



Bordentown Bash: A Huge Success

By Mike Hanlon (Bordentown '83)

On August 9, 2003, the SVD community in Bordentown, NJ, opened its doors and hosted an SVD alumni reunion on the grounds of the former seminary. The event was held in the gymnasium due to rain that day. However, this did not put a damper on the gathering of former

Bordentown students, along with SVD alumni from Miramar, Conesus, Girard, Epworth, and East Troy. The total number of attendees for the big event was 240 – one of the largest SVD reunions held so far. Way to go Bordentown!

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In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through Him. What has come into being in Him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it.



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Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz Canonized

A Pilgrimage of One: An Alumnus' Reflections

By Henry Pinson (Miramar '50)

Why do we go to Rome? Because it's there. For centuries people have traveled the "via" to get to the center of the Roman empire, the Holy Roman empire, the Papal States, Italy, the Vatican, the Holy Father... the crossroads of the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

In March 2003, the announcement came that on October 5th Father Arnold Janssen, Bishop Daniel Comboni, and Father Josef Freinademetz were to be canonized – three missionaries, two of whom worked in foreign lands while one stayed home.

When the canonization was first announced, groups were formed to go from Chicago and New York, but not Boston. I asked those whom I thought might be interested if they wished to go, but no one committed. I decided that I would be a pilgrim of one. I said to myself, "I am going to Rome, to be there in St. Peter's square on that day. A modern pilgrimage – no penance by walking – flying as quickly as possible to the Eternal City, Rome, where I will stay in a modern hotel with good food and wine." So this



Henry Pinson
Miramar '50

reflection is from the perspective of one person doing his own thing. I felt like Father Josef, going to China: alone, going to Rome, but determined to see him canonized, knowledge of language be damned.

When I arrived at Leonardo da Vinci Airport, I realized I was still miles away from Rome. How to get there from here? Back in April, I had bought a pile of travel

books on Rome, with all the essential details on navigating public transportation, basic Italian, how to order in a restaurant, and where to find the important churches. But the books were in a neat stack on my kitchen table back in Massachusetts! I remembered that there was a train from the airport to the center of Rome, Stazione Termini, so I went looking for the booth to buy my ticket. Who knows English in Rome? If one has patience, you get what you

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A Note from the Director's Desk

How does the old saying go, "Better late than never?" My apologies for taking so long to get this issue of *Word Winds* into your hands. As you can tell from the articles, this issue highlights alumni and SVD events from June to November of 2003. There were many alumni events and SVD celebrations, including several canonization liturgies and receptions honoring our new saints; Arnold and Joseph.

I was blessed to be able to travel with six other lay alumni and several SVDs to Rome for the canonization celebration in St. Peter's Square. The Mission Office at Techny sponsored our Rome Pilgrimage. A few other alumni also made the trip to Rome, including Henry Pinson (Miramar '50) who contributed a feature story in this issue of *Word Winds*. We joined members of the Universal Church -- both professed religious and laity -- from all continents. The liturgy at the Vatican was truly a multi-cultural celebration. It was a joy to represent all U.S. alumni at this special celebration.

Many of you are aware that the Society has asked me to serve the community in another capacity. Official announcements have been published in other SVD publications, but I wanted to inform members of the SVD Alumni Association that in addition to my responsibilities as Alumni Director, I am also the new National Vocation Director for the Society. As the first layperson to hold this position, I am honored and humbled to have been asked to serve the Society in this ministry.

Since July of 2003, I have been inviting young men to consider the missionary brotherhood and priesthood as an SVD. I have spent much time "networking" and meeting people with whom we can partner to help in the vocation ministry effort; sometimes many hands make for light work! This is where I would like to ask two favors of you as a member of the Alumni Association. First, please pray for young people to answer the call to become brothers, priests, sisters and deacons, and especially for an increase of vocations to the SVD. Second, please send me the names and addresses of young men you think would be interested in learning more about the SVD. Young people today are often reluctant to talk about their desire to explore religious life as an option. If you see someone with potential, please encourage him and let us know who he is. We will forward some information to him, and follow that up with a personal contact.

Thank you for allowing me to share information with you about vocation ministry. There are many upcoming alumni events in 2004 being planned. Many of these are outlined on the last page of this newsletter. Others may be added as the year progresses. I'll keep you informed, and hope to see you at one of these events. As we gather as alumni of the SVD, let us be mindful of the role the Society continues to play in the Church today and support its endeavors.



Lenny Uhal
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Alumni Gather in Bordentown

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Former students came from all over the US and abroad, as far away as Japan. Talk about school spirit! The day's events started out with registration followed by a lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, salads and drink. Then came tours of the former school (now an SVD residence), dormitories, kitchen and dining hall, and the gatehouse. Between raindrops, the alumni made their way on the tour sharing memories and stories along the way with family and friends.

A mass was held at 5:00 PM in the gymnasium presided over by the rector, Fr. Raymond Lennon, SVD. After the mass, alumni pitched in to put away the tables and chairs as some of them had done as students after Bingo night. Then all exchanged final farewells.

All the alumni who attended enjoyed the day's events. Many had not seen each other in over 20 years. Many stories were retold and many friendships rekindled.



Al Plass, Kevin Wood, Peter Cerra, Bart Fitzsimmons, Frank Piazza, Bill Purcell & George Cuesta — all from the Class of 73.

Special thanks to Fr. Ray and the Divine Word community at Bordentown who graciously opened their home. Thanks also to the reunion committee who worked for many months to make the day's festivities happen. In addition to Fr. Ray, other committee members included Mr. Peter Cerra, Mr. Kevin Kologinsky, Fr. Steve Schuler, SVD,

Brother Bob Zalikowski, SVD, and me.

We thank all who attended the reunion for coming and sharing your memories and laughter; for those who were not able to make it, you were greatly missed.



The Spirituality of the Sacred Liturgy – SVD Style!

By Fr. Edmund H. Fitzgerald (Miramar '48)

Long before the Second Vatican Council promulgated its documents on the Sacred Liturgy and its renewal in the Church, the Society of the Divine Word taught even its youngest students the proper understanding and execution of the rites of the Church. The richness and variety of the liturgical seasons and of the greater feasts of the year were explained and performed in the seminary chapel with devotion and precision, fostering understanding and appreciation of this treasury of the Church. Every aspect of the liturgy was spread out in all its sanctity and glory for the entire community.



Fr. Ed Fitzgerald
Miramar '48

The Mass, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Office (especially prayed at Saturday evening Compline and Sunday Vespers), and quasi-liturgical actions such as Morning and Evening Prayers from the Society's own books, especially the *Orate Fratres* and *Vademecum* were all carefully celebrated to the great advantage of the seminarians.

At Miramar in the writer's time, the late Fr. George Zetts, SVD, trained the choir and the community in the correct understanding of the liturgy and gave students a thorough knowledge of the origins and details of the feasts, in order to expose us to the beauty and fruitfulness of the Church's public worship. As I passed through the major seminary, it was clear how well the Society had done its work. In Chapel, in class, in choir practice and everywhere in the house the Sacred Liturgy was taught with clarity and beauty.

