

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI EMISSARY

The Official Publication of the West Catholic Alumni Association

Web site: www.westcatholicalumni.org

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSN.

PO Box 889
Ardmore, PA 19003-9647

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

VOLUME LXVII

SPRING 2008

NUMBER 3

21st SUMMER PARTY - JULY 13th INVITES ALL ALUMNI & FRIENDS



- **WESTY'S IRISH PUB - NORTH WILDWOOD**
- **ON-SITE RAFFLE - MULTIPLE CASH PRIZES**
- **AIR CONDITIONED & SHORE BREEZES**
- **FOOD - DRINK - MUSIC - DANCING**
- **GOLF OUTING - SATURDAY, JULY 12th**

DETAILS & TICKET COUPON - PAGE 3

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 classes' largest turnout ever and I would not be surprised if more of our classmates show up for our next luncheon, as many more guys begin their second life—that of retirees.

Of the 40 classmates that attended 6 were new, one came from upstate Pennsylvania & another came in from Virginia, it was so good to see so many guys from the great class of West Catholic 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 handshakes began with words like "wow" or "you sure have changed" or "I'd know you anywhere".

All in all it was a 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 all the 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 westcatholic alumni.org (about 1 month before the lunch).



Pictured l to r: Joe O'Loughlin, Jim Mullarkey, Stanley Dubiel, Ed "Tex" Connors, Tom Mullin, Peter O'Connor and Ed Char - members of the class of 1960 who attended the Nov. 2007 luncheon for the first time.

West Catholic Reunion in Florida

By Harry Mirra '52



West Catholic Alumni Association of Marco Island, FL held it's annual reunion at Stan's Idle Hour, Goodlands, FL on Feb. 17th, 2008. This year about 25 attended the gala event. The classes were from 1947 to 1962. We are always looking for more attendees. The Molleys ('52) provided the banner, Toueys ('52) the refreshments, Egans ('54) evening refreshment and snacks at their condo by the lake. Diamonds ('52) attended their first reunion in Florida. Mike Manning ('64) and wife live in Marco Island and cancelled at the last minute. Mike would like to say hello to all his classmates and the members of Good Shepherd Parish in Southwest Philly. Next year (2009) plans are set for Stan's on February 15th, 2 to 5pm (call after February 1, 2009, 239-642-1685 for info).

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.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The following funds have been established through the Alumni Association. Please support by sending your donation to the scholarship fund of your choice, c/o West Catholic Alumni Association, P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, Pa 19003:

Class of 1951
Basil A. Woodfield

Edward F. Schehl
Class of 1953

Bill Burns
Class of 1960

Richardson Family

Kelly Family

Conway Family

Class of 1944
Tom Van Kirk

Class of 1942

William H. McGarvey
West Catholic
Memorial

All donations are appreciated and help support worthy students.

The Great

West Catholic

Class Of '1960'

Lunch

When

Wednesday, May 21st

Time

12:00 To 2:30

Where

Llanerch Country Club

950 West Chester Pike

Havertown, Pa 19083

If you are interested In joining fellow classmates for lunch on May 21, 2008, please give me a call at 610.583.4469 or email Bob McGovern at Bob1Mac1@Verizon.Net and leave a message that you will or will not be coming, no later than May 19th.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

July 12, 2008

Beach Golf Outing

July 13, 2008

Burrs at the Beach

Oct. 25, 2008

Christian Brothers Dinner

Nov. 2, 2008

Communion Breakfast/Awards

Reunions and Luncheons

See Page 8

2008 Annual Fund Campaign

By: Ed Kerr, Jr., '60



John J. Beck, '59

Co-Chairmen John Beck, '59 and Jim Donahue, '63 report that the Annual Fund Campaign-2008 has reached over \$62,000 with almost four (4) months to go. Both John and Jim along with the Executive Committee extend their sincere thanks to all members who have responded to date. Our Association is blessed to have such a loyal and generous membership that always supports our Worthy Cause!



James A. Donahue, '63

Athletes Honored at 2008 Hall of Fame Ceremony

On March 29th, over 300 people gathered to pay tribute to this year's group of outstanding sports figures. Those selected, along with their families, classmates and friends, attended the annual celebration at the Essington Ramada Inn.

The inductees being recognized for their accomplishments were: **Frank Doorey '35** for basketball and track; **Mary Shrenier Rizzo '45** for basketball; **Joe Merkins '51** for track; **Joe Spratt '55** for basketball; **Pat Ward '60** for cross country and track; **Joe Gifford '68** for football and

baseball and **Jack Hee '70** for football and baseball. Also present were three members of the 1944 Boys Basketball Undefeated Championship Team, who were also honored.

In addition to the honorees the five Mulvihill sisters were introduced and acknowledged for their 14 years of contribution to the girl's basketball program. This year's gathering was one of the largest and most successful ever held. The Hall seeks to honor alums who have brought fame to the school by their prowess in sports while a student.

Scene From the Sports Hall of Fame Celebration



2008 Sports Hall of Fame Awardees: (L to R) Pat Ward '62, Frank Doorey '35, Joe Spratt '55, Joe Gifford '68, Mary Shrenier Rizzo '45 and Jack Hee '70. Also present was Rev. John Hand (School Chaplain),



Attendees at the 2008 Sports Hall of Fame

21st Annual Burrs at the Beach July 13th

By Tom Dorrian, '61

First of all I want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the 2007 Burrs at the Beach which allowed the Committee to present Brother Tim Ahern, President, West Catholic High School with a check for \$35,000 for Catholic student tuition assistance.

