

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

[www.saintjosephscollege.org](http://www.saintjosephscollege.org)

Winter 2025 Newsletter

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

## ALUMNI COMING EVENTS

### 1. Day of Recollection - Saturday, February 15, 2025.

This will be both in person at St. Patrick's and by Zoom across the state and nation. Back by popular demand is Rev. Matthew Leavey, OSB, a monk of the Woodside Priory. Abbot Matthew will give us a Spirituality for Aging - a theme we all should be able to use as we seem to be attending more and more funerals of our contemporaries. Guests are welcome. This is free. Look for the invitation or contact Sal Chavez at [Salchavez53@gmail.com](mailto:Salchavez53@gmail.com).

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

This will be the 43rd consecutive annual Alumni Day. We will begin with Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Seminary and follow with a wonderful luncheon. We especially invite the alums from the Honoree Classes which this year will be:

60 year class - Rhet 1965

55 year College - College '70 (and anyone in the High School class of '66)

50 year College - College '75 (and anyone in the High School class of '71)

50 year High School - High School '75

45 year College - College '80 (and anyone in the high School class of H '76)

45 year High School - High School '80

40 year College - College '85 (and anyone in the High School class of '81)

Talk to your classmates and make plans to attend. Even if you have not done so before, this is a perfect time to reconnect with some of the better memories you had of your time in the seminary. Guests are welcome.

## 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

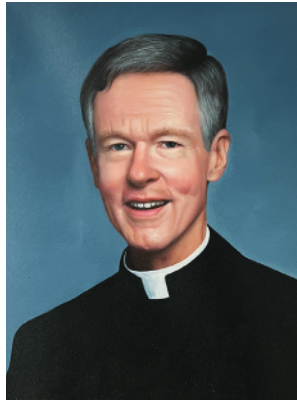
## A Book From Father Kevin Joyce, College "71

From the Crossroad Publishing Company  
Books for Spiritual living and Religious thought

Father Kevin Joyce is a Professor and Spiritual Director at St. Patrick's Seminary and fellow Alumnus.

"In the spirit of Thomas Merton's Seven Story Mountain, Fr. Kevin Joyce's new book *"Surprised by Grace"* entices spiritual seekers, non-believers, and even skeptics to "gamble on god". Anthony Liles.

October 15, 2024, Kevin Patrick Joyce's new book, *"Surprised by Grace, A Spiritual Journey from West to East and Back"*, offers an endearing story alongside a fascinating introduction to the spiritual depth of the Christian



Father Kevin Joyce

tradition. "After leaving family and friends in his youth, this lover of old classic cars initiates the reader into a world of yoga and zen, the romance of Mexico, and the contemplative roots of Christian Europe. An epic adventure dancing with the beauty of marriage, the draw of celibacy, and the call to the ministry, and those voids that only Christ can fill."

Paperback ISBN 9780824597085.  
Epub 9780824598327

For more information contact:  
[info@crossroadpublishing.com](mailto:info@crossroadpublishing.com)  
[www.crossroadpublishing.com/surprised](http://www.crossroadpublishing.com/surprised)

## Mother Marie- Leoni Canonized

Emmet Monahan, College '69  
(From: Catholic of San Francisco)

On Sunday, October 20, Pope Francis will canonize 14 new saints including Mother Marie-Léonie Paradis who founded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family in 1880. An important part of the the spirituality and charism of the order is support for priests through both intense and constant prayer, but also through taking care of the cooking at laundry in seminaries and rectories in "humble and joyful service" in imitation of "Christ the Servant" who washed the feet of his disciples.

I received this e-mail message above from the Archdiocese of San Francisco labeled "Catholic San Francisco." Of particular interest to the alumni that attended St. Joseph Seminary and St. Patrick Seminary would be Mother Marie-Leonie



Sister Marie Leoni

Paradis (1840-1912). She was born Virginie Alodie in the Acadian region of Quebec, Canada. She would become a nun and at the urging of the Bishop of Montreal, she founded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family in 1880. That is the order of nuns that did our laundry and cooked the great meals that we ate in the refectory. They served the alumni at both St. Joseph and St.

