

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI EMISSARY

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Support the Annual Fund Drive — Alumni Association Needs Your Help!

The West Catholic Alumni Association exists to serve you, the Alumni of West Catholic; to help preserve the *West Catholic Spirit*; and to help support the School so that future generations of students may experience the same wonderful education and sense of community that we were so fortunate to receive. To carry out those goals, the Association needs the active support of you, the faithful Alums!

Each year, our Alumni Association conducts the Annual Fund campaign to raise the funds needed to

carry out the Association's mission, including printing and mailing of *The Emissary*, promoting Alumni and School events, providing scholarships and financial assistance to West Catholic and maintaining the Alumni Association website, www.westcatholicalumni.org. This Annual Fund campaign is the *only* time that the Association solicits money from our Alumni.

By now, each Alum who graduated prior to 2003 should have received an Annual Fund letter with coupon requesting your support.

Donation appeals were not sent to the classes of 2003-2012 because we know that many members of those classes are very devoted supporters of West Catholic but are still in college or are just starting out and may not have the ability at this time to financially support the Alumni Association.

Over the past few years, the donations contributed by Alumni to the Association have been seriously affected by the economy. As a result, the Association has drastically cut its expenses, including reducing the number of issues of *The Emissary* and our ongoing support for the School and its students. If this decline in monetary support continues, the Association will be faced with very serious choices. *However, with your generous support, we can become even more active in reaching out to Alumni, supporting West Catholic and providing assistance to students!*

In recent months, West Catholic, under the direction of Brother Richard Kestler, has made tremendous progress and really has been re-born! With your support, the Alumni Association once again can become a major source of support for the School and its students! Please help keep the West Catholic Spirit alive! We hope that we can count on your renewed support so that we may reach out to even more Alumni and increase our support for the School and its students! Please return your Annual Fund envelope today or use the coupon in this edition of *The Emissary* to make your contribution. Credit cards also are accepted and donations may be made over a three month period with a minimum donation of \$50 per month. The West Catholic Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) entity, so that your contributions may be tax deductible for federal tax purposes. THANK YOU!!!

West Catholic Rises Like the Phoenix



Just as the Phoenix rose from the ashes in Greek mythology, so has West Catholic High School risen to soar once again, not only alive and well but thriving and exceeding all expectations of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The upcoming school years and the enrollment projections are very, very promising.

2013 ALUMNI FUND RESPONSE COUPON

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Join Friends and Family at the 92nd Annual Communion Breakfast on April 21, 2013

Class of 1963 Celebrates Golden Anniversary

Calling all West Catholic Grads! Come and join your classmates and friends on April 21, 2013 at the West Catholic Alumni Association's 92nd Annual Communion Breakfast. Once again it will be held at the Springfield Country Club on Route 320 in Springfield, PA. Mass will begin at 9:00 am and the Awards Breakfast will follow immediately.

This year's Mass and Communion Breakfast will be offered in thanksgiving for the West Catholic Spirit that continues to motivate so many of our faithful alums to contribute to their communities and to society, and whose generosity enables students to continue to receive that wonderful gift of a West Catholic education that so many students were privileged to receive throughout the 97 years of West Catholic's existence. Please join us to celebrate the fact that THE WEST CATHOLIC SPIRIT LIVES ON!

The principal celebrant for the Mass will be Rev. Msgr. Donald E. Leighton, of the Class of 1952, with a number of Priest-Alumni as concelebrants. Once again, the Mass will feature a highly inspirational music program. Members of the Golden Anniversary Class of 1963 and the Silver Anniversary Class of 1988 will assist at Mass.

The Communion Breakfast Awards Ceremony once again will provide us with the opportunity to honor the accomplishments of fellow grads while also enjoying time with friends and fellow alums. This year's recipients include Msgr. Leighton (Brother G. John Owens Award), William Boylan '52 (Brother D. Aloysius Award); Daniel Ahearn '54 (William H. Mc-

Garvey Award); Daniel Bielli '64 (Golden Burr Award). The Golden Anniversary Class of 1963 and the Silver Anniversary Class of 1988 will be honored as they approach their respective 50th and 25th anniversaries of their graduation. Edward Baxter '63, Thomas Daley '63 and John Convery '63 (posthumously) will receive 50th Anniversary Golden Burr Awards as members of the 50th anniversary class. David Bertoline '88 and Richard Klineburger, Esq. '88 will receive the 25th Anniversary Silver Burr Awards as members of the 25 year class. More information about each award recipient may be found in a separate article in this edition and at www.westcatholicalumni.org.

Cost for the Communion Breakfast will be \$25.00 again this year. Tickets (individual or tables) may be purchased by calling Jay Sawyer '59 at the Alumni Office (215-387-8560) or by returning the accompanying below. Also, ads and sponsorships for the program book may be purchased by using the attached coupon or by contacting Fran Crowley '77 at 215-569-5627 or crowley@blankrome.com.

West Enrollment Exceeds Expectations

West Catholic High School Class of 2017 has reached 117 students and is projecting 140 according to Brother Richard Kestler, FSC, Office of the President. The freshmen class for this year is 51. Brother and members of his team are very positive about the exciting future for West Catholic High School.

Read *The Emissary* Online!

Attention Class years 2003-2012 and anyone interested in helping the Alumni Association reduce the mailing expense to distribute *The Emissary*, please agree to read the next issue of *The Emissary* online at www.westcatholicalumni.org

by sending your name, class year, e-mail address and a simple YES to: westcathalumni@aol.com. Once received, we will send an e-mail notification the next time *The Emissary* is published so you can read it at: www.westcatholicalumni.org.

Emissary on Campus

A recent interview with Rebecca Tomlinson, Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs at West Catholic High School provided a look ahead at new course selections which will be available to West Catholic students in the fall of 2014:

SAT PREP Advanced will be offered as an elective to sophomore and junior students

Environmental Science, the study of water, atmosphere, ecology, geology and more

Living Psychology speaks to students in terms of work, school, community, society, culture and family

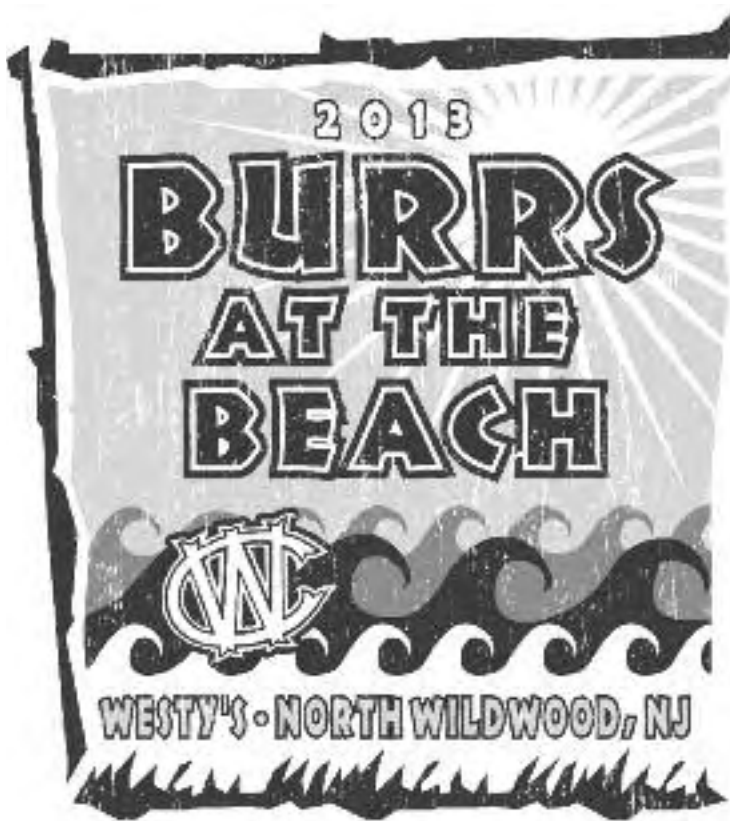
Culinary Arts-1 presently available to seniors will now be open to sophomore and junior students,

Culinary Arts-2 will be open to students, who have successfully completed Culinary Arts-1,

Symphonic Band and Concert Band under the Direction of Musical Director, Susan Devore

International Studies affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania will offer five sessions yearly, all off campus, student will receive ¼ Credit per year and after four years the student will receive one full credit.

