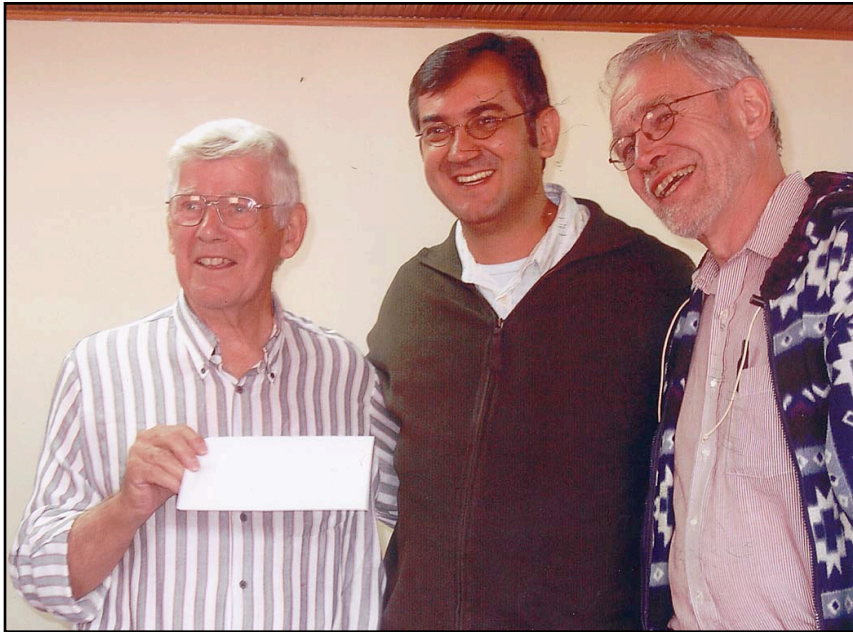


RAPPORT

FALL, 2005

TO CELEBRATE A COMMON HERITAGE

Former Basilians Jim Strickland and Dwyer Sullivan present Fr. Rafael Lopera, CSB a cheque for \$2,000 US from the Association of Former Basilians. This cheque provides several bursaries for poor students at the Basilian school of Cali, Columbia



A word from Paul Murphy

Dear Former Basilians,

As was mentioned in our spring issue of Rapport, Strawberry Island has been sold. Our reunion in 2006 will be at Holy Family Retreat House, Friday to Sunday, July 21-23. It is located in Harrow, Ontario right on Lake Erie. This centre is a big step up from Strawberry Island in terms of accommodation and meeting areas, etc. We will no longer have "boat problems". The building we will be using has 35 rooms - all with double beds. There is a second building with 16 single beds which is available to us but we will probably use it only for its

meeting room for our happy hours. Unlike Geneva Park on Lake Couchiching, which we considered, we will be the only group using the centre. By all accounts, the meals are fantastic and the price is even better. The cost at Geneva Park is \$610 per couple; at Holy Family it is \$260. The cost for a single is \$140 - meals included. We will be welcomed on Friday afternoon with home-made muffins and coffee and will depart on Sunday



after a 10:00

Superior General's Address

The Basilian General Chapter will convene at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, July 10-21, 2006. Even though the Chapter ends the day our reunion begins, Ken Decker has accepted to speak to us about the Chapter and give us a "state of the congregation" address. This will be done later on the Saturday or Sunday morning before brunch at 10:00. We thank Ken for his support of our association.

-Paul Murphy



brunch. Of course, they have a chapel, and the meeting room is air-conditioned. It really is a beautiful site.

It took us 3 hrs. and 15 min. to drive there from Toronto Pearson airport. It is a bonus for those coming from the Windsor/Detroit area; it is just 26 kilometers from Windsor. Our spring issue of Rapport will

include a detailed map. We will host an "open house" on the Saturday afternoon and expect

many Basilians from the Windsor/Detroit area to join us. Mark your calendars now for the weekend of July 21-23.

