

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI EMISSARY

The Official Publication of the West Catholic Alumni Association

Web site: www.westcatholicalumni.org

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NUMBER 2

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 87th ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

On November 4, 2007, almost 500 Burrs, family members and friends gathered to celebrate the 87th Annual Communion Breakfast. This annual affair again proved to be an excellent demonstration of our Catholic heritage, providing our members with an opportunity to publicly demonstrate our devotion to the Holy Eucharist. As always, it also enabled alums to socialize with friends while honoring fellow alumni and others who have contributed to West and the community at large.

This year, there were some unforeseen problems arranging for a principal celebrant, which caused some delay in the proceedings. The Association appreciates the patience of all in attendance and already has taken steps to prevent similar issues in the future. The Association also would like to extend our thanks to Rev. John J. Dinda, '51 and Rev. Phillip R. Barr, '38 for agreeing to serve as the celebrants at the last minute – and to St. Kevin Parish for crucial assistance!

Brother Kevin Stanton '56, contributed to the inspi-

ration effect of the Eucharistic Celebration by providing the Meditation after Communion. Once again, the Mass also featured a beautiful liturgical music program arranged by violinist Bob Rossi '55, along with cantor Sarah Agnew, cellist Dr. Stephen Framil and pianist Patti Georges. Dr. Framil, the Director of the West Catholic Music Program, is a world renown cellist. This year, the music program was further enhanced by the presence of the West Catholic String Ensemble, consisting of five current music students.

The Mass and Awards Ceremony were attended by alumni from classes in the 1930's to the 1990's! Tom DeFelice '64, less than 24-hours after coaching Bok High School to the Public League Football Championship, presided over the Awards Ceremony. Tom, a well-known athlete and coach and member of the West Catholic Sports Hall of Fame, kept the event moving with a mixture of humor and nostalgia. Brother Tim Ahern '65 provided those in attendance with his perspective as President of

West Catholic.

This year's ten honorees were selected from a very strong field of over thirty, well-qualified nominees, and included: George Light '58 (William McGarvey Award); Ed McGinn '48 (Golden Burr Award); John J. Gallagher '58 (50th Anniversary Golden Burr Award); Harry Mirra '52 (Brother G. John Owens Award) William McMackin '62 (Brother Edwin Anselm Award); John Kraft '57 (Brother D. Aloysius Award); David Joslin '67 (Brother Martin Strickroth Award); Daniel P. Dorrian '56 (Golden Burr Award); Peter McNamara '77 (Golden Burr Award); and Martin Crothers '83 (25th Anniversary Silver Burr Award).

The Communion Breakfast Committee (co-chairs Chris Martin '60 and Fran Crowley '77, Charles Lamb '53, Ed McMerty '52, Bob Mullin '84 and Jay Sawyer '59) would like to extend their thanks to the many persons who helped make the 87th Communion Breakfast a success!

Pictures of the event can be found on page 4 of this edition.

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Fund Campaign Begins 2008 Goal Set at \$125,000

By: Ed Kerr, Jr., '60



John J. Beck, '59

John J. Beck, '59 a Defensive specialist and major contributor to the 1959 Philadelphia Catholic League Basketball Championship for West Catholic High School, who now resides in the Lancaster PA area where he is the Controller for Lancaster Lincoln-Mercury, has accepted our offer to Co-Chair the ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN for 2008 with James A. (Jim) Donahue, '63, who also has a connection to Defense, as the Director of Business Development for Defense Solutions, LLC in Washington DC. Jim resides in Churchville PA and like John, has a strong connection to the West Catholic Family; both men and their families think about WEST CATHOLIC, support their functions and respond when called upon. Both also



James A. Donahue, '63

continued their Christian Brother education when they attended and graduated from LaSalle College in the 60's.

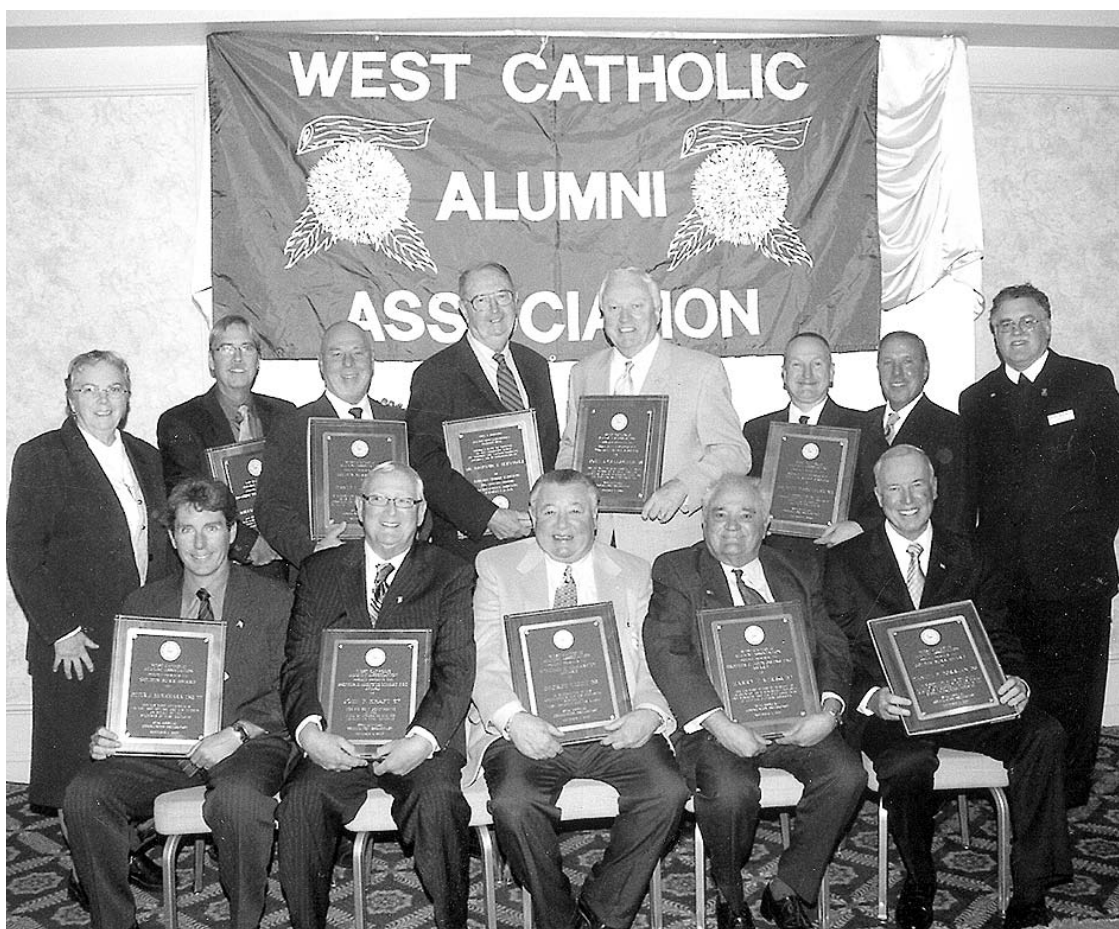
The Goal established for the 2008 Campaign is \$125,000; we are confident that our loyal members will support our Worthy Cause and help us to surpass this.