Burrs at the Beach Celebration Sunday, July 7, 2013 at Westy's



By: Tom Dorrian '61

It is time to make plans to attend the 23rd annual Burrs at the Beach all class reunion at Westy's Irish Pub on Sunday, July 7, 2013 in North Wildwood N.J., from noon to 7:00 PM.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:15 AM at Westy's Pub. All are welcome!

Our gracious hostess Peg

West will welcome the West Catholic family to this lovely establishment. This will be the first year that her recently departed husband, Art, will not be there to greet us. Unfortunately, he passed after a lengthy illness. They will provide numerous food courts inside and out, upstairs and down with their usual culinary delights. There will also be

many bars strategically placed throughout the venue providing your favorite beverages.

Westy's Pub provides multi-dimensional party areas that include a huge outdoor tent, an upstairs outdoor deck overlooking the ground level partiers and view of the inlet. There is also an air conditioned bar just inside the deck and of course the huge main bar area down stairs. DJ Jerry Smith will once again spin records that cover the 40's to present to satisfy all musical tastes.

Ticket prices remain the same: \$20.00 pre-paid and \$25.00 at the door. We will also continue our popular 50/50. To make sure that everyone has a chance to win one of these prizes we will have many committee members filtering through all areas so that you may buy tickets.

I hope you are planning to attend the best all class reunion of them all. Please come out and help us celebrate the 26th Annual Burrs at the Beach and reminisce about your days at West with your old neighbors and classmates. We need to get the newer grads, both boys and girls to support this great event. The money we raise will help keep West Catholic thriving and open.

See you all on Sunday, July 7, 2010.



BURRS AT THE BEACH
Sunday, July 7, 2013
12:00 pm to 7:00 pm
WESTY'S IRISH PUB
North Wildwood, New Jersey

Enclosed is _____ for _____ tickets at \$20 each.

Please send tickets to:

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____

Please make checks payable to:

"Friends of West Catholic"

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B@B Golf Outing 2012, In Memory of Bill Burns '60



Jim Pharahzyn, Jack McGovern '60, Dave Kissick '61 and Joe Keenan '61 enjoy the 2012 Golf Outing.

Thanks to all who participated at the outing and those who supported this event by being a hole sponsor. Also, many thanks to the staff at Wildwood Golf and Country Club their help and cooperation, especially Bill Kerns '64.

Because of all these generous participants, we were able to raise \$5,000 to aid Catholic students at West with tuition

assistance.

Due to the Burrs at the Beach event being held on the Fourth of July holiday weekend, we were **unable to secure tee times** that would be feasible for our golf outing.

Again, thanks to all for their support over the years for this event.

Bill Simpson '60

2012 Hole Sponsors

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Personal

- Jim Hay '60
In Memory of John Hay '62
- Joe Horning '60
- Joe Manfre '61
- Janet Raimann/Rob Connors '36
- Tom Ferrick, esq. '67
- Devine Family '45 '47 '48 '51 '54
- Paul Berenato '53
- Chris Martin '60
- Bud Lentz '61
- Marty '56 and Marian (Hamm) Moran '58
- Bill and Linda Farley
- Bill and Marge Connors '60
In Memory of Ann & Joe Cassidy
- Tom Wallace aka "German John"
- Joe Gallagher, Charles Hershey, Frank Roth and James Scott '65
In Memory of Vic DiCavallucci
- Bob Devenney '60
- Terri '47 Bob '52 & Bill '60 Simpson
- Bub '76 & Maureen '82 Robinson
- Mike Hennessy '70
Luke Bryan Foundation
- Joe Ford
Members of the Class of 1960

- Frank Haas '57 and Family
- Jim '60 & Carol '63 Albright
- Buddy '61 Fran '64 Kate '68
Robert and Jim '74 Mary '75
and Mike '78 Tucker
- Frank McGee '60
- Dave Kissick '61
Friends of Dave McDevitt
- Bob and Kate (Burns) DiLossi
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- Joe Grajewski '60
- Maryann '54 Ed '56 Kathleen '58
and John (#22) '60 Fitzpatrick
- Dan '54 Lorraine (Hopely) '59
Danny '82 Michael '84 Paul '86
and John '92
- Bill '64 & Marge (Vain) '69 Kerns
- Jim Mulhern '60
- Fran Crowley '77
- Ed Kerr '60
- Jack Lawler '60
- Joe Bartolomeo '59
- George '58 & Barbara '58 Light
- Tom Dorrian '61

Meet the 2013 Communion Breakfast Award Recipients

Every year, the task of selecting recipients of the Annual Communion Breakfast Awards is a difficult one because of the increasingly large number of Alums and other members of the West Catholic family that accomplish great things and deserve recognition. This year, the following individuals will be receiving awards at the 92nd Annual Communion Breakfast! These brief statements provide only a small sampling of their many accomplishments; more detailed biographies will appear in the Communion Breakfast Program Book and online at www.westcatholic.alumni.org.

Rev. Msgr. Donald E. Leighton
Principal Celebrant and Brother G. John Owens Award

A member of the Class of 1952, Msgr. Leighton attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1962. He also earned a Master of Arts from Villanova University. Serving the faithful of the Archdiocese in various ministries throughout the Philadelphia area for over 50 years, Msgr. Leighton celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 2012. Currently, Msgr. Leighton serves as

the pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. The Alumni Association is honored to have Msgr. Leighton serve as the Principal Celebrant for this year's Communion Breakfast Mass!

William Boylan '52

Brother D. Aloisius Award

Bill came to West Catholic from MBS Parish. He received his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Villanova in 1956 followed by graduate work at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in marine engineering. After a tour in the U.S. Navy, Bill began a long career with the Naval Boiler and Turbine Laboratory, where he was recognized for his technical knowledge. In 1981, he became the senior civilian official of the Naval Ships Systems Engineering Station in Philadelphia. Upon retirement, he received the Civilian Distinguished Service Award, the highest civilian honor for federal service. In retirement, Bill dedicated himself to a parallel career he shared with his wife, Mary Anne (Shea) '54, starting when they attended a Marriage Encounter in 1974. Bill and Mary

Anne rose to the National Executive of Marriage Encounter, have presented marriage Encounter seminars throughout the world and continue their ministry to this day.

Daniel Ahearn '54

William H. McGarvey Award

Dan and his wife Lorraine '59 are dedicated and passionate supporters of West Catholic. Dan, a member of the Class of '54, played with the 1951 Championship Football Team. West Catholic helped to form him into a devout, hard working gentleman; in turn, he passed on those same characteristics to his four sons, all of whom are graduates of West – Dan '82, Mike '84, Paul '86 and John '92. Dan attended Transfiguration School before West. Dan and Lorraine raised their family in Good Shepherd in Southwest Philadelphia. Currently, Dan and Lorraine are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Havertown. For 27 years, Dan was the Box Office Manager of the Academy of Music, before retiring in 2000, and served for many years as the President of IATSE Local 752. Dan and Lorraine regularly attend Burrs at the Beach with their fellow West Catholic friends and con-

tinue to support West Catholic in many ways.

