

Franciscan Alumni Association

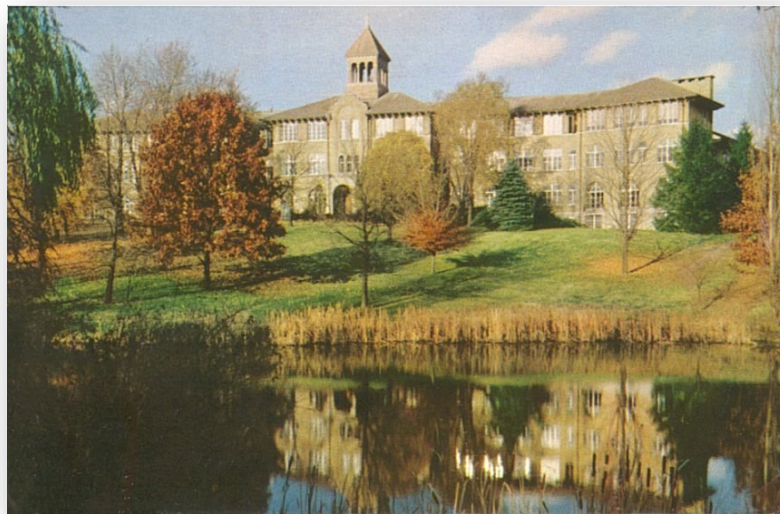


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Established May 28th, 1989
Serving the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe
www.franciscan-alumni.org

2024 Reunion October 3-6 in Cincinnati



This year's reunion of the **Franciscan Alumni Association** will take place in Cincinnati from October 3 through October 6, instead of the usual June timeframe of our previous reunions. This was done to position the reunion during a cooler, more comfortable time of the year and to incorporate the celebration of *Transitus*, which will be on the evening of Thursday, October 3.

You and your guest(s) are welcome to attend any or all of the reunion activities.

Transitus plans have not yet been finalized. We will provide updates and details on our website and the Franciscan Alumni Facebook page soon.

Schedule (as of now):

Thursday, October 3

4 pm – Reunion registration and hospitality table opens at the Springhill Suites by Marriott

7 pm – Celebration of *Transitus* followed by refreshments and fellowship (specific time & location TBD)

Friday, October 4

6:30 am – 9:30 am – Complimentary breakfast at the hotel
7:30 am – 7:45 am – Morning Prayer at the hotel for those wishing to attend

10:30 am – Noon – Tour of the [Great American Ball Park](#) and the [Reds Hall of Fame](#) led by Dave Gehring '72.

There is a \$10 per person admission fee. The best place to meet will be outside the Hall of Fame / Ballpark at the Johnny Bench statue on Joe Nuxhall Way at about 10:15. The closest parking is under the ballpark.

Noon – Lunch at your own expense; we recommend the [Hofbräuhaus](#), 200 E 3rd St., Newport, KY 41071

2 pm – 4:30 pm – [BB Riverboat Cruise](#) on the Ohio River (There is a \$30.00 per person fee.)

6 pm – 10 pm – Dinner

and social at [The Public House](#), 3807 North Bend Rd. Cheviot, OH (Attendees will be responsible for their own dining and beverage expenses)

Saturday, October 5, 2024

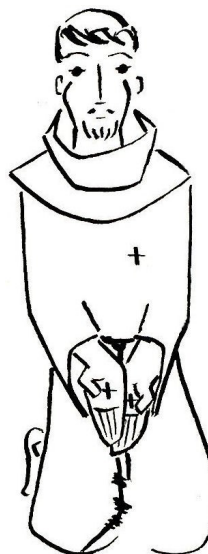
7 am – 10 am – Complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

7:30 am – 7:45 am – Morning Prayer at the hotel for those wishing to participate

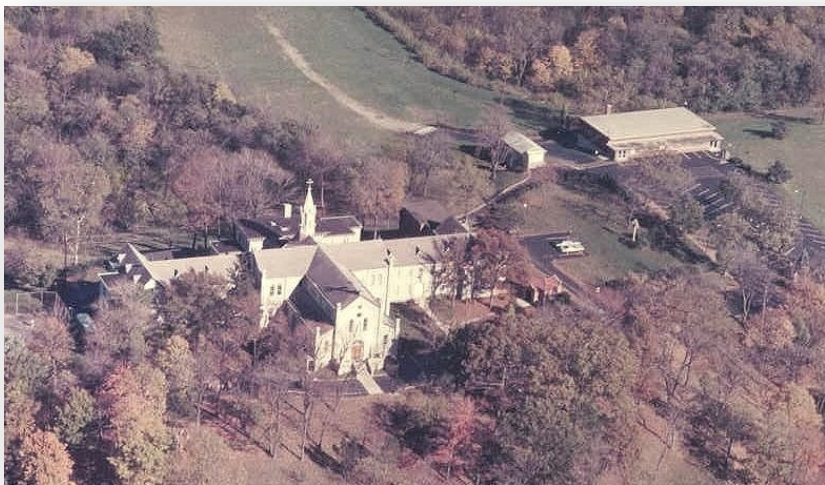
9:30 am to 11 am – In chapel of former St. Francis Seminary, 10290 Mill Road, Cincinnati:

