

Franciscan Alumni Association



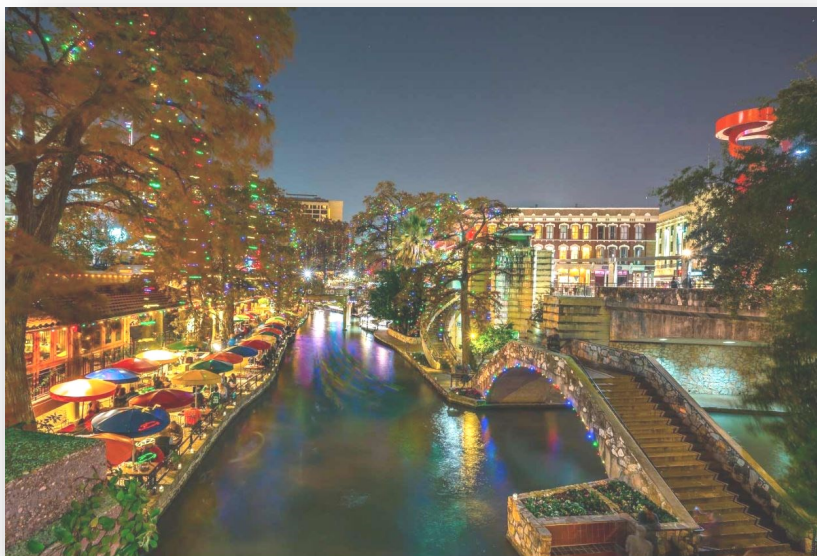
Volume 32
Spring 2022

Mission Statement: Inspired by Franciscan values, we seek to serve the Risen Christ by fostering fraternity and communion among members and assisting the work of the Order of Friars Minor in the United States provinces and missions.

Franciscan Alumni Reunion June 23 – 26, 2022 – San Antonio, Texas

This will be our first in-person reunion since 2019. JD Moya (class of '70) is coordinating the event. At the end of this article is a list of many of the alumni who have informed us that they plan to attend.

Please let us know if you intend to join us in San Antonio for the 2022 Franciscan Alumni Reunion. Also please mention how many people are likely to be in your party. You can RSVP by email to 2022reunion@franciscan-alumni.org



Thursday, June 23: The spacious Campanas Clubhouse in JD's neighborhood is reserved for us the entire day and evening. Arrive as early as noon and stay as long as you like. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, conversation, swimming in the large pool, TV, and billiards. This is the site of the welcome event and dinner.

Friday, June 24: After optional 8 am morning prayer and complimentary breakfast, enjoy sightseeing and other fun activities in and around San Antonio: Historic missions, the Alamo, Tower of the Americas, San Fernando Cathedral, Japanese Tea Garden, El Mercado, Botanical Garden, and Zoo/Aquarium. In the

evening, cruise or walk along the River Walk and have dinner there if you wish. JD has arranged for a great deal on a boat tour, followed by dinner at an awesome restaurant. The boat tour is only \$10. We'll need to be there at 5:15 for a 5:30 ride along the picturesque River Walk (San Antonio River, downtown). We'll have 2 chartered boats, just for our group.

The dinner at Ambler Restaurant (inside Hotel Contessa) sounds terrific: 5-course meal with dessert and coffee/tea. The boat picks up and drops off at the restaurant along the

River Walk, which is convenient. There's also a pay-as-you-go bar. We'll have a party room just for us. JD negotiated the dinner price down to \$69 per person, with tax and gratuity included. The initial price was over \$100! Seating is limited for the boat and the restaurant. Payment will be needed in advance in order to reserve your seats. Please see instructions in the registration section at the end of this article.

