

# Franciscan Alumni Association



Established May 28th, 1989

Serving Provinces of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John the Baptist

[www.franciscan-alumni.org](http://www.franciscan-alumni.org)

## Successful 2003 Chapter in Cincy

By Norb Garmann '52 and Mike Niklas '75

What words would one use to describe the spirit of the 2003 reunion of the Franciscan Alumni Association?

*Nostalgia* — Reminiscing with former classmates about the "good old days," recalling good times experienced and hard times endured together, small reunions within the "big" reunion, alumni who haven't seen each other for many years...

*Fellowship* — Sharing a meal, sharing life's stories and comparing the present blessings we all now enjoy, meeting new friends...

*Renewal* — Recreating and reliving, for a day, the unifying elements of our seminary experience that still bind us together: our common religious heritage, our participation in the same Eucharist, the pro-

found influence of many of the same priests and teachers...

Gratitude for the lives and lifework of many men who are Franciscan at heart — with or without a brown habit

*Recognition* — Rededication of the Peace Garden in honor of Father Aubert Grieser, Christian Life Award presented to Father Gil Wohler, appreciation plaques presented to Dave Imhoff '70 and Bill Pellman '52, former presidents of the Franciscan Alumni Association ...

*Beauty* — Could there have been more ideal conditions for our gathering? The setting for the meeting was the ever-familiar building and grounds that many of us once called home and still refer to as St. Francis Seminary. The weather was more beautiful

than it had been for months. It was especially nice beneath the shade of the many trees in the vicinity of the gazebo.

On Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Peace Garden at the former St. Francis Seminary was rededicated as the Father Aubert Grieser Memorial Garden, in honor of the priest and gardener who brought a vision to life there many years ago. The restoration of the garden has been completed, thanks to the time, talent, and financial contributions of a number of individuals. Recall that the Franciscan Alumni Association began this project in 2001. The former St. Francis Seminary is now called Mercy Community at Winton Woods. It is located at 10290 Mill Road in Cincinnati.

(Continued on page 2)

## Volume 15, Issue 2 Winter 2003

### Inside this issue:

Frank Rozmus	6
Paul Jewett	9
Italy	10
2004 Chapter Plans	11
Briefs and More Remembrances	12
Jokes	15
Sponsorship	16





## 2003 Chapter (Continued)



Guests began arriving shortly after noon on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Apart from alumni board members who were preparing the site, Joe Medina '53 and Barry McGlynn '53 were the first arrivals. Within the next two hours, almost all who were to come had arrived. Informal walking tours of the



grounds and building began early. Formal guided tours followed. The garden area is not accessible by wheel chair, so Bill Pellman rented a golf cart to help people get around. Diane Steele and Brian Forschner (of Mercy Community at Winton Woods) escorted about 40 attendees on a tour of the main building, including 4 of the nicely furnished apartments—and the cloister, which was formerly off limits to all but the friars.

The hours spent renewing old friendships passed quickly. Before we knew it, it was

5 p.m. and time for Mass to begin. The celebrant for the Mass was Father Gil Wohler '53, who was assisted by Father Jeremy Harrington '50 and Brother David Crank '71. Father Gil began with the observation:

"Fifty years ago, if anyone had told me I would be celebrating mass in the swimming pool...." But the filled-in former seminary swimming pool provided a setting that was appropriate for the occasion — the peace garden in bloom, the statue of St. Francis standing between the priest and the front edge of the garden, and the tall verdant trees surrounding the peaceful site. The liturgy focused on the Feast of Corpus Christi and, as was the case many years ago, alumni in attendance shared in the celebration of the Eucharist with the Franciscan family assembled, spouses, children, and many residents of the Mercy Franciscan retirement community now residing in



the former St. Francis Seminary building.

The blessing and rededication of the Peace Garden by Father Gil Wohler took place within the Mass. The garden was dedicated to the memory of Father Aubert Grieser, long time teacher of music for the Franciscan seminary and designer-developer-maintainer of "The Peace Garden." After the homily, Fr. Gil walked the perimeter of the garden and blessed it with holy water. This is the prayer that Fr. Gil composed and recited:





### **Blessing of the Fr. Aubert Grieser Memorial Garden**

*Almighty and All Good God, as often as people visit this garden - a place of beauty and peace, so may they discover you in the beauty of creation - work of your divine love and sustained by human effort. We remember our brother Aubert, whose vision gave life to this garden; we are grateful for the many lessons of Franciscan thinking and living he left with us. By your grace may we hold this garden to be a place of peace and serenity. In your name, Lord, we now bless this garden - let it be a holy place. We pray this through Christ our Lord.*

Mike Niklas '75, Butch Feldhaus '75, and Paul Landers '76 provided music for the mass, which ended with the singing of the Ultima. Mary Wiley (Donn's wife) sang beautifully as the cantor. The theme of the mass was "the most precious body and blood of Christ" and "peace."



Having gained much food for thought from the liturgy and the rededication ceremony, the participants then shared a meal prepared by alumni "master grillers" and readied for service by Mario Wagner '52 and his wife Marge along with other volunteers. Dinner consisted of freshly grilled hamburgers and brats with all the fixin's, plus strawberries, grapes, pasta salad, potato salad, veggies, chips and many delicious desserts. Many compliments



award was the Christian Life Award, presented to Father Gil Wohler '53. Presenter Norb Garmann '52, who attended St Francis Seminary and Duns Scotus College during the same years Gil was there, praised Father Gil for his many years of service to students, with his lasting influence on them in producing educated and dedicated priests as well as many solidly Christian laymen. In the presentation document, developed by



were heard about the quality of the tasty meal. Some of the Mercy Franciscan residents even asked to be invited back to future alumni association activities.

Alumni Association president Bill Pellman '52 was the MC for the after dinner presentations. The first order of business was the presentation of awards. The first



Pat Findley '74 and Norb Garmann, were testimonials written by former students and classmates, all of whom cited the difference Father Gil made in their lives through his Christian life and service to others. At age 55, Father Gil volunteered to go to South Africa to teach in the National Seminary. Just the act of volunteering and then serving would be very praiseworthy, but his dedication to Christianity prompted him to go the extra mile – he studied the very difficult-to-learn Zulu language so that parishioners could hear the Mass in their native tongue, thereby experiencing Christianity more fully. These



## 2003 Chapter (Continued)



sent a plaque to Bill Pellman '52, association president whose term was nearly up, for his leadership and service to the organization.

Next, Mike Niklas thanked the benefactors who made the garden restoration possible. He also made special mention of Fr. Aubert's family and displayed a plaque that would be sent to

experiences came at a time in his life when he was suffering from serious health problems, including a heart attack and a stroke. In summation, Father Gil has spent a lifetime of performing quiet acts of Christianity for the benefit of others, with little concern for himself. Many of his former students were present and all enthusiastically applauded the choice of Father Gil as this year's recipient of the Christian Life Award.

them in appreciation for Aubert's contributions in gardening and music (since the family members were unable to attend the Chapter).