We are also honored that both men together with our Executive Committee will provide the leadership necessary to help generate the support required for our proud Association, now in our 88th year of providing information about and service to the graduates of yesterday and support for the students of today and in the future. Long live the Spirit of WEST CATHOLIC! Long live the success story that is WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL in Philadelphia, PA.

Be alert for the Fund package which will arrive soon by mail. Please be as generous as you can. Fill out the coupon, attach your check (or use a credit card) and return in the postage-paid reply envelope as soon as possible. Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day Parade	March 9th
Sports Hall of Fame	March 29th
WC Alumnae Luncheon	March 30th
School Alumnae Spring Fest	April 26th
Cardinal O'Connor Golf Classic	May 15th
Alumni Beach Golf Outing	July 12th
Burrs at the Beach	July 13th
Christian Brothers Service Awards	October 25th
Communion Breakfast/Awards	November 2



Award Recipients proudly display their plaques of honor while guests Sr. Mary Bur, IHM, Tom DeFelice, Master of Ceremonies, and Brother Timothy Ahern, FSC look on.

The Communion Breakfast Committee Is Accepting Nominations For the Annual Awards for the Burrs' 88th Communion Breakfast

The Communion Breakfast Committee is soliciting nominees for the awards to be presented at the 88th Annual Communion Breakfast on November 2, 2008.

The awards and criteria are as follows: **Brother Edwin Anselm Award, Brother D. Aloysius Award; Brother G. John Owens Award; and Brother G. Martin Strickroth Award:** (a) Catholic gentleman; (b) graduate of West Catholic; (c) proven "Loyal Son of West Catholic"; (d) achieved outstanding success in chosen field of endeavor; and (e) has made a contribution to West in any form. (Additionally, the Brother Edwin Anselm Award honoree typically is a Christian Brother).

Golden Burr Award: (a) Catholic gentleman; (b) graduate of West Catholic; (c) proven "Loyal Son of West Catholic"; (d) achieved outstanding success in athletics and in chosen field of endeavor; and (e) has made a contribution to West in any form.

Bishop John J. McCort Award: (a) Outstanding Catholic person; (b) not necessarily a West Graduate; (c) has contributed to West Catholic in ethical manner; and (d) outstanding success in chosen field of endeavor.

William H. McGarvey Award: (a) Catholic gentleman; (b) graduate of West Catholic; (c) proven "Loyal Son of West Catholic"; (d) achieved outstanding success in field of endeavor; and (e) has made a major contribution to West in any form.

50th Anniversary Golden Burr Award: (a) a Catholic gentleman; (b) graduate of West Catholic and member of the 50 year class (this year, the Class of 1959); (c) proven "Loyal Son of West Catholic"; (d) achieved outstanding success in field of endeavor; and (e) has made a contribution to West.

25th Anniversary Silver Burr Award: (a) a Catholic gentleman; (b) graduate of West Catholic and member of the 25 year class (this year, the Class of 1984); (c) proven "Loyal Son of West Catholic";

(d) achieved outstanding success in field of endeavor; and (e) has made a contribution to West.

Please take the time to nominate any person worthy of any of the awards by sending nominations to West Catholic Alumni Association, c/o West Philadelphia Catholic High School, P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, PA 19003-0889, or by sending an e-mail to president@westcatholicalumni.org by April 10, 2008. Nominations should include the name and class of the nominee, the award(s) for which they should be considered and the reasons for the nomination, as well as a contact name and number should more information be needed. If you would like more information concerning the awards, please contact the committee by e-mail or by telephone (610-246-1020).

NOMINATION FOR AN AWARD

Nominee _____ Class _____
Award _____
Reason(s) _____
Contact _____ Phone _____

Deadline - April 10, 2008

Nominations Sought For Second Communion Breakfast Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed to the Offertory Collection at this year's Communion Breakfast, the Alumni Association is pleased to announce the establishment of the Second Communion Breakfast Scholarship Fund! The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarships for Catholic boys to attend West Catholic. The Communion Breakfast Scholarships are funded directly by the proceeds of the Offertory Collection received at the Communion Breakfast.

The amount of the scholarship(s) available as a result of each year's Communion Breakfast Offertory Collection will vary. This year's Offertory Collection realized \$3,620, which will be invested to fund one four-year scholarship (of \$1,000 per year) to a member of the incoming Freshman class at West Catholic.

