

RAPPORT

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Reunion 2004

Since this is an even year, we celebrated our 9th biennial reunion on Strawberry Island. For an excellent account of the reunion along with dozens of fantastic digital photos, go to our web site at remedyandcrew.com/AOFB.html. Thank you web master Ed Herndon. Our treasurer, Larry Elmer, explained in detail the effects of the currency market on our net wealth. The good news – “No New Taxes”. He reported that several present were delinquent on dues and that steps had been taken to deny them return to the mainland unless accounts were settled before Sunday departure.

For many, the highlight of this reunion was the presentations of superior general Fr. Ken Decker; Cali, Colombia representative, Fr. Bob Seguin and “peacemaker”, Fr. Bob Holmes. Ken Decker gave a very frank, but hopeful, “State of the Congregation”. Bob Seguin impressed us with the work of the Basilians in Cali, Colombia. Bob Holmes had a slide show presentation of his work with “Christian Peacemaking Teams” in Hebron and more recently in Iraq.

Paul & Sandra Glynn were presented with a plaque beautifully carved by Jim Strickland in thanks for their outstanding work these past 16 years as chairman and secretary of our Association.

As you know, our Association has chosen the Basilian high school in Cali, Colombia for assistance. Each year, on your behalf, we send them some of our surplus revenues to provide scholarships for the most needy. We were so moved by Bob Seguin’s presentation that we wanted to do more. There is a Basilian assisted collective in Cali that makes artifacts for sale. For example, they made thousands of wooden crosses for sale at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002. Would we be able to assist them in selling their goods in Canada and the U.S.? Dwyer & Sheila Sullivan volunteered to seek an outlet for them. Dwyer’s report is, unfortunately,

mostly negative. “Fr. Vince Thompson and myself went to the 10,000 Villages headquarters in New Hamburg and were politely, but firmly, told that to qualify for 10,000 Villages partnership is a major 2 to 3 year procedure which requires an exhaustive review of the working conditions to assure fairness for the workers, and also that they are pretty much at their limit regarding the number of working partners.”

This brings us to another question. What is the mandate of our Reunion Committee? Is it strictly to organise reunions or should we be a clearing house for other activities? – surveys? – agitate for married priesthood? – seek outlets for Cali, etc.? Your committee has decided to make the spring meeting a Policy Meeting. We are also asking you to write Letters to the Editor. We might eventually use our web site for these Letters to the Editor.

Here are the members of the committee: Jim Carruthers, C.S.B., Cy Doherty, Larry Elmer, Alfie Graham, Stan Kutz, Bob Madden, C.S.B., Paul Murphy, Fergal Nolan, Wayne O’Reilly, Jim Strickland, Dwyer Sullivan. Letters to the editor can be sent to Paul Murphy at: PaulAnneMurphy@rogers.com or to 2 Lake Driveway E., Ajax, ON L1S 3V6.

We will not be sending out a complete list of e-mail and postal addresses until just before the next reunion (2006). If we do not have your e-mail address or if it has changed, please let us know. You will then get immediate updates instead of having to wait up to six months.

(Paul Murphy)



Reunion 2004

Beatitudes pilgrimage to Colombia

The Basilians of Colombia Invite You To Consider

Summer 2005

Beatitudes pilgrimage to Colombia

11 July Arrive Bogota – Meet Basilian Community
12–13 July – Meet with Jesuit and Mennonite Peacemakers
14 July Travel to Cali – Meet Basilian Community
15–17 July – Visit Trujillo – Site of Massacre – Meet Alba Estella – works with the displaced
18 July Travel to Medellin – Meet Basilian Community
19–21 July – Insights into the Guerilla/Paramilitary conflict
22 July Travel to Bogota – to Retreat House

23–24 July – Retreat/Reflection on Pilgrimage

25 July – Depart Bogota

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,800 U.S.

Air Fare, Accommodation, Meals, Interior Travel all included

Open to Basilians, Basilian Lay Associates & Friends

Contact

Rafael Lopera: rilm22@hotmail.org

Bob Holmes: rholmes@basilian.org

Evaluations of Reunion 2004

Evaluation sheets were distributed to all those who attended the reunion on Strawberry Island in 2004. Almost everyone said that their expectations were met and exceeded. Here are some excerpts from those evaluations:

– could you ask people if they are vegetarian in some way?
– Bob Seguin was great

– a summary of talks should be sent to those unable to attend this summer
– best balanced agenda so far but gap before lunch on Saturday too tight & need for longer response time
– start session at 9:30

– start Saturday meeting earlier so nothing is rushed
– include colored digital pictures of our weekend

– liked hearing Bob Seguin & Bob Holmes and about Basilians from Ken Decker

– video of Colombia mission

– brunch was a great idea

– keep the Sunday brunch

– entry into boat problems: do all

groups pay \$150?