Another plaque listing benefactors was attached to the gazebo, which is adjacent to the garden. This is a list of those identified on the plaque who contributed labor or funds to the garden project:

Pat Otto (Fr. Aubert's sister), Glenn and Diane Otto, Gregg Otto Family, Charlie Wagner, Bob Wanamaker, Donn Wiley, Marge Chevalier and Mary Kaufeld, Mike and Valerie Vogler, Pat Daly, Ralph Hatke, Pat Findley, Ron and M. Beth Fein, Kay Niklas, Mike and Mary Niklas, Sheila Niklas, Phil and Claire Zepeda, Rick and Kathryn Gardner, Bill Pellman, John



Bruder, Dorothy Gilroy, Norb Garmann, Paul Landers, Ray and Elisabeth McGlothlin, Bill Belfie, Residents of Mercy Community at Winton Woods, and the Franciscan Province of St. John the Baptist. Thank you for helping to recreate this place of beauty and establishing a lasting memorial to Father Aubert and all seminarians.

Additional plaques were then presented: one by Bill Pellman '52 to Dave Imhoff '70, former database manager, photographer and president of the Franciscan Alumni Association, for his successful work in leading and guiding the alumni association through several years of ever-increasing activity. Then Pat Daly '76 pre-

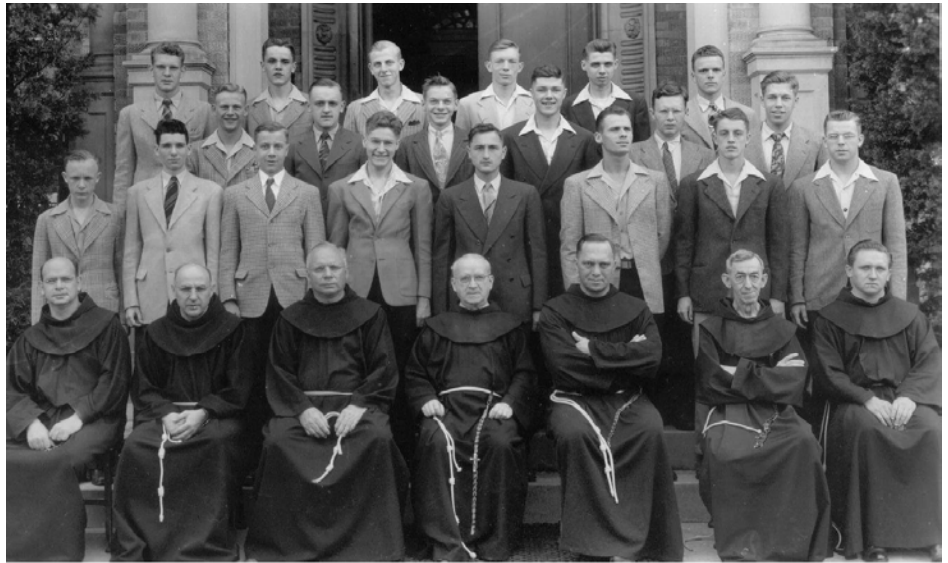
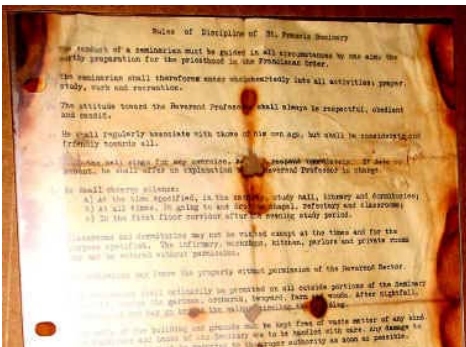


Weeks earlier, it had been discovered that the class of '47 had placed a time capsule into their class project, a stone bridge in the woods below the Peace Garden. The rock bridge was built by the classes of '46 and '47. Charlie Bullington '67 and Pat Findley '74 volunteered to search for, find and recover the time capsule. Fr. Al Hudepohl '47 informed them that "the time capsule has a copy of the seminary rule book, a pack of cigarettes and other items from that era." With the help of several members of the class of '47, Charlie located





the time capsule within a concrete block near the bridge. After much effort, the concrete block was opened enough to remove a badly deteriorated Sir Walter Raleigh tobacco box containing a copy of the St. Francis Seminary rulebook and a welcome letter to seminarians. The rusty tobacco box and its contents, as well as the concrete block, were on display at the



St. Francis Seminary Class of 1947 & Faculty

1st (bottom) row: Frs. Ralph Ohlmann, Roland Ulmer, Max Gartner, Urban Freundt, Vincent Kroger, Ermin Schneider, Ladislav Zysmansk

2nd row: Wilbert Young, Frank Kurzava, Thomas Hoesl, Donald Obert, Carl Krizmanich, Thomas Gallagher, Thomas Desch, Peter Hanagan

3rd row: Paul Brockman, Arthur Kline, Donald Hudepohl, Joseph O'Neil, William Hogan, William Nordmeyer

4th row: Thomas Frommeyer, Ray Harrington, James Bachus, James McCarthy, Francis Lanzrath, Alfred Hanekamp

Peace Garden ceremony. Charlie announced plans to install a new 2003 time capsule that includes a CD with information on the seminary and the alumni association. Fr. Dan Anderson of the Franciscan Archives at Mt. Airy is assisting with the new capsule, which will be Tupperware--no rusting!

Near the end of the meeting, after a microphone had been passed around to everyone for introductions and amusing comments, Rick Gardner '75 reminded the group that next year's reunion will take place in Bloomington, Illinois. He encouraged all to attend and to bring others with them. A few final remarks about the upcoming October trip to Assisi and the need for volunteers to fill open Board positions

concluded the business meeting. If you are interested in a rewarding experience as a board member, please contact president Pat Daly (jpdalymail@fuse.net)

Everyone left the 2003 Chapter enriched and rejuvenated by interacting with old and new friends. There were many "See you in Bloomington!" comments and some "See you in October!" It was the end of a perfect day.