Discussion about "*Our Futures Joined Together*." This will include an update on recent efforts to engage with current and past members of other provinces and their alumni or reunion activities.

11:30 – Lunch in Study Hall of the former seminary (\$10). Snacks and refreshments will be available in Study Hall throughout the afternoon.



2024 Reunion Plan, Continued



St. Anthony Shrine & Friary

Optional activities for Saturday afternoon:

1. 1 pm – 3 pm at St. Anthony Friary, 5000 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati. Mike Niehaus '81, Robert Seay, OFM '52, and Frank Lopez '77 will lead a prayer walk from Mt. Airy Forest (across the street) to St. Anthony Shrine. One of the topics during this immersion in nature and holy sites is *"Restoration of Urban Forestry and how it relates to Catechesis for Young People."* Please gather at 1 pm by the St. Anthony Chapel entrance.

2. 1 pm – 3 pm

Assist the Garden Guild at StoneBridge at Winton Woods, the former St. Francis Seminary, with a planned project on the former seminary grounds. Meet on the veranda at 1 pm.

5 pm – Mass in SFS Chapel, followed by a group photo shoot in Chapel, then dinner around 6 pm in Study Hall (\$25), a very brief FAA Chapter meeting, presentation of awards, and a remembrance service for members who died during the past year. Musical entertainment might also be provided. Several very talented musicians and singers will be attending.

Sunday, October 6

7 am – 10 am – Free breakfast at the hotel.

7:30 am – 7:45 am – Morning Prayer at the hotel for those wishing to attend.

9:30 am or whenever – Farewells

Please RSVP by sending email to 2024Reunion@franciscan-alumni.org indicating the reunion activities in which you plan to participate:

- ☐ Thursday evening Transitus
- ☐ Friday 10:30 Reds Ballpark tour
- ☐ Friday 2:30 pm BB Riverboat cruise
- ☐ Friday evening at The Public House
- ☐ Saturday 9:30 am talk SFS Chapel
- ☐ Saturday 11:30 Lunch in Study Hall
- ☐ Saturday 1 pm St. Anthony walk
- ☐ Saturday 1 pm SFS garden work
- ☐ Saturday 6 pm Dinner

We're not asking for a firm commitment, but this helps with planning.

Where to stay?

A group rate has been arranged with Springhill Suites by Marriott, 12001 Chase Plaza Drive, Cincinnati. The group name is: Franciscan Alumni Reunion. Breakfast, parking, and Wi-Fi are included in the rate. The rates are good for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Reservations must be made by September 19, 2024 in order to secure the group rate. The available room rates are:

One King Bed – \$134.00 per night plus tax.

Two Queen Beds – \$139.00 per night plus tax.

You can call the hotel at 513-825-9035 to make a reservation.



A Letter from the FAA President / Summer 2024

Dear Brothers,

In this, the thirty-fifth year of the Franciscan Alumni Association, we find ourselves entering a pivotal new era. For several years now, the FAA Board of Directors has been discussing the question of "How do we encourage alumni and their spouses from the more recent formation programs in the SJB and OLG provinces to join us in the FAA?" We have been trying to transition from being an alumni association for St. Francis Seminary, the Franciscan Brothers' Program, Duns Scotus College, and St. Leonard's College to one welcoming alumni and spouses (Friars, lay, and formators and teachers) from the formation programs at Mt. Airy, Detroit, Chicago, and San Antonio, for examples.

Now the FAA Board is seriously considering the question: "How do we reach out to and invite Franciscan alumni and their spouses from the other four provinces that, together with the SJB and OLG, make up the new Our Lady of Guadalupe USA Province?" To this end, we have already made some contacts with the other Provinces. There is openness to consider an expanded association that would build upon the FAA.

Mindful of this new possibility, the FAA Board of Directors has formed a committee tasked with developing a plan to help us as we enter this new era. We shall give a report of our progress at the upcoming annual FAA reunion in October.