Saturday, June 25: 8 am morning prayer, breakfast, and more exploring around San Antonio before

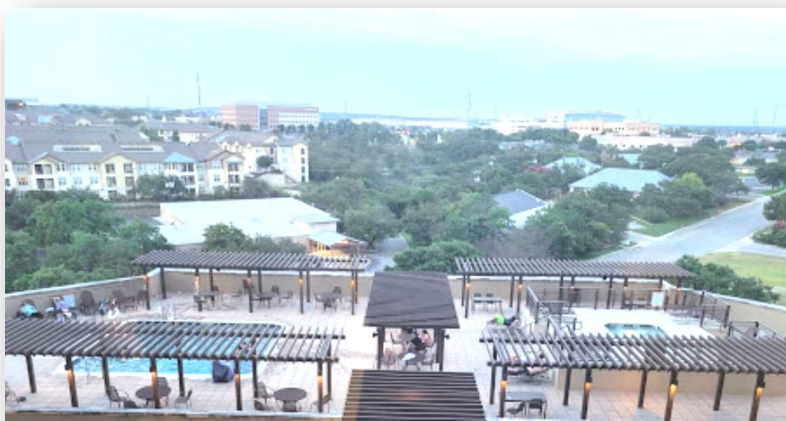
2022 Reunion Plan, Continued

coming together again at 4:30 p.m. for Mass, dinner, and fellowship at St. Padre Pio Catholic Church, 3843 Bulverde Pkwy, San Antonio.

Sunday, June 26:

Breakfast and farewells.

Evening dinner at Milano Italian Grill, for those who are staying over and want to join. We will need a firm number ahead of time for the reservation. The restaurant is at 19239 Stone Oak Pkwy, which is just a couple miles from the hotel. Order from the menu and pay your own bill for dinner.



Lodging:

The hotel for the reunion is Drury Plaza. We have 60 rooms blocked off for June 23-26 at a price of \$152 per night, plus tax. This includes breakfast in the morning and hors d'oeuvres in the evenings at 5:30. It's a good deal at a wonderful hotel. They've thrown in a complimentary meeting room for our morning prayers. They will also set aside a few rooms at this rate for those who want to come in earlier or leave later. We recommend that you book early so you can be sure to get a room for your preferred dates.

Please make your **reservation by Thursday, June 2, 2022** to receive the group rate of \$152/night + tax. Reservations may be made at www.druryhotels.com or by calling **1-800-325-0720** and referring to our group number **2454661**.

Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio North Stone Oak
823 North Loop 1604 East
San Antonio, TX 78232
Telephone: (210) 494-2420

Free hot breakfast daily from 6-9:30 a.m. on weekdays and 7-10 a.m. on weekends.

Free 5:30 Kickback: hors d'oeuvres and drinks

Free Wi-Fi, fitness center, and rooftop pool/hot tub.

CLEAN + SAFE: Guests can feel safe from check-in to check-out and everywhere in between. Drury Plaza Hotel uses Ecolab products as part of enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures to help ensure a clean, safe stay.

So far, we've heard from many alumni plus several family members who are planning to attend!

Dennis Kirby '56	Rick McCoy '72
Joe Alig '62	Hank Rethlake '72
Paul Springer '62	Ed Schellenbach '72
Walt St. Clair '62	Pat Valdez '72
Leonard Waldorf '62	Mike Vogler '72
Daniel Martin '63	Dale Weigel '72
Gary Frischkorm '64	Kevin Fogarty '74
Larry Dunham '65	Mike Thomas '74
Phil Zepeda '66	Butch Feldhaus '75
Henry Beck '70	Mike Fritsch '75
Greg Comey '70	Rick Gardner '75
Dave Imhoff '70	Mark Kling '75
Rick Kasper '70	Mike Niklas '75
JD Moya '70	Joe Sears '75
Bill Ritter '70	Paul Landers '76
Rick Wissel '70	Donn Wiley '76
Gary Bales '72	David Burkitt '77
Mark Clark '72	Matthew Jaramillo '77
Dave Gehring '72	Frank Lopez '77
Mike Giovenetti '72	Tom Shumate '77
Ted Gomez '72	Antonio Trujillo '78
Albert Haas, OFM '72	Bryan Reising '79
Mike Kordenbrock '72	Joseph-Rene'
	D'Amour '81

*** See Reunion Registration form on next page.

*** See Summary of Reunion Itinerary on page 6.



Franciscan Alumni Association Reunion

June 23 – 26, 2022 – San Antonio, Texas

Registration Form

Please complete the form below, then either:

- Email your completed (and saved) form to 2022Reunion@franciscan-alumni.org. You will receive a follow-up email with instructions on how to make a payment using a credit card or PayPal.
- Print out the form and mail it along with a check made out to "FAA". Mail it to **Franciscan Alumni Association, c/o St. Anthony Friary, 5000 Colerain Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45223**. You will receive a receipt by email.