## Frater Frank



*Frank Rozmus '72 died tragically on October 11<sup>th</sup> while on vacation in Utah. He fell to his death while taking pictures from a rock ledge. The funeral mass was October 17<sup>th</sup> in Michigan. This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to Frank, funded in*

*part by memorial contributions from a number of his friends. Several alumni have written prayers, poems and reflections to honor Frank's spirited life and recognize his lasting influence on all of us. A familiar face at many of our annual chapters over the years, Frank was inspirational and memorable for anyone who has ever met him. He was very active in reaching out to classmates (finding them) and getting them to attend reunions, which made the reunions more enjoyable for everyone. Frank made his mark on the Franciscan Alumni Association and helped it grow in a very positive way. We presented him with an official alumni golf shirt in Albuquerque to say thanks for his efforts and results. He wore the shirt with pride.*

You leapt into our life one autumn day bounding, as gazelle, to find the way from boy to man, our mutual journey went—until those "formative" years we all had spent. But in those four short years we learned and lived... of life, God's love, and Jesus' precious gift. And through different paths in life's parade, our kinship that had grown would never fade. So, farewell, my brother and my friend, until, on that glorious day, in God's good grace, we meet again. Bob Schnupp '72

What sad news to hear of Frank's death. He was the inspiration for me to get involved in the Alumni Association. He was the most enthusiastic student I ever had. He loved nature and all of God's creatures. He's probably asking God now, how do angels fly and where are the pearly gates? Bill Pellman '52

I really miss Frank and the great way he brought the class of '72 together, and, of course, his photo updates. The first time I encountered Frank, I was ascending the stairs leading from behind the Study Hall to the 3rd floor on freshman "arrival day". I was receiving the tour from Bernie Schwartz. Suddenly, bounding down the stairs—3 or 4 at a time, came a plaid blur.



Frank's trademark. He kind of glanced off Bernie and kept right on going. As I got to know Frank, I was always intrigued by his thought process. We shared the same March 12 birthday. He liked that and felt it was unique. He enjoyed technology and mechanical stuff. He would build, paint, fly and crash "wizards" (a kind of motorized flying stick on strings) yet I do not recall him ever being particularly interested in RC airplanes—other than watching for, and chasing down the latest crash. Whenever we fished in the pond out front, we would take crappies to the kitchen to have them prepared, but if we caught a bass, he would insist that we take it to the Biology Lab, to place in an aquarium to "Study how they act." He loved the fossils in the Mill Creek bed, and the many newts and salamanders in the pool runoff basin in

the woods beyond the stone bridge. He loved to run, and, of course, climb. Frank had a way of getting under one's skin, and into one's heart at the same time. I recall a Saturday afternoon that I was heading from the veranda to the lockers in the gym when I heard a frantic call to me from Calvary hill. I could just make out Franks' frantic silhouette, dashing to and fro between the small pine trees that marked the outer border of the stations. Caching up to the crazed figure, I was soon re-

cruited by his friendly goading way into assisting him in the capture of the largest black snake that I had ever seen. After 20 minutes of exhausting pursuit, Frank proudly hoisted the writhing prize over his head, draping it across the back of his neck, head in one hand and tail in the other. "Schnupp, grab my camera on the stump over there" snap-snap. Then suddenly, without warning, he released it. "Hey, Frank, I wanted a picture, too." "well, why din'tcha say so? Ah well, I'll give you one of mine." From the look he gave us, Bill Pellman (Fr. Dean, at the time) somehow knew that Frank and I nearly put the green Chevy in the creek at the covered bridge on that slushy day when we were returning from our trip to register from the draft board, but he never said much, other than "Car looks dirty. Make sure you clean it up." P.S. for Bill: Frank was driving.

Bob Schnupp '72

I remember Frank flying down the stairwells as if he were skiing down a hill. I always enjoyed, and was envious of, his exuberance and energy and zest. Meeting him again many years later at the alumni reunions, he appeared to be the same, free-spirited person we knew in school. Rick Gardner '75





I will keep Frank's family and everyone else in my prayers. Time seems to fly and I will always remember the times Frank asked me to go to the reunions and I could not make it due to work or family reasons. I look back over the years and remember when Frank stopped by my parents' house in Fairfield on his way home. He had a 12 pack of Coors beer for me. I could not believe how his car was loaded down with beer. He was taking it home with him. At that time you could not buy it at the local stores. Some of the best beer I ever had!  
Ed Schellenbach '72



I have written the following poem in memory of Francis Rozmus. His life, as vibrant as it was, still invigorates and stimulates. He had such electricity. What shall we do without his life energy among us? We shall remember him always.

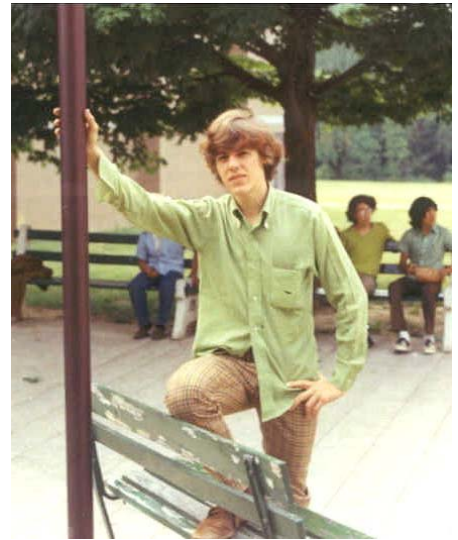
#### **Upon the Precipice of Niflheim (in Memory and Love of Francis Rozmus)**

You could have waited for a longer time before you didn't look and took the run you did to fly. The thought that you could touch what winged-others more sublime would like. And you, a creature lesser than the angels, try beyond all hope, to force your lucky hand, per chance defy the laws and jumping without reason's rhyme or thought that you'd be missed along life's climb. Undeterred by chasms' echoed sigh to hesitate... stop... can't stop... "Why Not?" you ask. It's just because you're way too high; As Bougainvillea in the craggy cold would surely die.

You could have waited just the same before you didn't look and took the run you did to leave us high alone upon the precipice above the waters deep to Niflheim. No! Not in Niflheim should there you lie, but rather in abodes of clouds just shy Of Adonai Himself, Who leaping from the promontory sky To reach, to catch your heart... so as His own, He'd have you closer by. Tom Baca (October 2003)

*Editor's note: In Norse mythology, Niflheim ("house of mists") is the far northern region of fogs and mists. Adonai (Hebrew meaning "lord, ruler") is a name bestowed upon God in the Old Testament.*