Speaking of the FAA Board of Directors, I have nothing but high praise for all the men, past and present, who have volunteered their time and talents to serve on the FAA Board of Directors.

As I mentioned, we are in our thirty-fifth year of existence. This longevity is a testament to the dedication of those who have served on the Board throughout those thirty-five years. We produce a great newsletter, maintain an alumni website, maintain a presence on Facebook, support Franciscan-related needs, and conduct outstanding annual reunions! Volunteers serving on the Board of Directors do all of this.

Our current Board has several members who have served on the Board for a long time. I am very thankful for them. I do not know how we could have continued to function without them. These men, and their spouses, deserve high accolades!

And now, it is time to encourage additional alumni to step up and volunteer to serve on the Board. The FAA is entering a period of change, and, hopefully, growth. We are also weighing the possibility of encouraging spouses to join the Board in the future. For now, we are looking for alumni with vision, drive, and conviction to discern and guide this association into the future. As I said above, we want to explore welcoming men and their spouses from the other four USA provinces and invite them to help us shape the association for the future.

So, please pray and discern about joining the Franciscan Alumni Association Board of Directors. If you decide you can and want to help, please contact us. We can share with you information about the term of office and how and when we meet.

Elections to the FAA Board of Directors from our members-at-large are held during the annual chapter/reunion. So, we will be soliciting nominations for the Board at the upcoming reunion in Cincinnati on October 3-6, just prior to the elections. If you can attend this reunion, please do so. If you cannot attend, please let us know about your interest and your intentions and you will be nominated for election to the Board.

Thank you for your attention.

Peace to all of you, my Brothers.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Gardner

President, Franciscan Alumni Association

2023 Humanitarian Award: Larry Schulte



Rick Kasper '70 presenting the Humanitarian Award to Dr. Larry Schulte and his wife, Cynthia

The Humanitarian Award was presented to Lawrence Schulte, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist.

Larry and his fraternal twin, Tony, both graduated in 1973 from St. Francis Seminary in Cincinnati. They had 3 sisters (one deceased). Their family hailed from Kansas, the same state that produced illustrious Franciscans Fr. Gil Wohler, Fr. Richard Rohr, and Bro. John Schrek, each of whom Larry and Tony knew personally.

Larry's fondest memories of high school were Fr. Aubert Grieser's music classes and working outdoors with Fr. Aubert's ground crew. One day, while Larry was loading manure into a truck for Aubert's gardens, the guys were kind of goofing

around and Fr. Aubert got impatient. He wanted to get moving. Unfortunately, Aubert had a pitchfork in his hand, and he threw it into the back of the wagon. His aim wasn't very good and the pitchfork punctured right through one of Joe Groh's feet. By the way, Joe Groh received our 2018 Humanitarian Award. Maybe he should have received a purple heart.

Also, Antonio Trujillo, who received our Humanitarian Award in 2022, made reference to Fr. Aubert. He mentioned that just working with the earth and getting our hands dirty was so formative. Here's three of our guys that received the Humanitarian Award, and all of them worked with Fr. Aubert, hauling manure.

Father Aubert influenced many of us through Glee Club, music class, and speech class.

When I asked Larry, "What was your fondest memory of Duns Scotus?", he said it was riding in the bus with all the candidates and driving from Southfield, Michigan all the way to Cincinnati to have a retreat with Richard Rohr. Father Richard made a lasting impression.

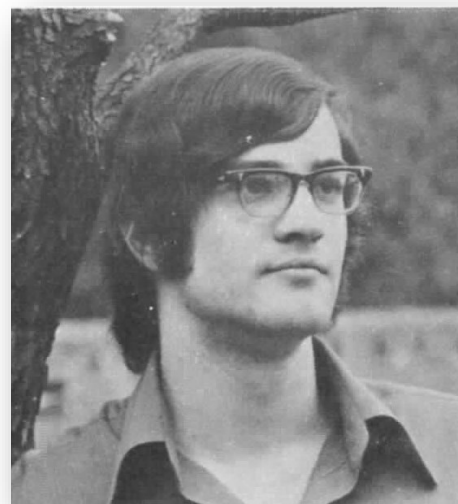
Larry left formation after his first year at Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan. He moved back to Cincinnati to live in a New Jerusalem charismatic community household and joined New Jerusalem's music ministry. It was there that he met his future wife, Cynthia, the love of his life. In 1981 Larry fin-

ished his B.A. studies at Xavier University majoring in Theology and minoring in Psychology. In 1985 Larry achieved his M.A. degree in Clinical Psychology at X.U., and in 1990 he finished his Ph.D. degree in Clinical Psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles. Larry became a Certified Hypnotherapist in 2016.

