

ST. JOSEPH'S - ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.saintjosephscollege.org

Fall 2024 Newsletter

*We honor the past; We celebrate the present;
We plan for the future.....TOGETHER.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

1. Day of Recollection – in person and by Zoom. Saturday, February 15, 2025.

Watch for Invitation and details in January 2025. It is Free!

2. Alumni Day #43 -Saturday, April 26, 2025.

See the article inside for the list of Honoree Classes.

DUES TIME!

It is that time of year when we come to you for voluntary “dues” with which we run this Alumni Association. As you know, we get no financial assistance from any other source except from the Raffle on Alumni Day and these voluntary dues. From the fact that this next Alumni Day will be our 43rd it is plain that the alumni generously have supported our efforts.

The letter requesting dues and an envelope will be in the mail this Fall. Please be as generous as you can because our expenses continue to rise.

We are grateful for whatever you can afford to give. We know that times are hard for a number of alums. We still have over 1,000 alums for whom we have good contact information. We want to keep this brotherhood going.

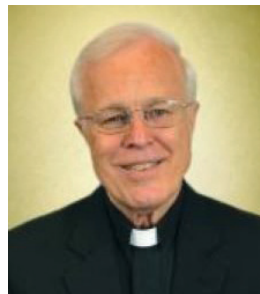
Thanks! Your Alumni Board

REV. JERRY BROWN, PSS, RHET '58, Rest in Peace

By Don Carroll, R '58

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of my classmate, Jerry Brown, on August 11, 2024, at the Sulpician Villa Olier in Catonsville, Maryland. He had been suffering from dementia for some time.

Marking Jerry's passing is necessary because Jerry was a co-founder of this Alumni Association while he was Rector of St. Joseph's College in 1980. Jerry specifically supported financially the startup of this Association as well as lending clerical support to it. He once told me that we were “unique” in the American Church because no one else included in their alumni efforts anyone who ever stayed long



Rev. Jerry Brown

enough for a cup of coffee all the way through those who were consecrated bishops. (And of course we now have a Cardinal alum.)

Jerry had a long and distinguished career as a Sulpician. The Sulpician obituary is almost three pages long. Ordained in June 1964 for San Francisco, he immediately joined the Sulps. He first taught at St. Thomas in Washington State where he became involved in the charismatic renewal. His always cheerful and hope-filled personality was a natural for the charismatic movement. He never lost that personality.

Jerry would later be the American Provincial of the Sulpicians, the American version of “Super Sulp”. (Remember the gnomish little Frenchman with the big proboscis who once gave us a day off?) Jerry was instrumental as Provincial in extending the work of the Sulpicians into Africa (Zambia). The Sulpicians now enjoy a number of Sulpicians from Zambia who operate seminaries there in support of the local Church.

Jerry served as Rector of Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, in 2000. At the request of Archbishop Levada, Jerry came to St. Patrick’s Seminary as Rector-President in 2004. He was a warm

and genial host to our Alumni Association which of course was already housed at St. Pat’s, thanks to the generosity of Fr. Jerry Coleman, PSS, who had given us refuge after the Loma Prieta Quake destroyed St. Joe’s. We will always be indebted to the “Two Jerrys”.

Jerry was, among other things, a great singer. From one of the Three Little Maids in the Mikado in Poet Year to the warmth of Gregorian Chant, his voice was a constant in our lives, including at my wedding. He has now rejoined his mentor, Fr. Jack Olivier, PSS, in a heavenly choir where we can look forward to hearing from him again. Requiescat in pace.

ALUMNI DAY 2024 & 2025



*Dn. Phil Flowers (H'65), Rev. Mario Farana (R'64), Rev. Timothy Ryan (C'74),
and Rev. Joe Gordon (R'65)*

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, we again celebrated Alumni Day, our 42nd such event since the very first “experimental” event back at St. Joe’s.

It was a grand day! The lunch format instead of a dinner is a “keeper”. Our Bar income is way down (!) but then again no one spent the night in the bushes (as occurred once when we were at St. Joe’s).