The 2008 Burrs at the Beach Committee has set a goal of presenting WCHS a check of \$40,000.00. The only way we can accomplish this goal is to have more alumni, alumnae and friends of West Catholic support this great event. If we can get our numbers back up to 2000 attendees we will be successful in this effort.

This year the West Catholic Burrs at the Beach celebration will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2008 at Westy's Irish Pub in North Wildwood, N.J from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. As usual we can expect Art and Peg West to be our usual gracious hosts. They are planning to add some additional options to the food menu in an attempt to satisfy the various eating habits of all in attendance. They will also return to the full tent coverage of the parking lot that we had in 2006. They didn't discover the tent snafu, last year, until it was too late to replace it.

We have also changed the Delaware County pick up bus from McGillacudy's in Upper Darby to Tip O'Leary's in Havertown, Pa., which is about 5 blocks west of McGillacudy's on West Chester Pike. The



Pictured above: Brother Timothy Ahern (center) gratefully accepts a check for \$35,000 from George Light '58 (left) and Tom Dorrian '61 (right). This amount was the gift given to the school made possible from the proceeds of the 2007 Burrs at the Beach.

bus will depart from Whalen's Deli, 71st & Elmwood Ave, Southwest Philly promptly at 10:30AM and it will arrive at Tip O'Leary's, 300 West Chester Pike, Havertown, Pa. at 10:45 AM and leave promptly after loading.

Due to the snafu from last year the biggest change will take place with the 50/50. We realized when we called out the winning numbers drawn and announced over the microphone half if not most people could not hear them. This year we will pick out the winning numbers and place them on placards and walk through all areas of Westy's until all winners are found. I do apologize for the mix up of last year, although all the original winners were finally located and received their money. We have taken steps to insure that there is no confusion this year about who the winners are.

Speaking of the 50/50 we

will again have three prize winners. In the last few years winners have gone home with cash prizes ranging from \$400 to \$1,200. We will also have many committee members filtering through all areas to make sure that everyone has a chance to buy tickets and take home some money.

For those of you who are not familiar with Westy's Irish Pub you are truly missing the perfect place to meet all your classmates and former neighbors in one venue. I have often said this is not a school reunion but a neighborhood reunion. Westy's provides a multi-dimensional facility that includes a huge outdoor tent, an upstairs outdoor deck overlooking the ground level partiers and a view of the Inlet. There is also an air conditioned bar inside the deck and of course the huge main bar area downstairs. Westy's will provide

three food courts placed in strategic areas, many bars for your drinking pleasure and music provided once again by DJ Jerry Smith for your listening and dancing pleasure. The prices for your favorite beverage will remain the same as the last 7 years. Burrs at the Beach will also provide two free trolley buses that will run on Surf Ave. from 26th Street to Westy's from 1:00PM to 7:00 for those parked any distance away. I hope you are planning on attending the best all class reunion of them all. Please

come out and help us celebrate the 21st Burrs at the Beach and reminisce about your days at West and your old neighborhood with your classmates and neighbors. Treat yourself to Westy's great food, music and beverage of choice while spending a pleasant day at the shore—ALL FOR A WORTHY CAUSE! Our ticket price remains the same, pre-event paid tickets are only \$20.00 and \$25.00 at the door. See you all at Westy's Irish Pub, North Wildwood, NJ on Sunday, July 13, 2008.

Contacts

- Alumni Office - 215-387-8560
- Bob McGovern '60 - 610-583-4469
- Charles Tucker '61 - 610-494-2133
- Mike McHale '64 - 609-263-3331
- Tom Dorrian '61 - 609-368-3395
- John McMurrough '60 - 610-328-0558
- Marty Moran '56 - 610-356-6072

Parking

- Free parking for a number of cars at Spruce and New York Aves., Fifth and New Jersey Aves. and on nearby streets.

Entertainment

- Jerry Smith (inside & outside) - 1:00 pm to 7 pm

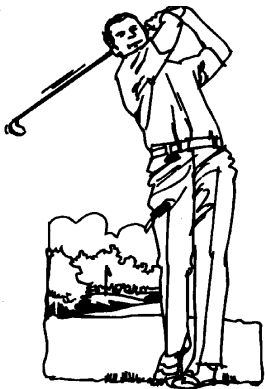
Food & Drink

- Delicious menu from Westy's kitchen.
- Buffet included in ticket price.
- Drinks available from several bars.

Transportation

- 2 free buses on Surf Ave. all day - Park & Ride.
- Air-conditioned bus from Philadelphia & Havertown—Round Trip \$20.00.

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



- \$90.00 per golfer (Includes cart and greens fee)
- Be a Hole Sponsor – ONLY \$50.00 (Sponsors can include families, individuals, West Catholic Class, as well as businesses)

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 or
Joe Manfre - 610-543-1792
Dave Joslin - 610-259-0753

Cash Bar available at the Club after Golf

BURRS AT THE BEACH Sunday, July 13, 2008 1:00 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”

SEND THIS COUPON, ALONG WITH A STAMPED
SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:

John McMurrough
1151 Villanova Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081

*Beach Tickets can be purchased Online at
<http://westcatholic.imodules.com/burrs2008>
At a Cost of \$20.00*

World War II Memories - The F-14 Tomcat

Navy Captain Jack O'Donnell, '39, (USNR) Ret. has submitted the following story about how he and classmates Harry Ogden, Jr. and John McMenemin were early enlistees in 1942 when they joined the newly formed Naval Aviation Cadet V-5 program. His narrative speaks for itself as he explains the transition of naval power from battleships to aircraft carriers and the development of his class of aircraft - the Gruman F-14 "Tomcat" fighter.