Frank was a very nice guy and I enjoyed his friendly chit chats. I will keep his family in my prayers. Herbie Blackburn '71  
My family is saddened by the news of Frank's death. Seems strange now, but Frank was in my thoughts on Saturday, October 11th as we passed the Natural Bridge exit in Kentucky, recalling that he had visited the site. Over the years, he would call when in the area on business/knife show trips. "Honey Bee Frank," as he is known in our house (a name my daughter affectionately used after one of his visits when he brought her a jar of honey from his hives) loved to show off his latest pocket knife acquisitions. His passion for knife collecting was apparent when he described the finer points of each of his treasures. Along with his knives, he always had his camera. You could never leave a visit with Frank without a few group shots. Perhaps that's why late Monday after receiving the news, a Borgman-type cartoon came to mind. Frank was meeting St. Peter at heaven's gates. Of course, in true Frank fashion, he energetically greeted the saint, while handing his camera off to another soul to capture the moment. "Say cheese, Peter!" We will miss you, Frank. Our



thoughts and prayers are with your family.  
Mike Kordenbrock '72

A field trip into the woods of Ohio some 34 years ago found Frank and me on a less traveled path on a cool, misty afternoon. The pebbles below our feet were loose and the view breathtaking, but naturally Frank preferred a different perspective... down the hill, tree by tree, to a jagged edge and the overlook of 100' pines, their points staring back at us. "There's a better spot right down there," Frank said. "We could lower ourselves down. It's only about 6 feet." Well, 5 feet later I found myself dangling from Frank's left leg over what must have been a 200' cliff. The fact



## Frank (Continued)



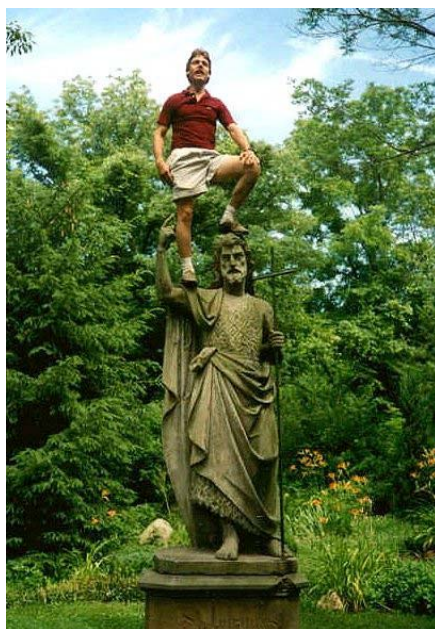
It was really hard putting out the rest of our Halloween decorations here at our office, remembering how Frank posed with some of our props and posted pictures of them when he came to visit two years ago. He will certainly be missed! Gio (Mike Giovanetti) '72

I am so sorry to hear about Frank. Thanks so much for being in touch—Frank had wonderful brothers!  
Joe Bessler-Northcutt '75

that his grasp was secured onto a 2" sapling would be of concern for most rational people—and I was—but his laughter, continual and contagious, had me gasping for air while my mind formulated the progress of the failing root system. True to his word, he never let go and I found my way to another sapling and eventually the first ledge. We sat for a few moments and marveled at our invincibility. Frank continued to impress me with his "marching skills," his invincibility... this is how I will remember him. Joel Bremer '72

How surprised and glad I was to receive Frank's phone call two years ago and chatting with him for almost an hour, after having lost touch with this great group for over 30 years. Frank's pictures made us all smile and his reaching out to others will be missed by everyone who knew him. Bill Luttrell '72

I can't help but recall our "Big Chief" as a climber, always on the edge. I can't help but remember when Frank stayed at my house last year that I didn't want him to leave when the reunion was over. I can't help but recall his walking the perimeter of my block fence, to the chagrin of neighbors, while talking to Norice on the cell phone. I can't help but recall Frank calling Rick McCoy at 2:30 am from my back yard. Frank is now fully a citizen of heaven. We will miss you. I will miss your endearing phone calls at the oddest hours. TBox



I will always remember Frank as a guy who, despite his struggles with depression, was filled with an infectious joy and love of life. I hope and pray that he now enjoys Eternal Rest along with Paul and Ruben. I'm currently in Chicago and return to Beijing tomorrow morning. I'll offer a Mass for Frank and for his family as they mourn his loss. Albert Haase '72

The last time I saw Frank in Houston he was complaining about a back problem caused by a fall from his roof during a home repair project, and that he used to have better balance. His was a rolling gait

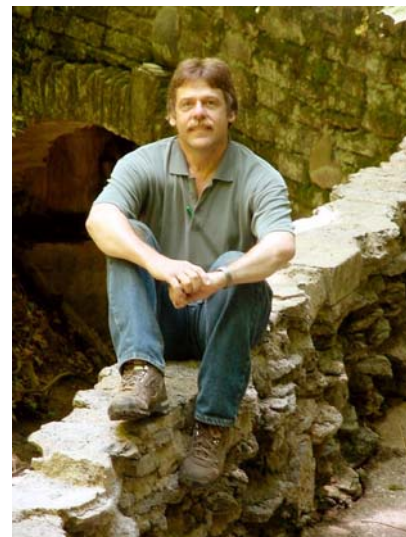
that glided sideways as it went forward; a raspy lilting voice with humor and an upbeat lilt. His words on the pages of *The Brown and White* reveal that serious ideas, mischief and wonder filled his mind. His hair was unruly, bushy, and full. He was compact of stature but comfortable with himself. He possessed dynamic energy. His faith was sturdy and broad. He slipped into the hereafter while trying to record the splendor of God's creation. He knew the measured tremble created by the bell's hammer tolling the Angelus. He knew snapping towel wars furiously waged under the hush of "grand silence." He knew the ring, ring, ring - pause - ring, ring, ring - pause - ring - pause - ring, ring, ring that prodded open our sleep stuck eyes and resulted in the warm soles of our bare feet hitting the cold splintery dormitory floor. Matthew Gallegos '71

*May the angels take you into paradise*

*May the martyrs come to greet you on your way*

*May you see the face of God*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

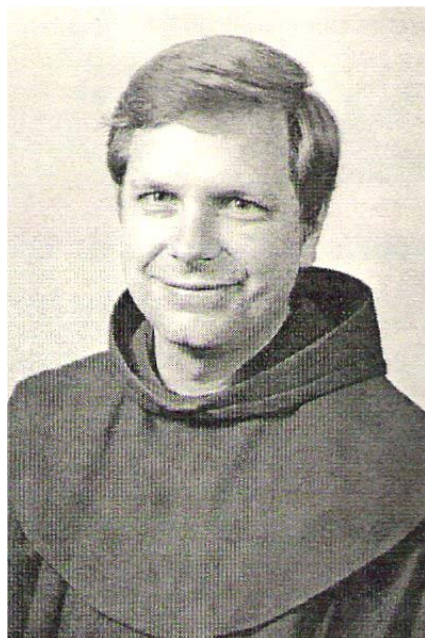




## Paul Jewett Remembered

by Larry Dunham '65

*Paul Allen Jewett, former friar of OLG Province, died on October 21, 2003 in El Paso, Texas at age 59.*



This gift was put at the service of bringing to birth the new OLG Province, and sustaining it during its first six years of existence.