– does the cost need to be \$150?
– need we (or the Basilians) rent (buy) golf carts & a boat loading ladder?

– problem of escalating costs
– do more to publicize our next meeting – perhaps a separate mailing

– stairs, boat, uneven ground: greater problem each year
– like Sam's initiative (survey)

– make room on the agenda for those who want to proselytize in a situation where everyone is not captive

– expand web site

– get rid of the "Hate America" content
– have Sam make a presentation about his findings from survey

– I have a feeling that God wants to do something new, and is leading us along some new path

– I still think of myself as a Basilian but a "married Basilian"

– go into the highways and byways and invite all to the feast

Where I am at now

Ben Salvatore: Enjoying working in the garden with Jean, playing golf and in a couple of community banks, doing a little carpentry, spending some time in cottage country, hiking with a group and visiting mom in Sudbury periodically. She is 89 and still going strong.

Norm Kolb: Norm and Shirley have moved to Virginia to be near some of their kids. Norm is retired from business now and enjoys the historically rich Virginia landscape – they live near three civil war battlefields and George Washington's boyhood home. This area is growing so rapidly that they are short of teachers so Norm has signed up as a substitute teacher in three elementary schools as a part-time job.

Barry Smith: Still doing fine and selling Real Estate. Was married 46 years on June 14th (his birthday). Six children and fourteen grand-children.

Patrick Devine: Running for 48th District Court Judge in Bloomfield Township, MI. Daughter Annie graduated May, '04 from New York University – co-captain of Division 3 Volleyball team – 2nd in nation. Son Eric (20) – student at College of Creative Studies in Metalsmithing. Wife Christine just finished 35th year teaching reading to 2nd – 5th grades. Just completed 26th year practicing law.

Tom Hickey: Sorry about missing Strawberry Island this time. Was recovering from pneumonia. Will see us next time.

Steve Martin: Wife Marielle was appointed Consular Officer at the American Embassy in Athens, Greece. Steve and the two boys (Zachary 15) and (Colin 13) have joined her for a two year hitch. Hopes to get back to the English classroom.

Judy McGinn: "Jerry only attended two Strawberry Island events, but was so pleased to make contact with old friends, and believed in the importance of maintaining those ties. This membership is to help that continue." Judy

Larry Carney: Now lives in the metropolis of Clifford (near Walkerton). They moved to get away from Windsor air. He and Marnie look after Phat who is now 19 and Carla who is 49 and Down-syndrome. He fills up his spare time writing letters to the editor and trying to get rid of George Bush.

Bill Allgeyer: New address: 12621 Hale Street, Apt. 101, Riverview, MI 48192 (734) 282-2418

Michael Quinn: Michael and Theresa had their first great-grandchild in September of 2003. He is the son of the eldest of the eldest – so the strain rolls on!

Bill Reddall: Reading and enjoying Hans Kung's memoirs.

George VanderZanden: Enjoyed the history of the Former Basilians by Paul (and Sandra) Glynn. They are involved with and enjoying the extended family. George has had a mild stroke but is on the mend and getting better day by day.

Fred Allnoch: Regrets that he was not able to attend the reunion this year but

sends greetings and best wishes to all.

Arthur Knowlton: "Keep up the good work."

Norm Frenette: Since full retirement from the University of Toronto, Norm and Denise have moved to St. Catharines where Denise has a faculty position at Brock University. Chantal, their second daughter, is renting the house in Toronto with two other professional designers. So, they have a house full of "real" designing women. Back in St. Catharines, Denise has been able to get rid of the tiny apartment that she used as a pied à terre. They have both been busy with renovations to an older house that had been neglected and Norm continues writing on educational issues, his interests in genealogy and of course – Rapport.

Patrick Gibbons: Patrick's doing what retired (1989) people do. Volunteering: he is on the staff at Cenacle Retreat House, which is across the street, so it is easy to go over and give spiritual direction or directed retreats. Socializing: The St. Thomas H.S. Basilians say Mass at the Cenacle on Mondays so Pat gets to see confreres, Carl Belisch and Al Gaelens and younger Basilians, Storey, Wahl, Vela. The 1951 graduating class from St. Thomas H.S. have lunch every month at Ciro's (Ciro Lampasas a class member) so he gets to eat with former Basilians Jim Boland, Joe Goeters and Basilian Roy Oggero. Feeling Older: First grandson will graduate from Loyola/New Orleans. Two more grandchildren are in college and three in high school. His mother, who lives in a self contained apartment and is sharper than he is, will be 100 in December. Reading: mystery novels.

Ed Brennan: Ed and Beth have lived in Florida for 3 years. They are Eucharistic ministers, lectors, bereavement ministers at the parish and they volunteer at Hospice House. They have made many friends from all over the country but miss their kids and friends who live up north.

