

Memorare

The newsletter of the Cathedral College/ Cathedral Prep Alumni Association

Memorare

by Bill Bishop

Memorare. To recall or remember. We have chosen this title for the newsletter in order to fulfill a secondary purpose of the alumni association: to preserve the memories of our experiences in the priest-formation programs. Whether it was the discipline and structure imposed, the values that were reinforced or the role modeling that was provided, the great majority of us who went through the programs must credit the good men of the faculties for creating a large part of whatever success we have achieved in life.

Prep Class of 1969 Celebrate their 50th Year Reunion

—by Bob Conway

The Class of 1969 had a wonderfully attended Reunion Event on September 14 and 15. Nearly two thirds of our class responded to the event. We began with Mass at the Priests Retirement Home. Officiating was Rev. Fred Berardi, Rev Bob Starr, Rev. Bob Verrigni and Rev. Mr. Stan Galazin. We all applauded ourselves and our teachers, many of whom were in attendance.

Photographs were taken and later circulated. Dinner followed at a favorite restaurant, Madisons. Rounds of toasts and well wishing continued into the evening. Everyone reconvened on the next day for a Barbeque at the home of one of our classmates. We have reunions every five years. We all had such a good time with our classmates and our wives that we agreed to hold these every two years instead of five. We have lost six of our classmates. They were all prayed for and remembered. Old friends are never lost. Just forgotten. We all refused to forget.



Memorare is published by the Cathedral College/Cathedral Prep Alumni Association.

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College and Prep Directories
and Class Listings

Alumni directories by class year
along with contact information is
available at:

<http://stlukes-parish.org/cathedral>

Note: Contact information is not
available for every alumnus. Class
listings are also available for all
classes at the same location.

Thanks to St. Luke the Evangelist
Parish in Westborough, MA for
providing hosting space.

The NEW 555 West End Avenue

by Ed Behn

Over the past few years 555 West End Avenue has gone through a major renovation transforming it into luxury condominiums. Some of the sales literature contains the following excerpts.



“Inside a spectacular and meticulously restored architectural gem is an entirely new structure designed by Tamarkin Co. Thirteen magnificent three- to five-bedroom residences bring together the best elements of pre-war co-ops, condominiums, urban lofts, and townhouses—extraordinary volumes of space with gracious floor plans and impeccable detailing.”

“It’s original incarnation as a private school has enriched 555 West End Avenue, a recognizable landmark within the Riverside-West End Historic District, with outstanding architecture, soaring ceiling heights, towering windows, and a physically robust structure. “

The interior shows some exquisite living spaces—much different from our humble surroundings. The photo to the right shows the “Solarium Unit” which was our former gym.

The “Solarium Unit” purchase price is a mere \$18,000,000. Monthly taxes are only \$5,744 and common charges are a low \$6,593.

It appears that the developer did attempt to keep the exterior true to its original style, however, with some trendy upgrades.



The only downside to purchasing a unit in the renovated building is the reports of ghosts wandering the halls reciting excerpts from the *Aeneid* in perfect Latin!



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Brother Alumni,

In 1903 Cathedral College opened on Madison Avenue as a six year seminary program. In September of 1942 the school moved to 555 West End Avenue. In 1968, Cathedral Preparatory Seminary became a stand alone four year high school and the college division merged with Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception in Douglaston. In 1998 the four year high school, which had relocated to Rye, NY was closed. Since 1998, a weekend formation program is known as the Cathedral Preparatory Seminary.

No matter when we were part of Cathedral Preparatory Seminary, most of us have fond memories. Although the physical location no longer exists, the memories of good friends, beloved teachers and a “Cathedral spirit” still remain.

Throughout the years, many of the graduates managed to empower themselves and grew up to be accomplished professionals. While the school, as we knew it, no longer exists, memories of walking the halls and being at Cathedral created a magnetic pull of sorts among many alumni. Several unofficial “mini reunions” and class gatherings have been held over the years. Recently the Class of 1969 had its fiftieth reunion.