When he left the Order and priesthood, he left a great hole in the Franciscan fabric. But the character and conduct of his life afterwards show that he never took the habit off his heart.

His remarkable talents, his goodness, and his great love and respect for youth and for the poor were continued in the service of God and the Church as husband, father, and teacher.

Paul died in the good graces of the Church surrounded and loved by family, friends, students, and the remarkable memories of an incredible life.

In the imitation and spirit of St. Francis, he left this world a very rich man. Into the Lord's hands we commend him, and ask peace for his family and for ourselves.

*During his years at St. Francis Seminary as a brother, and later as a priest, Paul taught several subjects including algebra, calculus, and religion. In addition, he coached basketball and soccer. A genuine pleasure to be around, Paul was well liked by his students and colleagues.*



Paul Jewett was an extraordinary friar-priest.

A graduate of the University of Dayton with a degree in engineering, he became a Catholic during those years and set his sights on also becoming a Franciscan.

His remarkable and unlimited talents were placed at the service of the Order throughout his time with us, both as student friar, as teacher/disciplinarian at the Minor Seminary, as vocation director, as OLG Treasurer, as Definitor of St. John the Baptist Province, and as the first Vicar Provincial of the new Our Lady of Guadalupe Province.

His genius combined with his easy going and good nature were powerful tools in Paul's ability to focus on a goal, organize the resources, and efficiently accomplish the tasks necessary to reach that goal. None could do it better.



*Fr. Paul, Fr. Savio, Br. Marcos, Br. Fabian, and Fr. Dean after winning a tournament*



## Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi

by Bill Pellman '52



The trip started in Cincinnati with a flight on Air France which took us to Paris. After a slight delay we were off to Rome. There we were met by a C-tours escort for an orientation tour of Rome followed by checking in at the hotel Parco Tirreno and dinner.

We were up early the next morning for mass at the Tomb of St. Peter in Vatican City. After Mass we enjoyed a tour of St. Peter's Basilica, then a visit to the vast museums and ending with a view of the Sistine Chapel. Fr. Tod Laverty joined Fr. Jim Bok to help guide the tour.

The next day started with a return to Vatican City for an audience with the Holy Father. It was quite an event even though the Holy Father seemed rather frail. We continued to tour Rome and went to St. John Lateran, the Cathedral Church of Rome. The church which has a statue of St. Francis on the other side of the street and he seems to be holding out his hands to keep it from falling. We also saw the church of St. Mary Major. An attempt was made to take a boat ride on the Tiber but the boat wasn't running so we went instead to the Castel Sant' Angelo, a palace built on Hadrian's tomb and a place of refuge for the Popes when Rome was attacked. We returned to the hotel and later went to the Trevi Fountain (remember three coins in a fountain) and then to the Spanish steps for dinner. It was quite an evening. Our pilgrimage started the next day with mass at San

Bonaventura al Palatino, a very old church in the middle of Classical and Imperial Rome. St Leonard of Port Maris had a chapel there. We of course, went through the Colosseum, viewed the Roman forum and then off to the Pantheon. We had lunch in a nearby Piazza, toured on our own and returned to the hotel by cab. On Friday we boarded the motor coach and headed for the Umbrian hills. We arrived at Greccio outside Rieti where St. Francis first set up the Christmas crib. We had mass there with a group of Sisters who were from all over the world. One of the Sisters translated the sermon in Spanish so that all could enjoy Fr. Tod's words. Back on the bus and on our way to Assisi to stay at Hotel Porta Nuova. We stopped first for a grand lunch and then a tour of Rivo Torto, where Francis gathered his first followers.



The morning found us ready for Mass at the Basilica of St. Maria Degli Angeli. Later we toured the Cathedral of San Rufino, where Francis and Clare were baptized and the church of St. Clare which houses her incorrupt body. We were on our own for dinner that night. On Sunday we were up early again to celebrate Mass at Eremito delle Carceri a hermitage in the

mountains above Assisi. From there we descended to San Damiano where Christ on the cross spoke to Francis telling him to rebuild the church. Our final destination for the day was St. Mary of the Angels, the first headquarters of the Franciscan Order. We had mass at the Basilica of St. Francis on Monday. We were at the tomb of St. Francis, which is quite impressive. The rest of the day was spent touring and shopping.

On Tuesday we headed for Mount LaVerna, the retreat where Francis received the Stigmata and celebrated Mass in the Franciscan Sanctuary. We continued our travel through the Tuscan countryside to the city of Florence. Next morning we had Mass at the Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, a very grand symbol of the city and the Renaissance. We enjoyed a walking tour of the city. Viewing the baptistery, with Ghiberti's bronze "Gates of Paradise," the Palazzo Vecchio and the Ponte Vecchio a bridge lined with jewelers since the 1500s.

Then the motor coach took us to the canals of Venice. After a late boat ride into the city we walked to our next hotel, Gorizia la Valigia. On Thursday we toured St. Mark's Basilica and had mass at the chapel of San Teodoro. Later we saw the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, where prisoners had their last view of Venice and then were on our own to sightsee and take a gondola ride.

Friday was the final day of sightseeing. We left Venice and went to Padua and the Basilica of St. Anthony. After Mass at the Basilica we visited the reliquary of St. Anthony and his tomb. Our final visit was to Arcella where St. Anthony died. We returned to Venice to a different hotel so we could be close to the airport for our return flight. The plane stopped in Paris and then on to Cincinnati. Home again!



## 2004 Chapter Plans — *Prairie et Bloomington*

by Rick Gardner '75

Plans for the 2004 Chapter reunion are shaping up. The reunion will be held in Bloomington, Illinois June 25 through June 27. St. Mary's is the host parish for the reunion and the Hawthorn Suites is the host hotel.



Alumni and their families arriving as early as Thursday, June 24 are invited to an evening cookout at the home of Rick Gardner (SFS '75). Activities will be recommended and organized for Friday afternoon. Tentative plans for Friday evening include a buffet dinner at the hotel with entertainment provided by alumni—reminiscent of Picnic Day talent contests.

There will be several activities from which to choose on Saturday morning. The first will be courtesy of Fr. Ric Schneider, O.F.M., pastor of St. Mary's parish. Fr. Ric has offered to take alumni and their families to a local model airplane flying field. He will have buddy boxes available for the children who wish to fly a radio controlled model airplane. Participants in this outing would either eat lunch at a local restaurant or picnic at Bloomington's Miller Park.

Bloomington has many fine attractions, including golf courses, gambling at Peoria's Paradise Casino, a lavender farm and a winery. Other possibilities include visiting some of the local museums or shopping at the mall or outlet center.

On Saturday afternoon, Fr. Ric will lead a tour of St. Mary's School, Church and Friary at 3 p.m. He'll then preside at a 4 p.m. Mass for alumni at the church. Alumni are invited to volunteer for the readings and music. Children of alumni may volunteer to serve at mass.