By Jack O'Donnell, '39
In the spring of 1942, Harry F. Ogden, Jr., Saint Francis de Sales, West Catholic Class of 1939, Senior Science C was the first high school grad in the Philadelphia area to be accepted in the Naval Aviation Cadet V-5

program. When I read the news on the front page of the Phila. Record, I skipped work that day and went down to the Widener Building to join up. So did classmate John McMenemin, when he read the news. That fall we left for the Navy Pre-Flight School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to fly for the Navy. From high school grads to future commissioned Naval Officers! It was fantastic.

How did this come about, you ask? Pearl Harbor, December 7th, had changed naval warfare forever. Before that disaster, we had the Battleship "BB" Navy. Teddy Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet" had sailed around the world, showing our nation's formidable battleship strength. Prestige and promotions in the Navy depended on being assigned to a BB. On that December Sunday, 1941, the attack had come from Japanese carriers that left eight battleships sunk or foundering on the bottom of Pearl Harbor. The days of the BB were over. The new Capital Ship of the Navy was the aircraft carrier.

At the start of the war, the U.S. had only six carriers, the

Japanese had at least double that number. The Navy had to catch up—fast— if we were to have any chance of winning the War in the Pacific. Already underway was a ship building program to supply our allies with weapons under "Lend-Lease." Henry Kaiser, a ship builder, went to President Roosevelt with a daring plan. Give him a contract to convert these small merchant ships to aircraft carriers and he would, he predicted, launch a carrier a month.

Senior Naval officers were aghast. Mr. President, they said, "These "jeep" carriers would bob like corks! Naval Aviation, flying from aircraft carriers is inherently dangerous! It requires great skill, superior coordination and judgment. If you authorize these carriers with a flight deck barely wider than a plane's wing span, we estimate a 30% operational accident rate before these flyers even see combat! Our Naval Academy graduates are in severely short supply and needed for ship and submarine duty. The scant number of university ROTC are being trained for surface ship, staff and aviation duties. Where will we find enough candi-

dates qualified for pilot and crew training? We're scraping the bottom of the barrel, sir!

Roosevelt is purported to have said, "Scrape a little harder—or find a new barrel."

The Aviation Cadet V-5 program was born. As we finished pre-flight and headed to our first flight training phase, no one mentioned a 30% accident rate.

Jack flew Navy fighters in combat in WW II and Korea. He is the author of a novel dedicated to the 1970's era F-14 Tomcat fighter. The story evolves from the mysterious disappearance of a Tomcat scheduled to be delivered to the Shah of Iran.

As retired Navy Captain Dale "Snort" Snodgrass an F-14 pilot, has said, "You did a masterful job of interweaving the biographical drama of the early years of the Tomcat with an exciting fictional tale. For all who shared sweat, fuel and hydraulic fluid with that magnificent beast. . .Thank you."

Jack's e-mail is jackodonnell1@aol.com. He would like to hear from '39ers, WC Navy vets and Burrs interested in military history. He is currently seeking an agent/publisher for Ghost 14.

Help for A Fellow Burr!

The Alumni Association has been asked by friends of John Newman '87 to inform fellow Burrs John's neighbors and friends are organizing benefits to assist John, his wife and six children. John is suffering from a life threatening medical condition, and his friends and neighbors would like to assist John and his family with the massive medical bills and to show support for them in this very difficult time.

The next benefit will be held on Friday, May 30th from 7 pm to 11 pm at St. Andrew Parish's McGettigan Hall, School Lane and Foss Ave., Drexel Hill. Tickets are \$25 and include refreshments and light snacks. A Silent Auction will be held. Donations for the Raffle Baskets, Baskets of Cheer, or Silent Auction are needed.

If you are unable to attend, or if you receive this notice after the event, but would like to send a donation to the family, please make checks payable to: St. Andrew Church and mail it to: Saint Andrew Church 3500 School Lane Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Please mark your envelope "Attention Newman Benefit"

Please keep John and his family in your prayers. To purchase tickets, provide items for raffle or for more information, please call 610-259-4077 or 610-394-8855.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

By: Ed Kerr, Jr.

Manuel J. Valencia,'66 of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, has changed careers in mid life and became a Registered Nurse, a really smart move according to Manuel.

James A. DeMatteo,'77 was promoted to Field Operations Supervisor of the Pembroke Pines, Florida Border Patrol Station.

Jerome Driscoll,'54 of Bondville, VT was ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of Burlington, VT on June 25, 2005. He is involved in Prison Ministry and sadly reports the passing of his wife Sue in December of 2005, Jerome and Sue have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 3 grandchildren.

Dick Daly,'71 a former Hoopster from Havertown PA checked in as did **Arthur Jones,'43** from Newtown Square, PA.

Jim Dunn, '56 a sharp shooter from the corner and a 1956 All-Catholic responded from Sparta, NJ.

Charles J. Linde wrote from Winter Haven, Florida and **Rev. Michael D. Murphy,'68** made contact from Saint Dorothy Rectory in Drexel Hill, PA.

Frederick A. Strasser,'42 sends his best from beautiful Sun City, AZ while **Robert Paolini,'51** did the same from Clearwater, Florida and **Walter Boyd,'49** from Thousand Oaks, CA.

Leo Ryan,'60 communi-

cated from Perry Hall, MD along with **James A. Love,'39** who resides in Media, PA.

Just learned that **Joe McFadden** a long time resident of Southwest Philadelphia and an avid supporter of the St. Barnabas and West Catholic Athletic programs has passed. Joe, who would have graduated from West Catholic in 1951 or 1952, joined the US Armed Services and was not to receive his Honorary Diploma until this year...He will be missed.