Please make sure you include your email address below. Print clearly if writing on a paper copy.

Reunion registrations and payments for dinners, boat ride, and polo shirt orders must be done by May 15th. Seating is limited on the boats and at the Friday evening restaurant. Register early to be sure to get seated.

Name: _____ High school graduation year: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone number: (_____) _____ ☐ Cellphone ☐ Other

Planned date of arrival in San Antonio? _____ Planned date of departure? _____

Will you be staying at the Drury Plaza? ☐ Yes ☐ No, I'm staying at: _____

Who will be coming with you? _____

Please sign me up for:

Event	Cost per Person	No. of Persons	Total
Thursday Hors d'oeuvres, Drinks, and Dinner	\$25.00	X _____ =	_____
Friday Boat Tour	\$10.00	X _____ =	_____
Friday Evening Dinner	\$69.00	X _____ =	_____
Saturday Evening Dinner	\$35.00	X _____ =	_____
Sunday Evening Dinner*	NA	_____ =	NA

* This event will be Dutch; we just need an estimate of who might attend.

Event Total

Polo Shirt Order (Premium brown shirt with stitched white Franciscan Alumni Association logo)

Size	Men's	Women's	Cost per Shirt	Number	Total
Small	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	X _____ =	_____
Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	X _____ =	_____
Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	X _____ =	_____
X Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	X _____ =	_____
2X Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	X _____ =	_____
3X Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00	X _____ =	_____
4X Large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00	X _____ =	_____

Polo Shirt Total

Event Total _____ + Polo Shirt Total _____ = Grand Total

Friar Honorees Gifted, Versatile by Henry Beck, OFM '70



Every year the Board of the Franciscan Alumni Assn. talks about Franciscan alumni to be honored with our Christian Life Award and our Humanitarian Award. These awards are usually given at our annual FAA Reunion in June, though Covid-19 has interrupted our reunions for the past two years. In 2021, the Board chose to honor the memory and life of **Fr. Joe Rayes** with the Christian Life Award. Many of us gained much from Joe when he served as Novice Master in the province. Others knew him through his inspired preaching, retreats, and spiritual direction. Joe continues to be held in high regard among us alumni, and we wanted to recognize his many gifts and contributions.

The Board also chose to honor **Br. Scott Obrecht** in 2021 with the Humanitarian Award. In making the announcement, **Rick Kasper**, Chair of the Awards Committee, explained, "We have based our decision on the many, many years of service you have given to the people of the Philippines, the Southwest missions, to the provincial Mission Office, and to Friars Club. It is also amazing that you were instrumental in bringing [St.] Mother Teresa of Calcutta to Cincinnati [in 1981] to speak to the province and friends of the province. We sincerely thank you, Scott, and honor you with this award."

I was blessed to be given the plaque from Rick to give to Scott when I returned from vacation. Here he is, holding the FAA Humanitarian Award in our meditation garden at St. Francis Retreat House in Easton, Pa. Congratulations, Scott!



US 6 Franciscans: Update on the Process toward Unification by Henry Beck, OFM '70

Many of you in our Franciscan Alumni Association may be aware of the ongoing effort to **merge six of the seven USA OFM provinces**. The provinces engaged in this unification process are: St. John the Baptist, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Name, Assumption of the BVM, Sacred Heart, and St. Barbara.

We have been working toward this union for several years now. All will come together in a gathering of friars and a celebration of a **Chapter of Unity in October 2023**. Though the pandemic has slowed some of our efforts to meet together in person, we have been able to continue the work and dialogue through Zoom meetings.

In the past several months, the process has begun to build **momentum for the union of the six provinces into one "coast-to-coast" province**. The steering committee has been conducting "Friars in Focus" meetings on Zoom to help friars discuss topics like the new name of the province, the automobile policy for the new province, immigration concerns, and new kinds of "fraternities in mission" that are developing.

There will soon be an announcement of the new site for our provincial curia (offices). The new provincial name is developing along a process of engagement with the friars. For more information and to catch the spirit of this process, please go to: **USFranciscans.org**. It is packed with photos, news, blogs, books, stories, FAQ's, and podcasts.

As this process of "**revitalization and restructuring**" has been developing, we on the FAA Board have also been discussing our possible future as a national association of those who participated in the various formation programs, and those who assisted us in these programs in the provinces. During the FAA Reunions of 2022 and 2023 we will be reflecting on these steps together. In 2022 we hope to reflect on "**Who are we now?**" and in 2023 the question will be "**Who do we want to be in the future?**" We hope you will come and help us develop the future of the association.

Covid Note for 2022 Reunion

The FAA Board of Trustees takes the safety of its members seriously, going as far as postponing the past two reunions in order to keep everyone safe.

During this year's reunion, the FAA strongly recommends and requests that everyone who attends be vaccinated or have a negative COVID test during the two days prior to arriving at the reunion. We on the FAA

Board and the 2022 Reunion Planning Team also recommend the wearing of masks and social distancing if the circumstances warrant this in June.

At all times, attendees should abide by the requirements of the state, county, and local governments, as well as the venues and churches where our activities will take place. The 2022 Reunion team is following the evol-

ving pandemic response recommendations closely, and if they are made aware of any specific requirements or changes, they will make them known to the attendees.



Summary of 2022 Reunion Itinerary

Website Update by Butch Feldhaus '75

Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio North
Stone Oak
823 North Loop 1604 East
San Antonio, TX 78232
Telephone: (210) 494-2420

Thursday noon to whenever
Food & drinks all day, catered dinner
Campanas Clubhouse
22539 Viajes, San Antonio, TX 78261

Friday arrive by 5:15 p.m. for 5:30-6:30
Boat Tour and 7 p.m. dinner at Ambler
Restaurant (at Hotel Contessa)
** Limited number of seats available **
306 W Market St.
San Antonio, TX 78205

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass followed by
catered dinner:
St. Padre Pio Catholic Church
3843 Bulverde Pkwy
San Antonio, TX 78259

Sunday evening dinner at Milano's,
19239 Stone Oak Parkway, near hotel

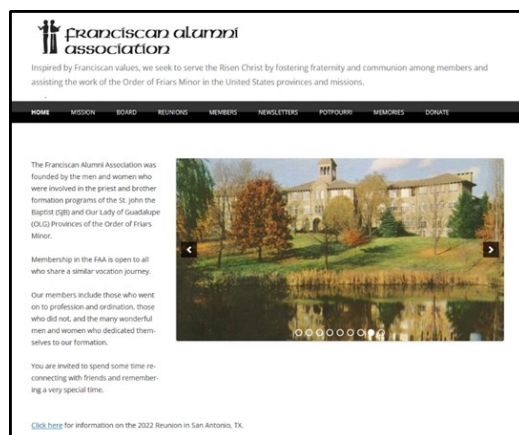


High quality FAA polo shirts for men (left) and women (right). Brown shirt with stitched white logo. Order & pay soon, pick up in San Antonio.

During the past year, we have been rebuilding and updating the FAA website after a server crash at the former hosting company deleted our website and its backup! Ultimately, this has worked out to be a good thing as we now have a more flexible and easily updateable website due to the new software we are using, WordPress. This flexibility will be particularly helpful as we seek to include an even greater number of alumni, as six of the United States OFM provinces unify in a couple years.

You are invited to visit the website at www.franciscan-alumni.org and spend some time browsing around. Perhaps the timeliest information on the website is information about the 2022 Reunion in San Antonio, TX. We are keeping this webpage as up to date as possible. There has also been an improvement to our **Members** listing. You can now search through the entries to find your classmates by name or year, who lives in the same city or State as you, or who attended which formation school. We strive to keep the database current. If you notice any errors or that someone is missing, please email data-base@franciscan-alumni.org.

