

Franciscan Alumni Association

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June 23-26, 2016 Reunion in the Southwest *by JD Moya ('70)*

How time flies! 2015 saw us all gather at St. Francis Seminary for our annual gathering of alumni at "The Farm." It was indeed a time of reuniting and sharing memories and all who were there left with a "Thank-God-I-Attended" feeling. It's like going to confession: you don't really think you need to go but when you walk out of the confessional you sure are glad you went. Heh-heh-heh.

2016 will see us all in the Southwest for our annual reunion in beautiful Albuquerque. And I have volunteered to manage the time and activities for this reunion (with, of course, help from all the SW alumni. I got my eyes on you, Gomez brothers)! For those of you who know me, you know I

like to have a good time so be prepared to have just that...a good time. While sharing with each other how we are getting older gracefully. (OK, you can lie a little)

The reunion will be June 23 to 26, so I am firing off this missive in the hope that you will mark your calendar and start preparing cause you probably want to come early or maybe stay late after our activities to explore in the area.

Barbecue, wine, and fellowship will be at my house Thursday evening. Dinner on Friday will be at an outstanding restaurant which will showcase local food. Mass and dinner on Saturday will be at the Province's new Juan Diego Friary, a beautiful new fa-

cility that has a lovely chapel and ample room for our gathering.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, has graciously accepted our invitation to celebrate the Saturday late-afternoon Mass for all of us. Mass with Fr. Richard Rohr is something that people travel all over the world to get to and you all can participate in that.

There is just so much to experience around Albuquerque; this is truly a travel destination. I will be setting up excursions to Santa Fe, which Conde Nast continues to attest as a top 10 destination in all the United States. In addition, the longest Tramway in the world is right there for us to ride on and have a drink 11,000 feet above sea level. An alcohol drink at that level goes a long way! *Not that I would know but that is what I hear.* The Indian pueblos are all around Albuquerque so that experience just adds to the fun. And in every one of the Pueblos you will see a church started by our Franciscan brothers hundreds of years ago.

Anyway, I could go on and on. More details will be coming as events are booked. What we need is you to be here to enjoy everything that the Southwest has to offer. See details and updates at franciscan-alumni.org/reunions/2016-reunion/



2015 Humanitarian Award: Warren Hebert

During the 2015 Chapter meeting, Rick Gardner ('75) presented the Franciscan Alumni Association Humanitarian Award to Dr. Warren Hebert in recognition of his long-term commitment, influence, and devotion in the fields of nursing, home care, and ministry.

Warren Hebert attended St. Francis High School Seminary with the class of 1975 as a freshman and sophomore from August of 1971 through June of 1973. He played for the Saints' baseball, basketball, and soccer teams, enjoyed intramurals with Fr. Berard Doerger, and an occasional game of tennis with Fr. Dean Pellman. Camping in the woods is a favorite memory, in part due to Fr. Murray Bodo's inspiring lectures on Thoreau's Walden. Warren tried out for Fr. Aubert's Glee Club, but didn't make the cut because his voice was changing. Undaunted, Warren became the lead vocalist for the seminary's rock band in 1972 and won first place in the Picnic Day talent contest. He also participated in a speech competition. Religion class with Fr. Savio Russo continues to bear fruit through periodic encounters with authors like Dag Hammarskjöld, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, and others.

After high school, Warren attended X-Ray Tech and Nursing School at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Warren is an RN, a Certified Association Executive, and in May 2015, at age 58, completed his Doctorate in Nursing Practice, where he received Loyola New

Orleans' Ignatian Award as the university's outstanding graduate student. Warren was also named honor scholar of his Doctoral nursing cohort, in part for his two-year study of health professionals' competencies in engaging family caregivers.

Warren has worked as a home health nurse for over 30 years, 17 of which have been as CEO of the HomeCare Association of Louisiana (HCLA), representing 11,000 homecare professionals. Warren has spoken around the country about disaster preparedness, healthcare, the future of nursing, and recently about leading healthcare workers to Tibetan Buddhist communities in India.