We heard from **Herman Odenweller,'54** who resides in Broomall, PA and **Ray Ellis,'46** who lives in Lansdowne, PA.

Immediate Past President of the Alumni Association, **Tom Dorrian,'61** is still very active with the Board of Governors and Burrs at the Beach even though he has retired and now resides in Avalon NJ.

Rev. Edward H. Koob,'37 who was pastor emeritus of St. Robert Parish in Chester, PA died at Villa Saint Joseph in Darby PA.

We were pleased to hear from **Pat McCloskey,'59** who resides in Newtown Square, PA and **Gerard R. Lynch,'52** who now resides in Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

John J. Foley,'55 who retired from UPS at age 55 resides in Newtown Square PA and Florida since 1990.

James,'45 and Ida Marie Quigley,'46 of Bryn Mawr, PA

and **Jim Bendel,'57** of Frederick, MD send their best to their classmates.

Kevin Collins,'78 also checked in from Philadelphia, PA as did **Gerald,'71** and **Lynn McKee,'73** from Malvern, PA.

Eugene F. Keohane,'78 of Springfield, PA along with **John,'57** and **Joan,'59 Mullen** of West Chester, PA send their very best to all who support West Catholic High School and the West Catholic Alumni Association...Long Live the Burrs!

Robert J. White,'43 who resides in Gwynedd Valley is doing his best to "Keep the Spirit Alive & Well".

Michael P. Wishing,'58 of Downingtown, PA along with **Joe Inemer, Jr.,'58** of Philadelphia, PA and his wife, Eileen Fadgen Inemer,'63 support the West Catholic Story.

Joe Gardler,'53 and the starting center on the 1953 City Championship team that defeated Overbrook High School and Wilt Chamberlain reports that a relative of Coach Jim Usilton who led West Catholic to Catholic League titles in 1952, '53 and '55 and City Championships in 1952 and '53 is working toward a motion picture that would tell this wonderful story, we can only hope that he will be successful with his Quest!

Steve Walker,'86 is still supplying great flowers at 610-583-5900.

Celebrating 50 Years As a Christian Brother

Brother Edward Conway, F.S.C. a West Catholic graduate from the class of 1955 will be celebrating 50 years as a Christian Brother, with a Mass and picnic this year. Our Congratulations to Brother, what an honor! Brother Edward is a Certified Addiction Counselor, Diplomat status and Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional - both granted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Brother works part time as Addictions Counselor at Shalom, Inc. His full time occupation is as Counselor/Educator at LaSalle University in the Health Services Counseling Center and two days a week as a volunteer at one of Philadelphia's prisons heading a therapy group for men. Brother states..."I have a full life and good health, Thank God!"

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
www.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
The Crystal Tea Room
Wanamaker Building
Philadelphia, Pa.

WEST DRAMATICS - "1957"

By: Ed Kerr, Jr.,'60

West Catholic students of the 1950's recall the wonderful productions, the sold out performances and the participation of the students from both West boys and West girls. Today, we recall the 1957 West Catholic Production of "My Maryland."

In its first year under Moderator Brother Guy Philip and his Assistant Brother F. Raymond the dramatics group pleased three "Sold Out" audiences with Romberg's lasting favorites. Mrs. Margaret Kearney again directed with John Mascaro conducting and Miss Mary McNelis assisting as

choreographer. Stagecraft was under the guidance of Brother Felix Gerald, while Brother Dathus Joseph provided guidance with the Art, Brother Gerald Joseph with the Sound; Brother F. Patrick with the Business Management. *When the Play Ended, the Praise Began...*

Lead performers included Dolores Doheny as Barbara and Gerald LeVasseur as Captain Trumbull. They found a way into the hearts of the audience in singing "The Same Silver Moon." Other students who helped to make this production a success

were Edward Hickey, Gail Yaegel, Howard Toto, Gerald Donohoe, Joseph Kelly, Pat Woods, Rose Ann Murray, Robert Germscheid, Dennis O'Leary, John Graber, Jim Monsul, Mary Agnes Dougherty and Rose Marie Callahan. This major production by a High School happened every year at West Catholic and became a key part of the West Catholic experience. We are thankful to those who recorded this event in the pages of the 1957 BLUE and WHITE Yearbook, Co-Editors Joseph J. Manion, Raymond M. Spratt and their team.



Above: A dramatic highlight is professionally enacted by Jack Negley (Edward Hickey) and Barbara (Dolores Doheny) in the lovers quarrel scene.



Members of the Stage Crew for the West Catholic production of "My Maryland."

Class of 1950 Establishes Literary Award In Memory of Gerald Renner Haven Ogbagiorgis Wins 1st grand prize

Gerald A. Renner (1932 - 2007)

Gerard A. Renner was born in Philadelphia on June 6, 1932. He graduated in 1950 from West Catholic High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Relations from Georgetown University in 1959.

