

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI EMISSARY

The Official Publication of the West Catholic Alumni Association

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

VOLUME LXIX

FALL 2016

1st Edition

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

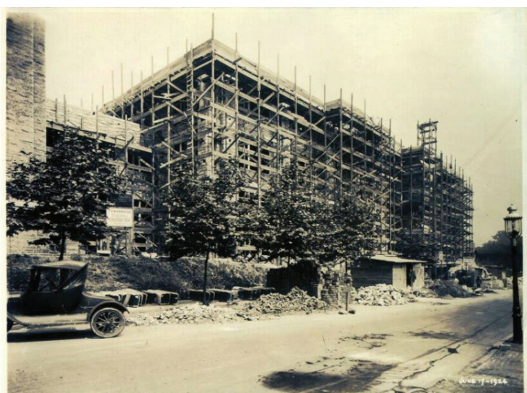
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2493

WEST PHILADELPHIA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - ITS JOURNEY THROUGH TIME *Bill McMackin*



The West Catholic story, is essentially a story of two Catholic High Schools who served blue collared families in the West Philadelphia and South West area of Philadelphia for one hundred years before merging into one school that still stands the test of time and change.

Like all good stories, let me start from the beginning. West Philadelphia Boys High School opened its doors in 1916, out of the wish to expand opportunities for secondary education for the Catholic families of the ever-growing West Philadelphia area. This



effort was led by Auxiliary Bishop John McCort and the pastors in West Philadelphia. Their appeal to Archbishop Prendergast was met with success and resulted in the Brothers of Mary administering and staffing the high school and for the school to be known as West Philadelphia High School for Boys. While the school



was under construction on 49th and Chestnut streets, students attended high school classes at Transfiguration and St. Gregory's parishes. Once construction was completed in 1916 – the doors were opened to provide four years of quality high school education for boys in the West and Southwest sections of the City as well as from the Western Suburbs. Thus, begins a one hundred year legacy.

In 1926 – due to enrollment increases, Cardinal Dougherty added a second building to the 49th Street site. Since the Marianists Brothers were unable to staff the school, the De La Salle Christian Brothers were asked and accepted to staff and assume the direction of the school. In 1927 – the fourth high school was added to the System (Roman, West Boys, Hallahan) to be known as West Philadelphia High School for Girls to provide a quality Catholic Education to the young women of West and Southwest Philadelphia. From the onset, the Girl's School would be staffed by orders of sisters and a diocesan priest to serve as Principal. Prominent among the orders of sisters were the

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the Sisters of Christian Charity, the

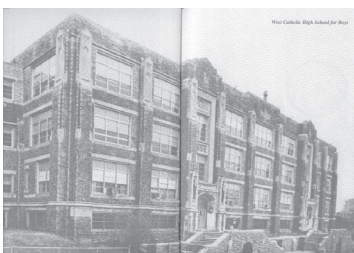
Sisters of the Holy Child, and the Sisters of Notre Dame. The school was built at 45th and Chestnut Street, only four blocks from Boy's school.

Both high schools would flourish and prosper, providing a Catholic secondary education for hundreds of students arriving at their respective doors from parochial schools within their geographic boundaries. In these early years, the brothers and sisters formed a great majority of the teaching faculties but laymen and women would gradually be integrated into the educational missions of both high schools. Together, they would lay the foundations for two great and lasting traditions, that would allow the graduating young men and women to go on to seek higher education, careers in the military, or be sought after by local employers.

Around this time (1930s) – an expanding system of Catholic education was in the forefront of faith based education in the United States and it was even getting world wide attention for their comprehensive courses of studies in the arts, sciences, and commercial subject areas. This worldwide attention may have been partly the reason for a visit to West Catholic High School for Girls in 1936 by Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, who was serving as the Vatican Secretary of State. Three years later, the College of Cardinals would elect the Cardinal as Pope Pius XII. The Girl's High School was proud and honored to feature his picture on the cover of their 1939 yearbook.

In 1936, Saint Thomas More High School

was opened by the Diocese to address the space limitations and the growth in enrollment at the West Boy's School. Saint Thomas More was located at 47th and Wyalusing Streets in West Philadelphia. It was staffed by diocesan priest and laymen in the early years. In 1957, Cardinal O'Hara invited the Vincentian Fathers to assume the administration of the school. They did so and continued to form young



“men for all seasons. The West schools continued to be the beacon for quality Catholic education and by the 1950's they marked their peak enrollments in the range of 2,700 for the boy's school and 3,400 for the girl's school. Many of the students of this era had to begin their high school experience in parish annexes for the ninth grade. This was also a period in which the Wests and their students distinguished themselves with outstanding academic, athletic, and extracurricular accomplishment as well as a significant increases in the number of graduates continuing on to higher education. Both high schools were also instrumental in inspiring numerous students to realize their vocation to the religious life.

The 1960s saw the Archdiocese engaging in a high school expansion program due to the demand from the baby boom from the previous decades and the growth of the suburbs. This caused the building and staffing of additional high schools. This cost of expansion and staffing

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.

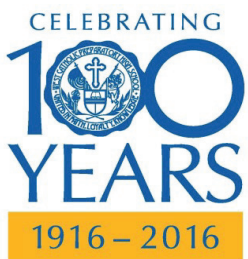
The mission statement is read at every meeting of the Board of Governors and is intended to remind the members of the Board and the Association that all actions, plans and programs should be consistent with the purposes set forth in the mission statement.

required additional funding beyond the parish subsidies. In 1969, high school tuition was first introduced and over time the annual increases resulted in to loss of students and forced the closure of Saint Thomas More in 1978 and the transfer of its students to West Catholic Boys High School to bolster its declining enrollment.

Even through these times of rising costs and tuition increases as well as changes in demographics, both West schools remained constants for quality education. In 1984, West Catholic High School for Boys was recognized by the Council of American Private Education as an Exemplary High School, one of only 60 celebrated as such in the entire United States.

continued on page 5

School News



You're Invited
The West Catholic Preparatory High School
Board of Trustees and the West Catholic Family
invite you to join us as we officially begin

West Catholic's Centennial Year Celebration!