THE BEATITUDES PILGRIMAGE TO COLOMBIA (LARRY SCHMIDT)

This summer my wife, Brigitte, and I joined 18 Basilians or friends of Basilians on a Beatitudes Pilgrimage to Colombia. Besides myself, the trip included former Basilians Jim Strickland and Dwyer Sullivan. The trip was organized by Father Bob Holmes, C.S.B. who is affectionately known to his friends and colleagues in the Peace movement as Hobo. Its purpose was to introduce the pilgrims to Colombia (a country known for its poverty, violence and drug trafficking) and to the work that the Basilian Fathers are doing among the destitute in Bogota, Cali and Medellin. When we got off the plane from Miami we were shepherded by Hobo past the customs officials and the armed guards and onto the bus which would take us to San Pedro Claver Retreat House. Although it was already dark in the early evening as we drove through the streets of Bogota, our first images were striking--walls, fences, iron gates, barbed wire around every building no matter how humble or poor. Even the beautiful retreat house, set in a middle class neighbourhood, was enclosed by a high wall and iron gate which only the porter could unlock. As we settled into our simple but comfortable rooms, we were warned not to venture outside the walls alone.

During our initial sessions of getting to know one another, Father Rafael Lopera welcomed us with what we would come to know as Colombian warmth, grace and generosity. We were given the itinerary and daily schedule for our two week sojourn in this country of contradictions, and realized that we were about to be part of a rigorous immersion course in the realities of the people of Colombia. Each day included a study session, a visit to a workshop, a community centre or a barrio, a reflection on the Beatitudes and the celebration of Mass. The pilgrimage began with a visit to Casa Annonay where Fr. Robert Barringer, C.S.B., the master of novices, greeted us and shared his Colombian experiences with us.

Probably because I am a teacher, the highlight of the trip was our visit to the Basilian school in Cali.

Though Instituto Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (INSA) is located in one of the poorest and most violent barrios--four or five murders took place there every week this summer--its curriculum and facilities are the envy of many middle class schools. However, INSA accepts only children from the poor families who live in the neighborhood and are able to pass the rigorous entrance exams. Fr. Raphael, the first native Colombian to be ordained a Basilian priest, proudly showed us around the school which was partly built with money from the sale of the Michael Power lands. He pointed out an inscription at the entrance to the school which says, 'Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of this educational community'. He explained that tuition and other necessities cost the equivalent of CN\$750 but that this is well beyond the reach of many of the families. He is struggling to put in place a scholarship fund for students from grade 4 to grade 11.

As I left Bogota to return to the comfort and safety of Canada, I promised Fr. Raphael that I would do what I could to help him with his fund. The membership fee to be an active member of our association is \$36 per year. A portion of this fee is sent to the Basilian school in Cali to provide several scholarships for students at this school. As Fr. Barringer said in a recent article in *Stirrings*: The Basilians "are not educating the poor so they can find future careers in New York and Toronto but so they can begin for the first time to be able to do something to shape a country of their own."

September 13, 2005

WHERE I AM NOW

John Sheehan has been living at a Senior Home of apartments and cottages for independent living for almost a year. It includes another building for assisted living. His arthritis is worse but he gets around with a "scooter", wheelchair and walker. John

moved to Irving, Texas because his sister Pat and her husband help him a great deal. He is careful not to talk politics at this residence. Rides are available every day and he has been to several night performances - music, plays - free for seniors, usually at dress rehearsals. They have games, conversations and occasional visiting performers. Here is John's new address: 12 Oaks, 820 N. Britain, Apt. 202, Irving, TX, 75061 972 533-7340

Vince Reinsborough's three daughters all married within a year and the first grandchild is underway.

John Cronin retired from Ford Truck engineering in Dearborn, MI after 31 years. He also retired from the U.S. Army Reserve after 23 years. He is receiving social security and is on Medicaid. John has been active as a trustee in Brownstown Township for the past 12 years. John's wife Olga is becoming more active in their church. Their son Sean, 35, is with the U.S. Federal Immigration as a linguist - Polish, Russian, French, German and god knows what else. Nicloe, 33, is an RN working with new-born children and Erik, 30, works in computer security. John's hero is Fr. Bob Seguin, C.S.B. (Medellin, Bogota, Colombia). He feels very grateful for enriched life experiences, family, Catholic Central (Detroit) and his Basilian experience.