Helen Sheridan '55
Bishop McCort Award

Helen has devoted her life to Catholic education and to sharing the values she learned at 45th & Chestnut! After graduating from West Girls, Helen received her B.S. from West Chester University and her M.S. from Villanova University. After many years as a well respected and loved member of the faculty at West Catholic Girls and subsequently West Catholic, Helen finished her teaching career at Bishop Shanahan High School. Both while actively teaching and now in retirement, Helen is a tireless supporter of West Catholic and is a long time leader and officer of the West Catholic Alumnae Association. Helen also served for many years on the Board of the Friends of West Catholic.

Edward L. Baxter, Esq. '63

*50th Anniversary
Golden Burr Award*

After graduating from West in 1962, Ed received his undergraduate degree from Widener University in 1968 and his law degree from Temple University in 1971, where he was Editor of the Law Review. Ed has had a very successful career in law and currently is a partner at the internationally known law firm of Cozen O'Connor. The former chair of the Business Law Department, Ed specializes in mergers and positions, general quick matters and corporate taxation. Ed is a professor in the graduate tax program at Temple University Beasley School of Law and a member of the board of overseers of Weiner University School of Law.

John Convery '63

*50th Anniversary
Golden Burr Award
(Posthumous)*

Hailing from MBS, John was the senior fullback on the 1962 City Title football team that tied Southern to capture a share of the City Title. He was inducted with his fellow teammates from the 1962 team into West's Sports Hall of Fame. John served in the U.S. Army as a communication specialist in Vietnam and belonged to American Legion Post 959 in Southwest Philadelphia, where he served as the Sgt. at Arms until his recent passing. John, a true Catholic gentleman, was involved in many community organizations including the Knights of Columbus (past Grand Knight of St. Barnabas Council 8803), a CYO grade school football coach and Senior Vice President of the Southwest Football Coaches Association since its inception in 1994, being honored as that Association's Father of the Year in 2010.

Thomas Daley '63

*50th Anniversary
Golden Burr Award*

Tom has been a true "Loyal Son" who loves to spread her fame for 50 years now. He enjoyed a stellar basketball career at West Catholic and, subsequently, at Philadelphia College of Textile and Science. After graduating from Philadelphia Textile, Tom pursued a successful career in business. He has continued his friendships with many of his fellow classmates

and has been a strong supporter of West Catholic events, never forgetting his beginnings at 49th and Chestnut Streets.

Daniel Bielli '64

Golden Burr Award

Dan was an accomplished athlete at West Catholic, lettering in football and playing for the City Championship team. After graduating from West Chester University with a degree in education, Dan embarked on a teaching career that has spanned more than 40 years and still continues. In addition to his work in the classroom, Dan has mentored many students through his long lasting coaching activities, particularly as the head football coach at Archbishop Carroll High School. Dan earned numerous honors, including three times as the Philadelphia Catholic League Coach of the Year and three times as the Mainline Life Coach of the Year. As the most winning coach in Carroll football history, Dan and his players achieved three Catholic League Championships.

David Bertoline '88

*25th Anniversary
Silver Burr Award*

Dave grew up in St. Barnabas Parish, honing his athletic prowess at Finnegan Playground. At West Catholic, Dave excelled in sports, earning Varsity Letters and All Catholic honors in multiple sports. He was inducted into the West Catholic Sports Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in four sports. Now raising his family in Broomall with his wife, Jackie, Dave continues to be an avid supporter of West Catholic sports, as an assistant Boys Basketball coach (2000-2005) and assisting the Football team with kicking and punting since 1999. Dave also has coached at Ridley (2006-2011) and Haverford (2012-13) High Schools, and for the Marple Junior Tigers Football Team and Marple Township Little League. When not coaching, Dave works for Professional Trading and Research, Inc on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

**Richard F. Klineburger, III,
Esq. '88**

*25th Anniversary
Silver Burr Award*

After graduation from West Catholic, Richard attended Neumann University, graduating *magna cum laude*, and then pursued his Juris Doctorate Degree at the Beasley School of Law at Temple University in 1995. A member of the PA and NJ Bars, he clerked in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and the Superior Court of New Jersey. In 2004, he formed the partnership of Klineburger & Nussey, with office in Philadelphia, Haddonfield, NJ and Woodstown, NJ. He has earned a reputation throughout the area as a tenacious trial attorney as he tried many complex felony and homicide trials. He concentrates on complex litigation, but some of his best results have been cases where a client was investigated but never prosecuted. Richard is the immediate past President of the Salem County Bar Association and has been named as one of the Top Attorneys in Philadelphia and New Jersey, Super Lawyer, in *Philadelphia Magazine* and *New Jersey Monthly Magazine*.

Class of 1963 Celebrates 50th Anniversary



1963 West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys Football Team

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

1963 was an eventful year for the senior class of West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys. President John F. Kennedy gave his *Ich bin ein Berliner* (I am a Berliner) speech in Berlin in June. On August 28, 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed over 250,000 people from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in what has become known as the "I Have a Dream Speech"; it became the catalyst for Both the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ended Apartheid in the American South.

The movies offered a second James Bond movie, *From Russia with Love*, *The Great Escape* with Steve McQueen, *The Pink Panther* starring Peter Sellers. Music included "I left My Heart in San Francisco," "Louie Louie," "You Can't Sit Down," "Wipe Out," "He's So Fine; I Saw Her Standing There."

Alcatraz Prison in San Francisco Bay closed after 29 years, the Green Bay Packers defeated the New York "Football" Giants 16-7 for their second consecutive NFL Championship in the fall of '62 at Yankee Stadium and the LA Dodgers bested the NY Yankees 4 games to 1 to win the World Series. The Right Reverend Msgr. Edward

T. Hughes '38 was Superintendent of Schools for the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

Brother G. John was completing his ninth and final year as Commander-in-Chief (Principal) of Burrland. "Brother West Catholic", who knew and called most students by their first names will be remembered not only as the school's most popular principal but also as a untiring servant of Catholic youth, (from '63 *Blue and White*).

Brother Declan Paul was welcomed back to West as Vice Principal and Brother Davinus Leo, served as Prefect of Discipline. Mrs. McAvoy was Librarian and yes, Brother G. Martin was still in control of the book store.

Some of the students who helped produce yet another Edition of the *Blue and White Yearbook* included Robert O'Brien, Jim Donahue, William McGinley, Anthony Salvatore, James Cleay, Frederick Lott and David Provenzano.

The West Catholic Football team under their Head coach, Vince McAneney would have a Championship season to remember, as they captured their first Catholic League Title since 1951 when they defeated Father Judge in a Playoff game for this Championship by the score of 38-16.

West had lost (their only defeat in the '62 season) to Father Judge in

their final league game 12-0 as starting Quarterback Tom DeFelice was injured and could not play. The Playoff game was a different story, and the Burrs moved on to the City Championship against the Rams of Southern High on December 8th at Franklin Field on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania.