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap, Bishop Celebrant
 West Catholic Centennial Celebration
 Sunday, October 16, 2016
 11:00 a.m. Mass
 Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul
 18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Lunch will immediately follow at: The Logan Philadelphia Hotel
 1 Logan Square/18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway
 Lunch Tickets: \$50 per person Cash Bar

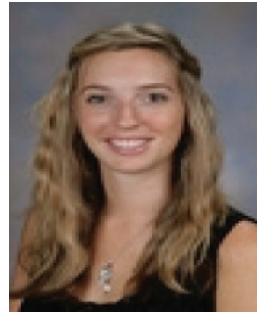
Valet Parking available \$25 per car
 Visit www.westcatholic.org/centennial to purchase tickets online
 Payment by check mail to:
 West Catholic Preparatory High School
 4501 Chestnut Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19139

(Please note "Centennial Mass" on check memo line)
 Tickets are limited and must be purchased by September 30, 2016.

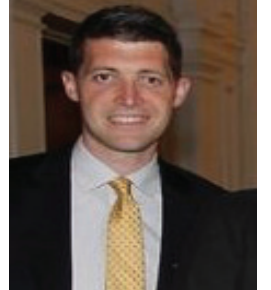
Contact rhairston@westcatholic.org for additional information.

West Adds New Staff to three positions and they are seeking more

Mrs. Jen Davis has been named Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs. Jen previously served as Interim Assistant Principal and has been at West Catholic in numerous roles since 2010.



Mr. Andrew Brady '02 has been hired as the Director of Institutional Advancement. Andrew taught at West from 2006-2010, and worked in the Advancement office from 2013-2015. Welcome back!



Mr. Jason Hasson has been hired as the Admissions Coordinator. Jason comes to West from Pope John XXIII in Sparta, NJ where he taught Phys Ed. Jason will also serve as the Boys Varsity Head Basketball Coach.



As enrollment continues to grow at West Catholic Prep, they are looking for 6 new teachers to add to the staff. The positions available are English, Science, Social Studies, Engineering and STEM education, Theology and Spanish.

Colistra Named New President of West Catholic



Dear Members of the West Catholic Preparatory Community:

After an intensive search lead by those serving on West Catholic's Board of Directors in collaboration with administrators from the Office of Catholic Education and Faith in the Future, it is my great joy to share with you that I am appointing Mr. Paul Colistra as the new president of West Catholic Preparatory High School (WCPHS) effective July 1, 2016.

Paul will succeed Brother Richard Kestler, F.S.C, who has faithfully and honorably served as the school's president since 2011. Earlier this year, Brother Richard had announced his plan to retire at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. I know you join me in extending prayerful best wishes to both Brother Richard and Paul during this time of transition.

Paul has served WCPHS as Vice President for Institutional Advancement since 2012. In that role, he has worked with the President and Board of Trustees to advance the strategic goals of the school and raised a record amount of almost \$2,000,000 during the 2014-2015 school year. He also overhauled the school's admissions and recruitment plan, which resulted in a 51% increase in enrollment over three years. Most importantly, Paul brings with him a deep knowledge of the school landscape and we have great confidence that he possesses the right leadership qualities to continue West Catholic's growth and development in the years to come.

Prior to his service at WCPHS, Paul was Director of the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations and later served as Major Gifts Officer at La Salle College High School. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Psychology from Ithaca College and is currently working towards a dual Master's Degree in Education and Educational Leadership from Saint Joseph's University. I am confident that his good work at both La Salle College High

School and here at WCPHS over the years will translate into a bright and sustainable future for West Catholic as the school community prepares to celebrate 100 Years of excellence in Catholic education in West Philadelphia and the Center City area beginning this fall.

I wish to extend my thanks to the interview committee and all who helped to bring this process to a successful conclusion. Collaboration is a core value of our organization. Moments such as these clearly reflect how important the joint work of the local board and Office of Catholic Education has become in creating successful schools.

Peace and all good things,

Christopher Mominey
 COO and Secretary for Education

If you are interested in learning more please contact West Catholic Prep Principal Jim Gallagher at jgallagher@westcatholic.org or by phone at 215-386-2244 ext 212. If you know of anyone else who might be interested please share these positions with them.

Akyra Murray...gone too soon

Akyra Murray was a top student and standout athlete at her Philadelphia high school, a teenager who impressed those who watched her on the basketball court and those who felt her "warmth and magnetic embrace."



The 18-year-old, celebrating her graduation from West Catholic Preparatory High School with a trip to Orlando, died in the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub on June 12. She was the youngest victim of the gunman, who killed 49 people and injured more than 50 others, including her cousin and friend.

Her father, Albert Murray, wrote on Facebook, that his daughter helped "shape me as a man" though he was supposed to "help shape and mold her life."

He added, "Rest in peace my baby. I will never forget what you represent, stand for."

Murray, her friends and family had arrived in Orlando the day of the shooting. The three young women went to Pulse to dance that night after searching Google for the best clubs in Orlando.

Murray's friend Patience Carter said that when the gunfire started she and Murray made it out of the

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
- Special Events Committee

100th Anniversary Celebration Volunteers Needed

continued on page 3

West Catholic Alumni Association 2015-2017

Executive Board

David F Joslin Jr. '88	President
Randy Duck '84	Exe Vice President
Mark Nave '85	VP Finance
Anthony DiTrolio '88	VP Communications
Johnnie Walker '86	Recording Secretary
Tom McGinn '65	Executive Secretary
Fran Crowley '77	Past President

Board Members

Ivory Allison '97	Charles Lamb '53
Joseph Bartolomeo '59	George Light '58
Roosevelt Ben '06	James McCarrie '03
Dennis Brennan '71	Tom McGinn '65
Jim Britt '72	Harry Mirra '52
Michael Casey '80	Joseph Nace '90
Bill Dixon '85	Marie O'Connor '80
Thomas Dorrian '61	Pat O'Hara '67
John Dukes '73	Kimberly Pierce '89
Joe Ganttmeier '73	Andre Saballete '04
Kia Gray '92	Joshua Short '84
Veda Henderson '84	Aaron Spence '03
	Ernie Wells '72

continued from page 2...Akyra Murray

club, unharmed. But they went back in when they realized that Tiara Parker, Murray's cousin, wasn't with them.