Bill Reddall enjoyed the last edition of the Rapport newsletter. He says that Ken Decker's remarks certainly serve as a reality check for all of us. Bill has done some occasional "supply" teaching at S.M.C.S. He says the new physical plant makes St. Mike's the "Upper Canada College" of Toronto's Catholic community. Bill had a great visit with Dave Belyea at the Red Kelly & Rocco Volpe's "Order of St. Michael" dinner. He says that: "Dave very much remains Dave".

John Egsgard's whole family celebrated his 80th birthday skiing together for seven days in Utah.

Paul Glynn notes that his \$36 was sent in late as usual but probably earlier than usual.

Bill Allgeyer recalls Wayne O'Reilly dubbing him "Milhous" in 1960 when he campaigned for Nixon against JFK. He admires Bob Seguin for the work he is doing.

Bill worked as a social investigator for Wayne County for 25 years and then for 16 years he provided social services to inmates in the jail. He now works for social justice, for gay rights and to save the environment and against militaristic foreign policy. Bill became a Basilian because he admired his teachers at Catholic Central. They were models of that item in the General Rule to "cultivate a holy and high-minded intimacy with their students." Fr. Burke, he says, taught more than Latin. He still remembers him saying: "You can judge people's actions, but you cannot judge their motives."

Barry Smith still lives in Houston and has now been married for 47 years. He has 6 children and 13 grandchildren. Why didn't he stay a Basilian?! In passing he has told so many of his friends who have asked that he has never been associated with a better group of men than when he was a Basilian. He only wishes that he was as good and as strong as they were who stayed.

Michael Quinn is sorry to see the Island sold. He had been hoping to be part of Reunion 2006 on the Island and is waiting to see where and when it will now be to see if he can attend.

Fergal Nolan was dismayed to see that his name was not included in the list of those that Larry Elmer "favoured". To get back in his good books, he enclosed the requisite token of affection. (Other recalcitrants please note!!)

Len Thompson was late paying his dues but he has been forgiven and is looking forward to the next reunion.

Reg Prower says things are about the same as when he first joined - just a little older.

Dan Cutcher has lately been in Bangkok, Sydney and Chiang Mai. In June he'll be in Orlando and

Toronto. He is looking forward to the reunion in 2006.

Paul Burns appreciates the newsletter and various communications from the Basilians. He was especially moved by the death of Charlie Leland. Paul attended the ceremony where a multitude of people gathered to say goodbye to Jim Hanrahan and Leo Klosterman. It was a moving goodbye to these two gifted priests but also to the commitment of the Basilian Fathers. He says it was a sad stage in a very creative Catholic presence on a large public campus. Paul is glad that Dennis April, C.S.B. will remain as the librarian.

Ed Brennan has been diagnosed with Lou Gerhig's disease. There is no cure, he says, and it seems to be progressing. He asks for prayers that he can handle this as best he can. He feels blessed that Beth is a special and huge help to him.

Dwyer Sullivan is still teaching World Religions at a wonderful, social justice aware, high school: St. Michael's in Stratford, ON. He continues to be involved with students through One World Global Education, Ontario Catholic Leadership Camp, School of the Americas, protest work against male violence, Catholic Worker trip to Washington, D.C., etc. He and Sheila became grandparents to Noah Micah Sullivan Connell this year. Dwyer is looking forward to the next reunion.

Frank Lally had hip replacement surgery in July and now gets around quite well with a walker. However, he has had 3 subsequent heart attacks in August, September and October. Mary Jane is well and still working with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Joe Goeters is considering hosting Reunion 2008 in Texas. He is planning on making a presentation at Reunion 2006 at Holy Family Retreat House. He is still working full time teaching at Houston Community College but the majority of his courses are on the internet so he can schedule trips fairly easily. He sees John McGee at church fairly often and also gets together with John

Bradshaw on a regular basis. Also, Pat Gibbons is a regular at their monthly class of '51 luncheons. He thinks a lot more former Basilians would come out of the woodwork if they have the 2008 reunion in Texas.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER BASILIANS

Date: October 1, 2005

Place: Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre

Present: Paul Murphy (chair) Jim Carruthers, CSB., Jim Strickland, Cy Doherty, Fergal Nolan, Dwyer Sullivan, Stan Kutz (recording).

Regrets: Norm Frenette, Alfie Graham, Wayne O'Reilly

Paul Murphy opened the meeting at 9:45 with a prayer that commemorated several recently deceased Basilians, former Basilians, and Jim Strickland's stepson; and invited our prayers for the Basilian Community as it prepares for an important Chapter next summer.

