr.) to make sure that the Association was all-inclusive and welcomed ALL ALUMS - whether from West Boys, West Girls, West Catholic High School or West Catholic Prep. Dave worked very closely with the Board and Administration of the School to find new and innovative ways for alums to become more involved in the School - not only through monetary donations but more importantly through contributions of their time and efforts to support the West Catholic students of today and the future!

NOTE: The Honorees for the 25th Anniversary Silver Board Award were still under consideration at the time The Emissary went to press, and those Honorees will be announced on the Alumni Association's website and through Facebook and Twitter. Please be on the lookout for additional announcements.



West Catholic Merchandise

SHOP ONLINE NOW!

Alumni Merchandise items provide the opportunity to spread West Catholic Spirit & Pride while supporting your Alumni Association. You can see all of the merchandise and place your order at

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

* Sweatshirts * Baseball Caps *

* Jackets * Regular / Mock Turtleneck *

* Tee Shirts * Golf Shirts * Burrland Shirts * Sweat Pants

* Hooded Sweatshirts * West Catholic Print 49th St. * Flags * Banners * Pennants *

NEW WC ITEMS COMING SOON!

WEST CATHOLIC WAR HERO

by: Ed Kerr '60

Extremely Loyal
supporter of
West Catholic
Athletics has
passed



William F. (Bill) Strain, '41 and a U.S. Army Veteran of WWII passed on September 3, 2016. Bill who was born on October 19, 1923, was age 92 when he passed, and was the beloved husband of the late Helen M. Strain; devoted father of William F. Strain, Jr. (Evelyn), James E., Thomas F. Strain and the late Patricia A. Strain. He is also survived by his sisters, Peggy, Rosemary, Rita and Betty and 2 granddaughters Julie and Jennifer Strain. Bill was predeceased by his brother, James and sister, Anna. Mr. Strain was a proud recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart and was a most generous and very loyal Burr. He Loved the Blue and

White and shared his enthusiasm with his son Tom and daughter, Patti. Together for over 20 years Tom and Patti would serve West Catholic student athletes at both basketball and football games. Patti was remembered for her Pep Talks at many football games too. All made possible by a loving father who included his very special children in all things West Catholic. Bill was also a past member of the West Catholic Alumni Association Board of Governors. We feel badly for the delay in reporting Bill's passing, but we know he would understand. Bill Strain was one for the ages and one good man that we will not forget. Long Live West Catholic!

The St. Francis Inn

by Erica Cordova-Canas '19 for the January Edition of the School Newspaper, the Correspondent



The St. Francis Inn soup kitchen is located in North Philly and caters to the local homeless population. At first, it might be a little hard to spot it since it's tucked away in a street adjacent to the El. National Honors Society and Lasallian Interact students from West Catholic are given the opportunity to volunteer at the soup kitchen.

Once inside, last minute preparations are made, and a prayer is said. Everyone coming together for one cause gave the kitchen a sense of community. At four o'clock sharp, the doors open, welcoming those who are waiting for a hot meal. When you are there, you see a variation of people coming from all backgrounds, ranging from children with their parents, older folks, and adolescents. They were directed to a table, and we made sure to greet each person with a smile and "how are you". Many people reciprocated the gesture with a polite nod of the head and a response. We did this for about two hours

straight, and it was like an assembly line: set, serve, bus, repeat.

At six o'clock, the doors were shut, and the only task left was to clean and make it look as if the evening was a complete culinary success. We did this in silence, partially because we were exhausted, but mostly because we were soaking up the reality of what these people face regularly.

When I went home and ate dinner, I reflected on the evening's event. I felt both grateful and guilty for enjoying what was on my plate. I was thankful for having a family that was able to provide for me, but while I was inside the warmth of my house, I knew that some people were outside in the cold weather, depending on others for their next meal. I felt horrible for all of the times that I took what I had for granted. Going to St. Francis Inn gave me a different perspective, and it was truly a humbling experience.

Own a business in Pennsylvania?

Give through your state taxes Pennsylvania offers a rewarding program for businesses to send their states taxes to West Catholic as a donation. Called Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC), you can

provide scholarships and financial aid for our students who live in underachieving school districts of which over 95% of our student body qualifies. Your state business tax dollars can bring young men and women

out of these failing schools and offer them a chance to excel here at West Catholic. The process is as simple as filling out a one page form.