No detail was neglected! This writer remembers the visit of His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, SVD, in April, 1946 at Miramar, when Father Zetts carefully adapted the Society's formal greeting for a prelate to the new experience of welcoming a Cardinal (the Society's and China's first) to the Chapel: "Christus vincit" was rendered "Eminentissimo Domino Thomae" for the occasion, and the two Cantors (now Dr. Edward Farley and I) had the thrill of greeting His Eminence by his first name!

The Society did its work well and bestowed upon its students, ever so long ago, before Vatican II, the deep spiritual gifts of the Sacred Liturgy of the Church.

An African-American meets African-Jamaicans! Theology student participates in Cultural Training Program (CTP)

By Frt. Darrell Kelly, SVD (Epworth, Techny-novitiate, Chicago-Theologate)

What happens when an African-American meets African-Jamaicans?

When I arrived in Jamaica on August 6, 2002, Jamaica's Independence Day, I was filled with awe and gratitude for being exposed to one of God's wonders. I was looking at the superficial image of Jamaica – lush vegetation, vibrant dress, and laughter. This notion changed when I stopped looking at Jamaica as a visitor and began interacting with the people as a missionary.

Looking through the eyes of a missionary, I began to see the parallels and differences between my culture, the African-American culture, and the African-Jamaican culture. The first thing I noticed was the ease with which I could blend in with Jamaicans as long as I kept my mouth shut! As soon as I uttered the first word, Jamaicans would look at me and say one of the following: "You're not Jamaican!" or "Were you born in Jamaica and your family left when you were small?" or "You can pass for Jamaican." or "Do you have any relatives living in the West Indies because you look like a West Indian?" I would smile and respond, "No, I am an American." Both African-American culture and the African-Jamaican culture stem from the Diasporas of Africa caused by the slave trade. This is evident in our spirituality, the strong desire and ability to

survive, expressive music, Church, and festive celebrations of our ancestral history (e.g., carnivals, Black History Month, etc.). Other issues prevalent in both cultures include low self-esteem, self-sabotage, and weakening social structures.



Frt. Darrell Kelly, SVD
Epworth/Techny/Chicago

The similarities between the two cultures stop here because locality, history, and life experiences over the centuries influenced each culture's norms and mores differently. So when this African-American meets African-Jamaicans, respect and appreciation of the similarities as well as the differences of our cultures occurs. With this in mind, an analogy of the Mighty Mississippi River comes to mind: the Mississippi River starts off as one mighty river; tributaries form and become great rivers in their own right. So it is with the "Black River" African-Americans flowing through African-Jamaicans: tributaries form into great rivers in their own right.

Writers Welcomed

Thank you, Fr. Ed, for submitting an article for this issue of *Word Winds!*

We are looking for other alumni, lay and religious, to contribute to this regular feature in the newsletter.

If you are interested in writing an article for the Spirituality Column, please contact the Alumni Office.



Rome Reflections

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5th Annual SVD Alumni Association Reunion

Toledo Area
April 16-18

Nazareth Hall
Grand Rapids, Ohio

\$40 per person
RSVP by April 9, 2004

Friday: Informal
Reunion Activities
(contact Len for
details)

Saturday:
Hospitality Room
beginning at 11 AM
Mass at 5 PM
Social at 6 PM
Dinner at 7 pm

Sunday: Informal
Breakfast

If you have any
questions or would like
further information,
contact Len Uhal at
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want. Of course, Latin, German, French and maybe Italian learned in the States might help, but you have to open your mouth.

Everyone seems to have an agenda for Rome. See this, see that, do God-knows-what, rush hither and yon, but stop and smell the roses? No way! There's not enough time.

My hotel was on the Via Salaria, near the Borghese Gardens. I walked the neighborhood, found the daily markets, the fish and meat markets and flea stalls. I bargained one day for a new backpack after the straps had given out on my old one. I saw a backpack. How much? The man c o u l d n ' t u n d e r s t a n d English, but I pointed, gestured, and the man said, "twenty-five." "No way. 20!" on my part. "24." "21." "23." "22." "23?" "Okay." Life is full of surprises in a far away land.

On October 4th as I was visiting the Coliseum, I saw a nun with a scarf around her neck with the portraits of St. Arnold and St. Josef. I needed some information, so I went up to her and asked, "Do you speak English?" "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?" God, how she replied in German! Forget it. "How about English?" "A little," she said. I told her why I was in Rome, asking her what the schedule was and where would the canonization of the St. Arnold and St. Josef be. She took out her agenda, which of course was all in German, but it had all the information: the prayer service on Saturday night, Sunday's canonization, and Mass at St. Paul's Basilica Monday morning. She told me where she came from in Germany, and how many people were in her group: over 500. I had to tell her I was a pilgrim of one, but there were others whom I would see – somehow.

That night I went to the auditorium without a ticket, but God looks out for us fools. As I was walking in St. Peter's square, I met some nuns, again wearing scarves of St. Arnold and St. Josef, who were from the Philippines. I talked to them. They had extra tickets, and I got number 12434. I followed the crowd into Pope Paul VI's auditorium where I met up with Fr. Joe Bugner, SVD, Len Uhal and some of the other pilgrims with the group from Techny.

The next morning I arrived at St. Peter's Square for the canonization. The ticket allowed me to sit down in the reserved area, but I had decided back in the States that I

would stand on the axis of the ellipse next to one of the fountains. Pope John Paul II in his wheel chair was brought to the altar, and a hush fell over the crowd as the ceremony began. Loudspeakers spoke in Italian, German, Latin, English, Greek, Polish, Arabian, Portuguese, and languages of Africa and Asia. We were not in the States, but we were

part of the whole world. I saw and heard people from various nations. We were all there to honor St. Daniel, St. Arnold and St. Josef. We all prayed the Nicene Creed, "I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church," which has a new and greater meaning now. Before that day, those were only words. Now I saw the Holiness, the Catholicity and the Apostolicity in



Several SVD and lay alumni participated in the Pilgrimage to Rome sponsored by the Tri-Province Mission Office at Techny. Pictured: (back row): Fr. Jim Pawlicki, SVD, Fr. Fisher Robinson, SVD, Maurice Donovan, Fr. Cliff Labbe, SVD, Jack Schwab, Bob Hartmen, Jim Kaelin, Fr. Malcolm O'Leary, SVD, Henry Pinson & Fr. Joe Guidry, SVD. Middle row standing: Fr. Joe Bugner, SVD, & Bro. Bernard Dorade, SVD. Front row: Michael Menheer, Fr. Borgia Aubespain, SVD, Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, Bishop Raymond Kalisz, SVD, & Len Uhal.

front of and all around me.

The ceremony ended. The Holy Father rode his pope-mobile, blessing the crowd as he returned to his apartments. I lingered in the square and took pictures of the pilgrims from the nations of the world. As I show the photos to my children and my grandchildren, I try to explain the emotions of a modern pilgrim to Rome. Every one of us pilgrims to Rome have our own private thoughts and emotions. We who have stood there close our eyes and conjure up images and emotions of St. Peter's Square. We all become frozen in that moment of time.