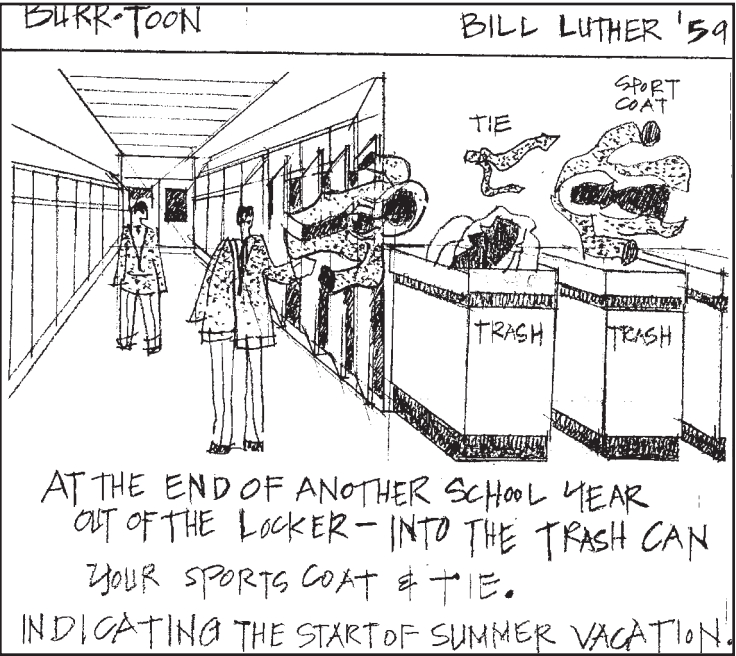
After graduation he spent several years at the *Reading Eagle* and specialized in coverage of organized crime. He left in 1965 for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington and later worked for the New York-based Religion News Service. He held the position of editor and director when he joined the *Hartford Courant* in 1984. He became a freelance writer of religion after retiring from the *Courant* in 2000.

While at the *Courant* he teamed with freelance investigative reporter Jason Berrar in 1996 and worked on several

high profile articles about the abuse problems in the Catholic Church, eventually writing a book, *Vows of Silence*.

The West Catholic class of 1950, in tribute to Jerry Renner, has started a Gerald A. Renner Literary Award to be given to West Catholic students who have shown increased proficiency in writing - be it a short story, poem, essay, or relevant news article - the winners to be selected by the head of the English department at West Catholic High School.

On Friday, April 25, at a school assembly for the entire student body of 550, the Class of 1950 presented \$3300 in awards to 17 aspiring writers, including a grand prize of \$500 to one student for his essay entitled "Imagination". Because of the enthusiasm and faculty support, the program will be repeated next year.



Quick Thinking and Spirited Voices

By: Ed Kerr, Jr.,'60

While we were in the neighborhood we decided to again visit the 1957 Yearbook for information about other activities that our membership has requested us to write about.

Public Speaking, Debating and World Affairs groups along with the Art Club and the Band, offered students the opportunity to expand their educational horizons beyond the classroom, chemistry lab, football field, basketball court and track. Brother D. William (debating), Brother E. Francis (speech activities), Brother D. Alban (debating); Brother D. Richard (world affairs-Radio-TV) served as moderators as did Brother D. Joseph (Art) and Mr. John Mascaro (Band). These are only a sampling of the activities that were offered to students who could take advantage of the opportunity, and

what an opportunity it was! The West Catholic Experience is much more than memories; it is part of our fabric that keeps us together after years removed from those four years at West Catholic that were different for each of us. Together we share and spread our spirit and pride as proud graduates of West Catholic High School. Although your physical address may be in Florida or California, you are still part of our family. Whether you attend a reunion, a West Catholic football game, Burrs at the Beach, visit the West Catholic High School of today, communicate to us during the Annual Fund, or visit our Alumni Association website you are a BURR and that is good! As we turn back the pages; please enjoy photos of some of the above mentioned activities from the 1957 yearbook.



Members of the 1957 Marching Band

Emissary Advertisements

Advertising is now being accepted. Space is limited. If interested call the Alumni Office at 215-387-8560 or e-mail communications @westcatholicalumi.org

PROTECTED SURFACES

www.ProtectedSurfaces.com
info@ProtectedSurfaces.com



Featuring
SANI-SHIELD
3 in 1 Surface Care
From UNELKO

HELPS WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS!

MAKE THE CONNECTION for two great causes...the Health of your family and The Improved financial condition of West Catholic Alumni Association Scholarship Funds
PROTECT yourself and family members from BACTERIA for up to Five (5) days In-between applications with SANI-SHIELD 3 in 1 Surface Care and barrier Against MRSA and other bacteria and BENEFIT the very important WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS as 10% of all profits will Be donated to the FUNDS and reported by the Association.

IDEAL uses for this product: phones, remote controls, door knobs, keyboards, toilet seats & handles, bright work in bathrooms and kitchens, counter tops, tables, serving trays, tile walls in shower area, water dispensers, exercise mats and many more, Use two times weekly & benefit from the protection that SANI-SHIELD 3 in 1 Surface Care provides. Product is available in Quarts and Pre-Measured Towelettes which are great for travel. Purchase an Intro Case/Pack or two & experience great results!



Full Case: 12 x 1 Quarts with trigger sprayers...\$84.49 delivered
Half Case: 6 x 1 Quarts with trigger sprayers...\$49.00 delivered
Intro Case: 2 Quarts with trigger sprayers... \$22.00 delivered
Intro Pack: 20 SANI-SHIELD Towelettes... \$19.00 delivered

How to Order:

Send Check or Money Order made payable to:
AMB SERVICES
P.O. Box 103
Woodlyn PA 19094

VISA & MASTER CARD Accepted...Order on line
At: Info@ProtectedSurfaces.com

Or Provide information by mail, be sure to provide your name, address, phone number. For Credit Card Purchases provide name on card, type of card, Card Number & Expiration date.
"LONG LIVE WEST CATHOLIC"

WEST CATHOLIC BASEBALL

By: Ed Kerr Jr.,'60

In 1957 Jack Carickoff, a teacher at West Catholic High School for Boys' helped to bring Baseball back to West Catholic after a 20 year absence. Almost twenty years following that Brother Richard Kestler, F.S.C. then Principal of West Catholic High School for Boys' wrote a letter to *The Catholic Standard and Times* that was highly laudatory; "Jack Carickoff has been involved with Catholic education and the formation of our students." The letter continued. "Jack is a convert to our faith and has served as captain of the Malvern retreat for the past several years." A little trip down memory lane with Jack Carickoff who went on to become the golf coach at West Catholic and what a nice and kind gesture by Brother Richard Kestler who would return to the West Catholic of today to serve as their President.