As the *Blue and White* reported... "The Burrs and the Rams clashed in possibly the most nerve-racking 48 minutes of football yet seen at Franklin Field. There were three minutes remaining and the Burrs were trailing 20-14 when Tommy George pounced on a Ram fumble at midfield. With the clock ticking relentlessly and 35,000 fans screaming in near hysteria, the Burrs drove downfield with their last opportunity for victory. Finally, with seconds left, Bob Mahan cracked over from the three and the Burrs tied the score. The City Title was only three yards away, but the Rams stopped an end run for the bonus points, inches short of the goal line and a 20-20 tie resulted. It was thrilling climax to a thrill packed season."

This Great Class of 1963 will gather on April 19th at the Clarion Airport Hotel in Essington PA (Former Ramada Inn) to Celebrate #50 and discuss these and other memories; we offer our sincere Congratulations!

West Catholic Boys' Basketball — The Championship Seasons

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys' captured five Philadelphia Catholic league Championships and three Philadelphia City Championships, during the years 1949-1959, as the five teams from years 1949, 52, 53, 55

University to play his college ball for the Hawks of St. Joe, at 5600 City Line Avenue, Philadelphia PA.

1952

1952 was a Year of Champions for the Burrs of West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys'.

lege playing for the Quakers of the University of Pennsylvania.

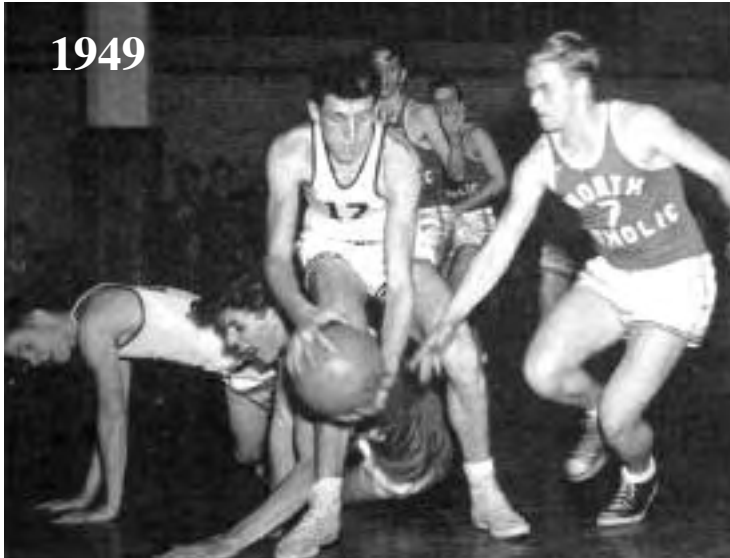
Thanks to Gerry McGinn '52 and Ted Silary for their help with this section

1953

Defending a Championship is never an easy task, especially when you lose your starting five to graduation. The hard-nosed Philadelphia Catholic league offered very talented opponents to include South Catholic, Saint Thomas More, LaSalle; North Catholic. West Catholic played six preseason

(per Bob Smith '53) when he substituted Charlie Eltringham and Jack Rowan for Drew Denmead and Jim McNicholas. This decision was very important as the four on one *Designed Defense* to keep Wilt Chamberlain from his usual dominance and force his teammates to adjust to shooting the ball without a hand in their faces, was truly out of the box thinking. Bill Lindsay went to wherever the ball went. The plan worked and yes **they did win** and defeat *Wilt Chamberlain*, with outstanding hustle and defense which resulted in a 54-42 City Championship victory for the 1953

defense and could shoot the ball. Pat Carey would show that when He scored 47 points on a Sunday afternoon again Roman Catholic in a game that West Catholic defeated the Cahillites of Roman Catholic by the score of 96-72. Team members included the following student athletes: Jack Rowan, Pat Carey, Jim McNichol, Joe McGinn; Captain Joe Spratt, were the Starters while Paul Wallin, Gerry Donaghy, Jim Dunn, John Driscoll; Jack O'Reilly came off the bench. Pre-season games had the Burrs at 7-1 with their only defeat coming at the hands of the speed boys from West Philadelphia High School. The Catholic league season of 14 games was demanding as all teams came to play on any given Friday night or Sunday afternoon. Home court advantage seemed to enter into the outcome of many of these contests, just as they do today. Both Pat Carey and Joe Spratt made the Daily News All-Catholic team. When the playoffs began West was matched against North Catholic, Jack Rowan with (14) and Pat Carey with (17) paced West as they defeated North Catholic and Buddy Kline (21) 62-55 in the semifinal contest. The CL final featured West and LaSalle and West came away with the 63-55 victory with Joe McGinn (11) Joe Spratt (15) and Pat Carey (16) leading the Burrs to the 1955 City of Philadelphia Catholic league championship. George Schmitt led LaSalle with (16). Yes, West Catholic did have a rematch with an Overbrook team featuring Wilt Chamberlain, now seven foot tall, His (35) points and Vince Miller would score (31), the outcome was different in 1955 as Wilt and his teammates prevailed



1949

and 59 performed above the bar with a combined win and loss record of 107 victories against only 26 defeats. During these years there were eight teams in the Philadelphia Catholic league; each team had a goal of making the playoffs and competing for the coveted Philadelphia Catholic league Championship at Penn's Palestra.

1949



Ernie Beck

This string of championship play began with the 1949 team, with a record of (19-7); their squad was led by Ernie Beck, Ed Garrity, Tom Holt, Ned Hogan; Jim Young Tom Maher, Joe Cullen, Cy Crawford, Rene Rubio among others; also included underclassmen Tom McCormick and Jack Devine. Ernie Beck often praises the addition of Ed Garrity a transfer to West from the Prep in midseason, as a *difference maker* for this team. Coach Mr. Joseph Langan would guide the Burrs and inspire them to win both the Catholic and City titles with victories over South Catholic on March 4th by the score of 53-37 and Overbrook with Jackie Moore, the Public league champion on March 11th, when the final score was 41-38. Ernie Beck was named MVP in the City Title game. He also received All-Catholic selection for the second time (1948 & 1949); was the recipient of the prestigious Markward Club Award presented to a Catholic league player in 1949. Ernie Beck would continue to play basketball and excel at the University of Pennsylvania and following graduation for the Philadelphia Warriors. Teammate Tom Holt would play for Penn and another fellow teammate and lifetime friend Jimmy Young would go on to play for Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Ed Garrity did return to St Joseph's, this time St. Joseph's

Their Basketball team with a record of (21-3) didn't disappoint as they played competitive basketball all season long. Head Coach, Mr. James Usilton presented a starting five and bench that was Championship bound. Ed Williams, Walt Maxwell, Joe Sturgis, Charlie Singley and Marty Milligan were the starters (West set the postseason CL record for points with 76 in a Semifinal win over St. James as Ed Williams (19), Joe Sturgis (18), Charlie Singley (17) and Walt Maxwell (15) led the way over a Bill Lynch (26) Bulldogs team (thanks to Ted Silary for this information). The valuable reserves for the Burrs included Jim Smith, Don Haley, Gerry McGinn, Joe Gardler, and Bill Lindsay among others. The key to this season was a **critical Playoff win over defending champion** Saint Thomas More, with Al Juliana and John "Misty" Fannon; they were riding a 26 game winning streak, including the two defeats that West had to the Golden Bears during the season. The 50-46 OT victory for the Catholic league title helped put those aside as the Catholic league title returned to BURRLAND at 49th & Chestnut Street. Pivotal to this victory were the 11 points from Jim Smith (The original 6th man) off the bench. This victory brought about a City Title game against Ben Franklin High School, the Public league Champion led by *Claude Gross*. Once again the Burrs captured this City Title game with an impressive 57-46 victory. Coach Usilton divided the plying time evenly between two, 5-man platoons through the first three quarters; and this fresh legs approach was significant in bringing home this City Title. Of note, was the first time in City Title history four team-