Inside, they found Parker and hid in the bathroom. But the gunman Omar Mateen went

"She carried herself with such dignity," he added. "She's going to be missed immensely."

More than 600 people attended her funeral at Monument Baptist Church in Philadelphia on June 24, according to Philly.com.



"She just wanted to be the best," said her brother, Alex, during the service. "She will truly be missed. I love you, Kirra."

there, too, and he shot them all, as well as others trying to take cover in the stalls. Carter and Parker survived their injuries but Murray did not.

The teenager had graduated third in her senior class the week before the shooting, led the girls basketball team in scoring the past two seasons – she scored 1,000-points in her career -- and signed to play at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania, according to the high school.

West Catholic Principal Jim Gallagher said the teenager was a "quiet leader" and a "really special" student who worked hard in the classroom and on the court. She was so excited, he said, that basketball was going to help her get to college.

Carter, using crutches, and Parker both attended the funeral, the newspaper site reported.

Gallagher said everyone at West Catholic was devastated by the news from Orlando.

"Nobody is ever prepared for something as shocking as this," he added. "Losing Akyra is heartbreaking," wrote her high school coach, Beulah Osueke, in a message posted on the school's website the day after the shooting. "This is a very difficult day, not just for the Murray family but for the West Catholic family and all that were touched by Akyra's warmth and magnetic embrace."

From The President

Dear Fellow Burrs,

Time sure does fly. This year our West Catholic family begins a year long celebration of 100 years of West Catholic residing in West Philadelphia, now referred to as University City! There is much excitement surrounding the alum and school community about this monumental year and we hope that you participate in several events with us throughout this year.



Since our last issue in the Spring our community has been extremely busy. We traveled an emotional roller coaster in June of 2016, welcoming our smallest class as the newest Alumni members, celebrating the retirement and career of Brother Richard Kestler, the election of his successor Mr. Paul Colistra and then the tragic loss of recent graduate Akyra Murray in the Orlando night club shooting. Through the highs and lows of June it was a reminder of the community that is West Catholic. I know it has been said before, we are a community forever tied together through the brotherhood and sisterhood that is West Catholic.

In a recent meeting with the school leadership, we concluded that the West Catholic community is our life-blood. I know that seems to be an obvious statement, but, it is important to be reminded of the constant affect this school has had and will continue to have on its community. Take a minute and think about your fondest memories, friends, relationships, I bet there is a close tie to West in there. We need to foster those relationships and teach our new Alum the importance of continuing to build those West bonds. West is a large family and in the course of a conversation, wherever it may be, somehow, someday, there is a West connection. I am continuously amazed how those connections present themselves and immediately there is a strengthened bond.

Proud to be a Burr is an understatement, we want to make sure that the spirit is passed along and that we continue to build one of the best alumni communities around. So, how can we do this, again I am challenging you to be help us develop Tutoring and Mentoring programs, offer Internship opportunities, build on the BLOCS tax credit program and enhance Career Day presentations. Money is not the only answer for supporting the West family. People who are not West Alumni are recognizing the importance of this institution and what it means to the Community. They see that our West Catholic continues to rise up and IS making a difference. If you want to make a difference in the lives of the students of West Catholic and their families you NEED to STEP UP and GET INVOLVED. Whether it is writing a check or volunteering your time, this school; this community; this family NEEDS YOU!

I ask that you join me in supporting our very special West Catholic family in any way you can!

All the best!
David F. Joslin, Jr. '88

Success and More from the Class of 84!

Veda Henderson, WC '84, SBP Creative Associate

Why support the Success of "Successful Black Parenting Magazine"? Successful Black Parenting, created by Janice Robinson-Celeste, WC class of 1984,



provides a network of support for Black parents across the nation and to portray the diversity existing within the black community. As a parenting resource for Black parents it seeks to promote positive attitudes in the formation of identity and establishment of relationships for both parent and child.

Successful Black Parenting magazine was originally

founded in 1993 and launched in 1995, debuting with 35,000 issues. It was the first national print magazine for African American parents. The last issue was printed in 1997. Now almost 21 years later, they brought it back on July 1, 2016 with a relaunch. "We felt the time is right with the challenges in the black community such as the Black Lives Matter movement, school challenges of black children and the way racism has resurfaced in our society. At the same time, there is a vibrant spirit in our community that continues to work for a better world. This is the perfect time to relaunch," said Janice Celeste. "We started this process when my children were babies. Now my three daughters are adults and each one is successful in their own career and family lives. I'm even a grandmother now."

"This magazine matters for many reasons. All families need support. African

American families are no different. It is also very important for children to see positive images of themselves in the media to grow up being successful," said Celeste, "You cannot be what you cannot see." Successful Black Parenting's official website launch was July 1st, 2016.

"This publication was our baby, we saw it walk, then run, but at that time we had just enough money to fail because printing was terribly expensive. We financed the entire venture with our own money and donations from family and friends, but what we really needed was a million-dollar budget. Today we have more connections and contacts. The digital launch comes first and we're crowd funding the initiative to provide research and development for the print issue, which will be launched in 2018. "Print is evolving," said Celeste.

continued on page 8

52 Special...CLASS of CHAMPIONS BASKETBALL EDITION *Ed Kerr, Jr., '60*

Just 64 years ago West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys' located at 49th & Chestnut Street in West Philadelphia, celebrated a school year to remember. All of their Athletic teams in the 1951-52

Season excelled, including the Football team that captured the City of Philadelphia Championship with a 42-0 conquest of BOK Tech. The game was played at beautiful Franklin Field on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. This West Catholic



Maxwell and Sturgis team up to give West a rebound in a one-sided 71-49 victory over South.

team outscored their opponents with

303 total points to the opponents 31. 35,000 fans attended this 14th Annual City Championship contest and I was one of them, walking home to southwest Philadelphia and proudly hanging my souvenir program on my

bedroom wall. Basketball was major at West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys' in the 1940's and 50's, when the BURRS secured the Catholic and City Title in 1949 behind future All American Ernie Beck and his talented teammates. In 1950 W.C. and the entire Catholic league had to deal with LaSalle High and their All American to be, Tom Gola who would go on to win a National Championship with LaSalle College during the 1953-54 season. 1951 offered St.