The principal celebrant was Fr. Mario Farana,

the Pastor of St. Paul Church in San Francisco. The homilist was Fr. Larry Percell (C'69), former teacher at St. Pat’s and former pastor of St. Nicholas in Los Altos. The Deacon, Phil Flowers, was also from the College Class of 1969. Our lector was Fr. Dan Keohane from the College Class of 1974. Gene Quinones (R'64) and his wife, Dobbie, read the Prayers of the Faithful.



*Board Secretary Don Carroll, reading
Alumnus of the Year Award for
Msgr. Jim Gaffey (R '54)*



*President Mike Sheehan (H'71), Jim Harvey (H'65),
Jim Murphy Awardee, and Mary Murphy*



*Dennis McQuaid (Rhet '59)
introduced Dakin Matthews*



*President Mike Sheehan (H '71) and
Alumnus of the Year Dakin Matthews (R'59)*



*Rhets of 1959 celebrated Dakin Matthews:
Clem Dougherty, Bruce Bergondy, Rev. Tony McGuire,
Dakin Matthews, Rev. Mike Strange PSS,
Dennis McQuaid, and Paul Caringella*



*The Rhets of '59
[R:] Dakin Matthews, Anne Matthews (wife),
Fr. Tony McGuire, Paul Caringella
[L:] Dakin Matthews' sister, Margie Matthews,
Susan McQuaid, Dennis McQuaid, Bruce Bergondy,
and Fr. Mike Strange*

At lunch, we honored two distinguished alums with Alumnus of the Year Awards, Msgr. Jim Gaffey (R'54) and Mr. Dakin Matthews (R'59). Jim was honored for his distinguished service as a scholar of Church history. Dakin was honored for his long career as an actor on Broadway and on the screen. We take great pride in both of them. They both continue to produce great work even in their senior years.

In addition, this year the Alumni Board voted to give a James P. Murphy Award to Alumni Board member Jim Harvey (R'65). This Award is given in the memory of the late Jim Murphy to an alum who has given special service to this Association. Jim was honored for his dedication and service as the editor of our Newsletter ever since the death of Jim Murphy. His work is time consuming, but it also serves to keep us all connected even if we reside on the other side of

the country. We are all indebted to Jim.

We are grateful to all the class captains who organized a good turnout from the honoree classes. A little effort makes for grand reunion and is actually fun.

Turning to Alumni Day 2025, our 43rd, the date is Saturday, April 26, 2025, at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park.

Next year's Honoree Classes will be:

60 years:	Rhet Class of 1965
55 years:	College Class of 1970
50 years, college	College class of 1975
50 years H.S.:	High School Class of 1975
45 years, college:	College class of 1980
45 years H.S.:	High School Class of 1980
40 years, college:	College Class of 1985

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for April 26th!

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS - BOB MILLS

I entered St. Joseph's College in September, 1952 and immediately struck up a friendship with Jack Miller, the Sixth Latiner in the room next to mine. We had grown up in San Francisco's Parkside District and were from adjoining parishes, although we had never met. We both loved St. Joe's right from the start -- the high school and college-age student body with their unique camaraderie.

. . the Sulpecian faculty. . . the sunny weather, a complete reversal of the fog-blanketed avenues we were used to. . . the organized sports (Jack was a Bear, I a Rambler). . . and the five-star meals expertly prepared by unseen nuns, French Julia Childs-in-training whose pasted-movie.png desserts we called "mysteries." Sharing distinctly comedic sensibilities and a penchant for cartooning, we were tapped to edit the mimeographed college paper, "The Blow," making many friends and fans through our humor column, "Frantic Frivolities." We also shared something else: neither of us was remotely qualified for the priesthood. Jack lasted a month short of completing Third High, I until the following summer vacation, and we finished our final year of high school at Riordan. We joined the Naval Reserve and after serving in the Philippines,



Bob Mills, H'56

Jack graduated from USF and their Law School, I from S.F. State and Hastings. I practiced on the Peninsula and Jack took over the family business. In those days, I recall that we were both keenly aware of what we had gained from our seminary training -- how to study, learn and, most importantly, how to write well. When a decade turned out to be enough lawyering for me, I began searching for

an out and found one in Writers Digest Magazine -- an article by a comedy writer for the Carol Burnett Show that revealed his job-seeking secrets. I followed them precisely and after submitting sample scripts, landed my first professional job writing for the "Dean Martin Celebrity Roasts." After a season on that show, Bob Hope was in the market for a writer and I turned out to fill the bill which launched my two decades in the '70s and 80's writing for his TV specials and personal appearances. I credit my late-in-life Hollywood success largely to the discipline I had developed as a seminarian so many years before and I'm convinced none of it would have been possible without my three years at St. Joseph's College.