I spent the following days exploring Rome: The Coliseum, Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, the Roman Forum, the Pantheon, the shops and cafes, and back to St. Peter's Basilica to explore the inside. I rode the buses, trolleys and subways, then walked some more, stopped to have pastries, a cold beer. No rush. It was impossible to see everything. I walked down an alley...an open piazza, a famous church or a fountain or an obelisk. I visited a church, and there was a wedding. My pilgrimage was alone, with no set agenda, no timetable. I rode and walked where the Spirit moved and shoved me.

My pilgrimage in Rome ended and it was back to the States by way of Toronto. I made arrangements for my car to be in Braintree, drove down I-95 to Attleboro, and arrived home 11:00 PM local time. My watch said 5:00 AM Roman time. I had gotten up at 6:00 AM. It was a very long day, and a pilgrimage that will stay with me a very long time.



Miramar Community Celebrates Canonization

By Fr. Tom Griffith, SVD (East Troy/Miramar/Conesus/Techny)

Miramar Retreat Center has long been a place for reflection, meditation, and prayer – open to men and women seeking to deepen their relationship with God. Many religious return annually for retreat. Recovery groups, priest discussion groups, Pre-Cana, confirmation classes, and many others have discovered the beauty and peace of Miramar while being nourished by the dedicated staff of SVD, sisters, and laity. Alumni and family of SVDs are regular visitors. Weekday morning prayer and liturgy has grown from a few faithful to over forty regular attendees. We invited these friends of Miramar to join us for the canonization celebration of Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz on October 5, 2003.

I was selected to chair the committee following several brainstorming sessions with the members of the local SVD community, staff, and volunteers. The plan of the day was two-fold: honor Sts. Joseph and Arnold on their special day and tell people about Arnold Janssen's religious family and our work as an international missionary community. After so many years of work around Duxbury and Boston, we have been surprised to learn how little people know about the Society.

Sunday, October 5, was sunny and mild as 200 guests gathered at Holy Family Parish to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the canonization of St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz. Holy Family, Miramar's home parish, has a large, modern church and an equally spacious hall below. Msgr. William Glynn, the pastor, and



Jack Slattery, Jim Harvey and Jim Welch, all from Miramar's Class of 1950 assist at the Liturgy.

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Coming Soon

VHS and DVD copies of the canonization ceremony of Sts. Arnold, Joseph and Dominic will be available soon.

A documentary by Fr. Jim Pawlicki, SVD, of the various canonization events is also in the final stages.

Watch for more details.

Twelve Novices Profess First Vows August 16, 2003



Front row: Paul Appiah-Kubi, SVD, Tuan Mai, SVD, Vinh Trinh, SVD, Joseph Chau Nguyen, SVD, Chien Dinh, SVD, and Sean Tran, SVD. Row two: Baozhu Hu, SVD, Tam Nguyen, SVD, Tinh Nguyen, SVD, Mark Urey, SVD, and Ky Ngoc Dinh, SVD. Row three: Fr. Walt Bracken, SVD, Rector, Fr. Tom Kosnicki, SVD, Provincial, Fr. Jim Bergin, SVD, Novice Director.

Please keep these young men in your prayers that they may continue to persevere in their vocations.



Classmates Connect With Missionaries

MTM2: A Four Day Event

By Doug McNiven (Perrysburg 1962-64)
Nick Schroeder (Perrysburg '65/Epworth 1965-66)

Meet the Missionaries II (MTM2) was organized by Jerry Van de Vyver in conjunction with other members of the Perrysburg Classes of '65 and '66. Our celebration focused on two SVDs from the Class of 1966, Stan Uroda and Dan Bauer. Stan is in Welch, WV, serving as pastor of St. Peter Church. Dan is currently working in Taiwan, and his "home visit" was the impetus of this major celebration. This is the

We were also joined by Jim Grilliot's and Mike Cousins' better halves, Jane and Kathy. We filled the room with rowdy laughter and stories.

A quick departure from Tony P's sent us towards the new ballpark in downtown Toledo. The Mudhens were playing the Indianapolis Indians. We had a block of seats just down the first base line. Rich Schumacher and Doug McNiven offered words of encouragement to the Indians, who happened to be warming up in their bullpen right in front of our seats. Some members of our group called it heckling, but the abuse was mild. Right in the heart of downtown, the pretty ballpark is only in its second year of use. A quick shower tried to interrupt our reverie, but the hardy folks remained in their seats. The Mudhens managed to lose the game in extra innings.

After the game, Joe and Anne went into hiding at the Holiday Inn Express, while Mike and Cathy Cousins and the Staples crew headed back to Michigan to prepare for Friday and Saturday activities. Most of the crowd headed to Nick's place. The Schroeders made room

for any and all. The crowd enjoyed several brews and some "Missionary Martinis" while being entertained by Jerry, Joe and Jini on their guitars. We used every available space in the Schroeder's home. Nineteen people slept there that night, including Joe and Jini on the beautiful screened-in back porch and two twelve-year olds in a tree house.

Friday was "getaway day" as the Uhals headed toward Bordentown for the "big alumni bash" there. The rest of the crowd headed for Greg Staples' beautiful riverside home in Algonac, Michigan. Some took the time to take in the old P-burg sight while others hit the Henry Ford Museum and other tourist spots. Greg's spacious home on the banks of the St. Clair River became the gathering point for the rest of the weekend. Greg is proud of his cooking skills

and amazed the group with one tasty treat after another – BBQ ribs, fried lake perch, steaks, breakfast treats. They don't make a host like this guy anymore. The house was large enough for the group and more. Plenty of room in the



Fr. Dan Bauer, SVD



Jini Kiffmeyer and Fr. Stan Uroda, SVD

second time the group has gotten together during one of Dan's home visits (hence MTM2).

The group began assembling at Nick & Colleen Schroeder's place on Wednesday, Aug. 6th with the arrival of the Uhal clan. On Thursday morning, Nick, Len, Mike Cousins and Jim Grilliot (along with Len's and Nick's sons) played a round of golf. The course that they found was over 50 miles away because 4-6 inches of rain had swamped local courses.

About 3:00 PM on Thursday afternoon, former Perrysburg alumni and their families were heading toward Nick's place in Bowling Green, Ohio. Included in the group were Frs. Dan Bauer, SVD, and Stan Uroda, SVD, Joe and Jini Kiffmeyer, Jerry Van de Vyver (and son, Shawn), Rich Schumacher, Greg Staples (with Vicky and Michael), Fred Bayer, Joe and Anne Greene and Doug McNiven. After a social hour, everyone piled into the fifteen passenger van Jerry secured from his Chrysler employer. It was packed to the gills! The group headed for dinner at Toledo's most famous restaurant, Tony Packo's. We swapped stories, Father Dan demonstrated his famous eating prowess, and we reviewed the hundreds of autographed hot dog buns on the wall. Many local friends like Hal & Gini Mann, Jeff & Kathy Schmakel, Jim & Cheryl Oedy, Paul Van Herten and Judy were able join in for this portion of the MTM2.

Alumni Search

Each week, new names are added to the alumni database. There are many alumni who are not receiving this newsletter or other alumni mailings because we do not have their current addresses. Please send the names and addresses of all alumni and former lay faculty/staff which you may have in your address book. This would be very helpful. Just because you have the addresses does not mean the alumni office has them. Thank you!