Some of the most interesting content is under the **Memories** menu, where you can listen to the music



of the Glee Club, find sheet music and two beautiful recordings of *Ultima*, and the first of what will hopefully be many scrap-books of your photos.

The Board page will fill you in on who the FAA Board of Trustees are, with a short bio and photo. There are also email addresses for the Board members so you can reach out and contact them.

If you have photos or other digital items you would like to submit, there is now an **Upload** page which makes it easy to submit them. If you would like to help out financially, there is a **Donate** page with a link to the FAA PayPal site and information on where you can mail a check.

If you have questions or comments about the website, please email webmaster@franciscan-alumni.org.

New Mission & Vision Statements by Butch Feldhaus '75

As the process of restructuring and revitalizing six of the United States OFM Provinces has been taking place, the FAA Board of Trustees has been following the unification plan and progress closely. The overarching question for our interest and involvement is, "How does the Franciscan Alumni Association align with, and participate in, the newly created province?" As we discussed this question, it became apparent that our Mission Statement, a formal summary of the aims and values of our organization, needed to be updated. After several months of discussion and revision, the Board adopted the following Mission Statement in April of 2021:

Inspired by Franciscan values, we seek to serve the Risen Christ by fostering fraternity and communion among members and assisting the work of the Order of Friars Minor in the United States provinces and missions.

It then became apparent that a Vision Statement, a statement that looks forward and creates a mental image of the ideal state that the organization wishes to achieve, was necessary. After much discussion, the following Vision Statement was adopted in February of 2022.

Energized by the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare to spread Gospel peace,

joy, and healing, we envision a Christian fellowship of all who have attended or assisted the formation programs of the United States OFM Provinces. As six of the provinces unify into one, we welcome these members and their families to join together in creating a vibrant national Franciscan fellowship.

We hope that the new mission statement and vision statement will resonate with our members. We look forward to hearing your thoughts. The hundred or so words in these two very important statements will guide the Franciscan Alumni Association's planning and actions into the future.

Visit Us on Facebook

by Butch Feldhaus '75

What do "Your most memorable Fr. Aubert story," dozens of copies of the *Brown and White*, and hundreds of photos from Franciscan formation have in common? They are among the numerous interesting and nostalgic posts on the **Franciscan-alumni.org** Facebook site.

You can literally spend hours scrolling through the interesting posts to catch up on friends, view photos, publications, and news of interest. There are also periodical posts regarding the status of our reunions and other events.



Franciscan-alumni.org is a group on the social media application Facebook that was started eleven years ago. Currently, there are 264 members. It is a **private** group, which means only the members can see who's in the group and what they post, but it is also **visible**, which means anyone can

find the group and request to become a member. The easiest way to find it is to search Facebook for **Franciscan-alumni.org**. Once you locate it, you can request to become a member. After being approved, you can scroll back to April 14, 2021, to see what everyone's favorite Fr. Aubert memory was, click on **Files** to get a list-

ing of all the editions of the *Brown and White* that have been posted, or click on **Media** to see all the photographs posted to the group. There is also a search feature (click the magnifying glass icon) that will help you locate discussions, people, and items of specific interest to you.

Franciscan Alumni Association

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

www.franciscan-alumni.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please consider making a donation to help support the good works of your Franciscan Alumni Association.

Donations are used for the printing and mailing of the annual newsletter, projects that assist with maintaining/restoring features of Franciscan formation campuses (e.g., Fr. Aubert's Peace Garden and gazebo), and donations to charitable organizations that have a Franciscan connection. To these ends, we occasionally make appeals to you, the members, for financial support. Please consider helping.

You may send a check to:

Franciscan Alumni Association
c/o St. Anthony Friary
5000 Colerain Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45223



You may make a donation with credit card or PayPal by using the QR code above or by clicking on Donate on the FAA website franciscan-alumni.org.

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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