1952

mates reached double figures. Marty Milligan was a passing wizard, and was named MVP, for this City of Philadelphia Championship game. Marty Milligan, Jim Smith and Jack Devine who would Coach the 1959 Champions all played for Villanova University in the 1950's. Charlie Singley would go on to play with the Explorers of LaSalle and Joe Sturgis would do his col-



1953

games and fourteen Catholic league contests and finished with a record of 20 victories and one defeat, losing only once to the Falcons of North Catholic. Having a sound foundation this 1953 team (24-2) would again win the Catholic league Championship with victories over South Catholic and LaSalle in the playoffs, the LaSalle game being a nail biter, as Lindsay, Devine and McNicholas combined for 39 points to counter Tom Derago's 21 for the Little Explorers, while Lindsay hit a clutch free throw to seal the 53-52 win for the title. During this season of seasons, Joe Gardler, the starting center reports that West Catholic won a sudden death contest against South Catholic 52-50, as following the first overtime, both coaches agreed to the sudden death that would settle the decision. Off of the jump ball, Bill Lindsay scored the deciding basket and West Catholic had yet another victory.

Ahead for the Burrs, was Overbrook, Philadelphia Public league Champion with their *sensational star* Wilt Chamberlain. Yes, West Catholic was the Defending City Champion; however could this assignment of overcoming the height advantage which Wilt Chamberlain presented be overcome? Coach Mr. James Usilton would prepare his team, which included Bill Lindsay, Joe Gardler, Drew Denmead, Jim

Burrs. Sharp shooter Bill Lindsay, the MVP of the City Title game outscored Wilt Chamberlain 32-29. Also noted by the school administration was the outstanding enthusiasm and spirit exhibited by the



1955

West Catholic students attending these contests. This game goes down as the most important victory in the wonderful history of West Catholic High School Boys' basketball. *Ted Silary offers these vitals:* Wilt Chamberlain shot 9 for 25 from the floor and 11 for 19 at the line while Bill Lindsay scored a game record 32 points, shooting 12 for 13 and 8 for 11 which added up to MVP Award and City Title for the BURRS. By the way the total attendance for this 1953 City Title game was 8,461 (4,000 were turned away).

1955

Two years had passed and the Burrs Basketball team for 1955 (19-9) again had the opportunity to compete for the Philadelphia Catholic league Championship. Still in command was Head Coach Mr. James Usilton who succeeded in both 1952 and 1953 to help West Catholic capture the City of Philadelphia Catholic and City championships. The 1954 team made it to the finals; however it was South Catholic, led by Grazione, DeFusco, Tobin and Giordano that won the CL Title, by the score of 51-45 despite efforts from Bob Devine, Charlie Eltringham and Jack Savage. This '55 team had talent, size, played tough

83-42. Well deserved...they were quite a team! Pat Carey did have 11 points in this one sided game. Wilt Chamberlain was still growing and getting ready to attend the University of Kansas where he would play for Coach Forrest "Phog" Allen. Captain Joe Spratt of the Burrs would play for the Hawks of St. Joseph's University and continued to be known for his excellent defensive play.

1959

A New Head Coach and former star player from the Class of 1951 returned to West Catholic after a fine Hoops career at Villanova University, Jack Devine replaced Mr. James Usilton who had been the Head Basketball Coach through 1958. The 1959 team (24-5) went 9-1 in the preseason, losing their only game to powerhouse Overbrook 75-61. This team worked hard and was *very determined* to enter the Catholic league season with one purpose...Bring home the Catholic league championship. With Jim Lynam, Jim Boyle, Herb Magee, John Beck and Jim Flavin West Catholic had a starting five that would win their first five league games before losing a 50-46 contest to LaSalle. They would

Continued on Page 5

West Catholic Players Presents Annie

Basketball Glory (continued)



By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

Through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI), *Annie* was presented to West Catholic High School students and all who supported the three performances this March at the beautiful

John Cardinal O'Connor '38 Auditorium.

The Musical Director, Ms. Mary F. Maddox is a retired Philadelphia school teacher, of 32 years; for five years she taught music and led the chorus at West Catholic.

Brother Richard Buccina, FSC was the Set Designer, Mr. Aaron Spence '03, the Sound Technician, Mr. Joseph Selfridge, the Stage Manager, Eyakeno Ekpo, Production Assistant and Andre Saballete '04 directed this delightful show.

This is his fourth year of working with West's theatre program. The cast included Theresa Ta (pictured) as Annie, Ayanna McNeill,

Ciara Atchley, and Philip Chau among other fine performers. A total of 34 students participated in this show either as a member of the Cast, Stage Crew, Production Assistant and Student Producer.

There was plenty of energy at the performance I saw as Director Andre Saballete did an outstanding job of guiding these students to excel for the audience which included parents, teachers, fellow students, Alumnae, Alumni and friends. All attending seemed to enjoy this show.

West Catholic Alumni Association is pleased to support this important Drama Program.



1959

Continued from Page 4

then win six more games before losing to St. Thomas More 67-66. Following a season ending victory at St. James in Chester PA the Burrs prepared for the Catholic league playoffs at Penn's Palestra. With a bench which included Rich Moore, Jim McAndrews, Bill Miller and Fran McManus the

Team looked forward to the opening round of the playoffs against Cardinal Dougherty. Jim Lynam (17) and Jim Flavin (13) would show the way in a 46-39 win over the Cardinals and Vince Berry (17). This set up the Championship game against Father Judge, a talented team that West had defeated during the regular season 67-62. This Championship game was one that kept you on the edge of your seat. Jim Boyle (18), Jim Flavin (14) and Herb Magee (10) would lead the Burrs who decided to hold the ball after gaining the lead with 3:20 left in the game. Jim Lynam, ever the whiz with the ball basically controlled the pace and outcome of this contest, although John Monahan could have changed this outcome with a 16-footer that didn't connect. The Burrs won the game 59-58 for first year Coach Jack Devine and 1959 became a year to remember. West Catholic certainly enjoyed their Catholic league championship but just as in 1955, there would be City Championship to be decided against their Public league foe and champions, Overbrook High School. This 1959 Overbrook team was an all-star team for sure. Wali Jones (24), Ralph Heyward (20), Walt Hazzard (18) set the pace for Coach Paul Ward in his third year with a Record of 66-2. Jim Boyle had (16) points for West Catholic as they lost this hard fought contest 72-53. Jim Lynam and Jim Boyle would move on to play for St. Joseph's University while Herb Magee would do his playing for Philadelphia College of Textile and Science. Many thanks are extended Ted Silary for documenting the important history, about Philadelphia's Scholastic Basketball a major source of information for this Article.

Three members of this West Catholic starting five would go on to Coach Basketball at the collegiate level and excel. *Jim Lynam* at St. Joseph's University, *Jim Boyle* also at St. Joseph's University and *Herb Magee* at Philadelphia College of Textile and Science, now Philadelphia University. Jim Lynam also Coached for the Philadelphia 76ers from 1988-1992.

Herb Magee continues today as Head Coach at Philadelphia University and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in Springfield Massachusetts in 2011.

Please see entire Article on this at: www.westcatholicalumni.org West Catholic High School has a proud Basketball history, one that the West Catholic High School of today can certainly learn from when they prepare for their next season in the Philadelphia Catholic league. Long Live West Catholic!

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 92nd ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST APRIL 21, 2013

PROGRAM BOOK ADS AND TICKET ORDER FORM

Be a part of the 91st Annual Communion Breakfast! Honor your class and award recipients!
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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 accepted for orders of \$100.00 or more.

