

# Memorare

The newsletter of the Cathedral College/ Cathedral Prep Alumni Association

## 2020! What a year!

How our vocabularies expanded this year! Covid! Zoom! Social distancing! Could we have dreamed during our years at Cathedral that Churches would be closed. Easter celebrated “remotely.” This issue of *Memorare* hopes it finds you well. We’ve suffered some losses over the year, but our faith and hope for the future have not diminished.

We debated putting out an issue right now. No social events were possible. Most parishes were closed. Well, we don’t have to tell you what it’s been like. But we decided continuity was crucial to the alumni association and keeping the bonding process that shared memories produce, alive was an essential service.. So in this issue we have an update on the cancelled 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of 1970, a reflection of his days as rector by Msgr. James Sullivan, some thoughts on “lessons learned” at old 555, class notes (unfortunately, not happy ones) and assorted odds and ends. We really encourage readers to send us their thoughts, ideas, memories and other ideas for things you’d like to see in your newsletter.

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## Memories of a Cathedral Rector

When Bill Bishop, my classmate, invited me to write a couple of paragraphs about my time as the Rector of Cathedral, my mind turned to two moments.

The first was when the then Msgr. Edwin O’Brien asked me in the name of Cardinal O’Connor, to succeed Msgr. George Thompson as the Rector of Cathedral. At the time, the spring of 1988, I was the Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. My offices were at the seminary so it was not a long walk to see Msgr. O’Brien. There was a sense of gratitude to agree to the Cardinal’s request to lead my alma mater. I had entered the Prep in September, 1958 and my next six years at the Prep and College had its proverbial ups and downs but, in, all, it was a time of growth and friendship for my classmates and me. So it was with an immediate sense of joy and challenge that I could return to “555” and give back something to an institution that was such a part of my development as a Catholic man and then priest.

The second moment that I recalled was when I went to meet Msgr. Thompson to begin the transition. I don’t know about you, but the Rector’s office at “555” was always intimidating to me. It seemed to me that it was not a place that you necessarily wanted to enter. The Rector’s office was a place that you periodically got to look into, admire and then move on quickly to class, the cafeteria (continued on page 2)...



*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.

### *Memories of a Cathedral Rector continued*

or library. It was like the faculty room – a place of mystery and wonder.

When I met Msgr. Thompson in his office, I was conscious of the prior Rectors who had occupied this classic and, yet, awesome room. They had left their mark in this minor seminary and now it would be my turn to try to shepherd the young men who would come to know me as their rector.

As it turned out, I was only two years in the Rector's office. In 1990, Cardinal O'Connor asked me to become the Rector of the St. John Neuman College and Pre-Theology Seminary, but with a novel twist. I was to keep the title of Rector of the Prep and a Head Master would be named to shepherd the Prep on a daily basis. The Cardinal's desire was to indicate the bond between the Prep and Neuman through the naming of one Rector for both of these sacred spots of priestly discernment and formation. So it was that the late Fr. La Sala and Fr. O'Connor moved the Prep through its next several years of development. I remained as Rector of the Prep and of Neuman until July, 1996 when I moved on to my next assignment.

So much more to reflect upon, but let me leave it at that since Bill suggested "a couple of paragraphs." The Prep and the College were always identified with "In Spem Ecclesiam." May we each remember our time at "555" (or wherever we encountered the program) as a time indeed of hope – for ourselves and for our Church. It was a place that, I pray, gave each of us an opportunity to grow in strength, wisdom and love for God, our neighbors and ourselves.

Msgr. James P. Sullivan  
Prep '62; College '64

## Who said that!?

### Last Edition's quote

*Q. "People on the streets outside (87<sup>th</sup> Street and West End Avenue) take for granted you are either a student or a worker; you people have the advantage of being non-working students"*

**A. Msgr. Florence Cohalan**

### This Edition's quote

*Q. "There could be no theology without Greek."*

Answer in the next issue.

**Special thanks to Msgr. Tom Sandi for the above material.**

## Cathedral Prep Class of 1970 50th Reunion

Eager to gather for the first time in 50 years, the Cathedral Prep class of 1970 began organizing our reunion festivities in 2019. Bill Burke and Dan Mullin began the task of locating our classmates. Calling upon all of our sleuthy investigative techniques, we were able to locate 28 of the 35 graduates of our class!

The Reunion plan was to assemble in early June 2020 in NYC for a memorial mass to remember our deceased classmates followed by a celebratory cocktail hour and dinner for classmates, spouses and faculty. We secured the church of St. Francis of Assisi in Manhattan for our mass and a private room dinner venue at the Pennsylvania 6 restaurant across the street from the church. At last count, we had 40 people signed up for the reunion! We also had a member of the Cathedral College and Prep Alumni Association scheduled to join us to provide our class with an update of the Association activities.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus forced us to postpone our gathering until October. In lieu of an in-person reunion, we organized a ZOOM 'reunion' in June with 13 classmates joining in to catch up and reminisce about our time at the prep. As

the summer progressed, the concerns about the virus in NYC did not subside. As such, we decided to cancel our reunion plans for 2020 with the promise of revisiting sometime in 2021. In the meantime, we all agreed to conduct periodic ZOOM calls as a way to stay in touch.