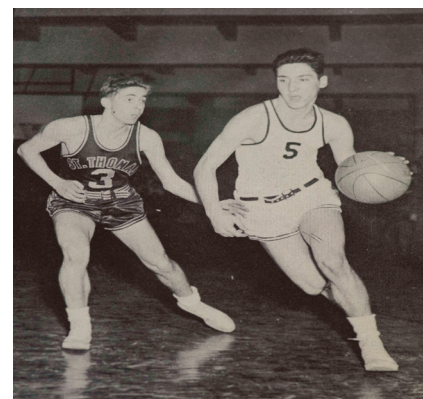
Thomas More and their always competitive team; this year the Golden Bears defeated the talented Burrs for the Catholic League Title by the score of 54-47. Tommy More would also

win the City Title with victory over the Speed Boys of West Philly High School, 39-36. As this was the Class of Champions year, the 1952 West Catholic Boys' Basketball team would do their part to win both the Catholic and City titles and return them to their campus at 49th & Chestnut Streets, or

better known as Burr Land. With new Coach, James Usilton, Jr. this West Catholic team would go through the pre and regular season with a record of 16 wins and 2 defeats, as the defending Champions from St. Thomas More were still difficult to overcome. They would deal the Burrs with defeat during the regular season by scores of 57-53 and 50-47. With their Never Give Up attitude, Coach Usilton and his determined and very talented team that included Ed Williams, Walt Maxwell, Joe Sturgis, Charles Singley and Marty Milligan as the starting five, this Class of Champions was prepared for the Catholic Playoffs to be played at Penn's Palestra on the Campus of the University of Pennsylvania. As noted West had a great starting five, but their deep bench also contributed to the success accomplished to date and to follow. Jimmy Smith a senior reserve who would later shine at Villanova, Joe Gardler and Bill Lindsay both of whom would have a special day against Wilt Chamberlain in the year ahead, Don Haley and Gerry McGinn all had meaningful minutes. This Burrs team would begin the 1952 Catholic League playoffs with an outstanding game

against league high scorer Bill Lynch and his St. James Bulldogs team with a 76-49 victory. St. Thomas More, the defending champs, who bested the Burrs twice during the regular season, was in the wings with a 26 game winning streak. All 8,000 fans in attendance were on the edge of their seats, whenever they were seated. Yes, there would be overtime and yes, "high spirited sparkplug senior sub Jimmy Smith emerged as a hero" (from the 1952 BLUE AND WHITE Yearbook) as West Catholic High School for Boys' defeated the Golden Bears of St. Thomas More 50-46. Ed Williams (13), Walt Maxwell (12), Jimmy Smith (11); Joe Sturgis (10) led the way to this Catholic League Title. Ben Franklin High and their All-Public star Claude Gross would have

Their chance as the City Title Game would follow. West Catholic would defeat Ben Franklin High by the final score of 57-46. Marty Milligan was a passing wizard and was voted MVP of the game as Joe Sturgis with 11 points and Jim Smith, Walt Maxwell and Charles Singley with 10 apiece set



Purcell of St. Thomas More fails to stop captain Williams from netting a vital double decker.

the pace to

Victory for the Burrs, it was the first time in City Title history four teammates reached double figures.

Claude Gross, All-Public for Ben Franklin High had 18 points. (Special thanks to Ted Silary for providing details in his Tribute to Philadelphia Scholastic Basketball). Please Note: Joe Sturgis would go on to star for University of Pennsylvania; Charles Singley would team with Tom Gola at LaSalle and be the # two leading scorer on the NCAA Championship team in 1954. Both Marty Milligan and Jimmy

Smith went on to play for Villanova. Including post season tournament 1952 Team Record was 21-3.

2016 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE...CONTINUING THE MISSION!

2016 was a very productive year with many positive highlights; We have been able to increase our assistance to the West Catholic family in the form of donations for tuition assistance, building improvements in the school, helping families through difficult times, lending our support to academic enrichment programs within the school and began work towards Alumni sponsored events for our West Catholic family. We are executing many of the ideas we had over the year creating a more active alumni community. We thank you for helping us achieve these milestones.

It is still our goal for the Alumni Association to raise \$200,000.00 in our 2016 campaign! This will allow us to achieve our goal of providing a minimum of \$50,000.00 in grants and tuition assistance to students attending West Catholic. The remaining funds will be budgeted towards educational

programs, human capital investments for West families, production and delivery of our Emissary, continued improvements to our website, alumni store and online tools including digitizing of ALL our past Yearbooks so you can access your class yearbook online. Finally, we will be putting money aside this year to help execute events to commemorate West

Catholic's 100th Anniversary! The special occasion will be celebrated throughout the year and it is vital that we budget now to make sure that we celebrate as only West can!

Our West Catholic Alumni Association is an independent entity that exists to preserve the spirit and traditions of West Catholic by keeping an active interest among its

Members, instilling fellowship among the faculty, friends and former students of West and providing financial support to West Catholic and its students.

We ask that you contribute to our Annual Fund Drive through gentle asks in our paper and online. We rely heavily on this Annual Fund Drive to fuel the scholarships and other contributions for

the year. If every person who receives this paper donates just \$20, we will reach our goal! Please help keep the West Catholic Spirit alive through your renewed support! Visit the alumni website at www.WestCatholicAlumni.org and donate online or use the below coupon and mail your generous contribution today.

Thank You!