Miramar Canonization

Continued From Page Five

his staff have great affection for Miramar, thanks in part to George Bergin’s long years of service there. They graciously offered the parish to us for the day. It was a logical place to hold this momentous celebration. Local SVDs from Boston and Miramar joined SVD alumni, local clergy, family members (notably relatives of recently deceased Fr. Bill Kane and Fr. Bill Kelley) and many friends of Miramar.

Fr. Don Mulrenan, SVD, superior in Boston, was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. Fr. Bob Jones, SVD, rector and director of Miramar Retreat Center, delivered a moving homily based on the day’s theme “One Heart, Many Faces.” Bro. Don Champagne, SVD, directed the music for the celebration with great style while Fr. Ed Dudink, SVD, created a colorful antependium based on the canonization logo “One Heart, Many Faces.” Fr. Joe Connolly, SVD, provided a beautiful kinti cloth altar covering, and I was master of ceremonies for the liturgy. The servers were alumni of the high school seminary, classmates of Frs. Joe and Don: Jim Harvey, Jack Slattery, and Jim Welch. Frs. George Bergin, SVD, Bob Mallonee, SVD, and Ed Tuohy, SVD, concelebrated along with numerous local clergy.

The General Intercessions and the Gifts were presented by Miramar volunteers, staff, family of SVD, and representatives from the retreat groups. In addition to the bread and wine, the gifts were Scripture, the SVD Constitutions, a Chinese Madonna (in honor of St. Joseph), a cloth from Africa indicating the international missionary activity of our congregations, a tribute to the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, and a scroll honoring the deceased SVD who studied or were stationed at one of the Divine Word communities in Massachusetts.

Following the liturgy there were refreshments in the parish hall served by Miramar chef, Frank Luchimia, his staff and volunteers. The One Heart, Many Faces logo



Fr. Bob Jones, SVD, preaches during the celebration.

appeared on the large cake and on the four panels that Fr. Ed Dudink, SVD, created portraying the work of the SVD on every continent.

Many of the organizing committee were lay volunteers. Sr. Catherine Griffiths, SND, and Pat Mitchell of the Miramar staff, and Mrs. Barbara Walsh were the core group along with me as chair. We worked diligently, offering many suggestions that greatly added to the day’s success. The Miramar community saw the canonization as an opportunity to bring the SVD story to the people who come to the retreat center and strongly support our retreat ministry. As part of our outreach to the local community, Fr. Joe delivered a series of homilies at the daily liturgy the week before the canonization describing the lives of Arnold and Joseph, and the work of the “Arnoldus” religious family around the world.

The wonderful comments we received following the celebration tell us we achieved our goals of honoring our new saints plus increasing awareness of the SVD among the people in the Duxbury area and beyond.

MTM2

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adjoining yard for those who wanted to camp out. Greg saluted the sunset with champagne and we adjourned to the fire pit until the mosquitoes drove us in.

Saturday brought in arrivals from all over the area, highlighted by the appearance of the long-lost Gary Hughes! Art and Dianne Roche made it from Dubuque, Iowa, and Lin Van de Vyver also joined us in Algonac. There were boat rides, some serious eating and socializing, games of skill (or lack thereof). To the amazement of the crowd, Joe Greene was fishing off the bank and reeled in a fish. Later in the afternoon our two



Joe Kiffmeyer and Jerry Van de Vyver entertain the group after the Mudhens game on Nick and Colleen Schroeder’s back porch.

honorees concelebrated an outdoor Mass. The beautiful summer day added to the great feeling of closeness we all felt in the beautiful ceremony. The crew ate and drank while Jerry set up a karaoke machine. There were songs galore through the rest of the evening. We said our good-byes to those who were there for the day and we drifted off.

Sunday morning was departure time. Greg’s gourmet touch was evident again. Hugs and laughs among old friends.

Conversation centered on when and where we could get together again.



Techny Community Celebrates Canonization

A Multi-Cultural Celebration

By Kathleen Morgan

Approximately 1,000 friends, benefactors and religious crowded into the Church of the Holy Spirit at Techny's Divine Word International on October 5. They came to celebrate with the Society of the Divine Word, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters and the Holy Spirit Sisters of Perpetual Adoration on the day the founder of the three congregations was canonized St. Arnold Janssen.

The diversity of the multitude reflected the fulfillment of the vision of St. Arnold: Divine Word Missionaries would pass over into other cultures, learning their languages, symbol systems and customs and becoming one with the people they were sent to serve.

The message of Sts. Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz for the twenty-first century, as it was recently articulated by Fr. Niels Johansen, SVD, Generalate Communications Coordinator, is that "we live in a multi-cultural and multi-religious world that compels people from the farthest ends of the earth to learn to live together side-by-side."

The Mass was preceded by a concert of international music. The choirs represented cultures served by the ministries where Divine Word priests and Brothers and Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters serve: Vietnamese, African-Americans, Hispanics, Sudanese and Chinese. Prayers were offered in English, German, Chinese, Spanish, Twi (an African language) and Polish.

Fr. Stephen Bevans (Louis J. Luzbetak, SVD, Professor of Mission and Culture at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago) said in his homily: "St. Joseph Freinademetz always insisted that if you don't absolutely love the people you are going to in mission, you should not become a missionary." St. Joseph, whose home was in beautiful southern Tyrol, in



Photo by Kathleen Morgan

Fr. Thomas A. Krosnicki (front) was the principal celebrant of the Mass at Techny honoring the canonization of Sts. Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz.

present day Italy, was sent as St. Arnold's first missionary to China. Joseph was fond of saying: "The language of love is the one language all peoples understand." Before he died tending to people during a typhus epidemic in Taika, he declared: "I am more Chinese than Tyrolese, and I want to be Chinese in heaven also."

Provincial Thomas A. Krosnicki, SVD, said: "We take pride in the canonization of St. Arnold and St. Joseph by Pope John Paul II. This is indeed an important event in the history of the Society and of the Church. May it give glory to God, increase mission awareness, foster vocations, further the missionary work of the Church, and urge all of us as religious priests, Brothers and Sisters to live our vocations with ever greater zeal."

Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz Canonized Miracles & Symbols



Pamela Avellanosa, a young girl from Baguio in the Philippines, was cured through the intercession of Blessed Arnold. The miraculous healing of her serious and life-threatening brain injury sustained from falling from a bicycle took place at the conclusion of a novena to Blessed Arnold for Pamela's cure, requested by her grandmother from the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters.

The miraculous cure presented for the canonization of Blessed Joseph was that of the young man, Jun Yamada, of Nagoya, Japan, in 1987. The cure of Jun's sickness of acute hybrid leukemia, with severe pulmonary complications and cardiac arrest was "rapid, complete, lasting and scientifically unexplainable." Fr. Fausone, SVD, asked the seminarians to pray to Blessed Joseph. Jun says, "From the window of my hospital room, I could see the tower of the seminary chapel. They sometimes put on the lights of the tower during the seminarians' evening prayer as a sign that they were praying for me."



4th Annual Alumni Reunion in Erie, PA

Sts. Arnold and Joseph Honored

By Jim McGovern

What prods a person to hop in a car and travel 400 miles to reconnect with his past? For me it was as if an inner beacon, wrapped in a unity of purpose, pulled as purposefully as the hands of a compass.