The reunion culminates with the chapter meeting Saturday evening. Cocktails will be at 5:30 with a buffet dinner at 6. The Association's Chapter meeting will commence over dessert. The chapter meeting will include board elections, award presentations and a remembrance ceremony for our brothers who have departed since the last chapter. Socializing will continue into the evening.

On Sunday morning, everyone is welcome to join Fr. Ric for breakfast at a popular local restaurant following the 7 a.m. Mass.



Prices for the reunion and activities have not yet been determined. They will be announced when plans are finalized. At this writing, it is probable that Friday's dinner will be about \$20 and Saturday's

dinner will be about \$25. Dinners for children 10 and under will be half price. Reservations for rooms at Hawthorn Suites in Bloomington may be made now. The cost per room is sixty five dollars plus 12 percent tax per night. Room rental includes a hot breakfast each morning. When placing your room reservation, please request the special Franciscan Alumni Association rate by specifying group code number 362. Call the Bloomington hotel directly at (309) 829-8111. More information about the hotel and Bloomington can be found via the internet. Please visit [www.hawthornbloomington.com](http://www.hawthornbloomington.com) for more information on the hotel and [www.visitbn.org](http://www.visitbn.org) for more information about Bloomington.

Alumni who wish to play music at the Mass may contact Mike Niklas by email at [mikeniklas@woh.rr.com](mailto:mikeniklas@woh.rr.com). Alumni who wish to volunteer for Friday evening's music program, for readings at Mass or for anything else at all please contact Rick Gardner. Rick may be reached by telephone at (309) 662-9691, by email at [re-gardn@ilstu.edu](mailto:re-gardn@ilstu.edu) or by mail at 1501 Beckenham Dr, Bloomington, IL 61704. We also look forward to hearing from alumni who wish to organize reunion events for their respective classes.

It will be a full, fun and fantastic Franciscan weekend you can share with your brothers. Please plan now to attend.

Pax et Bonum!







## Brothers' Briefs

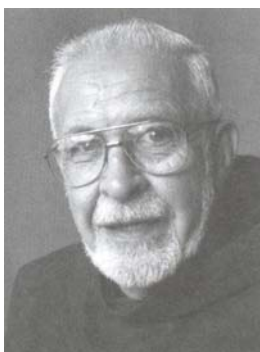
*In this issue, we mention several alumni who have recently journeyed to heaven. If you would like to have someone mentioned in a future newsletter, please provide information to the Franciscan Alumni Association. The website and mailing addresses are listed on the back of this publication.*



Ron Fein '62 died November 18 at age 59 after a long struggle with cancer. Ron's funeral was celebrated by Frs. Jim Bok and Carl Langendorfer. Others in attendance included Fr. Gil, Br. Conrad, and several

members of the Franciscan Alumni Association. The funeral was quite a tribute to his Franciscan heritage. Besides his day job of being a county court judge, Ron served on the board of the Franciscan Alumni Association. You know him best by the jokes he snatched from the internet for our enjoyment in the newsletters. Additionally, Ron was a trustee of Santa Maria Community Services, vice-president of the Citizens' Committee on Youth, a Grand Knight (K of C), and served on his parish council and the development board of Roger Bacon High School. Ron was very dedicated to the ideals of St Francis.

Please remember in your prayers Jack Stubbers '55, who passed away Dec. 31.



"Well-done, good and faithful servant," was the signoff on the obituary for Bob Hozie which appeared on the cover of the October issue of *Kolbe Newsnotes*, the newsletter of the Kolbe Project in Houston. "Bro.

Bob is best remembered for his kind, gentle spirit and for his love of his Franciscan community," the article read. "Bro. Bob loved people and touched many hearts and lives. He will be greatly missed." The Sept. 24 issue of the *Houston Chronicle* also featured a detailed article on Bob's work with the Kolbe Project. Soft-spoken, gentle, compassionate-this is the Bob his students remember, and most of the people connected with him, in one way or another, eventually became his students. Young men at St. Francis Seminary studied English, History and Typing with Bob. SFO members learned from Bob what it means to be a Franciscan. And clients at the Kolbe Project, some of them treated like modern-day lepers by the rest of the world, learned from Bob that the love of God is not restricted to certain segments of society. But "bold" was indeed the adjective used by Rock Travnikar in his homily at Bob's funeral on Sept. 22. "He was bold enough to start a new ministry because he saw a need in the Church that wasn't being met," Rock said of the co-founding of the Kolbe Project, a ministry offering peace and reconciliation to those affected by HIV and AIDS in the Houston area. "He completely separated himself from the familiar to go someplace new, to the unknown."



Niles Kraft, of OLG Province, died June 20 at age 73 of cardiac arrest. Prior to coming to the Native missions of the Southwest, Niles served in parishes in Ohio and Indiana. In 1959 he arrived at Zuni Pueblo in

New Mexico and served as pastor and fundraiser for the parish grade school. He also ministered in parishes in Florida before being assigned to St. Berard Mission in Navajo, New Mexico in 1977, where he lived and served his beloved Navajo brothers and sisters until his death. Duane Torisky, OFM

This will be my 4th year in Rapid City. When I came here, I thought it was going to be a more temporary assignment, but that is just the way things go. It is good also to remember what one of our provincials, Fr. Roger Huser, used to say: "Remember, wherever you go you have to take yourself with you." I was back in the Cincinnati area in July 2003 to visit relatives. I am frequently asked how long will I stay in Rapid City and if and when am I going to retire. The only answer I can give is that I don't know. I'm happy for the privilege of being able to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass every day. The good people here who still need my services are reason enough for me to be willing to stay on. I am now teaching Latin again: one class at St. Thomas More High School and one at St. Elizabeth Seton middle school. Please feel free to write to me at fssprcd@aol.com. Valentine Young, OFM

My parents celebrated their 80th birthdays in Franciscan style in 2003. In lieu of personal gifts, Dick and Kay Niklas requested donations to the Fr. Aubert Grieser Memorial Garden fund, raising several hundred dollars for a good cause. Mike Niklas '75

I recently found the alumni website while surfing the internet. Viewing the site brought back a lot of fond memories. I attended Saint Francis Seminary from 1959 to 1963. At the time my family was living in Piqua, Ohio. I presently live in Mansfield, Ohio. I think about my fellow classmates often and of the four years we shared together at the seminary. Jim Blank '63

I was a student during the 1967-68 school year at St. Francis. I chose not to return to the seminary following that year. I live in Morrison, Illinois with Deborah, my wife of 28 years. I am a trial judge in Whiteside County. John Hauptman '71

I've been really busy with the diaconate formation program and work. I heard from Fr. Albert Hasse. He'll be moving back to the states from China soon. Fr. Ric is recovering from knee surgery. I got a nice card from Carol Dressman (former seminary teacher). Tom Baca '72

And speaking of the old minor seminary... StoneBridge at Winton Woods is Mercy's newest retirement community, with groundbreaking expected in late spring and initial occupancy slated for late fall, 2004. The community will offer two- and three-bedroom cottages located on the 70-acre former seminary grounds. StoneBridge will provide affordable, free-standing cottages on the campus.