All 8th grade boys that are members of Catholic parishes and who will attend West Catholic High School begin-

ning in September 2008 are eligible for consideration for the Communion Breakfast Scholarship. The students need not be attending a Catholic grade school, as long as they are a member of a parish. Potential recipients may be nominated by their parents, school or parish, by any member of the Alumni Association or by West Catholic's Admissions Director. An application form is included in this edition of the *Emissary*. Additional copies may be obtained by calling the Alumni Office (215-387-8560).

The applications will be reviewed by the Communion Breakfast Scholarship Committee. In determining recipients of the Scholarships, the Committee will consider each student's academic performance, involvement in school/community/parish activities and his family's financial need. Families are required to provide the Committee with a copy of the student's most recent report

card and a copy of the financial aid form that they provided to school. The Committee also may request that applicants receive a letter of recommendation from their pastors. Recipients of Communion Breakfast Scholarships will be required to maintain an academic average of 80 and passing conduct grades at West to retain their scholarship each year. The Scholarships may be used to pay tuition, fees and costs only at West Catholic.

Applicants must submit the application by May 1, 2008 to the West Catholic Alumni Association, Communion Breakfast Committee, P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, PA 19003-0889. Application forms can also be found on the website www.westcatholicalumni.org. The Committee will make its decisions and notify scholarship recipients by June 15.

For more information please call the Alumni Association at 215-387-8560.

Association Awards First Communion Breakfast Scholarship

Beginning with the 86th Annual Communion Breakfast in 2007, the Alumni Association donated the proceeds of the Offertory Collection to the creation of a new scholarship fund, the Communion Breakfast Scholarship. All boys interested in attending West Catholic that are members of Catholic parishes are eligible for consideration for the Communion Breakfast Scholarship. The students need not be attending a Catholic grade school, as long as they are a member of a parish. Potential recipients may be nominated by their parents, their school, their parish or by any member of the Alumni Association.

The students to whom the scholarships are awarded will receive \$1,000 per year toward their tuition for each year that they attend West. Generally, the scholarships are intended for 8th grade boys who wish to attend West Catholic, but exceptions may be made in special circumstances to consider boys already attending West Catholic.

The Association is pleased to announce that the inaugural scholarships were awarded to Jordan Henry and Wilfred Frias-Coats. Jordan entered West this year as a freshman; he attended St. Rose of Lima School, where he received various honors. He is active as an altar server and involved in sports and other activities at West and at St. Rose. Wilfred is a sophomore at West Catholic. He is very active with the Hispanic Ministry at Divine Mercy Parish (the former Good Shepherd), where he regularly assists fellow Burr, Rev. Msgr. Vincent Walsh. Jordan and Wilfred were very highly recommended by their teachers and parish clergy. The Association wishes both Wilfred and Jordan well in their academic careers at West.

Information on how to nominate students for the next Communion Breakfast Scholarship can be found in the article titled "Nominations Sought for Second Annual Communion Breakfast Scholarship."

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE 88TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST
Join your friends and classmates at the Springfield Country Club on November 2, 2008!

The Alumni Association's 88th Annual Mass and Communion Breakfast will return to the beautiful Springfield Country Club, on Springfield Road in Springfield, Delaware County. Mass will begin at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and the awards ceremony will be immediately following.

As in recent years, in addition to awards to other deserving alumni and members of the West Catholic community, members of our 25 and 50-year classes – the Classes of 1959 and 1984 – will be honored and will be involved in all aspects of the Mass.

The Springfield Country Club, in addition to its elegance, is convenient to those living in Delaware County and adjacent counties and is easily accessible from I-476 (the Blue Route) and Route 1. It is located at 400 W. Sproul Road, Springfield, Delaware County. Parking is free.

All members of the Alumni Association are invited to participate in planning and organizing the 88th Communion Breakfast. If you have ideas on how to improve the Breakfast, or if you would like to be involved in organizing it, please contact the Communion Breakfast Committee by telephone (610-246-1020) or e-mail (president@westcatholicalumni.org).

Burrs At The Beach Golf Outing Wildwood Golf & County Club Saturday, July 12, 2008 (Change in Day)

- \$90.00 per golfer (Includes cart & green fees)
- Be a Hole Sponsor – ONLY \$50.00

(A \$25.00 deposit per golfer is required,
Checks should be payable to Bill Simpson,
9 Netherwood Drive, Springfield, PA 19064.
For more information please call:

Bill Simpson at 610-544-4480, Joe Manfre at
610-662-2571 or Dave Joslin at 610-259-0753

A Thank You For The Support Of The Communion Breakfast Award Book

The Alumni Association and its Communion Breakfast/Awards Committee would like to express their appreciation for the assistance provided in the preparation and conduct of the successful affair last November. Many people contributed to the religious and secular activities which produced a most enjoyable and profound blend for the Mass and Awards sections.

The excellent attendance and generosity resulted in both a social and financial success. Money collected from various activities will be used for Communion Breakfast scholarships and support of the school. One such activity was the publication of a Program/Advertising book which was distributed free to all persons who attended. We are grateful to those who advertised in the book resulting in more than \$7,000 additional revenue. We extend our thanks to the following Advertisers:

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Friends of West Catholic
McGinn Security
Burr's at the Beach
Westy's Irish Pub
Venus Beauty Academy
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B&D Steel Co.
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Lamplighter Tavern
Ferguson & McCann, Inc.
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Campo's Eatery
McCann Family
Blank Rome, LLP
Doyle's Corner
Press Publishing Co.*

*Classes of '45 and '47
Our Lady of Victory
Safer Floors
Simpson Brothers
The Manfres
Shea Funeral Home
West Catholic Crew
Keller Williams Real Estate
Vista Mailing & Packaging
Stephen Tulli, '84
Dorrian Family
Light Family & Friends
Gallagher Family & Friends
Mirra Family & Friends
McNamara Family
Delaney Family
Joslin Family
Kraft Family
Crothers Family & Friends*

- Notice - West Catholic Alumni Now On the Web

We are happy to announce that the Alumni Association has started its own website. www.westcatholicalumi.org is now live and active on the web. This site will be used to keep you informed of Alumni news and current events. Currently on the site you can see the current and past issues of the *Emissary* and find out about reunions and alumni news. You can also contact the executive committee of the Board of Governors for the West Catholic Alumni Association. We are planning on expanding this site and using it to its fullest potential. If you would like to see something on the website please use the contact info on the site and send it to Webmaster@westcatholicalumni.org and we will be happy to put it on the site.