This impulse led me and my brother, Joe, to the Avalon Hotel in Erie, PA, for the annual reunion of Girard-molded Beings. It was more than a re-living of the past; it was a re-connection with an institution that has shaped my life.

It is ironic that, although nothing remains of the physical plant, a group of individuals, shaped and molded by events spanning three decades within those walls and campus, felt similarly compelled to celebrate a part of the past which has made them who they are.

For many of us, Girard was the beginning of many years of affiliation with the SVD. For others, it was only a few years at an impressionable period in their lives. What is remarkable is that, regardless of the length of time, Girard's mission, through its teachers and fellow students, has apparently continued to wield a powerful influence in many of our lives.

The group was small by most reunion standards. Individuals from the 40s and 50s shared reflections and experiences with those from the 60s and 70s. Yearbooks abounded,

stimulating countless recollections. Had there been no time constraints, some of us might still be there reminiscing. A focus on the Society's foundation was a theme for the day. The canonization of Sts. Arnold and Joseph springboarded a presentation by Fr. Paul LaForge, SVD, a 40+ year missionary veteran to Japan.

How to sum it up? Nostalgiadefinitely. Flight of fancy?.... perhaps. Or perhaps an attempt to recapture something from the past, a way of being, thinking, and doing which formed us at an important juncture in our lives and set us on our life's course, a way of being which some of us thought important enough to acknowledge, reaffirm, and celebrate anew. Thank you SVD. I look forward to many more years of such happenings!



Back row: Mike Vereb, Pat McMahon, Andy Yaronczyk, Larry Jones. Middle row: Larry Corbus, Debbie Corbus, Joe McGovern, Ed Zaleski, Terry Pytlarz, Anita Jones. Front row: Bill Matthers, Jim McGovern, Fr. Clarence Cerwonka, Joseph Bianco, Fr. Paul LaForge, SVD.

Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz Canonized

Miracles & Symbols

Arnold and Joseph reached out to all, no matter what the person's race, culture or language or way of life. The globe in Arnold's canonization painting symbolizes his vision that embraced the whole world. During his lifetime, missionaries went from Steyl (left corner) to all five continents of the world. Like Arnold they were sustained and inspired by the Word of God (Bible in his hand).

Joseph left his tiny village of Oies, South Tyrol, and went to Steyl and then to China (represented in the painting by the "Pavilion of One Hundred Blossoms"). Joseph is holding the Cross because his love for Jesus Crucified was the source of his joy as a missionary despite so many sufferings, and it led him to love the Chinese people.

The lives of Arnold and Joseph thus have something to say to us today. We live in a multicultural and multi-religious world that compels people to learn to live together, with special concern for the less privileged ones. If Arnold and Joseph were able to do it with love, why can't we?





Traveling Back in time to DWS, East Troy

By Sean Gudaitis (East Troy 1979-81)

Traveling through the hills of southern Wisconsin in the rain on the last Saturday of June, 2003, I encountered a dilemma. Falling rain and forecasts for more of the same threatened to put a damper on the annual alumni gathering at the former site of



Rich Jeschke (ET '65/Epworth '69/Bay St. Louis '70/Chicago '74), Michael Perez (ET 1982-84), Brian Ries (ET '81), Augustino DeLuce (ET '82), Bill Eckert (ET 1976-78), Pete Brady (Girard '65/Epworth 69/Bay St. Louis '70/Chicago 1974), Rick Panesi (ET '80), Sean Gudaitis (ET 1979-81), Bernie Bittner (ET '53/Techny 1953-61), Dave Nadolny (ET '74), Len Uhal (ET '83/Epworth '87), Tom Vogt (ET '54), Leo Kedzior (Riverside '65/Epworth 1965-67), Henry Perez (ET '80), & Thad Smyczak (ET '59/Miramar '61). Front row: Pat Leddy (ET '65/Epworth 1965-66), Salvador Ibarra (ET '83/Casa Guadalupe 1983-84), Jim Kelly (ET '65) & Bro. Bernie Scherger, SVD.

Divine Word Seminary in East Troy, Wisconsin. The question had to run through the minds of those planning to attend: Would the inclement weather affect attendance?

The weather only added to my apprehension about attending the event because it had been more than twenty years since I had seen most of my classmates. I left the

seminary before my class graduated and was concerned about my reception, though without real or actual cause to be concerned.

Previous attempts to get in touch with my past at DWS had met with limited results. I had visited the
Continued on Next Page

Alumni Merchandise

The alumni office has a few items for sale that may be of interest to alumni.

- Hats
- Golf Shirts
- Denim Shorts
- T-shirts
- Rugby Shirts
- Patches
- Coolie Cups
- Golf Utility Bags

All items have the SVD logo on them.

Copies of *In the Light of the Word: Divine Word Missionaries of North America* by Ernest Brandwie are also available for \$25.

Please contact the Alumni Office if you would like any of these items.

3rd Annual SVD Alumni Golf Outing at Techny

September 8, 2003, was not just the 128th Birthday of the SVD, but also the Third Annual SVD Alumni Golf Outing held at Techny. Twenty golfers enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon hitting a little white ball around on the grass! The big winners of the day were John Amato (Techny employee), Jim Hannon (East Troy/Epworth), and Bruce Noxon (invited guest of Bro. George Haegele, SVD). The three finished in a first place tie in the first flight with a score of 41, seven over par. In the second flight, there was another tie for first place with Lou Bolchazy (Girard/Conesus) and Pete Smyczek (East Troy/Epworth) shooting a 49.



Pete Amelse, Greg Laka, Marty Kalena and Jim Palm pose for a picture with Techny Towers in the background.

Flag event winners were: John Amato with the longest putt on the first hole; Pete Smyczek with putting the ball closest to the pin on the drive on the 167-yard par 3 third hole; Fr. Ray Quetchenbach, SVD, with the closest to the pin on the fifth hole (a 120-yard par 3); Ed Peterson (East Troy/Epworth) with closest to the pin on the third shot on hole number seven; and Jim Palm (East Troy) with the longest drive on the 478-yard par 5 ninth hole. Other winners included Fr. Ray and Jim Palm, who won a prize for having the fewest putts of the round – fifteen. Pete Amelse (East Troy/Miramar/Conesus/Techny) received the prize for being the “hardest worker” of the day!

Following the round at Willowhill Golf Course, which is across Waukegan Road from Techny, all returned to the seminary grounds for a steak cookout. The enthusiastic golfers were joined by some of their wives, other alumni, current novices at Techny, and other SVDs. The sun shone, food was plentiful, and a good day was had by all! Be ready to hit the links next September – the Monday after Labor Day. See you there!



Ed Peterson hits out of the rough.



East Troy Annual All-School Reunion

Continued From Previous Page

seminary only twice in the years just after the graduation of the class of 1983. About ten years passed before my wife and I decided to drive up to the seminary again. I was surprised by the news that the building had been demolished in 1995. Upon encountering Lake Beulah without the seminary, I had a feeling of emptiness and sorrow. Walking about the seminary grounds of East Troy, I thought I was in the wrong place, that somehow a wrong turn was made or it was a bad dream. Brother Bernie approached, and verified that the buildings had recently been torn down. Divine Word did not cross my mind for the next couple of years as my teaching career and growing family happily consumed my time.