For additional career information, see:

BobHopeShowBackstage.com

SEPTEMBER 17 WAS THE CENTENNIAL OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE SEMINARY IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Here are some comments from a St. Joseph's Alumnus:

"I shall pass this way but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Etienne de Grellet, French-born 19th century American Quaker Missionary.

"Igitur ex fructibus cognoscetis eos" (Matthew 7:16)

"Si monumentum quaeris, circumspice."

Epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren, St Paul's Cathedral, London

John J O'Neill S.S. was asked in 1949 to write an article for The Patrician to commemorate the 50th birthday of St Joseph's College. He agreed to take on the project, and soon completed a piece in which he portrayed the College "speaking" in the first-person. Fr O'Neill entitled his piece, "My Silver Jubilee, by St Joseph's College – an account of my stewardship." Previously, in 1937 the president of the College, Lyman A Fenn S.S. penned his 12-page pamphlet that he named, "The Little City of God, St Joseph's College, Mountain View", rejoicing in St Augustine's concept that "this city of God was the heavenly city, made by love of God and contempt of oneself".

But... as noble as wishing Happy Birthday to a loved friend or family member may be, it is a bit awkward to attempt to express those sentiments, first, to an Institution, and second, to an Institution that no longer exists. Such is the case with the 100th anniversary of the establishment of St Joseph's College. Or is it?

The solution to this potential dilemma rests, as always for us alums and those whose lives we have touched, in the words of The Master, specifically his admonition to the disciples, described in the 7th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, "by their fruits you shall know them". The Institution no longer exists, but the goodness of service and outreach in the lives of SJC alums has flourished for a century... the fruits we have borne through the presence of SJC in our lives will clearly, as I will recall for us here, make it clear who we are. Furthermore, the heart of any alum's commitment to The Master is remarkably expressed in another admonition, that of Etienne de Grellet. And if any person still feels awkward in sending Centennial

wishes to SJC, they need only "visit" London's St Paul's Cathedral, the ground crypt of Sir Christopher Wren, and his epitaph: *Si quaeris monumentum, Circumspice.*

First, consider Etienne de Grellet. He taught his believing flock to bear one another's burdens in all that they did, for neither he nor they would pass that way again. This noble French-born American Quaker Missionary certainly did not envision a sealed-up "little city..." Instead, he offered Matthew 7 as a parting blessing for his people, reminding them that they – and all whose lives they would touch - will be known by the fruits that they would bear. Etienne would not pass that way again, nor would they, "and so, my dear friends" Etienne made clear, "any good that you can do, or any kindness that you can show to any human being, do it now – do not defer nor neglect it, for you shall not pass this way again."

Look to the thousands of alums sent forth by SJC since 1924 until its closure in 1992, and they will not need to pause for an instant to send heartfelt good wishes to our Centennialist.

Now, for some look-backs and look-aheads from the thousands of those SJC alums' journeys over 68 years. We can point with pride to the good things, the kindnesses, and the vast array of concrete responses that SJC alums have made to de Grellet.

First, in the later years of its life, who were those SJC formators? They will come to mind more easily through their alum-given nicknames. Sarge. Rollo. Pop. The Floater. Rafer. Fannie. Brucie. Joey. Poh-guy. Croboh. Riddles. Gregs. Bucky. Head Sulp. Frenchy. Cal. Jack. Larry. Johnny-O. The Beaver... the list goes On and On. Remember these men – and so very

many more not on this list, for they also sent forth a generation or two before us, yet not to pass our way again, either.