West Catholic Baseball 2008 has a new game plan that includes two new coaches according to a full page article that appeared in the April 11th edition of *The Bulletin*. The article, written by *Drew Silverman*, tells the story about students at West Catholic who did not know how to put on a glove or how to grip a bat; the program did not have a junior varsity team

until this season. He reports that because the student population at the high school does not have a foundation in the sport...West Catholic is Going Back To Basics to help establish that foundation.

"We're teaching these kids everything from hitting a baseball to learning how to chew seeds," said Kevin Manning, the first year varsity head coach at West Catholic. He comes to the school with a long-range vision for the program—the entire program.

Manning desperately wants to see West Catholic among the elite teams in the Catholic League and he wants the Burrs to be atop the league for years to come. Manning, a graduate of St. Joseph's Prep who played collegiately at Temple, is assisted by another first year coach, *Don Pizzo* who is the JV coach. "You're pretty much building them up from nothing," said Manning. This story sounds familiar if you follow West Catholic High School Athletics. Brian Fluck, Head Football coach applied a Going Back To Basics plan for the football program that has resulted in two consecutive Catholic League Championships. Our very best to both Coaches and to the students participating in the Baseball program. *We know that you will be successful.*

Scenes from West Catholic Baseball

Courtesy of *Drew Silverman, The Bulletin*
Photos by *Krystie Marcellus*



Nick Voight, '96
Appointed School's
Advancement Director
By: Ben Kerr Jr.,'95



Nick came to West from Overbrook (St. Callistus Parish) and graduated in 1996. His siblings are also West graduates - Frank in '94, Danielle in '97 and Lisa in '01. He furthered his education by earning a B.A. in Business from LaSalle University. He is married to wife Gloria and they reside in Westbrook Park, PA.

For a time Nick was employed by La Salle University as Assistant Director of Advancement. His is now returning to West, where he hope to expand his fundraising and development experiences. He expects to keep strong relationships with alumnae and alumni but build new relationships with grads from the new school.

When asked what he like most about his time at West Catholic Nick replied, "West people look out for each other and I think that's the biggest thing. The Alumni Association wishes him success in his hew position. Together with George Light, '58 and others in the front office Nick will help to keep the school on top in many exciting ways.

West Catholic Senior Tom Sessa Saves A Life

Tom Sessa, a senior and varsity baseball player at West Catholic, recently saved the life of an Upper Darby Township resident.

Tom, who resides in Upper Darby and is a volunteer fireman for the Township, responded to a call for medical assistance on April 22, 2008 for an apparent heart attack. A cardiologist on the scene indicated that he was getting ready to pronounce the victim dead. After learning that the nearest Township EMTs were on a call on the other side of Upper Darby, Tom used an Automated External Defibrillator ("AED") to shock the patient. The patient responded to the AED treatment and was revived.

In recognition of his efforts, on April 30, Upper Darby Township awarded Tom the Mayor's Award and also presented him with the Township's Award of Excellence.

Congratulations to Tom!

Two West Catholic Students Awarded Prestigious Gates Scholarship

West Catholic High School students, Haven Ogbagiorgis and Sara Ghebremariam have been awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship Award. This scholarship was created through a \$1 billion dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Over 13,000 applicants applied nationwide. Only 1,000 individuals are awarded this scholarship, which assists in the development of leadership talent among minority students in the United States. This scholarship not only provides the

way for college but also follows the recipient all the way through the completion of their doctorate.

This is not the first time a West Catholic student has won this honor. In 2007 Dewitt Ghebremariam won this award and is currently attending the University of Pennsylvania.

Both of this year's recipients are currently narrowing their decision on which University to attend.

The West Catholic family wishes them luck and congratulates Sara and Haven on their major accomplishment!

WC Students and Grads Win Track Glory

West Catholic's long and glorious history of success in track and field is being kept alive by current West Catholic runners and recent West Catholic grads.

The 2008 running of the fabled Penn Relays featured two recent grads - Nicole Leach '05 (now running for UCLA) and LaTavia Thomas '06 (now running for LSU). LaTavia Thomas was named the College Women's Athlete of the Meet for relays, having anchored the LSU Tigers to victories in both the 4 x 800 and sprint medleys.

One of the highlights of the meet was the College Women's 4 x 400 in which both Nicole Leach and LaTavia Thomas competed. LSU placed second, led by LaTavia, with a time of 52.8 seconds. UCLA finished in seventh place, led by Nicole, who was timed at 52.3 seconds. Nicole Leach, whose specialty is the 400 hurdles, did not participate in that race at the Penn Relays because of her expected participation in the

upcoming Olympic Trials!

Not to be outdone by Nicole and LaTavia, the current West Catholic girls' track team won the Philadelphia Area High School Girls 4 x 400 Philadelphia Area Small School Division, with a time of 3:54.49. That time placed the team second overall in the Philadelphia area (including both large and small schools). Congratulations to Chante Moore, Mariame Conde, Brittany Robinson and Michelle Davis, and coach Eric Young!

Finally, David Macharia Yout '03, who started running while at West and continued on to a stellar career at Widener University (winning multiple Man of the Year Honors), placed third in the Broad Street Run on May 4, 2008! He has qualified for the Olympic Marathon trials!