----- Detach and mail the below coupon with your contribution in the enclosed reply envelope -----

2016 West Catholic Alumni Association Annual Fund Support Coupon
P.O. Box 889 * Ardmore, PA 19003-0889 * (215) 387-8560 * WestCatholicAlumni@gmail.com

SELECT AN AMOUNT \$20 \$100 \$500 \$2500 Monthly Credit Card Payment Plan
 \$50 \$250 \$1000 Other \$ _____ \$ _____ per month (\$15 minimum) for _____ months (4 month minimum)

NAME: _____ **CLASS OF:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE:** _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____ **EMAIL:** _____

SELECT ONE: MASTERCARD VISA **CARD #:** _____
 AMEX DISCOVER **EXP. DATE:** _____ **CSV**(3 or 4 digit): _____

The West Catholic Alumni Association is a 501(c) (3) entity, your contributions may be tax deductible! Your gift will DOUBLE if your employer has a MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM.

SIGNATURE: _____

Thank You again for supporting your Alumni Association ... WEST IS BEST!
Visit www.WestCatholicAlumni.org for all the latest news and updates!

THE 15TH ANNUAL CARDINAL O'CONNOR GOLF CLASSIC @ BALA GOLF CLUB

10/6/16



JOIN US, THURSDAY
OCTOBER 6, 2016...

The West Catholic Alumni Association is proud to be working with West Catholic Preparatory High School and the West Catholic Board of Trustees to present the 15th Annual Cardinal O'Connor Golf Classic. The event will be hosted by Bala Golf Club on Thursday October 6, 2016.

We are especially excited about this years event since we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our beloved institution.

As we have done in the past, this years event is a scramble format tournament with prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin, a special grand prize hole in one

giveaway, and for the top three teams. Registration will begin at 12 noon. When you register you will receive a special West Catholic gift, as well as a box lunch. The putting greens and driving range will also be available to get warmed up for the Shotgun start at 1PM. After the round you will be treated to Happy Hour and a Buffet Dinner.

The Awards ceremony will take place prior to dinner being served honoring all the days winners along with the presentation of the 2016 Bishop Joseph McFadden Service Award to Mr. Leonard Mazur, '63. This award is presented to a deserving individual who has exemplified the spirit of West Catholic.

Anyone interested in Sponsorship, Golf, just Dinner or Volunteering to help please visit our website...www.BurrsGolf.com, send an email to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or call us at 215-387-8560.

We've made registration, donations and sponsorship payments extremely easy,

simply visit www.BurrsGolf.com click on the item you want and purchase it on the spot.

The pricing and explanations for golf, advertising and the dinner are to follow. We have tried to keep the cost down for everyone.

PRICING...

Individual Golf Package: \$200
Young Alum (1990-2000): \$175

Foursome (4): \$750

These fees include box lunch, golf, cart, on course refreshments, happy hour, buffet dinner, a \$10.00 per golfer credit in the golf shop and a special gift.

TITLE SPONSOR: \$4,000

4 golf packages, Premium course signage, exclusive title sponsor ad on all

invitation materials, which will be distributed to over 5,000 people, year-round logo placement on the West Catholic Prep & Alumni Website Event Page, all social media event pages and in the Dinner Program.

CART SPONSOR: \$2,000
4 golf packages, exclusive signage on all golf carts, year-round logo placement on the West Catholic Prep & Alumni Website Event Page, all social media event pages and in the Dinner Program.

CORP SPONSOR: \$1500
4 golf packages, logo placement on the West Catholic Prep & Alumni Website Event Page, all social media event pages and in the Dinner Program.

HOLE SPONSOR: \$150
One hole sign at tee or green, Dinner Program and website recognition.

PROGRAM ADS

- Full Page \$100
- Half Page \$75
- Quarter Page \$50
- Patrons \$25

Ad deadline is Sept. 23
Golf Registration Deadline is Sept. 30!



Leonard Mazur '63

continued on from page 1... It's Journey...

In 1989, due to continuing economic concerns, Cardinal Bevilacqua announced the merger of the two Wests into a single co-educational Catholic high school, which would be housed at the Girl's building located at 45th and Chestnut Streets. It was also at this time, it was decided that the school's administrative structure would move to the President-Principal paradigm, with a Christian



Brother serving as President and a Sister as Principal. Likewise a Development Office was created to seek additional funding sources beyond tuition and fees.

The merger produced one school, known as West Philadelphia Catholic High

School, which had an initial enrollment of 1,800 in its initial year of 1990. This re-invention of West Catholic was an oasis for education for all willing students of Philadelphia as affirmed by the recognition as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. During this period, most of the traditional parish feeder schools also faced their own economic, enrollment and demographic changes and this resulted in more students being admitted from public schools, most of who would be from other faith traditions. The 1990s also

produced another change that would impact on West and other Diocesan high schools - Cardinal Bevilacqua announced an open enrollment policy for all High Schools, which would pit each school in open competition for students regardless of where they lived.

This inter-school competition became an added challenge especially for those schools with older campus areas. The Cardinal later announced the closure of ten high schools and West was included. The high schools rallied support and with the assistance of a supportive Alumni and Alumnae and a vocal parental base the Cardinal rescinded his decision but each high school would have to take a more active part in the financial stability of each school.

In early 2012, Archbishop Chaput, on the advice of a special Archdiocesan committee recommended that West as well as three other High Schools should close at the end of the academic year. This led to a number of prominent business leaders, Alumni and Alumnae to join forces in advocating that the schools remain open. It was only through their efforts that West remains open. This preliminary decision even though rescinded impacted on the enrollment at West.

West's recruitment efforts and reaching out to form new educational partnerships have helped to turn the tide of declining freshman classes.

Recently, the Board of Trustees



felt that a modification of the traditional name from West Philadelphia Catholic High School to new name that would send a message of reinvention. It was at this time that West transformed for a third time to West Catholic Preparatory High School.

In conclusion, West in all of its forms has been referred to as a beacon and an oasis but for those who had the honor and pleasure of the West Experience it will always be referred to by the slogan - WEST IS BEST. When

many grads are asked "what makes West so special?" the answers vary but there are certain streams of agreement among the answers: "Every good school has good teachers, coaches, and students but only WEST has them and then mixes in a Tradition of Excellence, an active and supportive Alumni/Alumnae, parents who

make unbelievable sacrifices, and a continuous allegiance to God and Country and WEST has been doing this for ONE HUNDRED YEARS. There is no other school like this - anywhere - and we have been so very fortunate to have experienced - WEST. It is, indeed, very special.

