

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

www.saintjosephcollege.org

Fall 2021 Newsletter

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Alumni Events

Whoa, what a year it is!

Alumni Day was a non-event (again), postponed because too few of us would feel comfortable in a traditional gathering in person at St. Patrick's. So, maybe in 2022 we'll be able to meet again in Menlo Park.

For Your Calendar:

On Saturday, November 13, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. PST, we will offer you another national webinar by Zoom, similar to the Day of Recollection last February when we brought you Sister Joan Chittister and our alum, Bishop Bob McElroy. The theme for this webinar will be: *"Sexuality: The Tension Between Church*

Teaching and the Lived Experience of the Faithful."

This program will feature our alums Barry Hayes, Rev. Larry Percell, Ken Kelzer, Brian Cahill and others. You will be able to watch and actually participate from your own homes. **Look for a separate, special Invitation in order to register.** This will be free!

In February, on Saturday, February 5, 2022, we will hold our annual Day of Recollection at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. We will also "zoom" this nationally to our alums like a webinar. We think we have an inspiring Director for this Day who will treat well the theme, "A Spirituality for Aging", obviously something most of us can use and use right now. **Mark your calendars now!**

MEET YOUR 2020 AWARDEES

The postponement of Alumni Day from September 11th deprived us of honoring our two newest Awardees, Rev. Jerry Coleman PSS, and Mr. Dennis McQuaid. Because our honoring them has been delayed now two years (and counting), we thought we would bring you a brief tribute to each along with their graven images. (You can watch them age as we wait for the next Alumni Day.)

We are highlighting Chuck Smith, the 2020 James P. Murphy awardee. We will profile your 2021 Murphy Awardee, **Pat Cloherty**, in the next issue.

Charles ("Chuck") Smith, Rhet' 60 2020 James P. Murphy Awardee

Chuck is being honored with the 2020 James P. Murphy Award for outstanding service to your Alumni Association. Chuck built and maintained our website and since the death of Jim Murphy, he has maintained the database which keeps us all together. Chuck's contributions have been foundational and truly outstanding. We asked Chuck to share something of his story which he has delivered in the third person.



Chuck Smith

Franciscan who entered St. Joseph Seminary in 1954. He attended St. Paul's grammar School for his elementary education. After Attending St. Joseph for the middle grades, he completed High School at Archbishop Riordan. Chuck then received a degree in Mathematics from San Jose State. Chuck is father to Miriam, Maureen, Deborah, Jennifer, Chuck and Francis. Raising a family of six was job enough but he added the role of Software Engineer for thirty three years at

Chuck Smith is a native born San

IBM. He then was a “problem solver” for five years with Lockheed, traveling all over the world to trouble-shoot and solve computer and software problems. Wanting to stay closer to home, Chuck took and passed the CBEST test and finished his working years as a computer teacher to Adults in Morgan Hill School District.

Chuck now has time for his hobbies and interests. He is an accomplished pianist and gives classical music concerts at home for his wife, Barbara. He plays to a sold-out house of one who loves music. When his children visit, duets can happen to loads of fun and laughter. “Dad, we have to be

on the same page”!

For many years Chuck was a volunteer with the St. Catherine Parish choir. He led the choir and or accompanied them, often introducing them to new liturgical pieces. He sang a bass voice and had a good ear.

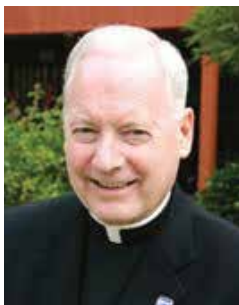
Chuck volunteered to assist with the building of the website for St. Joseph’s College Alumni Association. Go to: www.saintjosephcollege.org for a variety of history and info on the College. There are over one thousand photos and stories about the College and the Alumni. ■

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Alumnus of the Year Gerald D. Coleman, PSS, Rhet’62

By Rev. David Pettingill, Rhet’56

To write anything about my close friend for over thirty years through thick and thin has to begin with Jerry’s first communion face that enables him to say the most hilarious things and get away with it.



Jerry Coleman

That sentiment having been written, let me say that Jerry has the heart of a true Sulpician. He was profoundly interested in forming men for the priesthood the way they were and showed them they could bring their wounded humanity to serve people who were equally wounded. So many priests have said to me that they are priests only because Jerry believed in them.