Warren has served on numerous state and national boards & commissions and is currently Secretary of the board of Commu-

nity Health Accreditation Partners in Washington, DC. He also serves as a director for the board of Louisiana's Advocacy Center, which oversees state and federal services & grants for Louisiana's impoverished elderly and people with exceptionalities.

For nearly seven years Warren served as host of Radio Maria's "A Caring Place," guiding and supporting family caregivers. The program was broadcast in seven states and on the web.

Warren is a founding member of Men Entering Sacred Space, an ecumenical group of 14 men who head to the woods one weekend every three months in an effort to deepen their spiritual roles in family and ministry. The group is affiliated with Illuman, an organization based on Fr. Richard Rohr's work in men's spirituality.

Warren's wife Ramona has been a music minister, is an accomplished liturgical vocalist, and has taught science, math, music, and theology in Catholic Schools for over 30 years. Warren & Ramona have 5 grown children and 9 grandchildren.

Dr. Warren Hebert's accomplishments and contributions in the fields of medicine and ministry reflect great credit on himself and the training he has received over the years, including the Franciscan formation program.

2015 Christian Life Award: Charlie Bullington



Charlie Bullington '67 was honored with the Christian Life Award during the Franciscan Alumni Association Chapter. This award is presented to individuals in recognition of the witness of Christian values in their life.

Charlie has had a long time heart for living the life of Christ and following St. Francis. After graduating from SFS he went on and became, for a few years, a Franciscan brother living and working at St. Anthony Friary. He later went into the construction business.

In addition to the fulltime challenges of running a business, building and remodeling, Charlie has dedicated himself to a life of volunteerism. He is very active at his parish, St. John the Evangelist in West Chester, Ohio, co-chairing festival booths and helping in

many other ways as needed.

For four years Charlie volunteered for People Working Co-operatively on Repair Affair Day.

He has worked on the board for the New Housing Ohio organization, a provider of housing for those with very low income, homeless, mentally ill, and people who are recovering from substance abuse.

He assists the Transitional Living Corporation, an Ohio non-profit agency that is a provider of behavioral health services, serving as a board member and secretary.

He also served with THR. Inc. An Ohio nonprofit corporation which provides a wide range of psychosocial rehabilitation services, such as housing and Social Security representative payee services, serving on their board and holding the offices of Secretary, Treasurer and President.

Charlie is also a frequent blood donor.

It is with great appreciation that we also recognize Charlie's significant work with the Franciscan Alumni Association going back to the early days of this organization. His service included, among other things:

Board member: 1988-2014

Treasurer: 1994-96

Secretary: 1992-93

Newsletter Co-editor: 1998 – 2002

Treasurer: 2007-2014

Archivist: 2006-2014

Charlie served on the awards committee and worked on the Association's by laws. He's also the go-to guy for anything mechanical or electrical for the FAA. When we needed to cut a time capsule from the stone bridge several years ago, Charlie got it done by bringing in a stone cutter. When we needed electricity at the Peace Garden for Mass during our reunions, Charlie brought a 400' heavy duty extension cord.

Besides all this, Charlie also volunteered with many professional organizations related to the construction industry, helping ensure that people get quality workmanship and are treated fairly.

So we would like to recognize Charlie for this and other ways he witnesses to the Christian life. And of course we wish to recognize and thank Charlie's wife Tillie for her support.

2015 Chapter (Reunion) at St. Francis Seminary

The 2015 Franciscan Alumni Chapter held in Cincinnati was a great success. Approximately 50 members plus their guests attended various activities during the reunion from June 25th to the 28th. The dinners and activities were enjoyable and provided the opportunity to catch up with former classmates and teachers, meet alumni from other classes, and enjoy the fellowship of all those who attended.

A number of attendees stayed at the Quality Inn & Suites near Winton Road, a short distance from the former St. Francis

Seminary.

Thursday evening began with a group of early arrivals gathering for dinner at the Sandtrap Grill at Blue Ash golf course. About 25 people attended the fine dinner and many continued the festivities afterward at the home of Dave and Denise Gehring.