Patrick Seminaries. The order was at St. Patrick for almost 100 years (1903-1991). She actually visited St. Patrick Seminary in 1908. We alumni always remember the faculty that worked so hard to give us a good education. We should also remember the Sisters that worked so hard for us as well.

All the best,  
Emmet Monahan

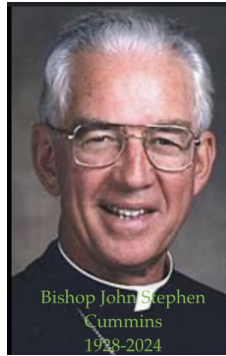
## BISHOP JOHN S. CUMMINS, Rhet '47, R.I.P.

*Donald C. Carroll, Rhet '58*

I greet this invitation to write about the late Bishop John S. Cummins with personal pleasure. In writing I am merely joining others doing the same thing, especially my friend, Msgr. Jim Gaffey (R '54), who with his usual erudition has already put on Semnet a sketch of Bishop John as a scholar and shepherd. I am mindful that for most of our alums of St. Joe's and St. Pat's, Bishop John may have just been a name because he retired over twenty years ago and was 96 at the time of his death. Thus, let me first briefly introduce John to you readers and then move on to the substance of what I wish to say about him.

Like so many of us, young John Cummins left the eighth grade (St. Augustine, Oakland) and entered St. Joe's. Like a few of us, John also had a brother in St. Joe's. His brother, Bernard ("Ben"), was three years older but came to St. Joe's after John did. Unlike most of us reading this, however, John entered in the midst of World War II. Having both sons living so far away in the wilds of Mountain View at a time of war must have been a cross for the parents of both sons, especially as the air raid sirens occasionally sounded in Oakland. In 1947 John completed his Rhetoric year at St. Joe's and followed his brother into St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Ben was ordained in 1950 and John in 1953. At the time of his death this past December 3rd, I believe that Bishop John at age 96 was the oldest living bishop in the United States.

At the Mass of Resurrection for Bishop John in Christ the Light Cathedral on December 21st, a eulogy was given by Robert Cardinal McElroy (H '72), A Leader for the Church, A Leader for His Times. Shamelessly, I am going to use themes made by Cardinal Bob to organize my tributes to Bishop John.



**Bishop  
John S. Cummins**

The Cardinal's opening immediately identified Bishop John as a Vatican II man, an identification greeted in the Cathedral with spontaneous applause: "The Second Vatican Council was the greatest gift given by the Holy Spirit to the life of the Church in the past one hundred years. And John Cummins was ideally suited – by talent and by temperament, by faith and by understanding of the human heart – to be a herald and an architect of implementing the Council in the Diocese of Oakland during the twenty-eight years of his episcopate."

John's commitment to the implementation of the Council did not begin, however, with his becoming a bishop. It began with the Council itself while he was a young priest. My first real association with John came in those years immediately after the Council. John was in Oakland in the new Diocese and hyperactive in the implementation of the Council. He would, on a rather frequent basis, host dinners with conversations at the Newman Club facility at UC Berkeley. I was privileged to attend a number of those. The regular attendees included Professors John Noonan (later a judge of the U. S. Ninth Circuit) and Jack Coons (a national voice for vouchers in education), local attorneys like Charlie Clifford (later President of the State Bar) and Rich Morris (of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights), a number of priests like Ray Decker, SPS '58 (lawyer and author who would later organize nationally the American Bishops Pastoral Letter, Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy) and George Crespino, Rhet '56 (who would later serve about 20 years as John's Vicar General or Chancellor). John would also often invite and feature visiting "names" such as Msgr. John Ryan, the great Chicago social justice

activist, and Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, the unofficial dean of American Church historians who was often at USF. (Obviously, at 87 years of age I have now forgotten the names of many attendees. My apologies.)

I remember these gatherings as recharging my batteries. I actually looked forward to leaving my contentious union-side law practice in San Francisco and driving over the Bay Bridge (often with Msgr. Ellis as a passenger) to sip and sup with John's "friends". It certainly made me into a lifetime devotee of Vatican II and an admirer of the always genial John Cummins.