Having the heart of a true Sulpician has always and still drives Jerry’s ministry. He writes or emails letters of congratulations to priests or alumni of St. Joe’s or St Pat’s

for any accomplishments; writes letters or emails of condolence to the bereaved; attends significant Liturgies in the life of the alumni; continues to publish articles on important moral issues in diocesan newspapers; published his latest book last February, *THE MANY FACES OF TRANSGENDER - A CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT*; teaches Moral Theology and Ethics at the University of Santa Clara. Having the heart of a true Sulpician says it all about Jerry Coleman - completely, joyously, and eloquently.

So you don’t think Jerry lives on some other planet, allow me to share this parting shot: when I was assigned to the faculty of St. Patrick’s Seminary, I received a letter from Jerry welcoming me, of course, but going on to say, “I am so glad to have someone on our faculty weirder than I am.” ■

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Mr. J. Dennis McQuaid, Rhet ’59

By Don Carroll, Rhet ’58

I am honored to be asked to say something about my good friend, Dennis McQuaid. I hope to do this within the bounds of truth, with some of the good-natured ribbing that characterizes our era in the seminary, and of course within the bounds established by the law against defamation.



Dennis McQuaid

A long, long time ago while the night was in the midst of its course, the finger of God pointed to San Carlos to John and Helen McQuaid. To them was born John Dennis McQuaid. Very early on, his sisters demanded that he be called by his middle name, “Dennis”, no doubt influenced as they would have been by that cartoon

figure Dennis the Menace.

When Dennis was about the age of thirteen, the senior McQuaids had had enough and gave Dennis back to God. Dennis entered St. Joe's as a Sixth Latiner in 1953. There then followed an extraordinary period of discernment both by Dennis and by the Sulpicians who could never quite get the goods on Dennis, based no doubt on his Eddie Haskell-like qualities and protected too by the seal of confession. He still, in his eighties, radiates unbounded pleasure at recalling some of his hi-jinx and lo-jinx. (Just look at that face in the accompanying picture!) Dennis discerned his way out of St. Pat's in 1961.

Sensing a continuing need for personal discipline, Dennis enlisted in the U. S. Air Force. Bored by his service, he began law school at USF, and upon finishing and passing the Bar, he finished his active service in the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. When he entered the private practice of the law, he remained in the reserves before retiring as a full "bird" Colonel after thirty years of service to his country.

Dennis' professional life has been filled with highlights

and with service to others: Novato City Council, Novato Mayor, candidate for Congress (twice), President of the Family Club, Board member of the World Trade Club, and Friends of Marin Center & the Marin Symphony. Dennis has been a member of the Archdiocesan Finance Council, is a Eucharistic minister at St. Leo's in Napa, continues to consult with the Archdiocese (over problems between St. Vincent School for Boys and the City of San Rafael). He has assisted the poor parish of St. Francis in East Palo Alto to build a play field for kids (something I got him into). He also started the House at San Quentin (under our late alum Msgr. Jack "Bucky" O'Connor). Dennis is a long time member of the Board, and a former President, of this your St. Joe's Alumni Association.

When Dennis was awarded the St. Thomas More Award by the St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco, the printed tribute said quite fittingly: "As lawyer, parent, officer, volunteer, and public servant, Dennis has followed in the footsteps of St. Thomas More." I would add that Dennis defines what it means to be a "friend". If you have him for a friend, you are rich indeed. Any Sulps reading these lines from Heaven should be proud of him and glad that they never caught up with Dennis. ■

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MEET TWO OF YOUR ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

We profile here two of your Board Members, one of the younger ones, John Murphy, and one of the more "mature" ones, Dan Collins. Actually, they profile themselves.

John Murphy, HS'76

I have a long history with St Joseph's Seminary. I started visiting there in 1961 at the age of three when my oldest brother Jim started his Freshman year. In those days they had monthly family days. For the next six years my family piled into my father's station wagon and drove to St Joe's for a picnic with Jim and all the other Seminarians and their families. It was a highlight in my life every month. What more could you want. I hung out on the field, ate barbecue, and ran around all day. As we got older my sisters and brothers and I explored every inch of the grounds. How many kids from San Francisco can hang out in a barn. I can still picture walking into the front doors of St Joe's. The massive front entry, the stairs, and the smell, walking down the hall, and the pictures. We all remember all the class pictures that went endlessly down the long hall.



John Murphy

I started kindergarten at St Anne's in San Francisco in 1963. It had everything I needed. We had school, church, scouts and sports with my classmates. Jim along with my sisters, Pat and Marge, and my brothers, Steve and Dan, graduated from St Anne's. My mother and father were great examples of volunteerism and community. They were always around at the school and church helping in anyway they could. They were also involved directly in all our extracurricular activities. Scouts, sports etc.... I of course was the ultimate alter boy.