Joe Nelson, OFM, of OLG Province produces a newsletter called *Senior Moments*. The September '03 issue featured a wonderful article on Meldon Hickey, "the man in the white hat." It's an amusing and inspirational story. There's also an article about bike riding after age 65 and medical advice, respectively. Additional topics include senior activities and book reviews. The provincial website is [www.olgofm.org](http://www.olgofm.org).

I got a big surprise for Christmas—a friend gave me a First Class relic of St. Francis! I don't know if I got a piece of a bone or a tooth, but it is prominently displayed in my work room. We added a 13-member children's ensemble to our folk group for the Christmas Eve mass—it was glorious Butch Feldhaus '75

Except for a year living in Chicago, I've lived in Greater Cincinnati my entire life and can't believe I had no knowledge of the Alumni Association! I only got the details by stumbling onto the web page. (Hey Gil, I became a grandfather this year!) Steve Farfsing '67

On June 5, Br. José Rodríguez Carballo was elected the new Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor. The 142 representatives of the Friars Minor elected him in Assisi at St. Mary of the Angels, where they were celebrating a General Chapter called on the theme of 'Fraternity in Mission.' Br. José is in historical succession, the 119th successor of Saint Francis.

On June 28, two friars were ordained at St. Francis Seraph Church. David Kobak and Luis Aponte-Merced, two very different men—one raised in Ohio, the other from Puerto Rico. Luis was a dentist before coming to the friars.

Fred McCarthy is the cartoonist-creator of Brother Juniper, the comic strip character who for years was a fixture on newspaper pages. Juniper's relationship with St. John the Baptist Province dates back to 1960, when Fr. Aloys Held, then-director of the Franciscan Mission Union, went looking for something to spice up his appeal letters. He found it in the form of Juniper, a portly, pint-sized sage who ambles through life with an open mind and an open heart. "I was thrilled when Fr. Aloys wrote," asking to use the cartoons for FMU correspondence, says Fred, who recently visited Cincinnati with wife Lilly at the invitation of Bro. Scott Obrecht.



St. Anthony Messenger Press is expanding with its purchase of Charis Books, the Catholic imprint of Servant Publications. "We will continue to publish new books in the Charis line," says Jeremy Harrington, SAMP publisher. "We want to build on the important legacy of Servant."

Greg Friedman of St. Anthony Messenger Press is working on a pilot program of a weekly half-hour radio show on Catholic faith formation for adults. Greg is already involved with SAMP's radio features on *Saint of the Day* and *Sunday Soundbites*. The pilot, which will be presented as *Catholic Update Radio*, could generate a grant that would help perpetuate the Messenger's audio, video and Internet outreach efforts.

Among those recognized for their achievements in the recently published book, *Five Hundred Leaders of Influence: A Celebration of Global Achievements* (American Biographical Institute), is Bernardin Victor Schneider. The article traces Bernie's path from Louisville to Tokyo, lists his international affiliations and enumerates some of his many professional accomplishments.

Gregg Martinez '74 just recorded and released a new CD of Christian music entitled *Bring Down the Thunder*. It can be ordered at [www.greggmartinez.com](http://www.greggmartinez.com).

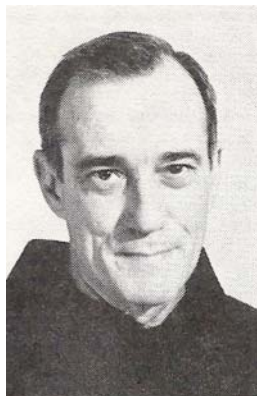


In response to a writer's request for historical information, Dan Anderson (Franciscan archivist) and Mike Niklas (Alumni Assn) provided photographs and literature about the late Fr. Alvin Deem, OFM to Shirley Slaughter of Oak Park, Michigan. Alvin spent 48 years in "pioneer ministry" to African Americans beginning with the founding of Our Lady of Victory Church in Detroit in 1943. His contribution to the archdiocese had such impact that in 1988 Cardinal Szoka named him recipient of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Crusader Award. Upon receiving information and photos, Shirley replied, "Thank you so very much! Your biographical articles and the pictures add greatly to Fr. Alvin's story. I appreciate it

(Continued on page 14)



## Briefs (Continued)



**Alvin Deem**

so much. Father's legacy is still being felt in our community. He helped a few blacks to become successful in life—getting them into the best catholic schools and colleges, and he got scholarships for some at a time when it was unheard of for blacks to be accepted like that. I never got to know him because he was gone by the time I came to Our Lady of Victory. But I was a recipient of what he did and I intend to keep his memory and our church alive, so I am writing a book entitled *The History of Our Lady of Victory Mission... A Saga of an African American Catholic Community.*"

In the September issue of the magazine *The Tablet*, Richard Rohr talked about the retreats he leads for men in the deserts and canyons of New Mexico.

Jim Van Vurst works on the SAMP web site ([www.Americancatholic.org](http://www.Americancatholic.org)), which has a number of interesting areas to explore: Update Your Faith, Saints, E-Newsletters, and E-Cards. One that he works on daily at the Messenger building is entitled, "Prayer Intentions," which provides an opportunity for people visiting the web site to type out a need or petition along with their name and location. These then are published daily and at the end of the day are archived. At the end of the month, all the petitions are transferred to a CD and then taken to St. Anthony Shrine (Mt. Airy), where they are prayed for during the continuing prayer and novena services at the Shrine.

Charlie Miller had a confession to make. As the clock struck midnight on June 11, 1938, he was the one who sneaked into

the corridor of the friary at Oldenburg and lit the firecracker that roused the entire floor. "I shot it off to announce the day of ordination," he explains. "They never found out who it was." Sixty-five years after this flagrant act of unruliness, Charlie seems relieved to get it off his chest, fairly confident that he has surpassed the statute of limitations for disciplinary action

The Alumni Association received the following email in November and provided several photographs that were used prominently in the program that recently aired around the world:

*Dear Sir,  
I'm with CNN, and we are producing a show on Tom Cruise for People in the News. It will air several times in December. I would greatly appreciate any help that you could provide in terms of pictures and/or yearbook photos from his time at St. Francis.*

We initially gave them four photos of Tom Cruise Mapother. Then they asked for pictures of the outside and inside of the seminary building, so we sent them a beautiful shot of the front, with the pond and ducks and flowers in the foreground (taken in 1965) and a freshman study hall picture from 1972 (that included several freshmen from the class of '75). Everyone assumed that Tom was in the study hall picture. That's Hollywood!