West Catholic Alums Participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade

On Sunday, March 9, 2008 West Catholic High School will enter a contingent for our second year in the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade, and march from Broad and Washington to City Hall and up the JFK Parkway to 20th Street. Immediately following the parade, a light lunch and beverages will be available at a moderate price at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Springfield Pa. Please turn out and support a great Catholic Irish tradition.

9:15am (approximate time). Parking is available at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Return Transportation to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be provided. (approx. 2pm) Limited Trolley Service will be available for Senior and Disabled persons for the parade route.

The cost will be: \$10.00 for a parade hat and badge and \$25.00 for Lunch, Beverages and transportation to and from the parade.

For Bus Reservations contact Mike Hennesy, '70 at 610-226-5791, Eleanor Gallagher Armstrong, '70 at 215-467-0981, or Jim Mulhern, '60 at 610-353-3492. For further information visit the website (www.wc-stpatsparade.info).

Marchers should report at 9 a.m. The assembly site in the Broad and Washington Streets area has not been assigned yet. This will be updated one week before the parade, giving the exact location. The parade should last until 2 p.m. Participants may avail themselves of bus transportation which will depart from the Knights of Columbus Hall, 19 West Baltimore Pike, Springfield Pa. Bus passengers should arrive between 8am and 9am to purchase tickets and board the bus for Broad and Washington Streets. The departure time is

The West Catholic St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is seeking sponsors to help us underwrite the activities. For those who can afford to help, \$100.00 contribution is suggested. Please make checks payable to WC St. Patrick's Day Parade, c/o F. McDonnell PO Box 364, Lower Gwynedd, Pa. 19436.

Emissary Advertisements

Starting with this issue, advertising is now being accepted. Space is limited. If interested call the Alumni Office at 215-387-8560 or e-mail communications@westcatholicalumi.org

The 12th Annual Alumni Soccer Game

The 12th Annual Alumni Soccer Game was held in October, 2007, featuring almost 40 current and former members of the West Catholic Men's Soccer team. The game was held at West's traditional field, Penrose Park (74th St. and Lindbergh Blvd.).

Those present represented over 40 years of soccer, with alumni from the 1960's through recent graduates playing a tough fought game with current Varsity and Junior Varsity team members. To make it fair to all concerned, the teams were divided by even and odd graduation years. Many graduates showed off their skills to today's players, while current team members demonstrated their own talent and abilities. As always, a fun time was had by all. Afterward, the alumni socialized at Hastings Tavern, spending several hours with friends while nurs-

ing aching muscles! Pictures from the event appear elsewhere in this edition of *The Emissary*.

Each year, the soccer alumni gather for fun and competition, getting a chance to show off talents they may not have used for many years! The games give the graduates a chance to catch up with friends while also giving current West Catholic players a sense of the strong and proud athletic tradition in which they are participating. This year's game raised over \$200, which will be used to purchase equipment for the 2008 West Catholic Men's Soccer team.

We hope to see even more soccer alumni at the 13th annual game this Fall (date to be determined). To be added to the mailing list for the Alumni Soccer Game, contact Coach Fran Crowley '77 at president@westcatholicalumni.org.



Soccer Game Participants

West Catholic Alumni Association COMMUNICATIONS

When Communicating with the West Catholic Alumni Association please choose from the following menu:

Alumni Office Phone
215-387-8560 or
800-750-8560

Alumni Office Fax
215-387-9443

Alumni E-mail
west_cath_alum_assc@juno.com

Alumni/Emissary email
communications@westcatholicalumni.org

Alumni Association
Web site
westcatholicalumni.org

Thank you for your continued support!

"Save the Date"

The Christian Brothers Service Awards Dinner

Benefiting

West Philadelphia Catholic High School
Honoring

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, '68
General Council

Rome

and Twelve Christian Brother Jubilarians
Saturday, October 25, 2008

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Scenes from Communion Breakfast Mass and Awards Ceremony



Brother Kevin Stanton, FSC '56, Guest Speaker



'58 Grads presenting gifts during Mass



Rev. John J. Dinda, '51, Principal Celebrant



Faculty guests (left to right) Sister Janice Shaw, IHM, Sister Regina Kovalik, IHM, and Brother Patrick Cassidy, FSC

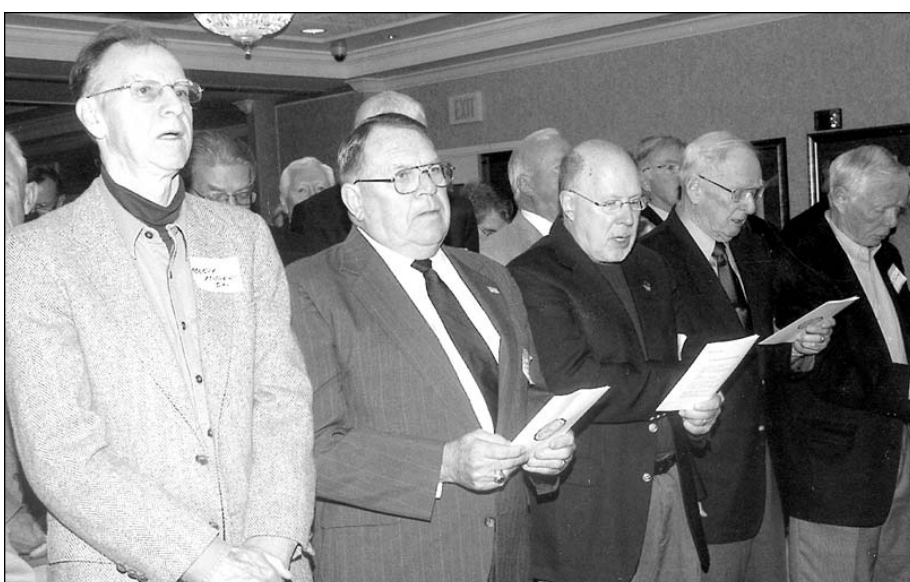


Tom Dorrian '61, Alumni Association Past-President, selling chances for the Breakfast drawing.