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Joe Looby'59 for the information on the Penn Relays! Please see Joe's first hand account of the races at www.westcatholicalumni.org)

WM. H. LOGAN Funeral Homes

Established 1895

Havertown

Philadelphia

Exton

610-623-3130

Bill Logan '51

88th Communion Breakfast Scheduled for Sunday, November 2nd At Springfield Country Club

The Alumni Association's 88th annual Mass and Communion Breakfast will return to the 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 Communion Breakfast Committee, which received and reviewed many nominations for deserving alumni, is pleased to announce that this year's award recipients will include **Jim Magee '41; Joe Collins '53; Gerry Darcy '59 (posthumously); Jerry Davis '59; Jay Sawyer '59, Brother Robert Schieler, FSC '68; Mike Ahearn '84**

Nominations Being Sought For The Second Annual Communion Breakfast Scholarship

The Alumni Association would like the assistance of all members to identify candidates for the Second Annual Communion Breakfast Scholarship. Nominations and applications for this Communion Breakfast Scholarship will be accepted until July 31, 2008. The application/nomination form can be obtained in several ways. You may print applications directly from the Association's website (www.westcatholicalumni.org); request applications by e-mail (president@westcatholicalumni.org) or request applications by calling the Alumni Office (215-387-8560).

All 8th grade boys that are members of Catholic parishes and who will attend West Catholic High School beginning in September 2008 are eligible for consideration for the Communion Breakfast Scholarship. Students need not have attended 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, any member of the Alumni Association or by West Catholic's Admissions Director.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed to the Offertory Collection at the 2007 Communion Breakfast, the Alumni Association established the Second Annual Communion Breakfast Scholarship Fund 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

and **Keith Richardson '84**. The selection of other candidates is being finalized. The full list of award recipients will be announced at Burrs at the Beach and detailed information about each person will be provided in the next edition of *The Emissary* and on the Alumni Association website (www.westcatholicalumni.org).

The Springfield Country Club, which is easily accessible from I-476 (the Blue Route) and Route 1, 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).

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 scholarships (of \$1,000 per each year) to a member of the incoming Freshman class at West Catholic.

The Communion Breakfast Committee will consider each applicant's academic performance, involvement in school/community/parish activities and 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. The recipients of Communion Breakfast Scholarship will be required to maintain an academic average of 80 and passing conduct grades at West to retain scholarship each year. The Scholarship may be used to pay tuition, fees and costs only at West Catholic.

Applications and nominations must be submitted by July 31, 2008 to the West Catholic Alumni Association, Communion Breakfast Committee, P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, PA 19003-0889. The Committee will make its decisions by and notify Scholarship recipient promptly thereafter.

For more information, please call the Alumni Association at 215-387-8560 or send an e-mail to president@westcatholicalumni.org.

Alumni Association Merchandise

Items Make Great Gifts • Place Your Order Today!

Please send your check, money order or credit card information to include type of card (MasterCard • Visa • Amex), Name on Card, Exp. Date, Shipping Address to West Catholic Alumni Association, P.O. Box 889, Ardmore, PA, 19003.

If you wish to call in your order, please call 1-800-750-8560 after 4:00 p.m. and select Mailbox #4. You may leave your credit card information and your order or request a return call regarding same. Thank you.

ALUMNI GOLF SHIRTS (100 % combed cotton - washable)
M___ L___ XL___ XXL___ XXXL___ \$36.00 x ___ = _____

WEST CATHOLIC HATS (choice of four - all adjustable)
A. Heavy brushed cotton pro-style cap constructed navy blue with white WC on crown \$16.00 x ___ = _____

B. Deluxe garment washed cotton twill 100° cotton—low profile pro style cap unconstructed soft crown—low fitting stone grey crown and navy blue Burrs on crown and navy visor \$17.00 x ___ = _____

C. Suede visor washed pigment-dyed bull denim low profile pro style cap—unconstructed—khaki crown—100% cotton with navy blue Burrs on crown and navy visor. \$18.00 x ___ = _____

D. **“New”** Brush twill sandwich cap, navy and white with navy WC on crown \$16.00 x ___ = _____

E. **“New”** Ski Cap \$15.00 x ___ = _____

ALUMNI JACKET—white with blue accent, spring weight (75% polyester & 25% cotton with 100% nylon lining)
L___ XL___ \$75.00 x ___ = _____

ALUMNI JACKET—blue with tan accent, spring weight (65% polyester & 35% cotton with 100% nylon lining)
L___ XL___ \$75.00 x ___ = _____

HANES BEEFY “T” (100% preshrunk cotton)
Navy___ White___: L___ XL___ XXL___ \$14.00 x ___ = _____

NAVY SWEATSHIRTS (CHAMPION ATHLETIC APPAREL)
(93% cotton & 7% polyester)
L___ XL___ XXL___ \$35.00 x ___ = _____

“NEW” V-Neck Long Sleeve Pennant Stitch SWEATER,
(100% Cotton. Available in Royal Blue or Navy Blue)
S___ M___ L___ XL___ \$67.50 x ___ = _____
XXL___ \$72.00 x ___ = _____
XXXL___ \$74.00 x ___ = _____

West Catholic Burrs Custom TWO-SIDED FLAG
(30” Wide & 36”Long) \$59.00 x ___ = _____

WEST CATHOLIC BOYS Blue & White Pennant
18” long x 8” wide \$ 8.00 x ___ = _____

SPECIAL SUMMER COMBO OFFERS

GOLF SHIRT & HAT (A-E), your choice \$49.00 x ___ = _____

ANY JACKET & HAT, your choice \$88.00 x ___ = _____

PRINT of West Catholic Boys' High School at 49th & Chestnut Streets. - Includes Mat - Suitable for Framing - Size 12”x16” \$15.00 x ___ = _____

NOTE: To add your name & class add \$15.00 to cost. \$ _____

Special Sizes may be ordered.

PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING **TOTAL** \$ _____



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.

Credit Card Type _____ Exp.Date: _____ No: _____

NAME/CLASS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

Place Your Order Today by Sending Your Check, Money Order or Credit Card information to:

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION P O BOX 889 ARDMORE PA 19003

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Any questions, please call 1-800-750-8560 **Mailbox #4** or westcatholicalumni@aol.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



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

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Frequently, the West Catholic Alumni and the larger West Catholic community is referred to as a “family.” Indeed, that “FAMILY” is stenciled on the back of many athletes’ practice jerseys and t-shirts at West Catholic now. I personally got to see how true that sentiment is over the last few months!

My brother Ed ’67 and I would like to thank the many members of the West Catholic family for the support, prayers and friendship extended to us and to our family upon the recent death of our father, Ed, at the wonderful age of 95!. Although not a graduate of West Catholic, Dad should have been an honorary Burr at least! An avid participant in the old Fathers’ Club, he also was the most dedicated fan of West Catholic Soccer; he started attending West Soccer games in 1973 (when I was playing) and still came to games in 2007! I was the only coach in the Catholic League to have his father at most home games! With his gentle spirit, his dedication to our family and to the Church, his quiet strength, his sense of commitment and his quick sense of humor, Dad taught Ed and I the most important lessons in life and truly was an inspiration to us! The support and care that we have received since Dad’s passing from our fellow Alumni and many others in the West Catholic community testify that there is a WEST CATHOLIC FAMILY.

* * * * *

On a different subject, I have had the privilege of co-chairing or chairing the Communion Breakfast Committee for several years. One of the Committee’s most rewarding, and yet most difficult, duties each year is to select the annual award recipients. I am continually amazed at the number of West grads who have capitalized on the excellent education and moral foundation received at West to excel and succeed - not only in business but, more importantly, in improving their communities and contributing to the well being of so many others!

This year’s class of award recipients is no different. They have helped establish and maintain the tradition that WEST IS BEST!

* * * * *

Finally, as shown by the article elsewhere in this edition highlighting recent Alums’ success in track, there can be no doubt that the tradition of excellence established by so many alumni in so many fields is alive and well today! LaTavia Thomas, Nicole Leach and David Macharia Yout are only a few of the many, many recent grads and current students who are determined to continue, build upon and expand the wonderful traditions established by so many members of the Alumni. I urge all Alumni to take the opportunity to discover and support the many great things that are occurring at West and that are being accomplished by current students and young Alums!

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 610.873.4646
1943 65th	6/06/08 Llanerch Country Club	Harry Helms 610.363.7826
Mass 11 AM	Sacred Heart Church Havertown	
1953 55th	9/19/08 Bala Country Club Bala, PA	Bob Smith 610.544.2919
		610.344.0716
1986 20th	Planning Stage-Combined Oaks Ballroom Oak Avenue Glenolden	Mike Ward momikenmk@msn.com Maureen Buckley Ward 610.544.3142 momikenmk@msn.com
1993 15th	10/25/08 Airport Ramada Inn 6 Industrial Hwy Essington, PA	Christina Adenaike cadenaike@yahoo.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 '45 - 5/22/08 - Edgemont Country Club, Edgemont, PA
- Class of '51 - 10/15/08 - Casey's Drexel Hill, PA
Contact - Ron Walsh
610.853.2056
- Class of '59 - 6/18, 9/17 & 12/17/08
Lehman's Restaurant
Essington, PA
- Class of '60 - 5/21/08 - Llanerch Country Club
Llanerch, PA
610.583.4469

IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| George J. Betzler,'33 | Francis Murray,'49 |
| William E. Dougherty,'36 | Edward S. Barrow,'50 |
| John B. Wade,'36 | Walter G. Dajnowski,'50 |
| Rev. Edward H. Koob,'37 | William J. McDermott,'50 |
| Philip A. Brown,'38 | Robert T. Hough,'51 |
| Charles J. McHugh,'38 | Louis Delloso,'53 |
| Henry J. Stauffer,'38 | Daniel M. Greene,'53 |
| Edward G. Titterton,'38 | Charles P. O'Neill,'55 |
| Joseph T. Perna,'38 | Dominick R. Haigh,'56 |
| Joseph V. Smith,'39 | James M. Mac Donald,'56 |
| James J. Magee,'40 | Francis J. McCullough Jr.,'56 |
| Clement J. Chambers,'42 | Alfred E. Milling,'56 |
| Robert M. McKeefrey,'42 | John V. Sullivan,'56 |
| Mitchell J. Yanak,'42 | John P. Coney,'57 |
| James J. Doyle,'43 | Joseph F. Kelly,'57 |
| George Farrell MD,'43 | William T. Holden,'58 |
| Frank W. McCall,'43 | Stanley J. Jaseke,'58 |
| John J. O'Doherty,'43 | Frank G. McNellis,'58 |
| John J. Donnelly,'44 | Joseph J. Courtney,'59 |
| William J. Kelly,'44 | Donald J. Jefferson,'67 |
| John J. O'Connell,'46 | Thomas Nedelka,'68 |
| John C. Graten,'46 | Patrick J. McCardle,'70 |
| Frank Kuchma,'48 | |

Remember Our Deceased Alumni
In Your Prayers



FLORIDA MEXICO CARIBBEAN

AFFORDABLE DEPENDABLE ALWAYS IN STYLE



USA3000.com • 1-877-USA3000