Contact Andrew Brady '02 to learn more about the program at abrady@westcatholic.org or call Andrew at (215) 386-2244.

Let Us Pay Tribute to a truly talented WEST CATHOLIC GRAD

Charles 'Chuck' Tuppeny, '38, also known as, Brother Gedeon Luke & "Track Luke" passed on January 8, 2018; age 97 years, 4 months in West Chester PA. The great Class of 1955 proudly remembers their famous Coach and Teacher who instilled perfect practice into the West Catholic Track and Cross-Country teams. They captured multiple Catholic, City, and State Championships during the 1950's. Key contributors from this class who helped Brother Luke to accomplish these very impressive accomplishments were Jim Baldwin and Bob Farrell (cross-country co-captains) along with Dick Adams and Jim Shields (track co-captains).

Charles (Chuck) Tuppeny was originally from Holy Spirit parish in Sharon Hill, PA. He came to West Catholic in the fall of 1934 and competed as a pole vaulter and in other track & field events until he graduated in 1938. Following graduation from West, Chuck joined the Christian Brothers Community, where he earned master's degrees from three schools. As Brother Luke he taught English and Theology at West Catholic Boys' and several other schools. Beginning in the late 40's through 1959, he went on to become an outstanding coach in track &

field and cross-country. After winning ten consecutive State Catholic Track Championships and eight city titles in cross-country in ten years as head coach at West, he decided to jot down his thoughts concerning track and field. His book, "Coaching High School Track and Field" was published by Prentice Hall Printing and went through four printings, selling 12,000 copies - remarkable at that time as there were only 20,000 high schools in the country having track teams. Strangely most of the letters he received concerning the book were from foreign countries. Chuck had many great teams and many of his protégés went on to be not only great athletes but also outstanding leaders in their chosen fields of endeavor. He inspired some fellows who thought of themselves as back yard athletes, on to greatness. One of these greats was his younger brother Jim, who went on to become a successful coach at both Villanova and Penn. Chuck Tuppeny served the Christian Brothers for 38 years; when he left the Brothers; went on his own. He met his wife to be, Janet a high school math teacher at a summer workshop at Villanova University. They later married during the Christmas holidays

in 1974 and resided in Honey Brook PA in a converted school house. One thing Chuck liked about track & field is the idea that there are *No Timeouts*, if you get hurt or tired; although it is a team sport, you are basically on your own and success depends on the individual - similar to swimming and sculling. He believed that an indomitable spirit and perseverance might be more important than record breaking. In the year 2000, Chuck completed "Memories of a Track Coach." Chuck gave his all, even in his later years by entertaining residents at several nursing facilities/community centers. He would perform an athletic dance for seniors. By putting the sports to music, feeling there's a certain rhythm to them. He also did his impression of many former stars such as Louis Armstrong, Eddie Cantor, Jimmy Durante and Fred Astaire. A Golden Burr and West Catholic High School Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, Chuck will be missed and yes, Remembered!

Special Thanks to Fran McGovern, '55, Jim Shields, '55 and Ben Kerr, '95 for their assistance with gathering of this information. PLEASE Support Your ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. Ed Kerr, '60



(L-R) Jim Baldwin and Bob Farrell (cross-country co-captains), Brothers Luke and Nicholas, Dick Adams and Jim Shields (track co-captains) looking over the hardware won by the 54 and 55 teams.



31TH ANNUAL BURRS AT THE BEACH ALL CLASS REUNION SUNDAY JUNE 24, 2018!

Tom Dorrian '61

For the 31st consecutive year the West Catholic Alumni Association, through the Burrs at the Beach Committee, will hold its annual all class reunion at the South Jersey shore. On Sunday June 24, 2018 our event will be held at the "Inlet on the Olde" (formally Westy's Irish Pub).



As we informed you in the last edition of the Emissary, three significant changes have occurred. The first change, is the name change of the venue where we have held the last twelve B@B reunions will now be now under new ownership. The West family has sold its interest to new owners, hence the name change. The second change is that Blackthorn has decided to take a sabbatical from the entertainment business. The B@B Committee has decided not to have live music at this and all future reunions. A DJ will be provided for your music and dancing enjoyment. The third change is that no bus transportation is being provided. The buses previously providing rides from Delaware County were not fully utilized and were a financial drain on the event.