*Tom Cruise Mapother in front of the gym during his freshman year at St. Francis Sem*

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 10, a large group of friars, Poor Clares and friends, along with Vince's sisters, Jenny, Mary and Jo, gathered in St. Anthony's Chapel in Mt. Airy for the very moving ceremony that missioned Vince Delorenzo to Montego Bay, Jamaica. Vince is at Mary Gate of Heaven Friary in Negril, Jamaica.

The 50th anniversary of profession for Brother Francis Williams was celebrated with friars, family and friends at St. Clement Church on August 23.

After the beatification of Mother Teresa, WCPO-TV in Cincinnati interviewed Scott Obrecht about the invitation he extended that resulted in her 1981 visit to Cincinnati. The report appeared on Sunday news programs, and Scott was invited back to talk live about his impressions of Mother Teresa for the Monday a.m. news program on Channel 9.

Good news from Galveston concerning the recovery of Sylvester Heppner from his foot surgery.

"I don't really need anything else," said 7-year-old Matthew Flanagan of Shreveport, La., asked why he requested donations for a charity as gifts for his birthday instead of toys. As a result of Matthew's generosity, Giovanni Reid accepted a trunk full of canned goods, cleaning supplies and toiletries collected by the boy on behalf of the Christian Service Program. A photo of Gio unloading a dozen bags of "presents" with Matthew appeared in the Oct. 1 issue of the *Shreveport Times*. "From Matthew, the idea has spread through the second grade at South Highlands Elementary School," according to the story, with children donating items to other charities and schools in need. "Young people are always wanting," Gio told the reporter. "It's refreshing to see somebody giving for a change."



## Jokes

Provided by Ron Fein '62

I went to the store the other day, and I was in there for only about 5 minutes. When I came out there was a motorcycle cop writing a parking ticket. So I went up to him and said, "Come on, buddy, how about giving a guy a break?" He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. So I called him a pencil-necked idiot. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tires. I called him another insulting name and he started writing a third ticket! This went on for about 20 minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote. I didn't care. My car was parked around the corner.

You know you need a vacation when a dentist appointment is viewed as 30 minutes to sit down and relax.

Three sisters live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath, puts her foot in the water, stops and then yells downstairs "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs but pauses and yells "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea shakes her head and says "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." She knocks on wood for good luck, then pauses and yells "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

Due to a glitch in the celestial time-space continuum, George W. Bush, Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso arrive at the Pearly Gates more or less simultaneously. The first to present himself to Saint Peter is Einstein. Saint Peter says "Can you prove who you really are?" Einstein proceeds to describe his theory of relativity. Saint Peter is impressed. "You really are Einstein! Welcome to heaven!" Just then Picasso arrives. Saint Peter asks him to prove who he is and so Picasso proceeds to sketch out a truly stunning mural with but a few strokes of chalk. Saint Peter claps. "Surely you are the great artist you

claim to be! Come on in!" The three are standing there as George W. Bush appears. Saint Peter says "Einstein and Picasso easily proved their identity. How can you prove yours?" George W. gives a bewildered look and says "Who are Einstein and Picasso?" Saint Peter said "Come on in, George."

Did you know...

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

"Dream" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."

No new animals have been domesticated in the last 4,000 years.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

The Bible does not say there were three wise men; it only says there were three gifts.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.

As a man was driving down the freeway, he answered his car phone and heard his wife's worried voice saying "Herman, I just heard on the radio there's some idiot driving a car the wrong way on route 290. Please be careful!" "Dang," said Herman, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!!!"

A woman hit her golf ball into the woods and found a frog caught in a trap. The frog said to her, "If you release me from this trap, I will grant you three wishes with the condition that whatever you wish for, your

husband will get ten times more or better." For her first wish she wanted to be the most beautiful woman in the world. The frog warned her, "You do realize that this wish will also make your husband the most handsome man in the world, an Adonis, and women will flock to him..." The woman replied, "That will be okay."

So—poof—she became the most beautiful woman in the world. For her second wish, she wanted to be the richest woman in the world. The frog said, "That will make your husband the richest man in the world, and he will be ten times richer than you..." The woman said, "That will be okay, because what is mine is his, and what is his is mine." So—poof—she became the richest woman in the world. The frog then inquired about her third wish, and she answered, "I'd like a mild heart attack."

A bum asks a man for \$2. The man asks "Will you buy booze?" The bum says "No." The man asks "Will you gamble it away?" The bum says "No." Then the man says "Will you come home with me, so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn't drink or gamble?"

A Mafia Godfather and his attorney are meeting with an accountant who has embezzled money from the mob. The Godfather demands to know where it is. The attorney interrupts, "Godfather, remember, this man is a deaf mute. But I know sign language." The attorney, using sign language, asks the accountant where the 3 million dollars is. The accountant signs back, "I don't know what you are talking about." The attorney says "He doesn't know what you are talking about." The Godfather pulls out a pistol, puts it to the accountant's head, and says, "Ask him again where the damn money is!" The accountant signs back, "OK! OK! OK!, the money is hidden in a suitcase behind the shed in my backyard!" The Godfather says, "Well....what did he say?" The attorney says "He claims you don't have the guts to pull the trigger."



## Franciscan Alumni Association



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### FORWARDING AND ADDRESS

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Are you interested in advertising a business or event or “just about anything” in a Franciscan Alumni Association newsletter? For a mere \$100, your business card-size item can be placed prominently in a future newsletter and delivered into the hands of more than 1,000 people around the world—and listed on our website as well.

To get the ball rolling, Pat Findley ('74) has placed the first ad. Central Roller, the company he founded in 1986, provides quality products and services to the graphic arts and industrial roller industry. Pat is on the board of the Franciscan Alumni Association, but anybody can actively advertise and help sponsor a newsletter at the same time. Just send a business card or similar media to the address at top of this page.

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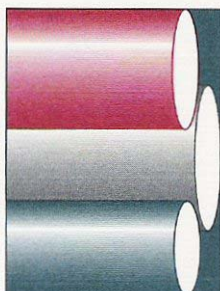
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The Franciscan Alumni Association newsletter is published twice annually and mailed to approximately 1,300 members for whom we have addresses. The only cost of production is the expense of printing and mailing. The editor is Mike Niklas. Other writers, most of whom are board members, are identified with their articles. Thanks to those who wrote and thanks to you for your interest and support.

## The 2003-2004 Franciscan Alumni Association Board

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