On this occasion of the 100th birthday of SJC, remember the hundreds of SJC alums in an almost infinite array of moments that have seen them moved, motivated, blessed and sent forth – by SJC. Those alums' abundant fruits lead us to think of the stops along their journeys. Who were sent forth by SJC to now heed de Grellet's admonition? Think, clergy. the dozens of Samaritan Houses. Artists in every conceivable medium. Law Enforcement. Firefighters, and all who serve the Public's Safety. First responders. Military heroes and martyrs. Attorneys. Politicians. Poets. Literary creators. Virtuoso pianists, organists and other trained musicians. Think, volunteer Maryknoll Associates in Jamaica, Africa, the Peruvian Altiplano. Think, Protestors and Marchers. L.A.M.P. PhD's, MA's, BA's, AA's. Think, those who set aside formal studies to help make this good earth an even better place. Think, inventors, Techies and Geeks. Athletes of all specialties and expertise, and kind mentors for special needs students and athletes. Think of that key, one-solitary-word Jesuit inspiration, "Magis". More – always more. SJC will not pass this way again, but it never deferred or was negligent in doing what it was called to do. And neither have its alums.

Think, the hundreds of successful students in SJC's Spanish studies, who later brought to untold communities their ever-growing language skills and ever-deepening knowledge of our Latino hermanos y hermanas. They have been present in Latino barrios, in thousands of acres of crops in need of plant, in tilling and harvesting fields wet with mud and reeking of manure, with the last activity of their work day being Mass, said by an SJC priest-alum working in those fields with those beloved people, in muddy clothes, but spotless, simple vestments to praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Think, alums' passion for justice and dignity, in labor camps, parish retiros, encuentros: enthusiasm for faith and faithful enthusiasm for The Master and His church. Think, Sunshine and St. Albert camp directors, and the inner city youngsters who had never been able to jump into a pool or an ocean before their first arrival at summer camp. Those camp directors would let their lights glow in those young ones' eyes and homes, young folks who, in some cases, feared to lovingly call them their "family homes"

and who feared to return to them in after-school hours, and who cried upon having to leave camp, hugging their SJC camp counselors. Think, teachers – that list is unending.

Think, the men who gave their lives to organized Religion, in particular brother and sister Catholics, and who died, so that others may live. And those words are no form of cliché, whatsoever. The Master chose alums to empty themselves and, as Ignatius Loyola prayed, to "give, and not to count the cost". The explanation? SJC listened to de Grellet's words, and shared and taught those words – and encouraged its alums to "go and bear fruit, fruit that will last". Thank you, SJC.

Think SJC alums in the domains of medicine, mental health work, or moments of sharing gentle supporting words and guidance in a confessional, a clinical examining room or a psychologist's office. And, "finally" – the quintessential opposite of 'afterthought', however - think, those who daily invite anybody who would wish, to pray, ponder holy Scripture, and perhaps also gather together in church or chapel or backyard, et alii loci, and hear and feel the spirit of 1900s Anglican priest Percy Dearmer reflect, "Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when in thy holy name, two or three are met together thou art in the midst of them – Alleluia...Alleluia... touch we, now, thy garment's hem." And SJC moved us to sing, in our own 21st century, "Come and be fed, here at this table, food for all who hunger, drink for all who thirst."

When passers-by ask about SJC – with no buildings, not even vacant buildings, remaining after having fallen in those merciless 5 minutes known as "Loma Prieta" – just show them the list above, with all of those "thinks", and then tell them, "Circumspice". Think: SJC's 100 years of priests and students, and the paths that they have walked. What you have read here is but a minuscule array of the men who heard and heeded de Grellet, and Christopher Wren. And in every iota of our Centennial best wishes, The Master of Matthew 7.

Happy Centennial Birthday, dear SJC. Thank you for our treasured friendships. Thank you for guiding us. From your alums, Thank you – for everything.

We love you.

By an alum of SJC – "In diebus illis".



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
43rd ALUMNI DAY
Saturday, April 26, 2025

Stay in the loop ...

Don't miss our colorful and informative newsletters, our Alumni Day information, and more. If you have moved recently please let us know: write us a note, send us a quick email, or contact us through our school's website. **If items we mailed to you bounced back to us, then we need to delete your mailing label from our file.** Don't let this happen to you!!!

Thank you!

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