Sean Gudaitis
East Troy
1979-81

Through the wonders of cyber communication, I was able to contact Lenny Uhal, director of the Alumni Association and former classmate. He told me about the annual reunions held at the end of June. I decided to take a chance and check it out, not really knowing what to expect. As I drove through the diminishing rain, I approached the grounds of DWS with nervousness. Walking down to the lake, I saw people that I had not seen in years, some of whom had similarly not walked the grounds since they left the school.

The weather cleared soon after I arrived. It seemed eerily symbolic of the fact that I was again in the presence of people that shared the experience of the community that is the Divine Word. I was able to renew acquaintances with Salvador Ibarra, August DeLuce, Isaac Gaston, Lenny and others who had attended during my years there.

As I greeted people who had already gathered, my apprehension quickly evaporated. People were gathered in and around the boathouse; some had set up camp on the grounds and planned to stay the entire weekend no matter what the weather. I experienced a feeling of renewed brotherhood among people I had known, and even among those from other years and other seminaries. People were open to renewing acquaintances, sharing food, and having the enjoyment of each other's company. I remember that when I attended DWS many years ago, there was a feeling of brotherhood and spirit that was unique. It had been more than twenty years, but I was feeling these things again.

Walking the grounds that used to be the home of DWS was especially fulfilling. The beauty of the grounds only added to the experience. This truly was a special place. Though the buildings were mostly gone, it did not diminish the fact that this place had a special meaning for me and the others who attended the reunion this year and in other years. It truly drove home the fact that the community was much more than the buildings. These were things that did not sink in for me while I was of high school age, but they became clear when I returned as an adult.

The day culminated in late afternoon with the celebration of mass in the boathouse with Father Bob Mertes, SVD, as the celebrant. As was a tradition for those that attended the seminary in East Troy, a trip to Lauber's ensued. Lauber's is an ice-cream shop in the town of East Troy. I enjoyed the chocolate ice cream named in honor of the seminary –The Divine Word.

Many thanks to the community of Divine Word that was kind enough to welcome my return to this place of many important memories. I look forward to returning again.

Annual Alumni Dinner Held at Techny Sts. Arnold and Joseph Honored

Almost 30 alumni and friends gathered for the 6th Annual SVD Alumni Association Reunion Dinner at Techny on November 22, 2003.

With the recent canonization ceremony in Rome on October 5th, St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz were chosen as the honorees of the evening. Fr. Sunny Francis, SVD, presided at the liturgy and Fr. Ed Peklo, SVD, was the keynote speaker at the program following the meal. Fr. Ed spoke of the vision and courage

these men had as they began an enterprise that would have long-lasting and far-reaching effects all over the world.



Bill Messink (Bordentown 1960-1962), Bob Miles (East Troy 1964), Rich O'Hern (East Troy 1964), Bill Warmouth (East Troy 1964, Epworth 1964-1967).

Alumni expressed appreciation for the early beginnings of the Society and the impact the decision to open seminaries in the U.S. had on them. As is always the case, the evening was a wonderful time to gather as the larger SVD family. And this year it was especially nice to pay tribute to the founder and early pioneers of the Arnoldus family.



Alumni Meet in Bay St. Louis

By Fr. Tom Potts, SVD

More than thirty alumni of St. Augustine Seminary showed up for the seventh annual reunion of the St. Augustine Seminary Alumni Association over the weekend of October 10-12. A few more dropped by for a few hours on Saturday, the 11th. The day before the reunion, a handful of alumni made a day of recollection facilitated by Fr. Raymond Guidry, SVD.



The new William J. Kelley, SVD Retreat Center was used for the reunion. Retreat Center Director Father Brendan Murphy, SVD, won the acclaim of all for the excellent meals and accommodations.

For much of the reunion time, the heavens shed an abundance of water. But heaven's blessing also seemed to be upon the camaraderie which all experienced. In some cases alumni had not met each other in decades. For example, Father Provincial Joe Simon, SVD and I had not seen our classmate Reynold Schnyder in more than forty years.

Much of Saturday was spent in meetings. Among the things decided was to keep up the practice of annual dues and to continue the drive to raise money for the chapel restoration. In the past year, the alumni raised more than nine-thousand dollars for the restoration. The alumni also voted to give one-thousand dollars of the general alumni funds to the Bishop Joseph Francis Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for black students to study for various church ministries in our parishes.

At an informal meeting before the business meeting, each alumnus introduced himself and made some observations. Some were humorous, some were touching, all were interesting. It was evident that studying at Bay St. Louis had a lasting impact on the lives and careers of many people.

The canonization of St. Arnold and St. Joseph was on everyone's mind. It has become a tradition to give door prizes at the reunion dinner. This year, framed pictures of the two saints were the main prizes.

The concluding Mass on Sunday morning was celebrated by Bishop Dominic Carmon, SVD. In his homily, based on the call of the rich young man, he stressed how the call of Christ need not be to the priesthood or religious life. The Mass ended in the alumni's traditional way with the singing of the "Salve Regina." In years past, alumni used to scramble to their cars after the Sunday Mass to begin the long trip home. This year, such was the impact of the retreat center dining, that everyone waited until after lunch.

The alumni will meet again the second weekend of October in 2004 and that the day of recollection will be held, even if only a few can make it. Long live the St. Augustine Seminary Alumni Association!

Miramar's Annual Alumni Reunion

The Miramar Alumni Association held its annual alumni gathering September 22-23, 2003. Those attending included Joe Green, Fr. Bob Jones, SVD, Bill Skerry, Maurice and Jane Donovan, Richard and Irena Daigle, Lennie Sears, Jim McDermott, Ed Farley, Fr. Don Mulrenan, SVD, Fr. Joe Connolly, SVD, Fr. Ken Feehan, SVD, Jim Callanan, John Curran, Jim Harvey, Frank McCarthy, Fr. Ed Fitzgerald, Henry Pinson, Jim



Donovan, Jim and Terry Welch, Deacon John Connor, Barbara Walsh, Pete O'Keefe, Fr. Bernie Donaghey, SVD, and Lenny Uhal.

**East Troy
Class of 1955**

**55th
Anniversary
Reunion**

May 21-23, 2004

Reno, Nevada

All SVD Alumni are invited to attend!

Especially looking for members of the classes of 1946 - 1952 of all SVD Schools

Contact Tom Sharkey for details at:

858-794-0966
or
tesharkey@cox.net



Reunion of the SVD Ordination Class of 1959

Others Join the Festivities

By Ernest Brandewie (East Troy '49/Techny '59)

On Friday, June 19th, 2003, the *celebrandi* began to gather at the Divine Word Seminary in Riverside, CA. Officially the trigger was the 44th anniversary of the SVD ordination class of 1959. As Jim O'Connor, Francis Marcolongo, and Fr. Bill Caffrey, SVD, began to talk about a gathering, it quickly expanded to include any SVDs or former SVDs who could make it. As it turned out it was not a large group, but it was a *great* group!