I even got called out of class to do the weekday funerals. Steve and I were the only boys who volunteered to do Sunday 6:30 mass. Most Sundays we would join the family at 8:30 mass.

In 1968 my brother Dan started his Freshman year at St

Joe's and Steve followed him in 1971. It was different, did not seem as big. The front entrance still had a magical feel to me. The smell and the pictures of classes and the grand wooden stairway. There was also a soccer field and a new gym. Interscholastic sports were a big draw for me. There were no more family days since he was required to come home every weekend, and no more Rhets. The High School and College were separate.

I thought long and hard between St Joe's and St Ignatius. In the end I choose St Joe's. I remember being interviewed by our Principal, Fr. Ward. He asked me if I had a vocation. I said I was not sure. He did not seem to like that answer. I told him that I was fourteen and not even sure what a vocation was. I told him that is the reason I was going to St Joe's, to see if I had one. Fr. Ward met with my father and they let me in!

My adjustment was a bit different from many since I was familiar with St. Joe's and my brother Steve was there to watch out for me. I had a great four years. The interscholastic sports program was something I cherished. Being able to compete in the WCAL in soccer and play the likes of St. Ignatius and St. Francis and the rest of the big Catholic schools was a highlight. When I was a sophomore, we had about fifty students in the school and we had a winning record in the WCAL. Because of the dwindling enrollment I was able to play varsity Basketball at the same time as soccer. Could not get better than that. Because of the great tradition we had with our soccer team, the basketball team kind of got overlooked. We had some very good players and played at a high level. We played some smaller bay area teams like Woodside Priory, St Pius, Lick Wilmerding, Valley Christian and Fremont Christian. We held our own and won a lot more that we lost for the three years I played. We also beat the college three years in a row as well as the faculty during that time period. The big bonus to it all, I was able to play most of the years with my brother Steve and wear my brother Dan's #31 in basketball.

In my spare time I did attend class. At the time I don't think we realized how unusual our small classes were. I had a few classes with only five students. I took Latin for two years. I am still amazed that my father was better with his Latin fifty years after he graduated from St. Ignatius than I was while studying it. Fr. O'Neil tried hard, and I tried. We had the usual college prep courses, English, math history and science. Only the few that took Ancient history with Fr. O'Neil, right after out Latin class with him ended, could

appreciate it. He had so much knowledge to share. One of my favorite classes was Biology with Fr. Mitchell down in the Science lab. It was one of the few classes I took with my brother Steve. We still laugh about some of the antics that went on. Between learning the basics at St. Anne's and the continuation at St Joe's I was prepared very well for college.

Religion was of course emphasized greatly. Classes were always interesting and well taught. I especially enjoyed the theology class taught by Fr. Hurst. To me it seemed like a college level course. It really took my views of religion and my faith to another level. Oh, and I still use Index cards to remember things. Even more important was daily liturgy. We had Mass Monday through Friday. It was always interactive. We had community Masses with the whole school, class Masses, and Masses with our Confessors. We were all involved in the Masses, from the complete school choir to readings and much more. Some of the class Masses were very inspiring and educational as to what everything that goes into a Mass means. I have never had an experience at Mass that I had at St Joe's, except when we got invited to St Pat's for Mass on the college. I also had the pleasure of being the sacristan for my Junior and Senior year.

The community we had was very special. We lived together as brothers. Many of my fondest memories involved just hanging out with my classmates. (They include Chris Martin, Kevin Lee, David Cid, Jerry Foley, DanDuffy, Dan Cunningham, Charlie Gawley, John Perrault, Rory Boyle, and all the rest.) Hanging out in the hall in front of our rooms almost every night and walking the grounds, we really were lucky to have such a peaceful spot to roam. We walked all over the campus, sometimes fooling around, but also really getting to know and understand each other. We had some real deep conversations. It is a very special spot.

I could go on and on, and I know you all have your own special memories of St. Joe's. I could write a book about the adventures in the dining hall. Again, my experience was a bit different from many others. When my brother Jim was at St. Joe's, I believe there were almost four hundred kids at the school. When my brother Dan graduated in 1971 there were only thirty six graduating seniors. Just five short years later we had thirty six students in the whole school. I was in a graduating class of nine. My brother Steve's class in 1975 only had seven graduates. A few years later the high school closed. There were many reasons why St. Joe's lost enrollment, but for us it was our school and we did not

know any better. We do have a priest in our class. Fr. Jerry Foley has been in the San Francisco diocese for the last forty years. I think having over 10% of our class join the priesthood is not bad.