True to his Franciscan Spirituality, Larry is not only a man of study and contemplation, but also a man of action and service. Throughout his professional career, Larry has had a compassionate heart for the vulnerable and suffering. He has served twenty plus years in bereavement support. Larry was the primary facilitator of a "Parents of Murdered Children" support group. He also facili-

tated Children's Bereavement support groups, ages 4-7, 8-12, and 13-17. Larry has facilitated support groups for family members of those with Alzheimer's Disease and spouses who suffer from Dementia. He has been a consultant for Hospice of Pasadena and a facilitator of monthly nursing staff process groups for 3 ICU's, ER, Aids and Cancer Floors, and a Trauma Crisis Center. Larry also led weekly support groups for administration and staff who provided care to COVID patients and their families.

Besides working in hospitals and in private practice as a clinical psychologist, Larry did volunteer work in two churches. At Holy Family Catholic Church in South Pasadena 1985-1989 and 1992-2016, Larry



High school graduation photo

coordinated 40 volunteer therapists to provide pro bono counseling services to low-income parishioners. He also worked with the Giving Bank, which provided food security to 1,000 parishioners. At St. Edmund's Episcopal Church in San Marino 2017 to the present day, Larry has been a member of Vestry (parish council). He developed and coordinates a Music and Arts Committee of Contemporary Liturgy. Larry helps with Vestry Retreats every January and works with Ghost Kitchen which provides food for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena.

Larry humbly accepted our 2023 Humanitarian Award which testifies to his Franciscan values and dedicated service to his mentally and emotionally suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.



Larry in 1972, with Richard Inge '74

2023 Christian Life Award: Fr. Dennet Jung, OFM



Rick Gardner '75 presenting award to Dennet Jung '54

It is my honor and privilege to tell you a little about the 2023 recipient of the Franciscan Alumni Association Christian Life Award, Fr. Dennet Jung.

Dennet was a 1954 graduate of St. Francis Seminary.

Dennet's first vows of profession were on August 16, 1955.

He made his solemn profession on August 16, 1958, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 13, 1963. Fr. Dennet just celebrated 60 years in the priesthood!

Like *six degrees of Kevin Bacon*, I think we all have ties to Fr. Dennet through the men and Friars we've known in the formation of our lives.

Dennet was a St. Francis Seminary classmate of Joris Heise and of the late Fr. Neri Greskoviak, OFM who, like Fr. Dennet, was also stationed at St. Mary's Parish in Bloomington, IL.

Dennet was in the seminary with other schoolmates who are familiar to many of us:

Fr. Murray Bodo '55, OFM.

Fr. Berard Doerger '52, OFM.

Norb Garmann '52, a past FAA board member.

Dennis Kirby '56, a founding member of the FAA

Bill Pellman '52, a past FAA board member.

Fr. Gregg Petri '52, OFM who was from Bloomington, IL and was also stationed at St. Mary's.

Fr. Gil Schneider '55, OFM.

George "Ski" Smigieski '55, a founding member of the FAA.

Leonard Stonestreet '55

Fr. James Van Vurst '52, OFM.

Mario Wagner '52, a past FAA board member.

While at St. Francis Seminary, Dennet was on the Student Council, was the sports editor for the Brown and White and the Ultima, served on a committee for the Sodality of Our Lady, and was in the St. Francis Seminary marching band which, according to the Brown and White, was the oldest marching band in Cincinnati at the time.

A quote from the seniors page of the Brown and White: "One of the younger members of the class, 'Cagey Joe' tries to predict. This Cincy student likes to beat the faculty in bowling when not sweating over Physics. Playing the trumpet, and bossing the student store are his delights."

Okay, so, all the above was sixty years ago. What has he done lately? Fr. Dan Anderson supplied me with a list of some of the highlights of Dennet's assignments over the

years. It looks like he was touring the United States.

Among other positions he filled, Dennet was Associate Pastor or Pastor in Louisville, Kentucky, Grants, New Mexico, Farmington, New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Roswell, New Mexico.

Then it looks like he got tired of New Mexico after about 14 years between 1964 and 1978. He then went on to Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Cincinnati, and Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Dennet was the Associate Pastor and was also on the Provincial Council while in Bloomington, Illinois in 2008.

From there, Dennet went back to Cedar Lake and then was on the retreat staff here at St. Francis Retreat House in 2010 and 2011. Bro. Ed may have some stories for us. If not he'll at least have some jokes to tell.

In 2017, Dennet slowed his pace and was at Duns Scotus as Vicar, Sacramental Assistance, and Interim Pastoral Administrator for Transfiguration Parish.