Vince Reinsborough: Hopes one of these years to make it to a Strawberry Island reunion.

Kevin Casperson: He is currently at Reicher Catholic H.S. in Waco, Texas. He is married to Stacey Hennessy and they have 3 children: Charlie 9, Kathleen 6 and Niela 3. He has been prin-

cial at this school for 6 years but next year they are moving to Indianapolis to be president of a diocesan high school. He has great memories of Strawberry Island and would love to have his family enjoy it.

Larry Galla: Larry now lives in Cockeysville, MD. He lives in a Continuing Care Retirement Community. Right now he is completing a wooden model of the USS Constitution, working on completing a "family history" that his dad and brother had begun. His present task is composing pages of family photos from cousins, aunts and uncles. He is involved with the A/V committee, repair of appliances for their "Barn" sale and woodshop. He is hoping to write down, and perhaps speak about, some of his lifetime reflections.

Frank Lally: Frank and Mary Jane celebrated 33 years of marriage this summer. He retired from teaching in 1986. Mary Jane retired as superintendent of curriculum for the London Catholic School Board in 1999. That same year she received her Ed. D. from O.I.S.E. Jamie is now a molecular biologist doing research at U. of Guelph.

Treasurer's Report

I suppose that it's a sign of 'maturing' when we feel that our lives are unnecessarily complicated and overburdened with 'stuff'. Thoreau in his wisdom advises one to "Simplify, simplify." i.e. begin to travel lighter. In our efforts to help you along this path, your Association once again offers the opportunity to travel a little lighter by contributing \$36 for your membership fee. If you have not as yet paid your 2004 fee, it's not too late; if you have, now is a good time to catch an 'early bird' for the 2005 fee.

The honour roll of paid up members for 2004 is as follows:

Bill Allgeyer
F. Allnoch
R. Anderson
G. Bammel
R. Barry
P. Beers
J. Boland
R. Boykin
E. Brennan

P. Burns
L. Carney
M. Colzeli
D. Coughlin
J. Crotty
P. Devine
J. Dietrich
C. Doherty
J. Egsgard
L. Elmer
N. Frenette
R. Gagnon
L. Galla
P. Gibbons
P. Glynn
J. Goeters
A. Graham
A. Grant
E. Herndon
T. Hickey
A. Kirn
A. Knowlton
N. Kolb
B. S. Kutz
F. Lally
S. Martin
B. McCarron
J. McGee
D. Megel
G. McGinn
J. Moher
R. Morrison
P. Murphy
G. Murray
E. Neary
F. Nolan
D. O'Connor
W. O'Reilly
T. Patterson
G. Pilecki
M. Quealey
M. Quinn
W. Reddall
V. Reinsborough
J. Rigamonti
P. Rybicki
B. Salvatore
J. Slavin
B. Smith
N. Smith
J. Strickland
D. Sullivan
T. Sullivan
B. Tesolin
G. VanderZanden

Blessings for those who have already paid, and grace for those who are about to.

Besides supporting your Association (this mailing, for example), you also receive Basilian mailings (Basilian Annals, Basilian Directory, Appointments, obits, etc.). And even more, you are supporting the Basilian high school in Cali, Colombia. Last

year your Association provided 15 bursaries for very needy students.

(See end of newsletter for membership form)

Former Basilians' Obituaries

We have received notice recently of the deaths of three former Basilians. Here is a note on each of them.

Joseph Gordon: Joseph died on September 26, 2004 in St. John, NB. Joseph was professed a Basilian on Sept. 11, 1947. In October, 1953 he suffered a breakdown which led to a lengthy period of hospitalisation. He had been living on his own since the early '70s. The officials in St. John were able to trace his Basilian connection, but no one has been able to identify any of his relatives. If anyone knows the names and/or addresses of brothers or sisters, please let Fr. Ken Decker, c.s.b. know.

John Alphonse Malone: Al died on Thanksgiving evening, Oct. 11, 2004. He found peace after a long and debilitating illness. His death leaves a wide, empty space in the heart of Elizabeth Havelock, his wife of 31 years. Born in Toronto, Al devoted his life to teaching. He had a Ph.D from Fordham University and was a retired professor of psychology at the University of Windsor where he taught from the late 1950's to the mid-1980's. Al inspired his students with his dynamic teaching style, his eloquence, erudition and his nimble intellect. He was an original thinker with a special talent for synthesizing seemingly disparate ideas to create clarity out of confusion. He delighted friends and acquaintances alike with his natural charm, flair, generosity, playful wit and boundless curiosity. To the end, Al held true to the Socratic dictum that "The unexamined life is not worth living." (excerpts from Windsor Star)

William H. Keils: Bill, who was born December 20, 1930 in Detroit, MI, passed away on September 21, 2004. Survivors include his loving wife of 41 years, Roselyn Keils, brothers, "Jack" Keils and H.L. "Skip" Keils, devoted children, David and Rocio Keils, Diana Keils, Susan and Scott Petteway; five lively grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. Dr. Keils was mathematics professor at San Antonio College for many years and an avid lifelong

Detroit Redwings fan. (from the San Antonio Express) editor's note: Bill's wife told me he suffered from Alzheimer's for the last five years.