TICKETS:

Tickets for the Communion Breakfast are \$25.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door.
Tables may be purchased in groups of 8 or 10 tickets.

Name: _____ Class _____

Address: _____

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Payment Amount for Ads: _____

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: _____

RETURN BY APRIL 8, 2013 TO WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, c/o Fran Crowley, 612 Harper Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026. 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.

West Catholic Legend



Philip "Knut" Bonner '43

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

A West Catholic Man, through and through — that would be Philip "Knut" Bonner, from the great Class of 1943. A World War II Army veteran, he fought in Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, during the early winter of 1944.

Knut and his friend, Joe Collins joined the Army after they were given the choice of jail or the Army following a scuffle with other neighborhood teenage boys. It was 1943, and World War II was raging, but the boys chose the Army. During the heavy fighting at the Battle of the Bulge, Joe Collins was killed; Knut carried his body into a church and placed it on the altar. Just one of the wrenching experiences the teenager endured as he fought with the 159th Combat Engineer Battalion.

He emerged from the war with a Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart for wounds. He carried shrapnel in his legs for the rest of his life. Knut's outfit, which landed at Utah Beach in Normandy a month after D-Day, liberated Nazi concentration camps including Buchenwald in Germany.

Philip Bonner attended Big Brothers' Camp Wyomissing in the Pocono Mountains where, as a child playing football, he was nicknamed after Notre Dame's legendary Coach, Knut Rockne.

Following the War he became a Philadelphia Police Officer and later worked for the Pennsylvania Audi-



Patrick P. Bonner '84

tor General's Office from where he retired in 1985.

Knut Bonner was a proud Irishman whose tenor voice was in demand as was his banjo. They were heard at the variety shows put on at churches, for weddings and other venues by the St. Patrick's Club. His wife, the former Patricia Noone '58 whom he married in 1964, also sang in the shows.

Knut and his Southwest St. Patrick's Club were regular participants in the Philadelphia's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade every March. He was the grand Marshall in 2001 and dedicated the parade to the memory of Joe Collins.

Besides his wife Patricia, Knut is survived by four daughters, Mary Beth Ryan, Erin Hudyma, Bridget Pot and Deirdre Hines; three sons Philip Bonner, Jr., Sean K. and Sheamus; and nine grandchildren. He was predeceased by son Patrick P. Bonner, on September 12, 2012.

Patricia remembers her husband as, "fun-loving and extremely good hearted. He was very generous. Knut gave coats to homeless people in the streets; He would do anything for you."

We remember Knut Bonner and his String Band at the early years of "Burs at the Beach" in Sea Isle City. He helped to make the day special, because he gave 100% each and every year.

Knut Bonner was a legend who will be missed by all who knew him. He was a True Burr who loved to spread her fame!

West Catholic High School Adds Resource Enhancement Partnership with SJU

One of several partnerships which West Catholic is developing for its students and teachers will address:

- Teacher Development for West Catholic teachers to advance their capabilities.
- Saturday Introduction to Business Curriculum to West students by Saint Joseph's University seniors

West Expands Partnership with Univ. of Penn.

West Catholic High School and five organizations at the University of Pennsylvania have agreed to work together on several leadership development and community-service initiatives. Penn's Robert A. Fox Leadership Program, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, Civic House, Sigma Iota Rho Honors Fraternity of International Relations, and the LIFE Center have agreed to work on projects that include: Workshops on developing leadership skills; Assistance with college search and application process; Tutoring programs; Joint community-service and service learning projects; and International Studies Collaboration.

and juniors. This enables WCHS to offer business education without compromising the basic educational class requirements.

- Ignatian College Connection Scholarship Program, founded in 2004 by George Bur, S. J. offers an additional source of pre-collegiate guidance. Two West Catholic students are receiving scholarships as part of the (ICC) which supports 26 students from across the city of Philadelphia with full scholarships.

**WEST CATHOLIC
ALUMNI
EMISSARY**

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P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, PA 19003
Phone: (215) 387-8560
Fax: (215) 387-9443
communications@westcatholic alumni.org*

**Phil Girard, Chairman
Joseph Bartolomeo, Denis
Brennan, Tom Dorrian,
Ed Kerr, Jr., George Light, Joe
Manfre, Bob McGovern**

Profile: Macharia Yuot, Class of 2002

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

Macharia Yuot is a Lost Boy of Sudan, a proud American citizen, a charity founder and CEO, and an accomplished runner and 2008 Olympic Trials Marathon participant. He is also a 2002 graduate of West Catholic High School, where he was part of the boys' Soccer team coached by Fran Crowley and the Cross Country and Track squads then coached by Lenny Jordan.

His story is certainly one of courage. During the two-decade long civil war in Sudan, Macharia left his family with thousands of other boys to escape the violence. Together their journey took them over 500 miles through Ethiopia into Kenya. This trek was very treacherous and took thousands of lives due to disease, starvation, and thirst.

Many of these survivors made it to the United States in 2000, during one of the largest U.S. relocation programs in history. Our proud graduate became a part of our community, as he settled into the Philadelphia area. He would enroll at West Catholic High School; did well in Track & Field, and was ultimately recruited to run for Widener University under his coach, Vince Touey.

While at Widener he had an amazingly successful career in which he became a six-time NCAA Division III Champion in the Steeplechase, 5,000m, 10,000m, and cross country events; earning him All-American honors three times. He was such a talented runner that the morning after Macharia won the Division III Cross Country Championship in Ohio, he left the awards ceremony early to fly back to Philadelphia to run the Philadelphia Marathon, placing 6th with a time of 2:25:39.

Philadelphia Sports Writer's Association named Yuot its Most Courageous Athlete, and he was honored with the Giant Steps Award as "Courageous Student Athlete" by the National Consortium for Acade-



Macharia Yuot '02

mics and Sports. In 2005, he received the NCAA Inspiration Award, which is awarded to an individual who "when confronted with a life-altering situation used perseverance, dedication and determination to overcome the event. He now serves as a role model to give hope and inspiration to others in similar situations."

After college, Macharia competed in many races including the Twin Cities Marathon, where he qualified for the Olympic trials. A few weeks later he was proud to become an American citizen.

Today, Macharia dedicates himself to charity work that is focused on raising money for his village in Sudan. His charity is named Sorghum Fields Project. He also speaks to people of all ages on the importance of hard work, determination, giving back, and the ability to make a difference through life,

sport and charity.

He is an inspiration as a runner, but more important is the way in which his character inspires and motivates others to be strong, to never give up, to reach for your dreams, and always give back.

Presently, he gives the world a great gift by inspiring others to give back and by running his charity. Life is a journey, and the journey of Macharia Yuot is measured in miles — the miles he has walked, the miles he has run, and most importantly, the miles ahead for him.

Please see the ESPN clip that documents a few miles of Macharia's journey (get ready to be inspired!) at <http://facefirstfilms.com/2010/05/31/e60-the-lost-boy/>.

Information was supplied by Macharia who is part of the www.speakermatch.com team of speakers. Visit web site or call 1-866-372-8768 for more information.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Pursuant to Article 3, Section C, of the Bylaws of the West Catholic Alumni Association, the annual general meeting of the Association will be held on **Monday May 20, 2013** beginning at 7 PM at the AmVets, Post 118, 270 N. Morton Ave., Morton, PA 19070.

Pursuant to Article 4, Section B, of the Bylaws of the West Catholic Alumni Association, the purpose of the general meeting will be to elect members of the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association for the term September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2015.