Friday was "gathering time" and an opportunity to get (re)acquainted. After Morning Prayers, Mass, and breakfast, Saturday found Jack McCullough and his wife Helene, Andy Hadalski and his wife Judy, Jim O'Connor and yours truly (don't get me wrong: Jim and I go back all the way to 1945, but we never got married) together for some sightseeing. We had a lot of fun, as only people who have shared years of common living and background can have.

By 3:00 PM, we gathered for another quick cocktail, more conversation, then on to dinner. There was an "impromptu" program following dinner. I say "impromptu" because Markie (Francis Marcolongo to those of you who might not know him – a very faithful member of the ordination class of 1959) had prepared a revised version of some songs from the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas with which our class had been involved at Epworth and at Techny. Jack McCullough, Jim O'Connor and I did a reprise of some of the things we sang before. We thought it went well. Markie, as lyricist and producer, beamed proudly. Others got up to tell stories and jokes. Everybody chipped in, and "a good time was had by all!" Afterwards people sat around some more and reminisced. The next morning, after Mass and breakfast, people began to leave.

After I was asked to write something for the Alumni Newsletter, I thought the best thing I could do would be to get quotes from everybody present. These quotes that reflect the work and character of all those present, I think, will give a good sense of what people at the reunion thought of the SVD and their life.

Fr. Bill Caffrey, SVD (1949 -) Our host and rector of the house in Riverside was the one who arranged everything, tapped into his vast network of contacts and friends to make the weekend so smooth and successful. He played the same role, again very successfully, at our 40th Anniversary reunion. His quote: what else? "See you at the 50th." Sounds good to me.

Jack McCullough (1945-55) Many will remember Jack as

an English teacher for many years at Bordentown. He shared one of his disciplinary techniques. Staring severely at the offending student (very difficult for tender-hearted Jack to do), he would declaim, "I'm looking at you askance, with arms akimbo." He claims it worked. I bet! It didn't work on us during the weekend. His wife Helene's quote was, "We heard the old stories so often we have them memorized." She probably could have added, "But each time in a slightly exaggerated version."



Tom Sharkey, Francis Marcolongo, Jim O'Connor, Jack McCullough, Andy Hadalski, Fr. Bill Caffrey, SVD, and Ernie Brandewie.

Francis Marcolongo (1945-65) Markie is still doing, as he claims, the work of the SVD. With everything he remembers (accurately mind you) about happenings in the past, he should be the class archivist, hands down. He dipped into some of the German he learned when he was studying in Rome, intended, I'm sure, to typify the SVD *Geist*. With true Teutonic vigor his quote went like this: "Deine verdammte Pflicht und Schuldigkeit, dafuer man sei immer bereit." Remember, this is an Italian-American spouting German, freely translated by a German-American (me!): "You've always got to be ready to do your damned duty and fulfill your obligations." Donna, Markie's wife, had the following to contribute: "From all the stories I've heard, you SVDs are a hard act to follow." Who would I be to say "nay" to that? It also happened that Markie was celebrating his birthday on the same day. His wife drove up from Escondido with a cake and a case of champagne. So it was verses and verses of "Happy Birthday" and "May the Good Lord bless you."

Tom Sharkey (1945-50) Tom claims seriously, "If I hadn't spent four years at East Troy, I'd have become a permanent guest of the governor of Illinois." He's referring to prison. I think he exaggerates a bit, but he goes further. He attributes much of his success as a lawyer to the skills he learned at East Troy. A loyal SVD he has been.

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Ordination Class of '59 Reunites

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James O'Connor (1945-73) Okie, to those who know him, is still the consummate Irish politician, always ready with a gracious comment for anybody he meets. Naturally he made a great contribution to the weekend. His quote, I thought, had a depth to it: "(On an occasion like this) we meet classmates, and others, who are true brothers, closer than our blood brothers. Our SVD brothers have had a life-long impact on us; our relationships are deep and intimate, indescribable to people who haven't had this kind of experience." At this point I cut his quote short...you know how politicians are. Jim, for those who do not know him so well, is also the Irish tenor of the class. By popular request he sang *Danny Boy*. I've never heard it rendered so well! And I'm serious.

Andrew David Charles Hadalski (1945-97) Andy shared the following: "When I met Bob Hope on Guam (Christmas 1972) and introduced myself, his quick response was: 'You're a Polack; you're from Pennsylvania; your old man hit you on the head and said: Go and be a priest!'" What a neat capsule summary of Andy's life.

Andy was chaplain in the Air Force at the time and retired as a full bird Colonel. He also had many memories to share from former days. Judy, Andy's ever-indulgent wife, had the following to add: "To the class of '59: you guys really have class." I won't deny that either!

That's all for those in attendance who were in the ordination class of '59. Of those who attended the 40th Reunion, the following were unable to make this one: Fr. Joseph Fertal, SVD, James Henry, Fr. Oceola Hugh Stout, and Jerry Amelse. The one who had the best excuse was Jerry: he died since the last reunion. R.I.P., our friend. Others who attended the gathering in no particular order:

Joe Aul (1946-75) "I circled the globe three times in the past 23 years. As a GS (government employee) I provided continuing education services from GED to Ph.D. to military personnel assigned to U.S. bases world wide. Was it all worthwhile? YOU BET IT WAS!"

Ed Tennant (1950-70) "Family Feast never ends." Right on target.

Dave Theis (1950-69) "Great education, great friends, great experiences, great memories!" is what Dave said of the SVD.

Charlie Sinatra (1954-77) "Once an SVD, always an SVD." Charlie's wife, Linda, gave what was the most interesting

statement of all. As we were standing around in a group, she said: "I love all of the SVDs, especially those I've been sleeping with for the last 25 years." I was busy writing this down when, quite flustered, I might even say very flustered, she hastily corrected herself. The corrected and intended version went: "I love all of the SVDs, especially Charlie, with whom I've been sleeping for 25 years." (We knew all along what you meant).

John Shevlin (1946 - [as he said, "till death do us part"]) "May each dawn bring forever Spring, that daffodils the day." You must know he is a published poet. Enuf said!

Fr. Dennis Flynn, SVD (1950 -) A Filipino-American, said he is still "working with the Mangyans of Southern California." The Mangyans are an isolated cultural minority in the mountains of Mindoro, P.I., with whom Denny has been working for many years. He hopes to go back there some day, where his heart is. In the meantime he collects money for the Mangyans for the day he returns.



Fr. Bernard Donaghey, SVD &
Bro. Andre Hotchkiss, SVD

Bro. Andre Hotchkiss, SVD (1955) started his mission career in the print shop in Manila, P.I., but eventually ended up in Kenya helping the people improve their farming and goat husbandry techniques. I didn't get a direct quote from him, but in the course of a conversation he said he hoped to return to Kenya so he could be elected the chief in a Muslim village where he worked. Good Luck, Brother!

The last person at the reunion to give me a quote, perhaps the most important person of all, was introduced by Bill Caffrey as the secretary and Mother Superior of the house (Riverside). She was going to Rome to represent the SVD

at the canonization of the Founder. Her name is Ana Dolar and her quote was: "I love all my SVDs; they've been my lifesaver through hell and (hopefully) to heaven." And to that, I think, all of us at the reunion would say "Amen!"