1. The Minutes of the meeting of March 12 were accepted as presented.

2. There was some discussion of the special issue of RAPPOR, which was to have provided space for various members to seek support for charities or other good works they are involved with. At this point, only one submission has been received (from Phil Beers). It was agreed to place this material on a separate page in the newsletter.

3. The Treasurer being absent, there was no Treasurer's report.

4. The next Reunion of Former Basilians will take place at the Holy Family Retreat House near Windsor on the weekend of July 21-23, 2006. The president noted that he had received an offer from Joe Goeters to organize a future reunion in Texas. It

was agreed to ask Joe to attend the reunion next summer, and make a pitch for 2008 in the South.

5. Jim Strickland and Dwyer Sullivan presented an extensive report on their pilgrimage to our houses in Columbia over the past summer, including missions in Bogota, Cali, and Medellin. They described the heroic work being done by Basilians and associates under daunting and dangerous conditions. (See elsewhere in RAPPORt for a more complete account of their travels and observations.)

6. The next meeting of the Board was set for March 4, 2006.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

MISSING ADDRESSES

Our Board has decided to send an updated list of Postal Addresses and E-mail Addresses with the spring issue of Rappor t that precedes a reunion. You can expect this in the next issue of Rappor t. However, we are asking for your help in helping us find addresses that have been changed or the addresses of members we have never found. If you have such an address, please inform: Paul Murphy, 2 Lake Driveway E., Ajax, ON L1S 3V6 Canada. 905 427-2492 PaulAnneMurphy@rogers.com

John Attinasi
Tom Bale
Leon A. Brezik
Bill Davis
Ron Dione
Maurice Dufilho
Philippe Dupuis
Robert Fink
Pat Fremeau
Larry Fraser
Tim Hogan
Adelourde Hourde
Jim Howard

Terry Hunt
John Inglis
Jules Jannin
Jim Jordan
William H. Keils
Jerry Kiessling
Tim Matovina
John A. McCarthy
Mike MacDonald
Nick Manherz
Bernie Merchant
Randy O'Connor
Michael O'Hagan
Jack Povlock
Dan Vernelli
Bernie Wenninger
John Williams
Mike Zolondek

ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

Our web master, Ed Herndon, is doing a fantastic job keeping us all informed. Go to our web site: <http://www.remedyandcrew.com/AOFB.html> where you can get reports on our last three reunions with dozens of fantastic photos. We are asking Ed to update the site with photos of our new venue for the reunion in 2006: Holy Family Retreat House on Lake Erie.

PET PROJECTS

In our spring edition of Rappor t, we said that in the fall issue we would advertise members' "pet projects". Here is a submission by Phil Beers.

Phil Beers has been involved with Children International for the past 20 years. They were highly recommended by the St.Louis Diocese. Phil sends his donation to the organisation and they choose a child who will benefit from this. He is given an annual update on his sponsored child. The progress report provides details on the child's living conditions and family situation, as well as the child's

height, weight and favourite activities. The first child that Phil sponsored got married at 18 and is now working. He has now been given a 12 yr. old boy from Ecuador. From time to time he gets notes and thanks from his sponsored child. He also gets requests from Children International to make a special donation for the child's birthday or for a "spring present". These donations are U.S. tax deductible. You can contact Children International at: P.O. Box 219357, Kansas City, MO 64121 1-800-888-3089 E-mail: children@children.org Website: www.children.org Phil's address is: Apt.

F-32 66 Milton Rd., Rye, N.Y. 10580-3840 915 921-5306 philandsally@optonline.net

Good news and bad news.

The bad news is that our list of paid up memberships for 2005 lags behind last year's. To date we have received 49 paid memberships - last year's closing figure was 66. The good news is that there is still a window of opportunity to add your name to our 2005 list and hopefully even surpass last year's figure.

Just to refresh your memory - membership dues support the publication of your newsletter, Rapport; all mailings that you receive from the Basilians; our own communications to you and our biannual Reunions. In addition, annually, a donation of U.S. \$2,000 is made on your behalf to the Basilian school in Cali, Colombia. A little return to the Basilians for so much that we received from them.