WEST WAS, IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE BEST!"

4th Annual West Catholic Alumni Veterans Appreciation Mass *Johnnie Walker, Jr. '86*

**ATTENTION:
All Service Members,
Current, Former, or
Retired, Drafted or
volunteered, Active or
Reserve**



will hold the 4th Annual Veterans Appreciation Mass at West Catholic. Each year this event gets bigger and bigger. The West Catholic Alumni Association Veterans Committee would like to invite all West Alums who served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces to attend. Help us to spread the word; we ask you to notify friends, family, and neighbors that have served in any Branch of service in any capacity in peacetime or wartime and encourage their attendance. The students will be on hand to honor and celebrate the Veterans of West Catholic for their service.

to serve. Please wear your uniform, or branch of service swag if possible. Help us to demonstrate to the students of West Catholic Preparatory High School the proud history and tradition of honorable and faithful service to our country by the many generations of West Catholic Alumni.

This years' tribute will feature veterans from the Korean War. The Mass will include a Veterans procession into the auditorium, performance of the National Anthem by the students of West Catholic's Music Department, the Joint Services Color Guard, remarks by our Guest Speaker. There will also be a rendition of Taps to pay tribute to those West Catholic Alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice. A reception will follow the Mass in the school Library, students



will be available to provide tours of the school for anyone interested and each veteran will receive a small token of our appreciation. We ask that you please arrive early to check in with the Veteran Committee staff. Parking will be available in the school lot. Student escorts will direct you into the school. So come on out honor our vets who have served, see the school, and reconnect with West Catholic. Help us to keep **WEST BEST!**

DATE:
Friday, November 11, 2016

TIME:
7:45am

LOCATION:
West Catholic School
Auditorium

Veterans please RSVP to let us know you are attending

Johnnie Walker Jr. at
fstsgtwalker@comcast.net

On Friday November 11, 2016 at 7:45 a.m. the Veterans Committee of the West Catholic Alumni Association

From WW I to Iraq and Afghanistan; West Catholic graduates have donned uniforms and answered their country's call

Veterans Honored at Annual Reunion *John C. Tomosky - Alumni Veterans Committee*

On Saturday morning June 25th at 10am the West Catholic Alumni Association Veterans Committee in coordination with the Southwest Football Coaches Association was successful in putting on a ceremony to honor many departed Veteran members from the West Catholic family in Philadelphia at the Vietnam wall in Wildwood New Jersey. Special attention was paid to the 12 alumni of West Catholic who gave their lives in Vietnam so that we can enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today.

of the American Legion. His son John JR (USMC), currently Chairman of the Alumni Association Veterans Committee and Former Chairman Jim Mulhern (USMC) provided protocol support and Dan Harrell '61 (USMC) former head football coach at West and a member and Officer of American Legion Pa. Post 959 and the Vice Chairman of veterans affairs for the Ancient Order of Hibernians Dennis Kelly Division 1 in Havertown Pa provided additional support and coordination.

summer clinic of the Association.

"To honor these Departed Schoolmates is the least we can do on this 2016 Reunion Weekend at the South Jersey Shore", Said Joe McGowan, President and Chief Executive Officer and a former Basketball team member from the class of '71.

Many Local officials and others attended including the Mayor of Wildwood, Ernie Troiano, who invited all to return to the wall any time. The wall is located at Ocean and Burk Ave across from the Wildwood Convention center.

A thank you goes out to Jim Reilly who presented an American Legion "Americanism Award" to the family of Regina McDonough in appreciation for all she did during her



left to right: Johnnie Walker Sr, Jim Mulhern, Jimmy Troy, John Tomosky, Dick Sforza & Tommy DeFelice

lifetime for the community of southwest Philadelphia as a part of the Catholic War Veterans organization.

Reilly, Franny Kehoe, Tom MacDonald, Hugh Stapleton and Dick Sforza (Former star football player at Temple University). Thomas "Turtle" Tyrrell, '66 was also on board, in Heart, and looks forward to returning in 2017 when we conclude our 100th anniversary year celebration at the Burrs on the beach weekend. Pro Deo Et Patria.

Also a special note of appreciation goes out to the Vietnam veterans who attended to provide Escort services to the families of those KIAS who were present to honor the sacrifices of their loved ones, They were Charlie

Mr. John Walker Sr ('64) provided the local coordination for this activity. John is currently serving as the Adjutant for the Disabled American Veterans organization in New Jersey and is a Past Detachment Commander of the Pennsylvania Sons

This ceremony was moderated By John Tomosky, Deputy District Commander for the American Legions 1st District Of Pa. The activity coincided with the annual reunion of West Catholic High school to jump start its 100th Anniversary celebration and the annual

Help Rebuild the Grotto, one brick at a time




8x8 sample brick with personalized message

As part of the West Catholic 100 year Anniversary celebration; The Veterans Committee of the West Catholic Alumni Association is going to rebuild the Grotto that was located at the Boys school. 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. Now with your help and the help of our Brick Campaign we hope to raise enough money to put the Grotto back on West Catholic property where it belongs. "PRO DEO ET PATRIA" Please go to our donor website using the following website www.PolarEngraving.com/WestCatholicAlumniAssociation

To Uniformed West Grads
We've been successful in getting the names of many of you that have served your country!
If you haven't let us know your current whereabouts, please fill out the coupon below and get it off to the committee soon!



West Catholic Alumni Association Needs All Veterans or Active Military

Are you a veteran or active military that has graduated from a school who's motto is "For God and Country?"
 The Alumni Association newly-formed Veterans/Military Committee would like to hear from you concerning your service to these United States!
 Please supply the requested information below and mail to:
 Mr. Jim Mulhern '60, Chairman
 244 Baltimore Pike, Unit 433, Glen Mills, PA 19342
 or e-mail to veterans@westcatholicalumni.org
 Any questions may be directed to any committee member listed below:
 Jim Mulhern (USMC) '60 - jrmulhern@aol.com
 Rich McCann (US Army) '68 - webmaster@westcatholicalumni.org
 Harry Mirra (US Air Force) '52 - harrymirra@RCN.com

Name.....Branch of Service.....
 Street.....City.....State.....Zip.....
 Phone.....e-mail.....