Academically Jim was always at the top of his class. Steve and I were in the top ten or in Steve's case in the top seven. After I graduated, I went to San Francisco State University and got a BS in Business Management. While in college and for many years after I coached kids at St. Anne's in CYO. I had such a positive sports experience I enjoyed helping the next generation to have the same valuable experience. I was always good at sports, but what I found when I coached is that even the kids that were less talented had the same drive and desire that the rest of us had. It was a given for me that I would play, so I made sure all the kids got to play and play as much as possible. I also worked part time at Catholic Social Services with Fr. Jack O'Connor. I met him while I was at St. Joseph's and became good friends. Keven Lee, Chris Martin, Fr. O'Connor and I went backpacking after our Sophomore and Junior years and St Joe's. Out trips were epic and we still share memories of out trips when we all get together. Fr. O'Conner to me was the image I would have as the perfect priest. He was a mentor and a confessor. He was very human, but he had such a strong faith and such a desire to help others. While I worked at Catholic Social Services, I met some of management staff and was intrigued that some of them were former priests. Even though they left the priesthood I found they still had a strong faith and that desire to help others. There are so many examples of great things that Alumnus of St. Joe's and St. Pat's do for their communities and the world. I have struggled with the Catholic Church and all its controversies. What I learned through my time at St Joe's, is that the Church is run by

men, and men are imperfect. With the opportunity to live with priests for 4 years that became obvious. I also learned that service was an important role of priests and of Godly people. I have seen so many examples of Godliness with the priests I have known, as well as our lay alumni.

I raised a beautiful daughter who now teaches 2nd grade. I am also the proud grandfather to Jackson, Ellie and Grace. I naturally volunteered for everything the school asked parents to help with. Family has always and continues to be the most important thing to me.

I have worked at CPMC (Sutter Health) for the past forty years. For the first twenty I worked as a Financial Counselor, working with people who were uninsured and underinsured. Being sick is difficult enough without having the worry of the cost. I was able to relieve people's fears and help as much as possible.

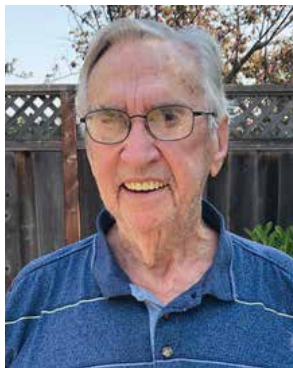
For the last twenty years I have been working in the IT world. I have been an analyst working as a go-between the techie people, vendors and the clinical departments. Everything is patient focused and if I can make it easier for the clinical folks to access information and easily maneuver around the system, I feel like I have done my job. The whole electronic health record has evolved very quickly and continues to evolve immensely.

Judy and I have lived in Novato for about 10 years with our dog Maya. I look forward to retiring in the next few years and finding ways to volunteer and keep busy. I also plan lots of time with the grandkids. I can't wait for Jackson's first soccer game. I also look forward to working with the board and connecting with ex classmates. The memories are great and the lessons I learned were so valuable. ■

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Dan Collins, Rhet' 54

I attended St Cecilia's grammar school in the Parkside, at 17th and Vicente. After graduating from St. Ignatius High School in the summer of 1951, I entered St. Joseph's College in that September. I thought that I might have had a vocation to the priesthood. Since I only had a C grade point average at SI, I was required to repeat my senior year of high school. I was deficient in both Latin and English composition studies.



Dan Collins

The Seminary was definitely not boring. They had an outstanding sports programs, academic curriculum, and prayer regimen. Life at St. Joseph's was conducive to study since there were very few distractions. For example, there were no newspapers, television, and very little radio. The system envisaged love of study which, thankfully, I still have today. I loved playing baseball at St. Joseph's and we would go over to St.

Patrick's to play, and we would trade winning and losing with them.

Once at St. Joseph's I had a sharp pain in my stomach, and I went to the Nurse who said that I had gas pains. Well, the pains got worse and I was hospitalized with a ruptured appendix. I had lost a lot of weight during this episode, and when I returned, Father Gaffey said, "Here comes General Wainwright from Bataan, since he is so skinny."

After three years at St. Joseph's College, and one year at St. Patrick's Seminary, I decided that my vocation was elsewhere. For my last year of College I decided to apply at Santa Clara University. When I was informed that I could not graduate within one year, I chose to apply at USF. The administration promptly re-evaluated my application stating that I would be required to take additional units in order to graduate in that one year. After graduating from Santa Clara in 1956 with a degree in Philosophy I received my draft notice two weeks later, and before I knew it I found myself at Fort Ord for basic training. Since I was just recently out of the Seminary, I did not have a chance to take ROTC, and I was therefore subject to the draft, which was in effect in those years.