(Left to right) Dr. Stephen Framil, cello, Patti Georges, piano, and Robert Rossi '55, violin, provided music for the Mass and Meditation.

Alumni, family and friends attending the Mass



WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL of FAME

**DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008
AIRPORT RAMADA
ESSINGTON, PA**

Come and join with the 2008 Inductees, their families and classmates at the Annual WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATION! Cash Bar at 6:00 PM followed by Dinner at 7:00 PM. The Awards Ceremony will begin promptly at 8:00 PM. TICKETS are just \$40.00 per person and arrangements can be made to accommodate full table purchases. This is yet another chance to get together with fellow classmates. All are welcome as the WEST CATHOLIC family gathers to recognize many of their best Athletes, Teams and Contributors.

The 2008 Cast includes the following Inductees:

FRANK DOOREY, '35 Basketball & Track
MARY SCHRENIER RIZZO, '45 Basketball
JOE MERKINS, '51 Cross Country & Track
JOE SPRATT, '55 Basketball
PAT WARD, '62 Cross Country & Track
JOE GIFFORD, '68 Baseball & Football
JACK HEE, '70 Baseball & Football
1944 Boys' Basketball Team

Also to be recognized will be the five (5) MULVIHILL Sisters, who will be introduced for their 14 year contribution To the Women's Basketball Program for the Lady Burrs at West Catholic...We hope you will plan to attend and look forward to seeing a great turn out for this wonderful night!

For additional Information regarding tickets or anything else please contact: GEORGE LIGHT at: 215-386-2244, Ext. 260 or via-E-mail at: georgelight58@hotmail.com.

Your Support of this Special Night is appreciated. If you cannot attend consider placing an AD in the Souvenir Program or purchasing a ticket or tickets for a student, Christian Brother or Nun wishing to attend on March 29th.

The Great West Catholic Class of 1960

by Bob McGovern

On November 14th, the class of 1960 held its final lunch of 2007 at the Llanerch CC. We had a great turn out of classmates, 40 to be exact. This was our largest turn out ever and I would not be surprised if more of our classmates show up for our next luncheon. Many more are beginning their second life as retirees.

Of the 40 classmates that attended 6 were new, one came from upstate Pennsylvania and another came in from Virginia. It was good to see so many from our great class of 1960, Some of us look exactly like (we/they) did when we left West, but not everyone, so when you put on the name tags is when the hand shakes began with words like "wow" or "you sure have changed" or "I'd know you anywhere". All in all it

was great to see everyone, and as we left all the guys said the same thing SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT WEST CATHOLIC CLASS OF 1960 LUNCH.

I want to also thank the manager at Llanerch CC, Sue Egan, as she too is a WEST grad; and our own classmate Allen Rogers who so graciously helped with the all arrangements.

Our first lunch for 2008 will be held at Llanerch CC on May 21. If you are from the GREAT WC CLASS OF 1960, and want to be part of or wish to find out more information please contact Bob McGovern at 610-583-4469 and leave a message. You may also see information on the West Catholic Alumni website—westcatholicalumni.org (about 1 month before the lunch).



Members of the Class of 1960 who attended the luncheon

70th Anniversary Class of 1938

By Ed, Kerr, Jr, '60

The great class of 1938 has contributed to West Catholic High School and the West Catholic Alumni Association in many ways over the years and we congratulate them on their upcoming Celebration of the 70th Anniversary.

Those graduates who are interested in attending a luncheon with fellow classmates are respectfully requested to contact **Father Philip R. Barr, '38 at 1040 Harmony Hill Road, Downingtown, PA at 19335-4008**. Upon receipt of your note, Father will contact all who are interested and able to attend this Celebration of number 70! When you write to Father, please supply your Name, Address, Phone number and whether you require transportation to and from the luncheon. Father would supply a phone number; however while still very active in the community he is rarely home to receive calls.

MBS 8th Grade Reunion

A Reunion of the Eighth Grade, Class of 1946, Most Blessed Sacrament, Philadelphia, will be held on November 2, 2008.

For further information contact Joe O'Toole at (610) 284-7245 or JANDM282@comcast.net.

West Catholic Students Visit The Dominican Republic

By: Brother Len Rhoades, FSC

This past summer 12 students and 3 faculty members from West Catholic went to the Dominican Republic to work with Sr. Lisa and other members of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on painting schools, homes, and running summer Bible school. We could not have done this great missionary work without the support of the West Catholic Alumni Association!

It cost each student and adult about \$800.00 a person; the Alumni Association's donation helped to defray this cost. The money helped to purchase supplies that we needed to do the work in the Dominican Republic.

Students worked in Santo Domingo and small towns just outside the capital. We needed all the support that

we received to make our work successful. The work was hard and the heat could be over bearing but the kids weathered the climate and made a positive impact in this foreign land. We painted three churches, two schools, and a nutrition center. The kids stayed at a seminary and were awakened each morning by the rooster and then got a cold shower and went to prayer and breakfast. Each day started the same way. So the West community enjoyed their experience and had a new appreciation for what we have back in Burreland.

(Editor's Note. The West Catholic Alumni Association donated \$2000 to assist the students and faculty with this worthy endeavor!)

WEST CATHOLIC GIRLS ALUMNAE SPRING LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 30, 2008 - 1:00 PM

Heritage Ballrooms

MacDade Blvd., Holmes, Pa.