29TH ANNUAL BURRS AT THE BEACH ALL CLASS REUNION!

Johnnie Walker, Jr. '86



There was another invasion this year. It was a little earlier than usual this year but none of that seemed to matter as close to a 900 Burrs and Lady Burrs flocked to Westy's Irish Pub in North Wildwood on Sunday June 26, 2016 to celebrate the 28th Annual Burrs at the Beach All Class Reunion. After all these years, the West Catholic All Class Reunion is still the best of them all. I want to thank all of our loyal supporters who attend every year and make this event the envy of all the other schools. Once again Tom Dorian, George Light, and Peggy Panichelli and the West Catholic Burrs at the Beach Committee did a tremendous job putting the event together.

The 2016 Burrs at the Beach featured Blackthorn and DJ Jerry Smith. An anonymous member of the Class of 1964 donated the cost associated with

Blackthorn again. This was a really nice gesture and helped to make our event extra special but more importantly helped us to raise a whole lot more for West. Blackthorn dazzled the Burrs with a versatile mix of traditional Irish music and club mixes that appealed to the many generations of Burrs in attendance. DJ Jerry Smith was spinning records that covered every era, satisfied all musical tastes, and got the Burrs up and dancing.

We were pleased to welcome so many younger Alumni to Burrs at the Beach. Our older alums remarked repeatedly that they enjoyed the opportunity to share their experiences, some history and traditions of West Catholic with our younger alum. Thanks for all who came out this year; your attendance helped us to generate more funds for the current students

of West Catholic which is the purpose of the event. The camaraderie and reconnecting with old classmates are just a bonus. Through your generosity, at the September meeting of the West Catholic Alumni Association, a check for approximately \$18,000.00 will be presented to Paul Colistra, West Catholic Preparatory High School President, to be used for student tuition assistance.

Once again this year, Peg West and the staff at Westy's were obliging and gracious hosts. Peg couldn't do enough for us. The upstairs deck looked really sharp, there were plenty of bars set up both inside and outside and the food was great. The Burrs at the Beach committee did a spectacular job. They spend a lot of time throughout the year and especially the couple of months preceding Burrs and the day of the

event working hard to ensure that the event takes place without issue. Again I would like to thank Tom Dorrian, George Light, and Peggy Panichelli and the Entire Burrs at the Beach committee for all of your hard work and helping to keep WEST BEST!

No Excuse to miss it again we are giving you plenty of notice to join the fun next year...

SAVE THE DATE...

THE 30TH ANNUAL BURRS AT THE BEACH

SUNDAY JUNE 25 2017

GET THERE!



Documenting 100 Years of Burrs

Andre Sabelette

As we celebrate a century of West Catholic tradition, many alumni are gearing up to celebrate this momentous occasion. As part of the centennial celebration, the Alumni Association has embarked on the mission to bring 100 years of West Catholic heritage, tradition, and pride to the screen with a documentary project. This documentary project is focused on highlighting all the accomplishments, advances, and ways West Catholic and its alums have played a role in our society – the greater Philadelphia area, and beyond- throughout the past 100 years.

Throughout 100 years, the school has evolved

and adapted to continue its mission to mold and guide the next generation of Burrs and has upheld its LaSallian mission. From the uncertainty the came with the Great Depression, the rise of the Civil Rights Movement, the changes that came with 9/11 and the rise of the Millennial generation, this documentary will focus on how West Catholic has stayed true and strong in this ever-changing world.

This project has been made possible in part by a partnership between the Alumni Association and BoatHouse Pictures, a local film production company owned by West Catholic alums. Although it is no easy task, Alumni President,

Dave Joslin, and the team at BoatHouse Pictures are optimistic and look forward to sharing the school's rich history in this cinematic piece.

In order to make this project possible, support from the West Catholic family is crucial. If you would like to contribute in any way possible, or to sponsor the project, please contact Dave Joslin, West Catholic Alumni Association President, Andre Sabelette '04 or Aaron Spence '03.



Class Reunions, Luncheons and Events

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 westcathicalumni@gmail.com or call the alumni office at 215-387-8560

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 *

CHECK OUT ALL BURR ITEMS ONLINE!

continued from page 3

“It’s definitely not dead. We have to cater to the needs of different readers, those who prefer digital and those who



want to feel the quality of paper in their hands.” The magazine has grown into the age of technology. It also hosts a livestream talk show called, BackTalk and recently interview Tracy Martin, Trayvon Martin’s father. “My background is in multimedia and journalism,” said Celeste, “We will bring topics to our parents any way that we can get them to listen.” On the website, there is something for everyone. The columns are consistent with those that were published in the magazine more than 20 years ago and are still relevant today.

Sections such as Kuumba Arts & Crafts, Health Call, On My Own about single parenting, Jambalaya which features culturally-sustaining books for children, S.T.E.A.M. which has science, technology, engineering, arts and math activities for young children, Dedicated Dad and then there is GRAND Life for grandparents. In addition to these regular columns, there are Ages & Stages articles along with monthly features that are highlighted. “We are the voice of Black parents,” said Celeste, “Our magazine advocates for parents and children. This magazine is just the start of much more to come.”

You can sign-up on Successful Black Parenting’s website at SuccessfulBlackParenting.com for updates. The crowd funding campaign is set to raise \$20k for research and development and then a second phase to raise \$2m for the print publication. You can contribute to the crowd funding site at Indiegogo.com or (http://bit.ly/SBPIndiegogo).