And with that I can segue into my conclusion and quote: **Ernest Brandewie** (1949-72), who also thought that the weekend was wonderful. For me it was fascinating again to see how much the SVD has impacted all of us, and probably everybody else who ever had any prolonged contact with the Society. And this reflection calls to mind my favorite quote: "God writes straight with crooked lines" and we'll never know the end or how we got there until we finally reach it."



Eight SVD Missionaries Begin Their Ordained Ministries

Bishop Raymond Kalisz, SVD, veteran missionary to Papua New Guinea, ordained the class of 2003 at Divine Word International Church of the Holy Spirit on June 7, 2003. The eight SVD missionaries were ordained in the presence of almost 1,000 people.



Front Row: Fr. Son Van Nguyen, SVD, Fr. Ignacio Estrada, SVD, Most Rev. Raymond Kalisz, SVD, Fr. Xuan Duc Ho, SVD, & Fr. Tan Viet Nguyen, SVD. Back row: Fr. Ed Peklo, SVD, Fr. Benyamin Boro Nama, SVD, Fr. Thang Le, SVD, Fr. Andrew Thu Pham, SVD, Fr. Thien Sai Tran, SVD, and Fr. Tom Krosnicki, SVD, Provincial of the U.S. Chicago Province.

Fr. Benjamin Boro Nama, SVD, 32, is originally from Indonesia. He has been assigned to Brazil. Fr. Joseph Thang Van Le, SVD, 37, born in Vietnam will be working in Germany. Fr. Andrew Thu Pham, SVD, 33, from Vietnam will serve at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa. Fr. Ignacio Estrada, SVD, 41, born in the Philippines, is assigned to The United States Western Province and is assigned to St. Bernard Church in Oakland, California. Fr. Alphonsus Xuan Duc Ho, SVD, 43, from Vietnam, is assigned to the United States Chicago Province, and will work in the Caribbean. Fr. Tan Nguyen, SVD, 42, was born in Vietnam and has been assigned to Germany. Fr. Joseph Sai Tran, SVD, 43, from Vietnam is assigned to the United States Southern Province and is currently working at Holy Ghost Church in Opelousas, Louisiana. Fr. Peter Son Van Nguyen, SVD, 34, born in Vietnam, will serve as a Vocation Director for the Society in the United States.

East Troy Class of '83 Celebrates 20th Class Reunion

Twenty years and thirty-seven days after their commencement from Divine Word Seminary High School in East Troy, Wisconsin, twelve classmates gathered for a memorable reunion in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (20 minutes south of East Troy). The weekend gathering of these men and their families brought together eleven members of the graduating class and one member from their Freshman/Sophomore years.

The original Freshman class started with 33 students. When Bay St. Louis closed, this class gained one transfer student in their Junior year. The East Troy Class of 1983 had sixteen graduates, the largest graduating class in

eleven years. Of the sixteen, twelve went on to college formation with the SVD. Unfortunately, no one from the class joined the Society.

The weekend included many family activities, such as sitting around the pool visiting while the kids splashed about. Walks on the beautiful Lake Geneva Beach and boat-rides offered by Colin Lamb added to the festivities. Salvador Ibarra brought and cooked his traditional feast of Mexican grub, enough for an army! Despite having lost touch for several years, Sean Gudaitis (who was with the class for two years) brought his family and joined the party. Three SVDs from East Troy, Bro. Bernie Scherger, Fr. Ray Weisenberger, and Fr. Charlie Heskamp, joined the group for a sit-down dinner at a nice restaurant Saturday evening.

We shared memories of days spent growing up and coming of age at East Troy. Some stories were funny, some serious, but all were an integral part of the community life these men shared as teenage boys growing up in a minor seminary. The group fondly recalled David Walter, who died in 1986, and some members contacted his parents following the reunion. While this special celebration of twenty years was nice, this class often gets together. Most were present at each others' weddings, and many attend the annual East Troy Reunion in June. But after the excitement of a weekend together, you can put money on the fact there will be another large celebration for the 25th!



Back row: Chuck Konkel, John Schmidt, Andy Loewen, John Panek, Sean Gudaitis, Bro. Bernie Scherger, SVD, Fr. Charles Heskamp, SVD, Mike Gaughan & Jim Greene. Front row: Lenny Uhal, Ralph Hein, Fr. Bob Mertes, SVD, Salvador Ibarra & Colin Lamb. Frank Perez not pictured but was in attendance.

Promote Vocations

- Pray daily for vocations
- Ask someone if he/she has considered a religious vocation.
- Contact the Vocation Office if you know of someone who may be interested in the seminary:

Mr. Len Uhal
Divine Word
College
Vocation Office
PO Box 380
Epworth, IA 52045

(800) 553-3321

dwm@mwci.net

Pray for Religious Vocations

Dear Jesus, please send us holy and dedicated brothers, sisters, priests & deacons who will spread the Good News. Open wide our hearts, and stir in us a desire to serve you. Amen.



Upcoming Alumni Events

- **5th Annual SVD Alumni Association Reunion near Perrysburg**
Saturday, April 16-18, 2004
See ad in this issue, visit the website or contact the Alumni Office for details
- **55th Anniversary Class Reunion -- East Troy Class of 1949**
May 21-23, 2004 -- Reno, Nevada
Contact Tom Sharkey for details at 858-794-0966 or tesharkey@cox.net
- **Ordinations at Techny -- Saturday, June 5, 2004**
- **7th Annual-Alumni Picnic at Techny -- Sunday, June 6, 2004**
- **10th Annual All-Alumni Reunion Picnic at East Troy -- Saturday, June 26, 2004**
- **Annual Vietnamese Celebration in Orange County, California**
Sunday, July 18, 2004
All Alumni Welcome
- **First Vows Ceremony -- August 2004**
- **4th Annual SVD Alumni Association Golf Outing at Techny**
Monday, September 13, 2004
- **Perpetual Vows Ceremony -- September 2004**
- **5th Annual SVD Alumni Association Reunion Dinner in Erie**
September or October 2004
- **7th Annual SVD Alumni Association Reunion Dinner at Techny**
Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mark Your
Calendars
for these
Upcoming
Events

Questions?

If you have questions, or would like further details about any of these events, please feel welcome to contact the alumni office at any time.

(888)ARNOLD-6
(888)276-6536

svdalum@mwci.net

Remembering our Deceased Fellow Alumni

Requiescant in Pace

- Ray Jasinski – Sept 2000
 Milbert John Le Melle – January 11, 2003 (Bay St. Louis)
 Gordon Spencer – March 2003 (Techny)
 Francis Price – April 29, 2003 (Girard '48/Bordentown '50/Conesus '52/Epworth '54)
 Tom Hoene – June 4, 2003 (Perrysburg '68)
 Bro. Paul Lengyel, SVD – June 22, 2003
 Stephen Srubas – July 11, 2003
 Ralph Lamb, Jr. – July 22, 2003 (Girard/St. Mark's '70)
 Fr. Andrew Staricek – November 29, 2003 (Girard, East Troy, Techny '40)
 Jerome Elsbernd – January 12, 2004 (Epworth '43/Techny)
 Br. Leonard Bauer, SVD - January 30, 2004
 Leslie Raymond
 Samuel Buford