If we are to continue to carry on your association's work, every paid membership is important. So, if it is financially feasible, please know that there is a space waiting for your name on this list of paid up members.

W. Allgeyer

F. Allnoch

P. Beers

R. Bormet

E. Brennan

P. Burns

L. Carney

K. Cashion

J. Cronin

J. Crotty

D. Cutcher

J. Dietrich

G. DiGiovanni

C. Doherty

J. Egsgard

L. Elmer

R. Gagnon

P. Gibbons

P. Glynn

A. Graham

N. Kolb

S. Kutz

F. Lally

B. McCarron

J. McGee

D. Megel

J. Moher

P. Murphy

G. Murray

TREASURER'S REPORT - LARRY ELMER

E. Neary

J. Neary

F. Nolan

W. O'Reilly

T. Paterson

G. Pilecki

R. Prower

M. Quinn

R. Reddall

V. Reinsborough

J. Rigamonti

B. Salvatore

L. Schmidt

J. Slavin

B. Smith

N. Smith

J. Strickland

D. Sullivan

T. Sullivan

L. Thompson



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM BILL LEE



A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying

from copies, not from the original manuscript.

So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up. In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk says: "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point my son." So, he goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original

manuscripts are held as archives in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot. So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing: "We forgot the "R", we forgot the"R". His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk asks the abbot: "What's wrong, father?"

With a choking voice, the old abbot replies: "The word was "CELEBRATE!"



MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Do you remember, many years ago, when you were asked what community you belonged to? When you said you were a member of the Basilian Fathers, they invariably thought you were from Brasil. "No, no, it's the Congregation of St. Basil. Our origins were in France, not Brasil." Well, President Bush had a similar problem. At the end of the day, George Bush was given a news briefing by his closest advisors. The last item was that 3 Brazilian soldiers had been killed. George fell to his knees, covered his face with his hands and was sobbing in anguish. His advisors were dumbfounded until he looked up at them and asked: "How many is a brazillion"?

A TRIBUTE TO BASILIANS (DAVID ABALOS)

August 15, 2005

Dear colleagues:

This is the anniversary of first vows for the novitiate class of 1957/58 and so I thought it would be a good time to remember several Basilians who have recently died.

First of all I want to say that Charlie Leland was an outstanding priest, teacher and human being. I affectionately nicknamed him “the Little Chief” when he became our director of scholastics at St. Mike’s. He was a powerful presence for me at a very difficult time and he gave me so much by his words and example. I remember as if it was yesterday going past his office on Easter Sunday in 1962 and there he was preparing classes and listening to classical music. It inspired me to want to be a better student. He wrote a deeply moving article on The Whiskey Priest for The Basilian Teacher, analyzing Graham Greene’s The Power and the Glory. His insights based on an interpretation of the text remain with me to this day.

Art Kirn, who can forget the wonderful job he did as Prof. Henry ‘Iggins in the splendid play rendition of My Fair Lady directed by Jim Strickland in 1959, with Joe Geraci as Henry’s mother, Moe Taylor as Liza and John Farrell as Liza’s father and so many others. This play together with Art’s acting was a breath of fresh air that revealed his remarkable talent and that of so many of our colleagues.

John Menner who will be laid to rest on Wednesday literally rescued me by tutoring me in math during my Western year. I could not have gotten through the math requirement in order to get admitted to the U of T without him.

Frank McCabe taught me French at Assumption and then became a guide and friend for me during my first year at St. Basil’s and for years afterwards. As a student at Assumption in grade 11 I was behind in French and it was his teaching together with that of Fr. Phelan the following year that prepared me for the French that I would need in readings for my history courses.

For these wonderful Basilians and so many others who touched my life in ways that I am still experiencing I am profoundly grateful. I owe much to them and all of you for my love of teaching and learning. I could not have accomplished what I have without the affection and support of the Basilians as a community and as individuals. Thank you.

David

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER BASILIANS MEMBERSHIP 2006 – \$36

Name	
Adress	
Telephone/e-mail	
Send to:	Larry Elmer
	226 Dickson Park Cr.
	Mississauga, ON L5B 1Y4
Payable to:	Association of Former Basilians
Greetings and/or where I am at now:	