Entertainment courtesy of the world
renowned comic "The Love Doctor"

Tickets: \$30 per person

For reservations call your class rep or Joan
Mullarkey at 610-356-2726. This is a great
opportunity for a mini-reunion.

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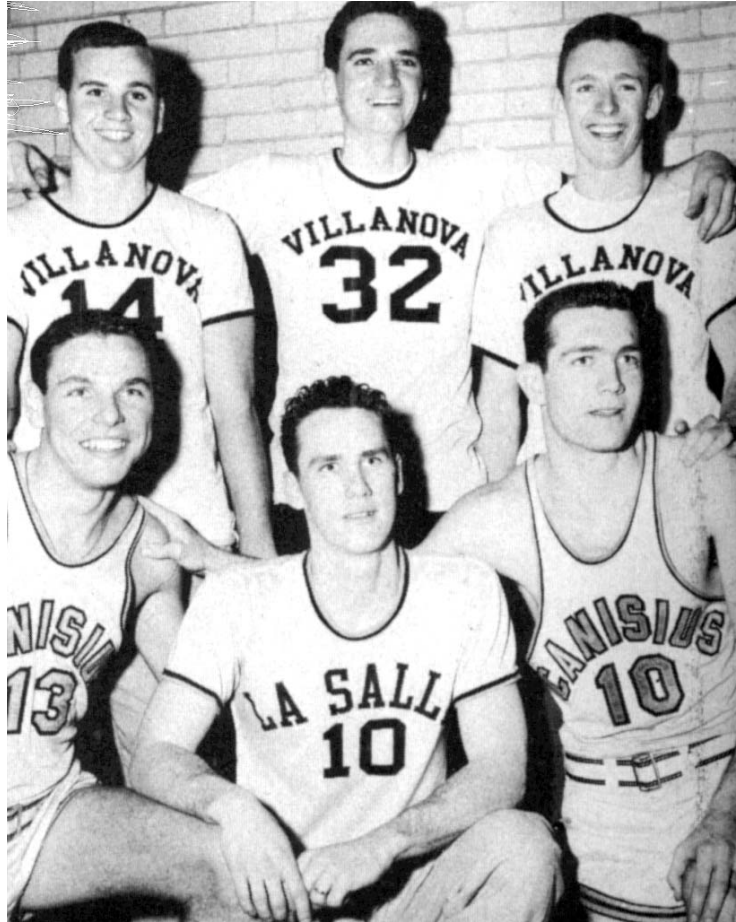
The Fabulous Fifties

By: Michael "Gerry" McGinn, '52

Long before Tom Brokaw penned his best selling *The Greatest Generation*, Jim Savage documented the unprecedented achievements of West Catholic grads playing Division I & II basketball in his *The Encyclopedia of the NCAA Basketball Tournament*. The information collected in this article is based on the Savage tome and from collective memory of former West Catholic players.

This is an era that gave birth to the "Big Five" and featured such marquee players as Gola, Beck, Chamberlain, Hazzard, Wally Jones, Lear and Rodgers. It was a time when college recruiters crisscrossed each other via the subway or the "E" hounding high school coaches for their input.

During the fifties, sixteen Division I & II colleges recruited at least 54 players who graduated from West Catholic. The highlight of the West tradition is the number of grads who played in NCAA tournaments in the 1950's.



Six members of West's Alumni who were involved in the NCAA Regional held here in 1955. If Penn had won the Ivy League; a seventh would have enhanced the startling record for a single high school.

Fifteen Men of West representing eight colleges played in post-season games. The colleges and players are as follows:

College	Players	Years
Canisius College	Bob Kelly & Frank Corcoran	1955 & 56
LaSalle College	Charley Singley	1954 & 55
Naval Academy	Ned Hogan	1954
Notre Dame	Ed McGinn	1953 & 54
	Bob Devine	1957 & 58
Penn	Ernie Beck	1953
	Tim Holt	1953
Penn State	Jack Sherry	1952 & 54
St. Joe's	Joe Spratt	1959
Villanova	Sam Glassmire	1951
	Jack Devine	1955
	Dave Clune	1955
	Jim Smith	1955
	Marty Milligan	1955

Some interesting "March Madness" tidbits:

Jack Sherry played varsity football in addition to scoring a total of 55 points during "March Madness" over two seasons for the Nittany Lions.

Bob Devine scored 62 points in six games over two years for Notre Dame while his brother Jack Devine had 58 points for Villanova in three games in 1955.

Charley Singley leads all Burrs with nine wins and 160 points during two Post Season Tournaments. Singley was selected ALL TOURNAMENT First Team as he and Tom Gola led LaSalle College to the National Collegiate Championship for basketball in 1954. Charlie Singley first distinguished himself as a Major contributor while a Member of the 1952 Catholic & City Championship Basketball team at West Catholic High School, a team that saw nine of twelve varsity members recruited into Division I & II programs.

While players from West Catholic continued to excel after the 1950's, this time frame is the one that set the stage for West Catholic Hoops to be remembered as it is today. What was it that made West Catholic so dominate during the 50's? True, it was before diocesan high schools spread to the suburbs; however, more important was the fierce competition that defined "pick up" games in the Philadelphia school yards. On any evening or weekend throughout the summer, kids would look for "pick up" games at Sherwood, Good Shepherd, Mitchell, Finnegan Morton, 4th & Shunk and Kenny's at the shore or play in the Narberth summer league. "Pick Up" Games would pit high school and college players with kids who were cut from varsity programs; even eighth graders. I remember Jimmy Boyle waiting in the Good Shepherd school yard with the hope of getting picked and playing against Ernie Beck or Paul Arizin. On rainy days, many of the creative players found their way into the Palestra. Whether you were picked first, last, or you were passed over, all the kids from Philly held the same bragging rights. The Philadelphia Warriors held territorial rights to every school kid in the school yard; a legacy to be shared with your great grandchildren.