Stay in touch...
We are everywhere!
On the web
www.westcatholicalumni.com

FaceBook Group
WEST PHILADELPHIA
CATHOLIC HIGH
SCHOOL ALUMS

Twitter
@WCBurrs

REUNIONS: The Ties That Bind

Randy Duck

Reunions are a part of American culture, just as much is apple pie, fireworks, and football. The West Catholic family is no different. Reunions range from monthly, annually and every five years to our big all class reunion Burrs at the Beach. There are also regional reunions around the country, in Florida, Texas and California. I had the pleasure last year to have lunch with some gentlemen (classes 41 – 43) who are all WWII vets, They’ve been meeting at the Country Squire Restaurant for the past 20 years on a monthly basis. Their group started out with 22 members, now there

are 6 remaining. Reunions are a time to reconnect with old friends, remember the good old days or maybe rekindle a long lost love. No matter the reason, it’s always a good time to get together. The Alumni Association is always interested in hearing about your reunions. You can always submit information about your upcoming reunion or a follow up story after your reunion. It’s always fun and interesting to see the activities that goes on at reunions. From who traveled the farthest to attend to who has the most grandchildren and so on. Some reunions are

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016
Friday, September 30 7:30 PM
Homecoming
WCP vs Neuman-Goretti
Widener University
Quick Stadium

OCTOBER 2016
October 6, Cardinal
O’Connor Golf Classic, Bala
Country Club 12 noon!

October 16 West Catholic
Centennial Celebration
11:00 a.m. Mass Cathedral
Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul
Lunch will immediately
follow at: The Logan
Philadelphia Hotel Lunch
Tickets: \$50 per person

NOVEMBER 2016
November 4 - Class of 1966
50th REUNION call Dot
McShane 215-755-4354 or
Frank Tallon 610-446-3160

November 11, 2016, 7:45
a.m. 4th Annual Veterans
Appreciation Mass at West
Catholic.

November 19 Class of 76
40th Reunion Girls & Boys
Reunion Lazaretto Ballroom,
Please contact Patti Gallegher
Dougherty @
pdougherty01@comcast.net

DECEMBER 2016
December 1, 2016 Deadline
for 2017 Communion Breakfast
Award Nominations.

2nd Annual Secret Santa
Brigade -sign up early to make
a difference in the lives of some
of our West Catholic Families!

FEBRUARY 2017
February 6, 2017 Burrs At
The Beach Meeting

MARCH 2017
Sports Hall of Fame
Now accepting nominations
for all sports. please email
westcatholicalumni@gmail.
com with the name, class and
sport and your reason for the
nomination!

March 7, 2017 Burrs At The
Beach Meeting

for up to date info visit us on the web

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

APRIL 2017
April 23, 2017 Communion
Breafast
Springfield Country Club

MAY 2017
100th Anniversary Gala -
more details to follow
Be sure to visit the Alumni
Website and get the most up
to date information on all
of the upcoming events and
news about the Burrs and
West Catholic!

JUNE 2017
Executive Board Elections

FALL 2017
Class of 1967 50th Reunion
(Combined) - Planning stages
for Fall 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017
Class of 1972 West Catholic
High School / St Tommy
Moore 45th Combined
Reunion September 29th,
2017 from 7 PM - 11 PM
more info email
wc.class72@gmail.com

strictly the ladies from the Girls school and the guys from the Boys school. Lately, more and more combined reunions are becoming the norm. These events come in various themes and venues. Some are held at restaurants, sports bars or golf courses. Some come with the idea to “party with a purpose”, to raise money for the school or make donations to the Alumni Association. No matter the theme, location or purpose, it’s all to celebrate our beloved West Catholic. The Alumni Association would like to hear from any and class captains or reunion committee chairs, give us updates on your class activities, celebra-

tions, reunions and more. We would encourage you to keep your contact information updated on our website, so we can keep in touch with you as well. If you have an upcoming reunion, please let us know the date & location. A member of the Executive Committee will try to attend your reunion. Just for a brief 1 or 2 minute update and happenings with the Alumni Association. Given enough notice, an announcement will be posted on the Alumni Association website and in the Emissary publication. We love to hear from you and share your stories. Visit our website at www.westcatholicalumni.org or send an email to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com. BURR FAMILY!!!!!!

IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace Please keep the families of our deceased in your prayers

NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS
Theodore J. Berry MD *	1935	Warren F. Haas *	1945	Joseph F.		Ronald G. Hallman	1955
John J. Davis Sr.	1937	Anthont T. Ricchezza *	1945	Montgomery Jr. *	1950	Jerome A. Klein	1955
Peter F. Nepi *	1937	Thomas P. English	1945	James E. Kelly	1951	John L. Kowal	1956
Harry W. Reilly	1939	Joseph L. Abbott, MD *	1946	Robert G. McShane	1951	Harry M. Sohon	1956
Leonard J. Lutz	1940	William J. McGroarty	1946	Paul T. Logue	1951	William C. Walker	1956
John E. Dwyer Sr.*	1940	John J. Quinn	1946	William H. Clement	1952	Francis J. Haas	1957
Denis F. Sheils *	1941	Joseph M. Small	1947	Alexander A.		Robert E. Hopkins	1957
William P. Steiert *	1941	Rev. William J.		DiSanti, Esq.	1952	James P Kane	1957
Charles Bissell	1942	Dougherty,C.S.P.	1948	Robert W. Bowden	1952	Thomas J. Arron	1959
Raymond Adams	1942	John F. Conway *	1948	Peter Westhead	1953	Vincent D. Callahan *	1959
William P. McElwee *	1943	John T. Magee, MD *	1949	John F Stewart	1953	Joseph Hughes	1960
Rev. Louis J. Lamb *	1944	Edward C. Gannon *	1949	Thomas F. Coffey *	1953	James D. Hay Jr.	1960
Frank J. Traynor *	1944	Joseph T. Levy	1950	Thomas J. McKenzie *	1954	John P. Newman *	1961
Thomas McKernan	1944	Manus J. Shields *	1950	Ludwig J.Moslien	1955	Thomas A. Regan	1961
Charles V. Toner III *	1944	Frederick V. Farrell *	1950	John H. Nelson Sr. *	1955	Richard D. Mullen Sr. *	1962
						James M. Dougherty Sr.	1963

* denotes Veteran