Basilians with health issues

Three Basilians at Catholic Central in Livonia, MI are dealing with health problems. John Wheeler, C.S.B. sent this update on Nov. 20, 2004.

John Menner, C.S.B. is back home. His weight had swelled to 290 with fluids, but now that he's been on dialysis three times a week for the past month, he's lost nearly a hundred pounds, and is ready to live again. He is quite weak and uses a walker to get around. We've moved him down to the first floor and his sisters Kitty and Pat look in on him every day. A real sign that he is on the mend: last Thursday he played poker with his card buddies for the first time in about 2 months (and won \$9.00).

Marv LaBute, C.S.B. is recovering nicely from his quintuple bypass surgery. It's been four weeks and he looks stronger and stronger each day. He now comes to supper and even has been out to dinner at the Olive Garden with relatives from Tecumseh.

Joe Miller, C.S.B. has chemotherapy three times a week. It takes a lot out of him. He says it's like having the flu. He has a very aggressive cancer that has returned after several years of remission (and the removal of one kidney a few years back). The doctors say he has a 50-50 chance of surviving it.

David Heath, C.S.B., who joined us at the reunion on Strawberry Island this past summer, has been found to have lung cancer in an advanced stage.

On another note, John Wheeler advises us that the new Catholic Central High School is now completely enclosed and the stadium bleachers (for 4,500) have been erected. They should be in the new school as planned for the start of the new year next August.

Words of Wisdom from Bill Lee

1. Every authority not confirmed by

reason is weak: true reason does not need to be supported by any authority.

2. Poem around St. Patrick's time:
All are keen to know who will sleep with Aideen
All Aideen herself will own, is that she will not sleep alone.

3. John Scotus on the death of a bishop he did not like:
Here lies Hincmar, crook: he did one noble thing, he died.

Letters to the Editor

Sir:

I'd like to comment on one of the evaluations of Reunion 2004 which highlighted what the author perceived to be "America-hating" displayed at Strawberry Island this summer. I want to thank the author for being forthright about his perceptions of the event, and for adding a helpful dimension to further reflection about the nature of our group.

First of all, I want to congratulate the author for noticing that he was in a foreign country. Others did not make such a connection, and as a result we had the unseemly spectacle of offering prayers for a specific outcome to the US presidential election. In either case, it highlights a feature of our group that we might be tempted to neglect. It is true that we have a common heritage in the Basilian community, but for many of us that was 30 to 40 years ago when most of us were rather younger than at the present moment.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since those days (aren't we intensely aware of that) and for many of us the transition from community life to the "secular" world was also the transition from a supranational identity (service to the Church) to one in which questions of national identity become more and more important. So it's not surprising that features that were of little importance to us 40 years ago begin to take on more importance as we grow older.

Nonetheless, I have some difficulty with the term "America-hating" or its variant "Anti-Americanism". These are terms that surface often in the press and, strangely enough, perhaps nowhere more often than in Canada. There is no lack of experts here in Canada who are inclined to define

Canadian identity in terms of a supposed "anti-Americanism" and of course it's a term often used in the American press to describe just about any position that is not in conformity with US policy abroad.

My difficulty stems from the fact that these are words that have no definitional force. In other words, there is no way to use the term in order to distinguish what might be anti-American or America-hating (whatever that might mean) and simple disagreement with American policy or perhaps bemused irony at a culture which insists that universal health care is "socialized" but public education is not. As a result, the concept is entirely in the eye of the beholder and it means whatever any individual thinks what it means.

Unless, of course, one defines the terms to mean *any and all* manifestations of disagreement with US policy, at which point any disagreement becomes "anti-American" or "America hating" and the terms then do have definitional force. But at that point we are really not very far from McCarthyism on a global scale, or alternately, we have created billions of anti-Americans and the world has suddenly become a very dangerous place. It's time to lift up the drawbridge and fill the moat with crocodiles.

Somehow I think that it would be best to avoid the terms and simply accept the fact that while we do have a common heritage, we are also very different and perhaps along lines that have become very important for many of us. The solution is not to sweep those differences under the rug, but to accept them as normal and look for the commonality beyond the differences.

Norm Frenette

• 6 November, 2004

RAPPORT

Association of Former Basilians

Membership 2005 — \$36

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Mississauga, ON, Canada

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Payable to: Association of Former Basilians

Greetings and/or where I am at now: