

Franciscan Alumni Association

Volume 29, Issue 1 Spring 2018

Established May 28th, 1989 Serving Provinces of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John the Baptist www.franciscan-alumni.org

Reunion Plan June 21-23, 2018

This year's reunion will be in Cincinnati. The itinerary will be similar to last year's agenda that focused on fraternity and humor, reflection and praise.

Check out the list of **Who's Coming** at the end of this article. Nearly 80 have already said they are interested in attending! All who have had a connection



with the Franciscans of St. John the Baptist Province or Our Lady of Guadalupe Province – even if you only attended one of the schools for a short time – are invited to attend any of the events, along with your guests.

We look forward to seeing a large group from the Class of '68, who will be celebrating their 50-year St. Francis Seminary Reunion! **Hotel:** La Quinta Inn near I-75 and I-275 will be the main location for lodging, Friday morning prayer, and gathering at the end of each day.

If you don't need a hotel room, or if you prefer another hotel, that's fine, too. There are several good hotels in the area.

La Quinta Inn-Cincinnati North 12150 Springfield Pike, Spring-

dale, OH 45246 (513) 671-2300 \$71.10 per night for a standard room with either a king bed or two beds. Breakfast and wi-fi are included. **The last day to get this group rate is May 30**. The group name is "Franciscan Alumni"

Cost of the Reunion: There will be a box for free-will donations to help cover cost of Friday & Saturday dinners and to support the good works of the Franciscan Alumni Association.

Please e-mail **RSVP and any questions** to: <u>2018Reun-</u> ion@franciscanalumni.org

When RSVP-ing, please mention any guests who will be accompanying you, and the events you plan to attend: Thursday night social, Friday lunch/tour, Friday dinner, Saturday retreat, and/or Saturday dinner.

Thursday, June 21:

We'll begin with an informal social starting at 6 pm at The Public House (sports bar), 3807 North Bend Road, Cheviot, Ohio. We will be in the private party room in the lower level, starting at 6 pm for beverages and a casual dinner. Come downstairs to the party room and enjoy the camaraderie. You can order tasty appetizers, sandwiches, and dinners from the menu if you wish. As you face the building from the street, the parking lot is to the right.

Thepublichousecheviot.com

Friday, June 22:

8 am morning prayer at hotel Free time until lunch Noon lunch and guided tour of St. Anthony Center, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, which just opened in December 2017 in the 40,000 square foot building that previously housed St. Anthony Messenger offices. Working with St. Francis Seraph Ministries, the Franciscans engaged in a very unique partnership with local nonprofit organizations. The new St. Anthony Center (SAC) is a "hub of services" all in one place to serve the poor. This center is a welcoming place where multiple not-for-(Continued on page 4)



2017 Humanitarian Award: John Quigley, OFM



John Quigley, OFM ('62)

Fr. John Quigley is an artist, preacher, and human rights activist. For the first third of his life, he lived in Canada, the next in the United States, and the most recent third of his life he spent in Europe, primarily in Rome and Geneva.

He began his pastoral and preaching ministry in 1974 as co-leader with Richard Rohr of the New Jerusalem Community in Cincinnati.

In 1979-81, John studied the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius with the Jesuits at Milford, Ohio and in 1982 became the coordinator of social justice and peace concerns for the friars of his Franciscan province. There he published an international monthly magazine "Mustard Seed."

Called to Rome in 1988, he was the international coordinator for the efforts of the Franciscan Friars (OFM) in the areas of justice, peace making and care for creation. From there in 1998

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he went to Geneva, Switzerland as the Director of Franciscans International a Non-Governmental Organization at the United Nations, where for ten years John coordinated work

for the promotion and protection of human rights.

He led a number of pilgrimages to Geneva, Rome and Assisi entitled "St. Francis and Human Rights" as well as a human rights pilgrimage to Ireland visiting spots in Dublin and in the North where Franciscans have made various efforts to heal the bitter wounds of "The Troubles."

Currently, as a member of the team for "Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs," he leads groups of pilgrims to Rome and Assis to retrace the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

For 30 years he has preached an annual retreat at Maggie Valley, North Carolina for groups of people who are mostly Roman Catholic, religious women and lay couples.

Of John Quigley, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, has said, "John and I worked together in the pastoring of the New Jerusalem Community for eight years and we largely think and operate in a very similar way-but he also has 20 years

of European, United Nations, and International work added onto that! You will not be disappointed in his theology, his spiritually or his excellent sense of purpose. I cannot recommend him highly enough."

A sister at a province in Canada stated, "In 2010, Fr. John Quigley preached a weeklong retreat to our most senior and infirm Sisters. Our Sisters had been experiencing significant turmoil due to an upcoming move from our own care to public facilities. John's focus on Jesus as the revelation of God in our personal histories helped them to accept these impending changes with their own personal response to the Divine."



Savio Russo '62 accepted the award on John's behalf from presenter Paul LaRou '62

When John is leading a painting retreat, he sometimes encourages the participants by saying, "God's spirit is moving through us. Let the brush speak."



2017 Christian Life Award: Jeff Scheeler, OFM



Rick Kasper ('70, above) and Henry Beck '70 presented the award to Jeff Scheeler '70

Fr. Jeff Scheeler ('70), OFM was the unanimous choice to receive the FAA Christian Life Award for 2017. Fr. Jeff was honored by two of his classmates, Rick Kasper and Fr. Henry Beck, OFM at the FAA Banguet on June 24, 2017. Rick highlighted Fr. Jeff's early humble service characterized by a picture of Jeff in St. Francis Seminary's "Brown & White" publication in which Jeff was smiling big while washing out a large garbage can. Rick noted that Jeff was a gifted writer, winning the essay contest his senior year and selected as co-editor of the "Brown & White."

During his formation years at Duns Scotus College, Jeff served in the music ministry playing guitar and singing for weekend liturgies at St. Alexander Parish in the Detroit area and at Duns Scotus. Rick noted how Jeff also volunteered at Sarah Fisher Home for Children, and that he was the lead in theatrical plays at St. Francis and Duns Scotus.

During his formation years at novitiate and at St. Leonard College, Jeff continued using his gifts to give God glory in the music ministry and serving in cross-cultural ministry at Jemez Indian Pueblo.

Fr. Henry Beck '70 went on to highlight Fr. Jeff's priestly and fraternal ministry:

We give thanks this evening for Jeff's compassionate spirit and generous service as a pastor, as the director of novices, as a campus minister, and for his many years of ministry in provincial administration.

Jeff has served a total of twenty-one years in our SJB provincial administration: as a councilor, as our vicarprovincial, and as our ministerprovincial over the past nine years.

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Jeff has shown the same pastoral presence in his role as ministerprovincial as he showed in the parish and in formation. He is a very fine "listener," and we would all trust and know that we would "be heard" when we talked with him.

Jeff is also an "encourager" as he would support us to try new skills in new ministries, and he would also "speak truth" to us and "challenge us" to ever be mindful of our belonging to a brotherhood of real men with their strengths and weaknesses.

We are indeed grateful this evening, Jeff, for you as our brother and minister; and we want to honor you and express our gratitude for you with this Christian Life Award this evening.

Congratulations, Jeff! Well done!

Shortly after receiving the award, Jeff replied on Facebook:

I wish to thank all of you in the Franciscan Alumni Association for giving me the 2017 Christian Life Award. I am deeply honored and grateful. May God bless all of us as we strive to live out our Christian and Franciscan vocation!



2018 Reunion Plan, Continued

(Continued from page 1)



St. Anthony Shrine/Friary

profit organizations work together to serve basic needs of the impoverished and the homeless in one location.

saintanthonycentercincinnati.org/ You can also use YouTube to look up a short news video on St. Anthony Center.

The next event is a **3:30 pm** tour of the Franciscan Archives, grounds, and chapel at **St. Anthony Shrine/Friary** 5000 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati

We are welcome to join the Friars in the chapel for **vespers** at 5:15, followed by a Remembrance Service from 5:30 to 5:45, where we will light a candle in prayer, remembering each alumnus who died since the last reunion.

6 pm dinner and social at the

Friary. Skyline Chili catered dinner (courtesy of Steve Simon '74 - thanks Steve!), followed by reflections by Brother Norbert Bertram, OFM, regarding Franciscan life from a brother's perspective,

and Savio Russo's perspective on Franciscan life as a former Franciscan priest and instructor at St. Francis Seminary.

Park by the building that is to the right of the Friary; the Archives office is around the back; dinner will be in the meeting room in that same building (near the parking lot).

Saturday, June 23: 9:30 am to 11:30 am inspirational retreat at the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare, which is nestled in the woods of the former St. Francis Seminary campus:

1505 Miles Road, Cincinnati www.poorclarescincinnati.org/ 9:30 am: Welcome by Sr. Doris, opening prayer, and overview of the Poor Clares at this site

9:50 am to 10:30 am: Paul & Barbara LaRou '62 and Warren & Ramona Hebert '75 sharing about how they have been living the "Franciscan charism" in their married life, family life, and work life

10:30 am: coffee break

10:45 am to 11:30 am: Fr. Bill Farris '68 speaking to the Franciscan Alumni community about the "Revitalization and Restructuring Process" ... where we are and where we are going



Stations of the Cross at Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare

9-9:25 am: Arrive (please try to carpool from the seminary parking lot because there is very little room in the Clare's' parking lot; or park at the former SFS and walk through the woods across the stone bridge and up the hill...)

11:30 am: Closing prayer with song

11:50 am lunch at the Monastery: sandwich platters, side items, beverages (donation basket)



2018 Reunion Plan, Concluded

Who already said they intend to be at the Reunion? Valentine Young, OFM '47 1:30 pm: Glee Club Practice be-Henry Beck, OFM '70 gins in the St. Francis Seminary Rick & Mary Kasper '70 study hall for those who have JD & Gale Moya '70 Ric Schneider, OFM '50 signed up to help provide a con-Dale Recinella '70 (maybe) cert this evening Magnolia Wurgler, daughter of David Seibert '70 Orlando Jaquez, OFM '51 5 pm Mass at former St. Francis Gary & Sally Bales '72 Seminary with main celebrant Fr. Dave & Denise Gehring '72 Bill & Marilyn Pellman '52 Bill Farris '68, OFM, Provincial Ed & Debbie Schellenbach '72 Vicar for the Province of St. John Tom Richstatter, OFM '57 the Baptist, either in chapel or Louis Canter '74 Peace Garden or study hall— Norbert Bertram, OFM '60 Mike Thomas '74 location TBD depending on weather Paul & Barbara LaRou '62 Butch & Mary Beth Feldhaus '75 Chuck & Helen Lawrence '62 **Rick Gardner '75** 6 pm group photo at the veranda Savio Russo '62 Warren & Ramona Hebert '75 6:15 pm catered dinner in Study Mark & Sandy Kling '75 Hall followed by John Bach '68 (maybe) Mike Niklas '75 Jerry Bill '68 John Peroutka '75 Fr. Aubert Memorial Glee Club Michael Brown '68 (maybe) Joe & Mary Sears '75 (maybe) sing-along concert, award presen-Dennis Dombkowski '68 tations, and memorial service Denny Erard '68 Steve Degnan-Schmidt '76 (see page 6 for information Bill Farris, OFM '68 Paul & Carolyn, Carly Landers 76 about how you can sign up and Rod Freudenbera '68 Donn & Mary Wiley '76 (maybe) participate in the Glee Club Mark Giles '68 Concert) Pat Halsmer, OFM '68 David Burkitt '77 (maybe) Mike & Jody Hertel '68 Sunday: Two options -Mike Duncan '77 Al Hirt, OFM '68 10 am Mass at St. Leonard Faith Frank & Kathie Lopez '77 Dan Knadler '68 Community chapel, followed by Tom Shumate '77 Steve Merkel '68 refreshments and tour Mike & Geri Moran '68 8100 Clyo Rd., Centerville, OH Joe Edwards '79 Denis Palmer '68 stleonardfaithcommunity.org/ Paul Kaelin '79 Mike Pine '68 - or -Ken Kramer '79 (maybe) Dave Reske & Tom '68 10:30 am Mass presided by Fr. Al Steve Robinson & Robert '68 Hirt, OFM, at St. Monica-St. David Rowland '68 Jeff Depew '80 (maybe) George Church Tom Schellenbach '68 (maybe) 328 W. McMillan St., Cincinnati Jim Schrepfer '68 saintmonicasaintgeorge.com/ Robert Jack '83 (maybe) Tom Vanderhoof '68 Tim Snider '83 (maybe)



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Fr. Aubert Grieser Memorial Glee Club — IN CONCERT!

Whether you were in the Glee Club at St. Francis Seminary or not, you may recall some of the songs that Fr. Aubert used in concerts and also in the music classes he taught over the years.

We will attempt to revive some of those memories during a singalong concert after din-

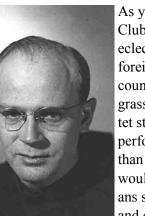
ner on Saturday night of the reunion this summer.

We're assembling a group of volunteers to help form a memorial Glee Club for the event and to pay homage to our great music teacher and director, Fr. Aubert Grieser '43.

Aubie's Glee Clubs were like a scene out of the movie Sister Act. He could take a mediocre group of 40 kids and, after countless hours of intense, day-and-night rehearsals, turn them into an award-winning choral group.

In February, 1994, at the age of 73, Fr. Aubert's earthly life ended due to Leukemia, but his legacy lives on in our memories.

Since we can't possibly do justice to the complex choral arrangements that P. Aubs used, we'll be singing arrangements that are somewhat simplified... okay, very simplified. So, if you're thinking of volunteering to sing with the group, don't worry about having to practice too much.



As you may recall, the Glee Club repertoire was quite eclectic, featuring songs in foreign languages, classical, country, rock n roll, bluegrass, and barbershop quartet styles. During a typical performance lasting more than an hour, the audience would hear young seminarians singing about religion... and drinking... and girls.

Fr. Aubert's repertoire always included songs about girls: A few of the titles were Spanish Ladies, Oh Cindy, Bonnie Eloise, Clementine, and Bless 'em All.

If you would like to participate in the Glee Club concert, please sign up at <u>https://toms598.wixsite.com/gleeclub</u>

where you'll find sheet music and recordings so you can practice on your own. We'll also rehearse in Study Hall on Saturday of the reunion from 1:30-3:30 pm.



Even the religious songs were sometimes funny, like The Old Ark's a-Moverin' and Ezekiel Connected Them Dry Bones.

He sometimes incorporated silly nursery songs like Old Mother Hubbard and Little Jack Horner... but these were not simple songs; they were some of the most difficult to sing, with opera-like melodies. And perhaps most challenging of all — all the music had to be memorized. No song sheets or lyric sheets were permitted during the concerts. And every singer's eyes had to be focused on the director—or else! If you didn't know better, you'd think Fr. Aubert hated you, by the way he glared—and sometimes got in your face—if you weren't following his direction and performing your best.

The exams for Glee Club were fairly easy. They usually consisted of writing out the lyrics of a few randomly selected songs. You better believe we knew the lyrics after all that practice!

Fr. Aubert was ordained a priest on July 12, 1952. He then spent a year in Santa Fe as assistant pastor at the cathedral, and chaplain to the New Mexico School for the Deaf. From there, he taught speech and music at Duns Scotus College until 1960, when he came to St. Francis Seminary and formed the first Glee Club. Over the next 20 years, the Glee Club served in fostering vocations and entertaining students'



parents and supporters such as the Seraphic Seminary Society. The Glee Club was also the backbone of the annual Transitus service and won superior ratings in state competitions.



2017 Reunion and Retreat at Former SFS



Thursday night at The Public House

We tried a new format for the 2017 Reunion that included ample opportunities for interacting with alumni and former teachers, as well as a mini-retreat on Saturday morning.

The result was a very entertaining and spiritual weekend.

Festivities began on Thursday evening, June 22, at The Public House in the Cheviot area of Cincinnati. Honestly, we were hoping that 10 or 15 people would show up for this early kickoff to the reunion weekend, so we initially gathered in a small corner of the bar area. However, there were soon more than 30 of us, elbow to elbow, and so we had a large enough group to justify moving downstairs to the spacious party room.

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Mark Kling ('75), whose son owns the pub, had arranged for us to use the party room for free, and a good time was had by all!

The home base for out-of-towners and also the meeting place for morning prayer was the Quality Inn & Suites hotel in Fairfield.

Deacon Butch Feldhaus ('75) led the morning prayers.

On Friday morning, several alumni participated in group activities that included an Escape-The-Room Challenge and visiting Entertrainment Junction,

A large group of alumni and guests gathered for dinner in the Study Hall of the former St. Francis Seminary



Above: Paul Landers '76 doing double duty as FAA President and babysitter

Right: Most of the Saturday night group





for a picnic-style dinner and social. The entertainment for the evening was provided by several former teachers who shared anecdotes and answered questions from the group, including Fr. Tom, Fr. Ric, Fr. Valentine, and (former) Fr. Savio.

Many of us returned to the former seminary on Saturday morning for a *Reflection on Franciscan Spirituality*, led by **Fr. Henry Beck ('70)** and **Rick Kasper ('70)**. There were wonderful insights and good discussions about our continued connection to St. Francis and his philosophy.

The whole group came together for 5 pm Mass with celebrant **Fr. Ric Schneider ('50)** at St. John Neumann Church a few miles down Mill Road. Several alumni helped provide music for the Mass.

Afterward we gathered at the Seminary study hall for a delicious dinner prepared by the St. Maximilian Knights of Columbus.

The Franciscan Alumni Association's

Christian Life Award was presented to Fr. Jeff Scheeler ('70) by Fr. Henry Beck ('70) and Rick Kasper ('70). The Humanitarian Award was presented to John Quigley, OFM ('62) by Paul La-Rou ('62). Savio Russo accepted the award for John Quigley

Magnolia Wurgler gave an update on her fascinating research into (Fr. Orlando Jaquez '51) her father's mysterious disappearance in the 1960's and his double life



Dennis Kirby



Magnolia Wurgler, daughter of Orlando Jaquez

as a Franciscan priest and as a married man with a family.

Dennis Kirby ('56), one of the founding fathers of the Franciscan Alumni Association, presented a historical overview of this organization that has served its members and several worthy causes for nearly 30 years.

The evening ended with a remembrance service and singing of The Ultima.



Fr. Henry Beck leading a session during the retreat



Ralph Hatke lighting candles in remembrance



On Sunday morning, a number of our members and guests drove a few miles north to celebrate Mass with the Faith Community at St. Leonard and share in the fraternity.



Fr. Tom Richstatter '57 Fr. Ric Schneider '50 Fr. Valentine Young '47 Savio Russo '62

Immediately below: Celebrating with St. Leonard Faith Community Bottom: Group photo after Saturday Mass





Key Events in the History of the Franciscan Alumni Assn

Many alumni of the Franciscan formation schools have had reunions ever since the first graduates emerged from hallowed halls.

Then, back in 1989, a few visionaries endeavored to give a greater purpose to the reunions and opportunities to re-connect. Dennis Kirby, George Ski, and others formulated a mission statement and operating construct that has served the members well. They also worked diligently to find alumni and invite them to participate, eventually resulting in a contact list of far more than 1,000 members. The Franciscan Archives office was of great assistance in this effort by providing various publications and documents.

The initial focus that was limited to graduates of St. Francis High School Seminary has expanded to include all students and faculty of the formation schools for brothers and priests in the provinces of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John the Baptist.

The structure of the annual chapter has gone from a Sunday Mass and lunch to a four-day reunion offering multiple opportunities for fraternity, prayer, dining, and entertainment.

The following is a high-level, chronological account of how the Franciscan Alumni Association came to be and evolved, highlighting several key events, developments, and contributions along the way. 1989—First Franciscan Alumni Reunion and "concepts" meeting held at former St. Francis Seminary; Dennis Kirby started the database

1990—Dennis Kirby and Ralph Hatke asked alumni to send more contacts for the database, and soon it grew to more than 1000 names

1991—Reconciliation of many alumni with the Franciscans; it was great to see guys reconnect First newsletter sent to members First editor: Tom Keller

1993—Fr. Aubert attended his first and last alumni meeting; Frank Rozmus '72 led sing-along

1996—Reunion at St. Anthony Friary; FAA directory published by Pat McCloskey and Charlie Bullington as a paperback book for members to buy

1997—Reunion at Oldenburg; Duns Scotus College sold

1998—Reunion at St. Leonard

1999—Website started by Mike Niklas, resulting in hundreds of alumni finding the Franciscan Alumni Assn through the internet and increased attendance at annual reunions Reunion in Albuquerque, hosted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Province

2000—Glee Club CDs produced for members; included humorous narra-

tion by Fr. Aubert Grieser Reunion in Detroit, MI

2001—Scanned all Brown & White magazines into PDF files; made available to members

2002—FAA logo designed by Mike Niklas and his daughter; used on the website, newsletters, and polo shirts Reunion in Albuquerque (OLG) featured concert by Gregg Martinez '74

2003—Franciscan Alumni trip to Italy, with guide Jim Bok, OFM Back in USA: FAA members worked to restore Fr. Aubert's Peace Garden

2004—Reunion in Bloomington, IL with Fr. Ric Schneider

2006—Survey of alumni by mail; financial appeal generated \$5,115 Reunion in St. Louis featured concert by Voices of Praise

2007—Albuquerque / Richard Rohr

2010-Return to Albuquerque

2012-Return to Bloomington

2013—Cleared SFS pond & trails

2014—Reunion in Washington, DC Natl Basilica, Holy Land Franciscans

2016—Albuquerque; donations from FAA members helped St. Mary's Navajo Mission in Tohachi, NM

2017—FAA members rebuilt the gazebo roof at former St. Francis Sem



Many of our members have been recognized over the years for their contributions to society and church. The physical award is an engraved plaque, accompanied by a presentation speech.

There are two award categories: Christian Life and Humanitarian.

Members of the Franciscan Alumni Board propose nominees and vote during a quarterly meeting. The winners are honored during the annual Chapter/reunion.

The following is a list of those who have been singled out for the positive impact they have made on others.

There were a few years in which only one award or no award was presented. This sometimes happened due to miscommunication, i.e., we're only human, prone to mistake.

And sometimes we couldn't decide on a single recipient, so we presented two awards in one of the categories that year. Once in a while we presented an award in an additional category, such as "Founding Father."

We hope that this list is complete.

If you notice an omission or error, please inform editor@franciscan-alumni.org.

The first awards were presented in 1994.

<u>Year</u>	Christian Life Award	Humanitarian Award
1994	Aubert Grieser	Michael Weber
1995	Kenan Hozie	
1996	Germain Krizmanich	Mike Niehaus
1997	Mel Brady	Cyrin Maus
1998	Leonard Kirejewski	Brennan McNulty
1999	Meldon Hickey	Ted Gomez
2000	Michael Schebeci	Ed Goulet
2001	Francis Williams	Dale Recinella
	Founding Fathers Award:	G. Ski & D. Kirby
2002	Art Puthoff	Victor Xuereb
2003	Gil Wohler	
2004	Ric Schneider	Lester Morris
2005	Ed Lammert	Roger Kapraun
2006	Donald Lachowitz	
2007	Berard Doerger	JD Moya
2008	Pat McCloskey	Bill Pellman
2009		Dave Imhoff
2010	Patrick Halsmer	David Frank
2013	Dan Kroger	
2014	Larry Dunham	Howard Hudepohl
2015	Charlie Bullington	Warren Hebert
2016	Richard Rohr	Gino Correa &
		Gilbert Schneider
2017	Jeff Scheeler	John Quigley

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Franciscan Alumni Association

St. Anthony Friary 5000 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45223

www.franciscan-alumni.org

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Please Help Us Help Others

The Franciscan Alumni Association helps members connect with each other, find former classmates and teachers, and share in the common bond that drew us to the ideals of St. Francis.

Members of the Association also perform good deeds and support worthy causes. A few examples of benevolence:

- Restoration of the Peace Garden and pond (former SFS)
- Rebuilding the gazebo roof, assembling a windmill (former SFS)
- Contributions for a community well at a mission (southwest)
- Franciscan Alumni website, database, photos
- Contributions to Franciscan organizations (several over the years)

Please help us continue to do good. Contributions may be sent to: Franciscan Alumni Assn 5000 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45223

Prayers may be sent to God, Jesus, Blessed Mother Mary, St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Anthony, and all the saints! 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!

Franciscan Alumni Association Board of Trustees

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