Most importantly I noted in the last Emissary our attendance has noticeably declined. This is something that we must attempt to reverse or future Burrs at the Beach reunions are in jeopardy. In the past the classes of the 40s and 50s were the true backbone of our success. They were and still are the most loyal Burr attendees at our affair. Unfortunately, God has called many of members of the 40s back to The Heavenly West Catholic. I bring this up because as much as the 50s classes continue

to show their loyalty to West Catholic they too are declining in numbers. I know there are other reasons contributing to our losses including illnesses and aging, in addition many alumni have moved to warmer climates, but we must find a way to get the classes of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s that are still in our area to show their loyalty to West Catholic. Remember, we graduates of West Catholic are from numerous parishes and neighborhoods that made growing up in West and Southwest Philly and yes Delaware County filled with awesome memories. Well our affairs are as much about our old neighborhoods as they are of West Catholic. I'm asking for all who attended (even one year) or lived in the old West Catholic neighborhoods to make every effort to attend our great reunion and meet and

reminisce about our youth and the friendship we had "back in the day". This will also be an opportunity for the newer grads to show the old head whom is more loyal. We need to get back to the days



when B@B had thousand(s) attend to make us the greatest All Class Reunion of all.

I mentioned in my last article, that since the inception of B@B we have raised over \$700,000.00, including the \$15,000.00 we raised from our 2017 Reunion. Our goal this year is to raise \$25,000.00, but we can only attain that with your participation. To reach our goal we need in excess one thousand alumni, alumna and friends of West Catholic. I know that displaying our West Catholic loyalty we can readily reach our goal.

The price of a ticket remains the same, \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Our new host want to show their appreciation that we are continuing to use their venue for our affair. They will provide easily accessible food courts, inside and out, for their usual culinary delights. There will be many bars strategically placed around their venue providing your favorite beverage. The new owners will continue to charge discounted prices on most drinks. Many bars will be in air-conditioned areas and of course the open air 2nd floor deck overlooking a beautiful view Moore's Inlet. D.J. Jerry Smith will once again spin records that cover the 40s to the present to satisfy all musical tastes. We will also continue our popular 50/50 drawings that usually include 3 big winners of different sums. To make sure that everyone has a chance to win one of these prizes we will have many committee members filtering throughout all areas for easy access to buy tickets. Please make every effort to make Burrs at the Beach the biggest all class reunion again! SEE YOU ALL ON SUNDAY June 24, 2018 AT THE INLET ON OLDE!!!



IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace

Name	Grad Year	John D McGrory	1947	Thomas F. Hegarty *	1951	James T. Rae*	1955	Leo F. Conway is Alive and Well
Cyril E Daly *	1934	John J. Moscony	1947	Charles M. Matsinger	1951	John M. O'Connor*	1955	John P. Keenan Jr. 1964
Andrew R. Magazzu*	1938	Robert J. Gregore*	1947	Gerald J. McManus	1951	John P. Gallagher*	1955	Michael P. Murphy 1964
John O. Burghart*	1938	Thomas J. Fitzpatrick Jr.*	1947	John A. Mellon	1951	Joseph B. Dougherty	1955	Thomas A. Connell Jr. 1964
Charles W. Tuppery	1938	Thomas J. Simpson	1947	Leonard J. Sessa*	1951	Leroy J. Downs	1955	Edward E.M.Wright 1965
(Br. Gedeon Luke)		Vincent P Davis	1947	Francis W. Zelenkowski *	1951	Mario A D'Alonzo Jr. *	1955	James J. Keating 1965
Arthur J. Petrella	1939	Michael J Buchanan	1948	Amato A. Juliano	1952	Patrick A. Lavelle*	1955	Robert A. Bianelli 1965
Arthur J. Petrella *	1939	William Carey*	1948	Charles B. Vicker*	1952	John J. Driscoll	1956	Robert Feldbaum* 1965
George J. Taraborelli	1939	John G. Colgan*	1948	Francis B. Brzoska*	1952	Edward J. Dugan Jr.	1956	James J. Whelan 1966
John A. Hoffman *	1939	James J. Ferry *	1948	Robert E. Hudome*	1952	Edward M. Burns	1956	John J. Kuzmick 1966
John A. O'Donnell*	1939	Thomas A. Lloyd	1948	Joseph Taulane *	1952	Francis S. Barrett *	1956	Stanley Hamilton 1967
Eugene L. Daly	1940	Joseph J. McBryan Jr*	1948	Raymond W. Maimone	1952	John F. Healy*	1956	Dr Alfred R. Zikowitz 1967
Charles Petron *	1940	William J. Cloran*	1948	Ronald E. Mahoney	1952	Robert J Holt Sr	1956	John J Wolf 1968
Edward J. Mulligan *	1940	Gerald J. McDonough	1948	Paul D. Paffett *	1952	David N. Brennan	1956	Jon R. Polito 1968
Rev. John A. Cannon	1940	Edward H. McDonald	1948	Thomas R Stanton	1952	Bernard P. Hasson	1957	Timothy J. Sheehan 1968
Edward J. Casey	1941	Charles H. McGettigan	1948	Joseph Taulane *	1952	David H. Ferris	1957	Thomas W. Toland Sr. 1970
John D. Pierce	1941	Robert J. Nunan *	1948	Joseph P. Burke *	1953	James A. Bendel	1957	Joseph J. Egan 1971
William F. Strain*	1941	Charles F Bloemker*	1949	Robert L. Bersheim *	1953	John J. Dougherty Sr.	1957	William M. Karpovich 1971
Andrew J Gormley *	1942	Francis J. Conroy Sr.	1949	Bernard L. Carr*	1953	Joseph L. Scully	1957	Joseph A Courtney 1972
John J. Healy*	1942	Andrew J DiNardo	1949	John P Corr*	1953	Thomas J. Lego	1957	Paul R. Maugeri 1972
James J. Rowland	1942	Carmen A. Dippolito*	1949	Gerald A. Dougherty	1953	Bro. Kenneth E. Cooke, FSC	1958	Lawrence E. Cassidy 1973
John J. Shea	1942	John J. Gallagher	1949	John P. Gibbons	1953	Charles R. Driscoll	1958	Jeffrey W. Kline 1973
Joseph E. VanKirk Sr.*	1942	John P. Hafferty*	1949	William P. Horan	1953	Phillip H. Carson	1958	Frederick M. Cerceo 1974
Joseph McDermott	1942	Morris Lasorda *	1949	Thomas F. Keane Jr.	1953	Charles T. Martini	1958	Charles E. Rupp Jr. 1974
Jospeh F. Denver*	1943	William J. Liney	1949	William H. Kelly *	1953	Thomas C. McClain	1958	David Battagliese 1974
Edward J. O'Halloran	1943	Francis L. Mahoney *	1949	John M. Lacey Jr*	1953	George A. Gans *	1959	Michael J Nolan 1974
John C. Conway	1943	Frank C. McLaughlin Jr.*	1949	Thomas F. Mayo	1953	Jospeh J. Kady*	1959	Thomas M. Felder 1974
John P. Gillane *	1943	Donald J. Shavney *	1949	Victor J. Seichepine *	1953	Richard Kropinski*	1959	Andrew J. D'Alonzo 1975
Robert J. White	1943	James T. Smith *	1949	Arnold W. Parnell	1953	George C. Beck	1960	Mario C. Ragone Jr. 1975
Francis I. Corey*	1944	George L. Taylor	1949	Albert M. Juliano	1954	Gerald B. Cooney*	1960	Walter King 1975
Rev. John J McVeigh*	1944	Alfred R. Zencak *	1950	Donald J. Dougherty Sr.*	1954	Joseph G. Kennedy	1960	John Kenny 1976
Charles A. Pastore*	1944	Arthur A. Cassidy	1950	John J. Kelly, Sr.	1954	Thomas J. Kersey	1960	William Perry 1976
Joseph V. Topper	1944	William L. Carney *	1950	James F. O'Brien	1954	Joseph P. Donato	1960	John J. Kenny 1977
James J Waters	1944	Frank Culbertson*	1950	Francis E. O'Neil*	1954	Nicholas F. Gerace *	1960	John J. Kenny 1977
John F. Dunn	1945	Geffrey B. Kelly	1950	John W. Vencius	1954	Patrick J. Cawley Jr.*	1960	William R. Bowes 1978
John B. Ivers*	1945	James J. Larkins*	1950	Joseph J. Iandolo	1954	Robert F. McCann	1960	William J. Johnston 1978
Joseph M. Korkus *	1945	John J Jones*	1950	Joseph W Farrow	1954	William A Feeley	1961	Bernard F. Malseed Jr. 1978
Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Skelly	1945	David J. McCluskey*	1950	Joseph W, Nagle *	1954	Arthur R. Summers	1961	Michael Molineux* 1978
Robert F McGinley*	1945	Joseph E. McMenamin	1950	Neil F. McAllister, Ph.D	1954	Mario C. Romano	1961	Robert W. Perkins* 1978
Francis A Nealon*	1946	Joseph Prince	1950	Paul J. Scott	1954	Michael J. Burke	1962	Joseph R. Matteo 1979
John F. Logue*	1946	Joseph R. O'Toole *	1950	Robert J. O'Donnell *	1954	Carl A. Williams *	1962	Robert B Tierney 1979
Thomas J. Mercadante *	1946	Thomas Spreman *	1950	Joseph F. Mullin *	1954	Thomas J McCullough	1962	Thomas E. Mapp Jr. 1979
Edward J. Chupein *	1947	Rev. Edwin V. Schwartz	1950	Bernard J Edmondson*	1955	Brian D. McCann Sr.	1962	Philip J, Davis 1981
Edward J. Chupein *	1947	Ralph D. Sinnott	1950	Edward C. Harkin Esq.*	1955	Robert De Joseph*	1963	Perry W. Haney 1982
Thomas M Duffy*	1947	James T. Tobin*	1950	Edward D. Layden *	1955	Hugh Donovan	1963	James A. Gibson 1984
Francis M. McCaughey *	1947	Dr. Joseph A Walsh Jr.	1950	Edward J .Tallant III *	1955	James E. Dooley	1963	Donnell Wallace 1989
Francis P. Martin	1947	Joseph L Castagna*	1951	Edward M. Parker	1955	Lawrence G. Kennedy*	1963	Jason J. Schatzman 1991
George F. Brady	1947	Raymond A. Custon, Jr.	1951	Francis D. Truax	1955	David M. McCormick	1963	Ian C. Prescott 2006
Hugh E Curran	1947	John A. Duffy, Jr. *	1951	George W Nelson Jr.	1955	Charles W Zwaan*	1963	
				James S. Kirwin*	1955			