Bill and I hope that our fellow alumni, faculty and friends and their families are well at this writing and offer our prayers for those affected by the virus this year.

Bill and I can be reached at the following for any inquiries or updates:  
Bill Burke at [billburke74@gmail.com](mailto:billburke74@gmail.com)  
Dan Mullin at [danman1547@aol.com](mailto:danman1547@aol.com)

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## Lessons from West End Avenue

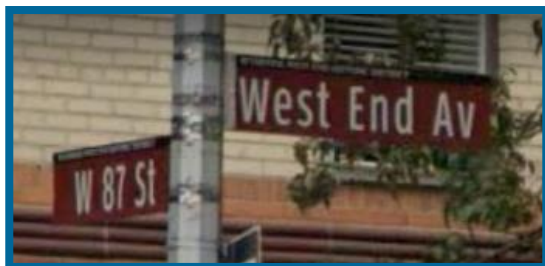
*By Bill Bishop*

For those of us who experienced the priest-formation program of the Archdiocese of New York, even those of us who did not pursue the program to ordination, life lessons learned there stuck with us and, in so many ways, made us what we became.

One of my favorite lessons, which I often repeat to my own students came from “Big Jim” Byrne, Latin teacher and Chief Intimidator of the Prep. It was third year and, being among the shortest of our class I was a natural target for “Big Jim’s” life lesson. “Bishop” he bellowed, “get up here!” To say that hearing your name roared out by the Prep’s C.I. was intimidating would be like saying Cole Porter could compose music – true, but seriously understated.

At any rate, Big Jim told me to stand near the side wall of the classroom while he took a pencil and drew a line as high up the wall as his 6’4” frame could extend. Then, “Bishop, touch that line.” I swear as I looked up Sputnik actually passed below it! Well, you never said no to Big Jim so I made a ridiculously clumsy leap falling about the height of Noah’s Ark short of the line. “Bishop, jump! HIGHER!” Again I made a mighty effort and this time I think I reached steege on the Ark. “Bishop, JUMP, BOY” After a few more futile attempts, he turned to the class and said, “THAT’S the way you live your life! Always reach beyond your ability, NEVER SETTLE! It’s not enough to do what you CAN do. Reach for the things you think you CAN’T do. Even if you fall short, you’re still far ahead of where you are now!”

Although at the time I just wanted to get the hell back to my seat before I passed out, looking back on it, that day meant so much more to me than the entire semester of learning which verbs take the dative in Latin. Thank you, Chief Intimidator and rest in peace.



## Caesar’s Last Breath

We and our world are struggling to deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic. We know the virus is air borne thus the importance of wearing masks. We thought the following analysis would be interesting.

Julius Caesar was infamously murdered in 44BC and with his last breath, dispersed 25 sextillion molecules into the air. In any given breath you take, the odds are you’re breathing some of them in.

Using Avogadro’s number ( $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ ) and the volume of 1 mole of gas at Standard Temperature and Pressure ( $24 \times 10^{-3} \text{m}^3$ ) we can arrive at an estimate for the number of molecules in a single breath. This gives us a value of  $1.25 \times 10^{22}$  molecules.

The surface of the earth is ( $4\pi r^2$ ). Multiplying by the height of the atmosphere ( $15 \times 10^3 \text{m}$ ) the volume of the atmosphere is  $8.0 \times 10^{18} \text{m}^3$ .

We now know the volume of air in the entire atmosphere and the number of molecules in a single breath. Given that your breath and Caesar’s have the same volume, all we have to do is divide them out, giving us a figure of  $6.4 \times 10^{-4}$ .

This is the number of molecules in every cubic meter, we divide this by the volume of a single breath (0.5 liters), and doing so our number comes out to be 1.28 molecules! What does this mean?

Every time you breathe, there’s a good chance that at least one of those molecules was exhaled by Julius Caesar in the throes of death.

**So wear your mask!**

For more information and calculation details see: <https://futurism.com/estimating-how-many-molecules-you-breathe-that-were-from-julius-caesars-last-breath>

## 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/>

## Know your Latin

I'm proud that I got 40% on my Latin exam. After all, you should always **XL**.

### ***Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit***

Supposedly a quote by the Roman philosopher Lucretius, the Latin motto *ex nihilo nihil fit* means "nothing comes from nothing," and is used as a reminder that hard work is always required in order to achieve something.



## Class Notes

Brother alumni, we are initiating in the newsletter a section of "Class notes." Most alumni publications contain such a column mentioning significant events (reunions, particular achievements, marriages, deaths, etc.). Therefore, we are soliciting submissions. If the information regards someone other than yourself please be sure to have the permission of the subject or his family. Also please include your name and class as well as, if it's someone else's information, the class (college? prep?) year of graduation of the subject. You can send the information to Bill Bishop (BillB70@optimum.net). Please include "Alumni class note" in the subject line.

## Requiescant in Pace

Charles Giancola (College '64)  
Msgr. Joseph P. Nagle (Prep '62 and College '64)

How many of you remember getting on or off the IRT at this station during your daily commute to Cathedral?

