

St. Anthony's Sem Alumni Assoc.
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2023- Fall Newsletter

Vol. 37 ~ No. 4



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Mystery Photo: What and where is this? (Answer in the newsletter)





The Tower

St. Anthony's Seminary Alumni Association Newsletter
Volume 37 SEPT. 2023 No. 4



A SMALL SUMMER REUNION

HELLO ONCE AGAIN YOU WONDERFUL SAS ALUMNI! 😊

I hope everyone enjoyed the abridged, mid-summer “cyber-reunion” newsletter that contained an explanation of ‘everything SAS’ on our two websites: www.SASalumni.org and www.SASarchive.org ! I received responses from several alums stating that they never realized all that was on them, including a complete *Pax et Bonum* prayer book, along with a complete explanation of the chapel reredos. Many enjoyed seeing some of the old track day programs, class play programs, and graduation programs. Thank you for your feedback!

The two sites are currently undergoing some maintenance, and some items are ‘down’ on the archive site; but, if you do a “Search by Year,” they will show up in *that* list of items. We hope to have it all back up soon.

And speaking of reunions, a few guys of the Class of 1972, the Olympians, got together on July 20th to the 23rd for a mini “fifty-first” reunion! Pictured from left to right are:

Carl Pierce, Paul Bergevin, Daniel O’Neil, Tree, Steve Kenison, Thom Wenger, and Dino Marsango! They met in Bend, Oregon, and spent a great three days together. Looking good!



Other classes continue to enjoy periodic Zoom calls. I do know that the classes of 1956, 1957, 1961, 1962, 1964, and my class of 1967 get together on a call at least three times a year; and a few classes even talk monthly. 😊

I recently lunched with Fr. Joe Baur ‘45, Jay Kilroy ‘49, & Fr. Ed Fronske ‘59. Fr. Joe is our ‘senior-most’ alum!

GENERAL ALUMNI NEWS

1) Here’s another “Bus Story” that you might find *familiarly fascinating*: (by David Johnson ‘67)

After reading Steve’s “bus story” in the Spring Newsletter, I knew that I had to submit one of my own about *my* “bus adventure” from *Alamosa, Colorado* to Santa Barbara and SAS! The trip was, of course, very l-o-n-g, but it was also very interesting because of who got on and off the bus. I did a good deal of “people watching;” and, as a young teenager, I saw some pretty strange sights. The big downside to each trip was basically the two days of being on a bus! It left my clothes, and *me*, smelling of diesel fuel, cigarette smoke, and an array of other ‘scents’ that were wafting throughout the Greyhound. I would always transfer to another bus in New Mexico, but for some reason the buses there were far older and ‘dingier’ than the ‘scenic cruisers’ (see pic below) that you would see in the advertisements. I remember one even had the ‘overly-rounded corners’ like the busses of the 1950s, but my trips were all in the ‘60s. One good thing, however, was having several other seminarians join me at the various New Mexico stops.

I recall on one occasion, the bus stopped for fuel in Gallup, NM, and across the street, some Native Americans got into a big fight outside of a bar; kind of scary for a boy my age at the time. And very often, as we traveled through New Mexico, passengers would get dropped off in the pitch darkness out in the middle of nowhere! Somehow they knew



where their homes were, yet I could not see even a single light! I still marvel at how they even knew where to get off. Talk about an interesting bus ride through New Mexico and finally into Arizona! Steve's story pretty much sums up the remainder of my trip, except for the fact that I had never seen a palm tree 'in the flesh' until my very first bus ride through those southwestern states!

But wait, there *is* more... because eventually Greyhound Bus Lines stopped serving Alamosa! So, my parents would drive me to Salida, Colorado, where I would catch the *train*. Now *that* was livin' because the New Mexico guys would join me on the train, and we would head straight for the dome car, and stay there for the remainder of the trip discussing everything under the sun, including some big, philosophical topics that would sometimes attract other people in the dome car. It was a lot of fun.

One time, however, on my way back to Colorado for Christmas vacation, the train came to an abrupt stop...it was snowbound near Flagstaff. The drifts were up to the train's windows, and there was no way to contact my parents. There were no cellphones back then, of course, and there were no phones on the train. So the train sat on the tracks for about 12 hours. At least the dining car was available. At long last, the railroad provided some alternate transportation... a BUS to Alamosa! My parents had driven to Salida to pick me up, but, were then told about the stranded train. So all they could do was return to Alamosa. Finally, I arrived at home just as Christmas Eve dinner was about to be served; and all was well again. ☺

Produce quarantined in Los Angeles after invasive fruit flies discovered

Amancai Biraben
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES – The discovery of nearly 30 invasive fruit flies has prompted a produce quarantine affecting over 79 square miles of Los Angeles County as state and local officials try to stop the fly from spreading and hurting California's fruit and vegetable industry.