He retired in December 2017 but was still providing Sacramental Assistance.

Bro. Mark Ligett '66, OFM, had these kind words to say about Dennet:

"I have known Father Dennet in two settings. When I was a member of our Provincial Definitorium (Council), Dennet was also a member. That was the first time I had a

lot of interaction with him because we had never been assigned together. I was always so impressed with his concern and his charity toward all the friars. We often sat around that conference table discussing a particular friar who was either ill or struggling with his vocation or going through some other kind of life issues. Dennet was deeply compassionate and understanding of their needs and their concerns. I sensed in him a genuine love of our brotherhood. I recall in those days suggesting that perhaps he might be the next provincial! Well, that is the last thing he would have wanted. He never seeks any kind of position of honor or importance. His great joy is in being a simple, humble friar.

After coming here to Easton, a year or so later, Dennet was assigned to this ministry. The same qualities I saw in him as a Provincial leader I saw exhibited here to all of our guests and retreatants. In fact, it was just a few days ago that I had a meeting with a gentleman who told me that it was because of Dennet that he is a faith-filled Catholic today. He had all but given up on organized religion for many years, but one Sunday, he came here by chance and heard Dennet preach...and he returned the following Sunday and then the Sunday after that. He told me that it was Dennet who brought him back to the faith community. That man is now a lector at Sunday Eucharist and he serves as the Vice President of our Board of Directors!

Dennet had a way of touching people deeply because he relates to everyone as a peer...human being to human being. He does not stand on pretense. Dennet was an easy friar to live with, a real joy to live with. I see Dennet as a truly Holy man because, first and foremost, he is fully human! Titles and prestige and positions of honor mean nothing to him. He's much more concerned about the very heart of humanity. I think Dennet is a true son of St. Francis!"

Franciscan Friars are humble and do not seek praise or attention; however, we wholeheartedly thank Dennet for his lifelong service and devotion to God, to St. Francis, and to all he served.



Joe Jung in 1954

2023 Franciscan Alumni Reunion Held at St. Francis Retreat House



Henry Beck hosted the annual reunion for Franciscan Alumni Association (FAA) members and their spouses at St. Francis Retreat House (SFRH) in Easton, Pennsylvania, from June 22-25. More than 30 people attended the extended weekend of renewal, reflection and fellowship.

Topics included discussions on how the FAA might move forward and attract new members in light of the merging provinces. Among the activities were a "Creation Meditation Walk," led by Frank and Kathie Lopez on the beautiful

campus of SFRH, "A Journey into our Roots," with Loren Connell, movie night featuring "The Two Popes," and sightseeing at quilting shops and the Martin Guitar Factory.

Two FAA awards were presented. Dennet Jung received the Christian Life Award. He has enriched thousands of people's lives over the years, spiritually and through his deep abiding concern for others, serving tirelessly and self-

lessly in pastoral roles in Kentucky, New Mexico, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana.



Selfie at a retreat breakout group



Retreat session

Larry Schulte received the Humanitarian Award. This is Larry's 50th anniversary of graduation from St. Francis Seminary (class of 1973). For the past 35 years, he has led support groups for families of murdered children, families of Alzheimer's patients and spouses of loved ones suffering from dementia.

Dennet was the celebrant and homilist for Sunday Mass, assisted by Deacon Butch Feldhaus. Several Franciscan alumni and their spouses, along with Greg Lauer on string bass, provided beautiful guitar, piano and vocal leadership for the liturgy. Many

local SFRH Sunday community members were thrilled to see Dennet again, remembering him from 2010-2017, when he was a beloved member of the staff there. The Sunday Eucharist capped off a beautiful and joyful weekend together.



2023 Franciscan Alumni Reunion Photos Continued



Nature Hike Group



Class of '75

and Dennet

Class of '72



Class of '70

Franciscan Alumni Association

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

www.franciscan-alumni.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



High quality, **polo shirts with embroidered FAA logo**, for men and women, are available for purchase: Brown shirt with stitched white logo – or – white shirt with stitched brown logo. Order & pay by mail. The cost per shirt is **\$35**. Shirts cannot be mailed. They must be picked up at the reunion 3-to-6 October.

For each shirt, complete an order form (below). Check the boxes for shirt color (brown or white), gender (man or woman), and size (S, M, L, 2X, 3X, or 4X).

Completed order form(s) and a check must be mailed by 31 August. Please make your check payable to **Franciscan Alumni Association**. The mailing address is at the top of this page.

Shirt gender:

☐ Man ☐ Woman

Your name: _____

Your phone #: _____

Shirt color:

☐ White with brown logo ☐ Brown with white logo

Circle the shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

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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