REMEMBERING A CHAMPION

BY: Members of the '51 Class



Joe Merkins

We love West Catholic because something very important happened to us there: We mysteriously went from being grade school kids to being men. We found qualities we never knew we had, or even a person we never knew we were. Like Joe Merkins. He came to West, a scrawny eighth grader from St. Charles in Drexel Hill, hair hanging over his forehead, lost in the corridors, embarrassed at seeing the "giants" of the day, Ernie Beck and John Michels, in the locker room; blown away by the booming voices of the Christian Brothers who didn't sound like the Sisters who had blessed our ears since we were just five or six years old.

Joe found himself on the track one day. Interclass stuff. He won a race. Some time later, he was encouraged to try out for the team...Who me? Sure, you. We'll tell you what to do, said Brother Luke (Chuck Tuppeny). Let's try a few laps. You've got the makings of a distance runner. Try the half mile; then the mile. Let us go to Fairmount Park, up the hill, down the hill, then over to Strawberry Mansion

and back. Joe Merkins found himself keeping pace with Joe Watmuff and Frank Mannion. With Irish Jim Kelly, his pacer, pushing him, he began to win more crosscountry races. The skinny kid, quieter than most; faster than most had found something besides the track—himself—at West Catholic High School. He earned one Catholic League and two City cross-country titles, (He would have earned a second Catholic title but in senior year, during the title meet, he collapsed going around the Reservoir at 33rd Street and ended up in the hospital instead of where he was—in first place in the race). He tried the Track Team. There, with classmate Bill McGinn on his tail, he won both half and mile honors in the Catholic League. Joe set a new City mile record of 4:30.1 in 1951 and won both the mile and half mile races at the State Catholic Championships in Reading.

Joe Merkins loved West Catholic. He went on to LaSalle College, graduated, then worked on the West Coast for years until his death. He lived as he ran, a Champ. Joe Merkins, '51 will be honored posthumously at the West Catholic High School Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Presentation on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the Ramada Inn Essington Pa. We encourage all Loyal Burrs to attend and join in the Celebration as Joe and other worthy West Catholic High School athletes and the 1944 Boys' Basketball Team are recognized.

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI

EMISSARY

Issued three times yearly by

The Association's Communication Committee

P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, PA 19003

Phone: (215) 387-8560 - Fax: (215) 387-9443

E-mail: communications@westcatholicalumni.org

Phil Girard, Chairman

Denis Brennan, Jim Coyne, Jr., Jim Coyne, Sr., Tom Dorrian, Ed Kerr, Jr., George Light, Joe Manfre, Bob McGovern.



Reflections From the Past West Always in Transition

I was recently asked to comment on the changes at West over the years that I have been associated with West. I am not sure that this was asked of me because of my longevity or my insight. I am sure it was not due to my writing skill. I have struggled with this task since West has changed so much over the years. Each generation of graduates feels that their years at West were the best and any change could not be for the better. West has changed dramatically but so have most of the aspects of our lives. Nothing seems the same these days – for better or for worse. I decided that the easiest way to reflect on the past would have been to cite the many obvious changes that have occurred over the past 40 plus years. This would have been elementary, so I decided to see in what ways West has not changed over the years and take pride in my revelations.

West is still a beacon of hope and encouragement to its students. It has always taken pride in the fact that it provides an opportunity for future success for the families of South and West Philadelphia.

West still has the most active and fervent alumni and alumnae of any Philadelphia High School. These former graduates have been generous, supportive, and loyal over the years. They are the reasons that West is still a vital educational force in the lives of so many.

West still gives birth to that unique student – a student that learns to care about others, a student that feels the experience of attending West is a lifelong sense of pride and accomplishment. West graduates still have that camaraderie that is evident whenever they meet each other even if they graduated in different years.

And finally the teachers. West is still blessed with committed, caring, and competent Brothers, Sisters, Priests, Lay Men, and Lay Women. All of us who have passed through West have memories and stories of our experiences and the people that made them memorable. We can all recollect at least one remembrance of how a teacher made a difference. I have been fortunate to have been taught and have worked with some of the most talented, dedicated, and innovative teachers and administrators over my many years at West.

What makes West so special is its people; its students, teachers, and graduates. This is the heart and soul of West and it is the one constant that has resisted change. West will continue to change, as all institutions must, but its heart and soul will remain for all of us to be proud and this is why we can all continue to say "West is Best."

Submitted by a graduate of the class of 1962 and a current teacher.

Alumni Association Merchandise

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West Catholic High School Presents the 1st Annual "West is Best Spring Fest 2008"

Saturday April 26, 2008
At **Coaches** Bar & Grille
350 Jansen Ave., Essington, PA.
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

\$30.00 per person

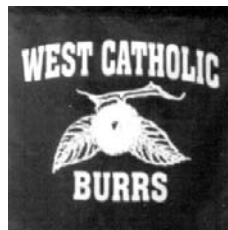
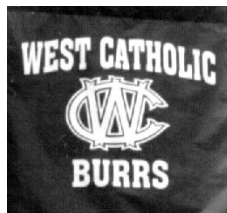
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Tickets are limited and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis.
This is a fund raiser to benefit West Catholic High School

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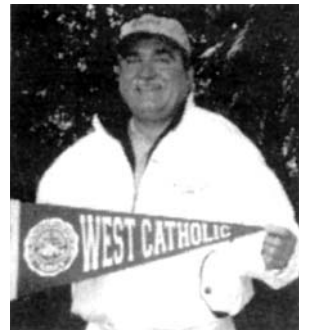
We will mail your tickets to you to be presented at **COACHES** For more information and directions to **COACHES** please visit www.WestCatholic.org and click on events or E-mail Mary Beth Ford at MBFord4ntpl@msn.com or Kathleen Mulvihill Lunn at Lunn4@aol.com or Patty Cranage at CranageP@einstein.edu with any questions.