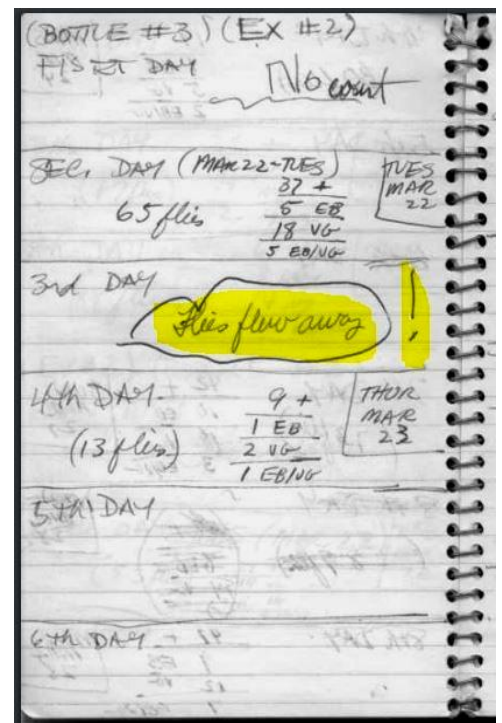
It's the first quarantine ever in the Western Hemisphere for the Tau fruit fly, which is native to Asia, agriculture officials said. The fly was discovered on June 6 in the unincorporated area of Stevenson Ranch, about 30 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, and was likely brought by a traveler bringing uninspected produce into California, officials said.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has declared a produce quarantine northeast of Los Angeles to stop the spread of the invasive Tau fruit fly, officials said.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE VIA AP

2) Fruit Flies, Oh My!

I recently saw this article in our local newspaper, and I thought, "Oh no, it's all *my* fault!" Why Steve? Why? Because 50 some years ago, when conducting fruit fly experiments in Fr. Severin's Biology Class... MY FLIES ESCAPED!! HA! And here's my notes, (on the right), *which I still have*, to prove it! Over the years those escaped flies kept mutating until 2023!!! Just kidding of course. But it would make a pretty good B movie, assuming the flies were 10 feet tall! ☺



Now, however, I am curious to know how far back the fruit fly experiments went! Perhaps some of you folks from the '50s can tell me if you also worked with those vestigial winged microscopic creatures! ☺

3) Poor St. Francis!

I have a statue of St. Francis in my back yard, and as an overhead tree branch grows closer to it, the birds have taken advantage of Francis' 'good nature,' so now I have to hose the poor guy off every week these days. (Or I may just cut back the branch!) ☺



4) The Mystery Photo...This is another rainy day at SAS, with a look at what was known as the "senior diamond," the one closest to the mission grounds. Remember how, on a rainy day, we could get from the far west dorm to the refectory without getting wet? ...Go thru the side door of the dorm, thru the side stage door, thru the study hall/gym, then into and thru the basement tunnel, then up the inside steps to the refectory! Made ya think!! ☺

5) St. Elizabeth's... Several alums have emailed to tell me that the Franciscans have given St. Elizabeth's, which was established in 1892, in Oakland, over to the diocese. And the date is quickly approaching when six of the U.S. provinces will become one. I believe that the national novitiate will still be at Old Mission Santa Barbara. If anyone has any further information, please let me know. Thanks.

6) Fraternal Care Trust – I have mentioned the FCT once in the past. This was the brainchild of Fr. Mel Jurisich, and was established in 2007 to help care for the elderly friars. It is a non-profit organization, and if you are interested in donating to it, it's address is 1500 34th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601 (510) 536-3722

7) JFK, 60 years! 60 years ago, this November 22, I, as a freshman, was sitting in class at SAS. Suddenly the classroom door swung open, and there stood Fr. Rector, Neil Scott, with a sort of blank look on his face. He told us that President Kennedy had just been assassinated, and that we were to go to the chapel immediately! "Leave your books, and report to chapel" were his words. For the next 4 days the television in the corner of the refectory was turned on during our mealtimes, and we watched the news and the funeral. A few months later, my parents bought a coffee table-style book called "*The Torch Has Passed,*" and I still have it to this day.



8) Correspondence... Ed Moncrief, Class of 1960, has written a novel, *Raising the Blackbirds*. He has a website promoting it if you would like to check it out at: www.edwardmoncrief.com

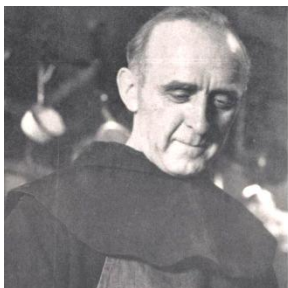
I also heard from Gregory Ross, Class of 1951, who just found us recently through the alumni website! After a career as a Navy journalist, he taught Philosophy at St. Bonaventure University, and earned his Masters at UC Berkeley. He received his doctorate at the University of Buffalo. He also taught at Loyola and East Carolina University. After teaching for 40 years, he now lives at his family home near San Francisco. Welcome back SAS alumnus Gregory Ross! ☺

9) Tales of Cornbread!