All Members of the Association are eligible to vote in the Alumni Association election and to be elected to the Board of Governors. The Bylaws define "Members" of the Association as: (a) all graduates of West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Boys; (b) all male graduates of West Philadelphia Catholic High School; and (c) all former male students of either school who completed at least one year at either school and whose original class has graduated. **All members interested in being elected to the Board of Governors must notify the president, Fran Crowley '77 by e-mail (crowley@blankrome.com) or phone (610-246-1020) no later than May 10, 2013 so that your name may be placed on the ballot.**

Pursuant to Article 4, Section K, of the Bylaws of the Alumni Association, an organizational Board Meeting shall be held in June, 2013 at which the newly elected Board shall elect the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President for Finance and the Recording Secretary for the term of September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2015. No person shall be elected President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Finance or Recording Secretary unless that person shall have served as a Member of the Board for at least one year. At that same organizational Board Meeting, the newly elected President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board, the Vice President for Communication and the Executive Secretary.

If you would like any further information concerning the general meeting or the election, please contact Fran Crowley at crowley@blankrome.com or 610-246-1020.

Keeping in Touch

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

Class of 2013 star football lineman **Jaryd Jones-Smith** who travels from Voorhees, NJ, each school day to attend West Catholic High School has selected University of Pittsburgh as his college of choice; at 6'-7", 320 pounds he is being eyed for the offensive line, according to www.tedsilary.com.

The family and friends of **Ernie Taraborrelli '51** wish him a very Happy 80th Birthday, see Ernie at www.westcatholicalumni.org.

Paul Di Napoli '59 sends his best to all from West Chester PA as does **Rich '61** and **Mary '60 O'Brien** from Langhorne, PA.

Joe Dukes '60 is recovering from major surgery and needs your prayers.

Jim Kelly '59 and **Charlie Johnson '58** from Havertown, PA, joined **Joe Horning '60** from Morton, PA, to send congratulations to all recent inductees to the West Catholic Sports Hall of Fame on March 23rd.

Tom McGinn '65 continues to travel to unusual locations and return with beautiful photos, his most recent venture was off the western coast of South Africa and the remote location of the Galapagos Islands, home to an abundant variety of unique wildlife species found nowhere else on earth. Tom also finds time to assist with the **BURRS at the BEACH** committee which helps to raise funds for needy students at West Catholic High School at 4501 Chestnut Street.

Joe and Barbara Bartolomeo '59 continue to support the Alumni Association as do **Dave and Sally Kelly '56**.

Dan Ruppert '70 is working with the IHM nuns at St. Francis De Sales Parish in Philadelphia, PA, to assist immigrants attain U.S. Citizenship. Good work Dan!

David Gioia '82 and **Vincent John Geraci '62** send their best to classmates and encourage them to support the Alumni Association's Annual Fund.

Jay Sawyer '59 enjoyed his re-

cent West Coast trip with his wife Carmela where they visited their son David and family along with **John Duffy** from the great class of 1951. John and his family donated a Saint Jude Shrine to Saint Barnabas Church in Southwest Philadelphia this past November in memory of his wife, **Joan Marie McAllister Duffy**, from the class of 1950 West Catholic Girls'. The Shrine was also dedicated to all Saint Barnabas grade school graduates who went on to attend West Catholic High School. Make an attempt to visit Saint Barnabas Church to see this beautiful shrine, and tell others about this thoughtful donation made by John Duffy to the parish of his loving wife Joan, who passed away in 1993.

Bill Strain '41 is still an active supporter of all that is West Catholic along with his son, **Tommy**.

Joseph Richardson '62 and **Jim Huggard '51** wish only the best for West Catholic Alumni Association and West Catholic High School, **Long Live the BURRS!**

Name These Burrs



Name these graduates (L and R) of West Catholic High School. Send your guesses to West Catholic Alumni Association, PO Box 889, ARDMORE PA 19003. Include your name, class and shirt size and you could win Alumni sweatshirt.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

The West Catholic Alumni Association offers Merchandise including: Burrland Shirts, Golf Shirts, Burrs Regular & Mock Turtleneck Shirts, Tee Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Sweat Pants, Jackets, Flags, Banners, Pennants for Old & New Schools, Prints of 49th & Chestnut Street Boys' High School; West Catholic Hats and Ski Caps, Sweaters and more, if you are interested in receiving complete list of merchandise, Please send an e-mail request to westcathalumni@aol.com or call the Alumni Office at **215-387-8560 after 3:00 P.M. or before 9:00 A.M** and leave a message at the voice mail center. **Be sure to provide:** Name, Class, Mailing Address, Phone Number and an E-mail Address if available. We will respond with details including a description of items available, photos of merchandise, price list which includes shipping of merchandise to you or to a third party as a gift, we will also include gift card or you can send card with your order form to be included with shipment. The Alumni Association looks forward to hearing from you and sends thanks for considering **ALUMNI MERCHANDISE, GO BURRS!**

Magee Honored with "Dare to Dream Award"



Coach Herb Magee '59 was presented with St. Kevin's "Dare to Dream Award" during the Annual Christmas CYO Basketball Tournament.

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

West Catholic High School was well represented in January of this year at the St. Kevin Parish gymnasium in Springfield, PA, (Delaware County). St. Kevin is home base for the Annual Christmas CYO Basketball Tournament played during the Christmas season. Both Boy and Girl teams were represented for these the Championship games.

St. Bernadette defeated Our Lady of Perpetual Help 29-24 to capture the First Place trophy for the Girls' competition; the Boys' of St. Bernadette made it a sweep as they captured the second half of the double-header with a victory over the Holy Cross parish Boys' team, taking home a First Place Christmas trophy as well.

A major part of this exciting day included a visit from Coach Herb Magee '59 of Philadelphia University to accept the cherished "Dare to Dream Award". This Award was created by the Tournament Directors, Charles Hopkins and Joe Casertano '74, and is presented each year to someone who has devoted themselves to helping young people appreciate the value of sportsman-

ship and competitive spirit.

Coach Magee has received many honors over the years to include the West Catholic Sports Hall of Fame, The Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, Philadelphia University Sports Hall of Fame, The Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame and most recently being enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

Coach appreciated the recognition and was touched as past award recipients joined in helping him celebrate.

Also attending this wonderful day of CYO Hoops and festivities were Brother Richard Kestler, FSC, President, West Catholic High School, Ernie Beck '49, George Light '58, Ed Kerr '60 (who announced both games), Dan Harrell '61, John Tomosky '63, Tom DeFelicce '64, Charles Hopkins '70 and Joe Casertano '74.

Over the many years of this tournament, Directors Hopkins and Casertano will often speak of how Paul Arizin (a St. Kevin Parishioner), Jimmy Young '49 and Ernie Beck '49 always make time to assist with the annual trophy presentations.

Ellis Island Medal of Honor Awarded to Leonard Mazur



Leonard L. Mazur '63

By: Ed Kerr, Jr. '60

Ellis Island and all branches of the United States Armed Forces traditionally participate. Approximately 100 medalists are honored each year. Past medalists include six Presidents, Nobel Prize winners, leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

A very proud member of the 50th Anniversary Class of 1963, Leonard L. Mazur, received his Medal of Honor in May of 2012. We share in his happiness and offer our sincere congratulations as do all Burrs.