On Friday, a sizeable group of alumni and guests toured the Great American Ballpark and the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum. The group had lunch at the Holy Grail on the Banks with several more people

joining by that time. The afternoon was left for visiting several new developments in downtown Cincinnati, including Smale Park, the carousel on the Banks, and other points of interest. On Friday evening many of the attendees met for dinner at Cancun Mexican restaurant near the hotel, which was followed by more fellowship at the hotel until early morning hours. Class of '75 members Jeff Taylor, Mike Fritsch, and Mike Niklas brought out guitars as Warren Hebert led a group in songs from the '60's and '70's.

Saturday morning began with many reunion attendees touring the American Sign Museum, which everyone found to be very interesting and entertaining. Then for lunch, the group split up to go to Camp Washington Chili, Steve Simon's Skyline Chili (Steve is from the class of '76), and a few other local restaurants.

On Saturday afternoon, approximately 100 attendees gathered at the campus of the former seminary for camaraderie, reminiscing, Mass in the chapel, dinner, and the Chapter meeting. Fr. Jeff Scheeler, Provincial Minister for the Province of St. John the Baptist, served as presider at Mass and delivered an uplifting, stirring homily. Several alumni provided music for Mass, led by the beautiful voice of Mary Wiley, wife of Donn



Wiley '76. Alumni served as lectors and in other important roles for the liturgy.

After Dave Imhoff '70 snapped a photo of the entire group, all proceeded to study hall for dinner. The delicious meal was prepared and served by members of St. Maximilian Knights of Columbus. Mercy Franciscan at Stone Bridge was a gracious host and quite a few residents joined the alumni at dinner.

A wireless microphone passed around the room after dinner helped everyone hear introductions, humorous comments, and anecdotes from the alumni present.

Phil Zepeda '67 presented a donation to Fr. Dale Jamison on behalf of the Franciscan Alumni Association and the Ann Arbor North Rotary Foundation. The funds are helping with the St. Mary Navajo Mission Water Project that will bring essential fresh water to this mission in the southwest.

Tom Shumate '77 presented the Christian Life Award to Charlie Bullington '67. Rick Gardner '75 presented the Humanitarian Award to Warren Hebert '75. *See the awards articles on page two.*

Butch Feldhaus '75 led

the group in an emotive remembrance service. A candle was lit for each alumnus lost during the past year.

The evening concluded with the beautiful a capella singing of the Ultima.

Thanks to everyone who attended and also those who helped with the 2015 Chapter.



Class of '70: Rick Kasper, Dale Recinella, Jeff Scheeler, JD Moya, Bill Ritter, Rick Wissel, Mike Salata, Henry Beck, Dave Imhoff, Jim Brackman

Class of '70 Reflections:

The Class of '70 celebrated its 45th anniversary of graduation from St. Francis Seminary.

Fr. Henry Beck spoke for us all with these words: "I so enjoyed seeing my 1970 classmates at the Franciscan Alumni Reunion. There were ten of us class-

mates, plus 6 wives, along with other alums from other years. One of the blessings I have seen over the years now is the gift of friendship with my classmates and their families. We truly are 'brothers' knitted into one another's lives. My life is certainly enriched by these friendships!"

Dave Imhoff also shared his thoughts: "I love to reconnect with my classmates. It's not just talking about old times, but more about how we're doing and seeing how Franciscan upbringing has changed our present and future. I'm always impressed and humbled to hear the remarkably good things that my classmates are doing."

Classmate Fr. Jeff Scheeler presided at the Eucharist on Saturday, remembering in a special way Fr. Gil Wohler who taught all of us during seminary years at St. Francis and Duns Scotus. Fr. Gil had died a couple of months before the reunion. We all shared heart-felt memories of Fr. Gil.

The furthest travelers were JD and Gale Moya, who came all the way from New Mexico. They graciously helped us order in Spanish at the Mexican restaurant on Friday night. Other classmates included Dave and Nan Imhoff, Mike and Missy Salata, Bill and Debra Ritter, Rick and Kathy Wissel, Rick and Mary Kasper, Dale Recinella, and Jim Brackman.