* Indicates a Veteran Please keep the families of our deceased in your prayers

Did you know...THE GROTTO is Back at West Catholic & you can buy a commemorative Brick?

The Veterans Committee of the West Catholic Alumni Association has rebuilt the Grotto that was located at the Boys school and brought the it back to West Catholic Property where it belongs, but we still have work to do. Now with your help and the help of our Brick Campaign we hope to raise enough money place a Commemorative Plaque, Lighting and provide long term Maintenance for the Grotto. "PRO DEO ET PATRIA".



The Grotto was presented by the West Catholic Mothers Club in memory of the West Catholic students who lost their life in service to their country. When the Boys school was torn down the grotto was salvaged with the hopes of one day being able to relocate it on the Combined School grounds.

You can also purchase a Replica keepsake 4" x 4" marble tile that will have the same text as your brick for \$25.00 additional.

For questions, please contact Johnnie Walker at fstsrgwalker@comcast.net

<p>4 x 8 Up To 3 lines of Text \$100.00</p>	 <p>In Honor of John Smith USMC 1968</p>  <p>In Memory of Jack Hudginson 2/8/1923 - 8/5/2010</p>
<p>8 x 8 Up To 6 Lines of Text \$150.00</p>	 <p>The Connor Family Bill & Maryann Cindy, Katherine & Joshua 2016</p>  <p>God Bless America; Land of the Free & Home of the Brave</p>
<p>12 x 12 Up To 8 Lines of Text \$200.00</p>	 <p>In Honor of Justin Reutelshofer West Catholic Class of 1998</p>