The Executive Board of the Cathedral College/Prep Alumni Association continues to make an effort to keep these memories alive and share them with all of those who attended Cathedral Preparatory Seminary. We need your assistance and participation at events or to serve as a Board member.

Annually, we host two events; namely, The Christmas Mass and Dinner and the Annual Memorial Mass and Dinner. We encourage you to attend one or both events to keep the memories and spirit alive.

The Executive Board of the Cathedral College/Prep Alumni Association

Christmastime at 555

by Bill Bishop

As the title of this newsletter suggests, one of its purposes is to keep alive the memories of the people, places and practices that were a part of the various priest-formation programs of the New York Archdiocese. As such, we encourage readers to send in their reflections of the time they spent in those programs. To “prime the pump,” as it were, I’d like to offer my memories of one of my favorite experiences at 555 West End Avenue – the final day before Christmas vacation.

Cathedral in those days was significantly ahead of other high school and college programs by virtue of the fact that Fall semester final exams came before the Christmas break allowing for a true vacation from academic endeavors. That last day was really carefree. As I remember it, after a brief stop in class for housekeeping issues, the entire school with the exception of the sixth year class, gathered in the lobby to sing Christmas carols. In addition to the usual carols, what made this event especially memorable was the singing of carols in the various languages taught in the high school – Italian, Spanish and French. I remember, being the “Irish kid” from Arthur Avenue, belting out “Gesù bambino, mio divino...” (as Fr. Dennen smiled proudly).

Following the singing of Carols, the students then climbed the four flights to the auditorium/

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Facebook Group

For those who use Facebook, we have a group and you can check for information and updates. This is the site address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031291000372044/>

chapel for the Gaudeamus (you had to be on crutches for a minimum of three weeks to take the elevator!!). Gaudeamus was satire at its finest – usually a gentle mocking of the “foibles” of the various faculty members. My class presented ours based on the then popular sitcom “McHale’s Navy” (which starred Ernest Borgnine, Tim Conway and others) with Msgr. Jimmy Lynch, “Bob” Wilde, the aforementioned Fr. Dennen (as the hideaway Japanese P.O. W. “Fuji” for those of you who remember the series) and other faculty serving as the officers and crew of the dysfunctional PT 555. It was great fun to put on and, from the comments of our audience of underclassmen, fun to watch as well. Even one faculty member described it as the “kindest” Gaudeamus he had witnessed.

Christmas time at Cathedral was special for my contemporaries and me. Please consider sending me your special recollections of your time in the program as well as comments on any part of the newsletter. It is a sincere hope that this will be a reader-generated work, which means for it to succeed, you will need to do your part. My contact information is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. (Bill Bishop –prep ‘62; college, ‘64)

Class Notes

Prep ‘68: On May 26th **John McGlynn** and his wife Dorothy made a pilgrimage to the Cathedral in Boston (aka **Fenway Park**) to join classmates **Ed Behn** (with his wife Ginna) and **Ed Toro** (with his wife Peg) for a game between the White Sox and the “**Crimson Hose**” (aka Red Sox).

It was a well played game with the lead changing back and forth with the White Sox finally beating the Red 9 to 8.

Following the afternoon game the classmates and their wives enjoyed a dinner accompanied by **Jim Kinlan** (Prep ‘69).
L to r: Ed Behn, Ed Toro, John McGlynn in front of the “**Green Monster**”.



Prep ‘74: Deacon Jim Vargas sent the following to *Memorare*.

I just read the newsletter and want you to know how grateful I am. I’m a graduate of the class of ‘74. My years at the prep have made me who I am today.

The photo of Tim Dorsey clutching the child with his hands is exactly what I would expect of one of our brothers. We were formed to connect and make a difference in the world - to make our Lord present, to have others experience His Love and compassion.

*God bless you.
Jim*

Prep ‘80: Joseph Barone accepted a "buy-out" from The World Bank (Washington DC) after 28 years of service. For many of those years, he was responsible for IT Training, especially major roll-outs for both off-the-shelf and proprietary applications. He has established his own company and you can learn more about it at www.afoolforlearning.com