We are hoping that even more classmates can come to our 50th Reunion. God has truly blessed our lives. As St. Francis would say: "All honor, glory, and praise be to you O Lord!"

2015 Chapter (Continued)

Class of '75 Reflections:

The class of '75 celebrated its 40th anniversary of graduation from St. Francis Seminary.

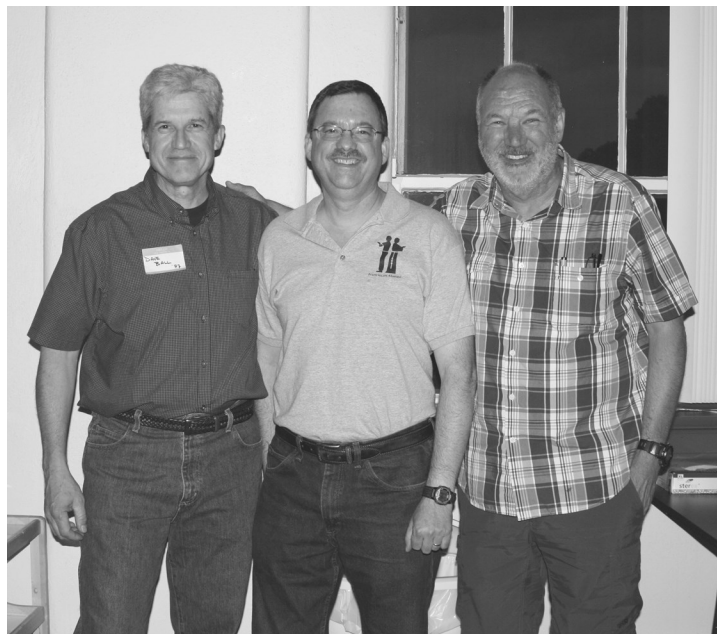
Warren Hebert spoke of what this meant to him: "Gathering with brothers from the class of '75 at St. Francis after 40 years, allowed us to revisit the sights, smells, sounds, and the feel of 10290 Mill Road. We reflected on sledding down the front driveway after a snowstorm. During quiet moments in the chapel I could hear the echoes of the *Ultima*, sung by brother seminarians from 40 years past. The smell of the gymnasium basement and the evergreens around the building brought back strong memories. The feel of the indentations on the steps up to the study hall reminded me how many of us climbed that stairwell over many decades. The only sense missing was tasting the Mexican sisters' tacos and other good food. Returning to the seminary reminded me that St. Francis, the man, the place, and the community has and continues to have, a major impact on my life."

Class of '75 in attendance included: Roy Brannan, Mike Niklas, Mark Kling, Joe Sears, Warren Hebert, Jeff Taylor, Butch Feldhaus, Rick Gardner, Sherman Smith, and Mike Fritsch.

For several, it was the first time in 40 years that they had returned to the "Farm."



Class of '75: Sherman Smith, Mike Fritsch, Mark Kling, Roy Brannan, Rick Gardner, Warren Hebert, Mike Niklas, Jeff Taylor, Butch Feldhaus, Joe Sears



Class of '77: Dave Ball, Tom Shumate, Frank Lopez



Franciscan Alumni Association

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Vocations Prayer Card Program

Most of our members have fond memories of their experiences in the Franciscan community, whether it was as a friar or perhaps a shorter period of time in the formation program. Much more than nostalgia, these are lessons and attitudes that have become part of us, which we dare not discard. We would be much poorer without them. It is the hope of our Association to become a link between the Franciscans and new candidates.

In order to help support the Franciscan way of life that we revere, we are asking all our members to speak positively about the Franciscan order and to encourage vocations.

In that light, we are asking for your help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Several of our members will be receiving a set of 20 prayer cards that include an image of the San Damiano cross, Francis's vocation prayer, and contact information for the vocation program.

Please be receptive, pray for Franciscan vocations, and distribute the prayer cards if you receive them in the mail.

The Franciscan Alumni Association newsletter is mailed to approximately 1,200 members for whom we have addresses. The only cost of production is the expense of printing and mailing. Additional stories and photos are available on the website. Thank you for your interest and support!

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