After spending six months at Fort Ord we were to be sent to Bamberg, West Germany in January, 1957. This trip took a total of nineteen days! We departed from Monterey Bay by ship and went through the Panama canal to our German destination. By the way, the Army thereafter decided never to transport troops in that manner again!

Shortly after arriving in Germany we were sent for maneuvers in Gaffenvier running up and down hills. On my first day there, I arose at 5AM. It was both freezing and snowing. I walked into the mess hall half asleep and shivering and the jukebox was playing Happy Days are Here Again! When maneuvers were over we went back to our base in Bamberg supposedly to continue running up and down hills.

I decided that running up and down hills was not for me and so I contacted the Catholic Chaplain to apply for a chaplain's assistant job. He told me that while I was

clearly qualified for this job, the job was currently filled. He however did give me good advice insomuch as you must "wheel and deal" in this army!

Shortly afterwards I learned that there were baseball tryouts for the regimental team, and that appealed to me as I have always loved baseball. After trying out I was uncertain if I was really qualified to play. Nevertheless, I did make the team as a third baseman, and we travelled all over Germany for three months. This certainly beat running up and down hills.

Upon receiving my honorable discharge I returned home to join my father in the securities business. The firm was known as Holt & Collins and was founded in 1928 with Edison Holt and my father, Dan Collins, Sr.

Before joining Holt & Collins as a partner, my Dad was a professional triple-A baseball player in the Pacific Coast League for both the Seattle Mountaineers and the Salt Lake City Franchise. Edison Holt was one of the four sons of Benjamin Holt who was credited with the invention of the Caterpillar tractor. I joined Holt and Collins in 1958 and after some six months became a licensed stockbroker. Among my daily duties was to make the bank deposit for the firm of the clients' checks in payment for securities. Somehow I was always drawn to the same teller because she was a knockout! (And still is for that matter.) Maybe she thought I was rich because of those deposits, so she was attracted to me? (Just kidding.) Anyway, Sandy and I were married in 1959 in Monterey and then became the proud parents of six children. We now have six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I know that I am truly a "senior citizen" as I was recently informed that my great-grandson received his driver's permit.

My Catholic heritage initially led me to discern a priestly vocation. Consequently I applied for admission to St. Joseph's College in Mountain View. Even though I later found my vocation elsewhere, I dearly value the time spent at both St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Seminary. These years provided me with an exceptional opportunity for academic advancement, fellowship, and spiritual growth. I have served on the Alumni Board of Directors for approximately 15 years. ■

2021 Raffle

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Raffle either by donating raffle prizes or by taking tickets to participate in the drawing. **This Raffle and the annual “Voluntary Dues” are our only sources of income.**

We lost one of the prizes when we had to postpone Alumni Day and conduct the Raffle later. Dennis Moriarty had given us two great tickets to a Giants-Dodgers game in September a few days after Alumni Day would have been held. How great those would have been is of course demonstrated by the playoffs now between both those teams.

The winners of the 2021 Raffle prizes were:

Prize 1. Hawaii

Winner: **Bill Wall**

Prize 2 \$2000 Cash

Winner: **Dave Donovan**

Prize 4. Case of Grgich Hills Estate Wine

Winner: **Ed Carrera**

Prize 5. Case of Taft Street Winery Wines

Winner: **Fr. Larry Percell**

Prize 6. Selections from “The Chosen” TV series

Winner: **Jim Harvey**

Prize 7. 3 CDs of Coro Hispano in Concert

Winner: **Dennis Nino**

Maybe next year it will be you! Thanks again for playing!

* * *

Editor, Jim Harvey

In Memoriam

John Alladio, R'57

James P. Cain, C'70

Rev. Ricardo Chavez, R'57

Sidney J. Custodio, R'48

Rev. John P. Hester, R'53

Victor A. Lampe, R'55

Joseph Marcellin, R'57

Richard Mayo, R'52

Philip Murphy, H'73,

former Board President

John Read Pelosi, R'66

Harold Thornton Pearce, R'51

Dn. Joseph Symkowick, R'66

Alfons Van Dalen, R'60

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!

Don Carroll, R'58

Email: donandmaryjocarroll@gmail.com

Contact Information

Please do contact us with any change of address, suggestions, alumni updates, opinions or concerns.

Don Carroll at donandmaryjocarroll@gmail.com

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