Ah, the wonders of cornbread! Many tales have been told of this storied breakfast delight! For many of us it was 'what's for breakfast' every Tuesday and Saturday! Throughout the years, we have shared various cornbread recipes, as well as various cornbread toppings... including the 1966 syrup vs jelly "controversy," which was ended with a "decree" from Fr. Rector that *both* would be served. Ha! I have also heard that castor oil was put into the batter to help keep us all 'regular;' which may have accounted for a 'full house' in the main jakes every Tuesday and Saturday! That was told to me by Brother Clem years ago, but then again, he was quite a jokester, so I am not 100% positive of its reliability. ☺



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



In the Spring newsletter we remembered Brother Clem and Brother Sylvester; and with the mention of cornbread above, let us remember Brother Ivo Stuewe, another brother who "taught by example." He transferred to St. Joseph's in LA the year that I arrived in 1963, so I never really knew him; but I would like to quote a portion of an article by Chris Bricker, Class of '64, that appeared in the October 1963 *Antonian*:

"...In 1934, Brother Ivo took on the job of head cook at St. Anthony's. He saw a lot of faces during his 29 years at SAS. He saw them every morning when he and his staff had been up at farmer's hours preparing the morning meal. He saw them again at noon, and again at 6 PM every day! (He saw them as waiters, as dishwashers, and as just plain hungry boys!) He saw a new stove in 1935, and he saw a new *kitchen* in 1949, the year the big refectory building was completed. Feast Days, especially St. Francis Day, were his specialty! We will miss Brother Ivo here at SAS, but knowing him to be a true Franciscan, we know that he will be happy wherever obedience takes him."

(Editor's Note: Thank you Bro. Ivo for the thousands of meals that helped keep us going so many years ago! ☺)

REST IN PEACE

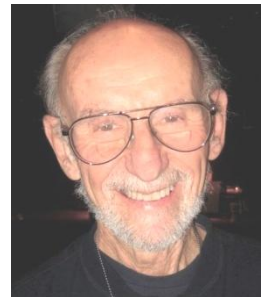
Gerald (Jerry) Petrini, Class of 1959, passed away on May 3, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. His mother and father moved the family from Chicago to Santa Barbara in 1953, and Jerry attended all four years of high school at SAS, and was student body president his senior year. He then enrolled at UCSB where he earned his Masters in Education. He taught at Dos Pueblos High School for his entire career. For a while, his family owned Petrini's Italian Restaurant in Santa Barbara. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; a son; a daughter; and three brothers. His funeral was held at Old Mission Santa Barbara on May 12th.

John Pargett, Class of 1954, died on March 21, 2023. I received this information from his daughter, Kate. She relayed to me that he spoke often of his SAS experiences, and after he married in 1966, he, and his wife Veronica, raised all six of their offspring in the faith. After three years in the U.S. Army, John worked as a carpenter and cabinet maker. Later, he became a building inspector, and building official for Calaveras County. He was also gifted with eleven grandchildren, and was an active member of St. Andrews Parish in San Andreas, California.



Fr. Richard McManus OFM passed away in August 2023, but I do not know the exact date of his passing. Though he was not an alumnus of SAS, he *did* teach at St. Anthony's for 4 years in the early 1980s. For a while he was the Guardian at Old Mission Santa Barbara, and he was instrumental in allowing us to stay in the Old Mission's former theology bedrooms during our annual reunions. At one reunion he even barbequed a huge beef roast for us! Fr. Richard was also known for his retreats, both as a retreat master and as an assistant. He is interred at the friars' mausoleum at Old Mission Santa Barbara.

Fr. Louie Vitale OFM, died on September 7, 2023, at the age of 91. Fr. Louie grew up in Pasadena, California, and after attending a military school, he joined the U.S. Air Force, becoming a pilot, and achieving the rank of Captain. But after reading about the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Louie did a '180,' and joined the Franciscans! And Fr. Louie was truly a Franciscan's Franciscan! He was the embodiment of St. Francis and his love. Fr. Vitale served in many capacities throughout the province, including teacher at SLR, long-time pastor at St. Boniface Parish in San Francisco; and, at one time, he served as the Provincial. He was co-founder of The Nevada Desert Experience, an organization that helped stop U.S. nuclear testing. In the non-violent style of Martin Luther King, he embraced the call to such advocacy. In 2001 he received the Pax Christi Teacher of Peace Award, and in 2012 he was bestowed with an honorary doctorate from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. His *entire* acceptance speech was this: "I've discovered in my life that love is all that really matters in the end. Thank you and God bless you."



A good friend of his remembered him this way: "My memories of Louie center on his joyful Franciscan spirit. As his brother friar I will always be grateful for his wonderful Italian optimism – much like another Franciscan who even used to sing to the birds!"

Anthony Rodio, Class of 1957. I just heard of his passing. Sorry, I have no further information at this time. **R.I.P**

Here we are once again on the threshold of fall with its many holydays and holidays. One "biggie" of course is October 4th! ☺
Don't forget St. Frank! May God's peace, love, and joy be with you all!

Here is a little cartoon sent to me by Ben Mariante, Class of 1953.

Maybe those birds went to IKEA! Ha!---->

www.sasalumni.org

Sincerely, Steve Rath (67) - 480-831-6205 - dipper40@hotmail.com