Both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. Each year's recipients are read into the Congressional Record. The Great Hall where immigrants were once processed hosts the gala dinner which follows the ceremony.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor celebrate the diversity of American life, honoring not only individuals but the pluralism and democracy that have enabled ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of the American way of life. Notable medalists that Leonard has joined include Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Gerald Ford, Joe DiMaggio, Bill Clinton, Muhammad Ali, Tony Blair, George H.W. Bush, Don Shula, Danny Aiello, Admiral Robert J. Natter, USN (Ret.), General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Tom Arnold, Jane Seymour, Michael Bolton, Bruno Sammartino, Frankie Valli, Henry Kissinger, Dr. Muhammed Majeed and Quincy Jones.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was founded by the Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) and is intended to pay homage to the immigrant experience. The medal honors the contribution made to America by immigrants and the legacy they left behind in the successes of their children and grandchildren.

Many medalists take pride in documenting their family's entry to this country via Ellis Island. The medals are awarded to native-born and naturalized U.S. Citizens from various ethnic backgrounds. The honorees are said to "exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage." The medals were established at the time of NECO'S founding in 1986.

A ceremony is held each May on

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Francis X. Crowley, Esq. '77

President

West Catholic

Alumni Association

TIME FOR A CHANGE!

I have enjoyed my several terms as President of the West Philadelphia Catholic Alumni Association. I am proud to have been associated with so many wonderful alums, both on the Board of Governors as well as many other men, who every day demonstrate that the West Catholic Spirit lives on and continues to thrive. However, like all good things, my term in office is set to expire as my successor will be elected in June, 2013.

Although I do not know its author, I often have seen and heard the statement that "if you do not create change, change will create you." The Alumni Association is at that point where either we have to choose to change in order to meet many new circumstances, challenges and opportunities that exist or we will be changed by the same factors in ways that we cannot control. The past several years have been an incredible roller coaster ride with great sadness when it was announced that West Catholic would close followed by euphoria when it was announced that West Catholic would stay open – to be followed yet again by a sense of wonder whether the West Catholic family – administration, faculty, students, parents, Alumni and Alumnae – could and would meet the challenges of the future.

Brother Richard Kestler, the administration and the faculty at West Catholic have made incredible progress to rebuild the foundation necessary to ensure the success of West Catholic and to make sure that future generations will benefit from the same wonderful education that we were so privileged to receive.

In order for the Alumni Association to remain a vibrant part of the West Catholic family and continue to provide meaningful assistance to the school and its students, while also fulfilling its mission to preserve that special West Catholic Spirit among Alumni, the Association must grow and work ever more closely with all of the graduates of all three West Catholics – West Catholic, West Catholic Girls and West Catholic Boys. The path must be found that unites all alums – Alumnae, Alumni and Young Alums – as we all endeavor to meet the challenges of the present and the future.

The upcoming election of Board Members in May, 2013 and the election of new officers in June, 2013 (see notice of meeting election elsewhere in this edition of The Emissary) provide the perfect opportunity for members with new energy, creativity and spirit to step forward to lead the Alumni Association into the future and to reshape the Association so that it better serves all Alums, the school and the entire West Catholic family.

I challenge you to seriously consider whether you can make a positive contribution to the future of the West Catholic community and, if so, I urge you to stand for election to the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association in May, 2013.

The Great West Catholic Class of 1960 will be holding their first class lunch at their new location, Rolling Green Golf Club, 280 N. State Road, Springfield, PA, on May 22, 2013 from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information or if you would like to attend, please call Bob McGovern at 610.583.4469 or email bob1mac1@gmail.com.

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 - harrytmirra@RCN.com

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

CLASS REUNIONS

Only your Alumni Association office can provide your Reunion Committee with a current listing of your classmates. Call 215-387-8560.

Class	Location/Date	Contact
1958 55th	5/19/2013 Clarion Airport Hotel Essington, PA	Frank Adolph 610-344-0716
1963 50th	4/19/2013 Clarion Airport Hotel Essington, PA	Larry Lonergan 610-353-3861
1988 25th All Class	10/26/13 West Catholic High School	Jo-Ann Engles wc1988reunion25@gmail.com

Any Class planning a reunion or would like to place one, please call the Alumni Office at 215-387-8560.

IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace

* denotes veteran

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bro. Patrick Ellis FSC | Thomas J. Lyons '51 |
| James A. Kelly '27 | William T. McCardle '51 |
| Joseph J. Lewis '27 | James J. McCarry '51 |
| Francis A. Brady '31 | Peter J. McNamara '51 |
| Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Kehoe '31 | Richard J. Touhill '51 |
| John C. Miller '34* | John P. Blisard '52 |
| George W. Batten '35 | William J. Bowles '52 |
| Thomas L. Curry MD '36 | Richard J. Carroll '52 |
| James J. Concannon '37 | James A. Dempsey '52 |
| William E. Hooper '37 | James W. Devlin '52 |
| John A. Noble '38* | Andre Drivon '52 |
| Thomas A. Shallow '38 | Christian G. Keller '52 |
| Byrne P. Whalen '38 | Joseph J. Kennedy '52 |
| Rev. Msgr. Henry B. Degnan '39 | Joseph Laverty '52 |
| Samuel V. Origlio '39 | Donald J. Lynch '52 |
| Thomas J. Burns '40 | John P. McKernan '52 |
| Harry J. DiStefano '40 | Thomas P. McLaughlin '52 |
| Paul E. Farrell '40* | Joseph W. Myrtetus '52* |
| James J. McCaughey '40 | Charles J. Pastorius '52 |
| Robert H. McCunney '40 | John P. Scheuren '52 |
| Charles R. Rumsey '40* | Richard Quigley '52* |
| Daniel P. Sheedy '40 | Thomas J. Doyle '53 |
| Thomas J. Sullivan '40* | Albert J. Brown '54 |
| James J. Cassells '41* | Rev. Joseph W. Callahan '54 |
| James R. Collis '41* | Joseph E. Carroll '54 |
| Joseph P. Coyle '42 | John E. Crowe '54 |
| Joseph E. Davis Sr. '42* | Donald W. Goodwin '54 |
| J. Robert Malone '42 | John P. Lozinak '54 |
| James J. McGettigan '42 | Thomas J. Lyons '54 |
| Francis A. Biunno '43 | Francis T. McGlone '54 |
| Philip (Knut) Bonner '43* | Joseph A. McLane '54 |
| John J. Cranford '43 | Matthew J. Senior Jr. '54 |
| John B. Feeney '43* | Robert P. Alotta '55 |
| Thomas J. Fleming '43 | Joseph A. Nero '55* |
| Patrick J. Hunt '43 | Gerald M. Doyle '56 |
| Rev. Msgr. James E. King '43 | Rev. William T. Joseph '56 |
| Joseph F. McGonigal '43* | John J. Merrigan '56 |
| John W. Quinn '43 | Gerald J. Mullaney '56 |
| Fred J. Schlenz '43 | Joseph J. Rockwell '56 |
| Joseph L. Wilson '43 | Frederick Deal '57 |
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| Joseph F. Fletcher '45 | Robert F. McIntyre '58 |
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| Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Cassidy '46 | James T. Rowan '58 |
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| Richard G. Taraborrelli '46* | Samuel J. Avella '60 |
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| Michael J. Dougherty '48 | James F. Donovan '60 |
| Joseph W. Farrell '48* | Patrick A. Sedalis '60 |
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| Richard J. McGettigan '48 | Michael S. McNamara '62 |
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| Thomas A. Wolfe '50 | Robert E. McSweeney '74 |
| Thomas J. Boyle '51 | Christopher Wood '76 |
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| Joseph F. Campbell '51 | Patrick P. Ward '84 |
| Joseph C. Chamber '51 | Raymond P. Hill Jr. '03 |
| James M. Larney '51 | |

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