Two sided flag - Great for your shore or mountain house



Jack Lawler, '60 models "New" blue with tan trim alumni jacket along with Burrs hat (item C).



Mike Hisler, '64 models white alumni jacket with Item (C) hat and West Catholic pennant.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Any questions, please call 1-800-750-8560 Mailbox #4

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Francis X. Crowley, Esq. '77
President
West Catholic
Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumni:

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas 2007 and that, for you and your families, 2008 will be full of happiness, good health, peace and prosperity! As always, my wife Nancy (West Girls '76) and I were fortunate to spend the holidays with family and friends – most of whom also are Burrs!

The start of each new year brings a sense of excitement, because of the opportunities and challenges that may lay ahead. This applies not only to individuals, but to associations and schools as well! Personally, I look forward to the opportunities (and challenges) of working with my fellow alumni, the administration of West Catholic and the entire West Catholic family to preserve and improve upon the West Catholic tradition.

The Association hopes to make 2008 one in which we make significant strides in serving our fellow alumni and to continue to pass on our tradition by providing even more support to the current school and its students. Among the goals we hope to achieve are:

Better communication with our fellow alumni by improving *The Emissary* and our website (www.westcatholicalumni.org) and by increased use of e-mail.

Increasing participation in our traditional events, such as the Communion Breakfast and Burrs at the Beach, sponsoring more events and working with other groups of alumni to support their efforts to organize events;

Increasing the monetary support for the school and its students; and

Greater outreach to our younger alumni to keep our organization strong and vibrant well into the future.

Once again, I invite and challenge every alumnus to become involved in the Association. The Board of Governors always is looking for new ideas to better serve our members through improved communications, more activities and other ideas. If you have any suggestions, comments or criticism, please contact me or any member of the Board of Governors. or I may also be contacted at my law office (215-569-5627), by cell phone (610-246-1020) or by e-mail (president@westcatholicalumni.org).

WEST IS BEST – and it is our responsibility to keep it that way!

St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us!

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!

Class Reunion Schedule

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
1938 70th	Planning Stage	Father Philip Barr 1040 Harmony Hill Rd. Downingtown, PA
1953 55th	9/19/08 Bala Country Club Bala, PA	Bob Smith 610.544.2919
1958 50th	5/16,17,18/08 <i>Celebration Weekend</i> Airport Ramada Inn 6 Industrial Hwy Essington, PA	John Gallagher 631.269.5340 or Frank Adolf 610.344.0716
1986 20th	Planning Stage- <i>Combined</i> Oaks Ballroom Oak Avenue Glenolden	Mike Ward momikenmk@msn.com Maureen Buckley Ward 610.544.3142 momikenmk@msn.com
1996 10th	Planning Stage	Marcia Turner 215.474.1110 or Nick Voight 610.941.0592
2001 5th	Planning Stage	Jackie Fritz 215.409.5232 jackiefritz3@yahoo.com

NOTE: ALL OTHER CLASSES WHO ARE PLANNING A REUNION OR WOULD LIKE TO PLAN ONE, PLEASE CALL THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT 215-387-8560.

CLASS LUNCHEONS

- Class of '41 - 3/29/08 - Springfield Inn
Springfield, PA
Contact: Ray Theilacker, '41
- Class of '45 - 5/20/08 - Edgemont Country Club,
Edgemont, PA
- Class of '51 - 4/16/08 - Casey's Drexel Hill,
Drexel Hill, PA
- Class of '52 - 4/22/08 - Lehman's Restaurant
Essington, PA
- Class of '59 - 3/19, 6/18, 9/17 & 12/17
Lehman's Restaurant
Essington, PA

IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Conrad J. Schwoerer, '26 | John J. Welsh, '49 |
| Allen F. Bunch, '29 | John A. Cantwell, '50 |
| Daniel F. Mullen, '29 | William F. Donohue, '50 |
| Edmond F. Willis, '31 | Gerald A. Renner, '50 |
| William V. Boylan, '36 | Paul W. Stierwalt, '50 |
| Michael J. Duzy, PhD, '31 | Donald Toland, '50 |
| Joseph M. Cashman, '36 | Francis P. Hunt, '51 |
| James E. Cullen, '37 | John R. Jamison, '51 |
| Norbert L. Gladnick, '37 | Tom Quinn, '51 |
| F. Edward Bigham, '38 | James J. Albert, '52 |
| Gerald L. Jones, '38 | Raymond F. Donohue, '53 |
| Bro. William R. Rahner, '39 | Michael J. Kerlin, '53 |
| Leonard T. Kelly, '41 | Robert J. Powers, '53 |
| William J. Doyle, '42 | James P. Sullivan, '53 |
| Joseph C. Kane, '42 | Charles J. Breen, '56 |
| William J. McKenna, '42 | William J. Happersett, '56 |
| Francis J. Ryan, '42 | George D. Madonna, '56 |
| Paul R. Brady Jr., '43 | John P. Coneys, '57 |
| James J. Doyle, Jr., '43 | Edward F. Hassett, '57 |
| Joseph J. Tulske, '43 | Charles T. O'Malley, '57 |
| John A. Bradley, '44 | Stan Jaseke, '58 |
| Paul T. Dauphin, '44 | James J. McElhare, '58 |
| William McGlone, '44 | Robert W. Boyd, '59 |
| Daniel J. Ryan, Esq., '44 | George F. Giesen, '59 |
| Eugene J. Malloy, '45 | John Spakauskas, '59 |
| Martin P. Costello, '46 | Paul R. Sullivan, '59 |
| Fred A. Enck, '46 | Edward J. McCoach, '60 |
| John H. Litchert, '46 | Gerald M. Shields, '60 |
| Michael J. Timothy, '46 | Robert J. Vaughan, '62 |
| Richard C. Bourne, '48 | John P. Chepelevich, '64 |
| George R. Gowen, '48 | Francis J. Doyle, '64 |
| Edward J. Brassell, '49 | Joseph G. George, '01 |



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