Cardinal McElroy also said in his eulogy that another mark of the Council that John brought to the Diocese of Oakland "was a culture of dialogue" which John himself described in part: "To engage in it is to become a sign of consideration and respect. One listens to what others have to say and seeks to discover elements of truth in their presentations." I can vividly recall Bishop John's excitement when the three schools of theology on Holy Hill (Jesuit, Dominican and Franciscan) sponsored a two night symposium on the American bishops then new pastoral letter on the U.S. economy (more fully described supra). The event was held at the large Zellerbach Auditorium on the UC Berkeley campus. For weeks big banners flew across Sproul announcing the event, and other literature named the four or five Nobel Laureates of differing disciplines and orientations who would present their views on what the bishops had to say on the American economy. This was a form of dialogue that John could welcome with enthusiasm. And as he saw the banners, his enthusiasm had a personal touch: he told me at the time that "When I was a boy, my Mother forbade Ben and me from even setting foot on the UC campus to play because she felt the University was hostile to Catholicism". John's pride in the event was rewarded by two nights of standing room only attendance and wide media coverage. Would that the Church could gain such constructive attention today.

Of course, this being Berkeley, John got to experience what dialogue and engagement can mean in Berkeleyese. The first night was preceded by a private dinner. I was the M.C. for this night and the speakers included the Nobel winner Milton Friedman who came with his wife, Rose (herself a well-known economist). I was assigned to shepherd the Friedmans, probably because of someone's dark humor. ( I had to disclose that I represented the AFL-CIO and did a lot of work related to Cesar Chavez, but we actually got on very well.) Milton was very respectful of the bishops but also challenged me to explain how morality had anything to do with economic or monetary policy. Clearly, and as expected, Milton was going to be critical of what the bishops had to say. I reported this after dinner to Bishop John, and I can still vividly see John and Milton, just before the event, huddled in conversation around a table backstage in the auditorium. John was in "dialogue". John was doing what a bishop should be able to do. He was not hiding in his chancery office.

Chaos then occurred for several minutes. I held open the curtain for the panelists including Milton to walk out to the stage. I should have gone first. As I came out, the stage was being assaulted by a few people. One threw down a raw piece of veal on the table where Milton was attempting to sit. Another had appropriated the microphone and was screaming antisemitic rants against Milton's monetary policies. It took several minutes to restore order. I know John was as disturbed as all of us, but I never heard him regret the evening. (I never asked him, however, if he called to mind his mother's injunction to stay away from UC.)

Cardinal McElroy also said of Bishop John that he had "a profound and abiding sense of the Council's call to engage with the modern world." Amen. So he did. Many current bishops are unwilling to engage beyond abortion. While a few are now speaking about immigration, the majority prefer silence. Witness the silence in the face of

the clear challenges to Catholic Social Teaching in the run-up to the 2024 presidential elections. John would have engaged if he had a pulpit from which to do so.

I recall one courageous engagement I personally witnessed. It occurred when John was the President of the California Conference of Catholic Bishops and the people of California had before them at election time a proposition by Ward Connerly to ban affirmative action (Prop. 209, 1996). Under John's leadership the California Bishops wanted to put out a pastoral letter opposing the ban and restating Catholic Social Teaching about the dignity of the human person and the need to act only for the common good, both of which could require affirmative action. I know this because I was asked (together with the late Bill Spohn, S.J.) by the staff at the Conference to suggest language for such a pastoral letter. For weeks I exchanged language with the Conference in Sacramento.

The project was well along when a new Archbishop came to San Francisco from outside of California

who apparently was not comfortable with what was being proposed. Staff told me that this new arrival was insisting on writing large parts of the letter. The pastoral letter never was issued. Instead, on the Sunday before election day, a picture of this Archbishop and of Bishop John with a brief press relief written in pablum appeared on page 20- something of the local newspaper. Too little, too late. Ward won. I never heard John complain about herding cats. His effort alone, however, should stand as a part of his legacy of courage "to engage with the modern world". This courage will be needed again over the next few years, but will we get it?

Cardinal Bob entitled his eulogy "a Leader for the Church, a Leader for His Times". I might add that even in death Bishop John remains a leader for our times too. I am grateful to have known him.

Donald C. Carroll  
December 28, 2024  
Menlo Park, California

## **NEW OFFICERS FOR THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Your Alumni Association Board has new officers:

**Sal Chavez (C '75)**  
*President*

**Jose Salcido (H '72)**  
*Vice President*

**Dennis McQuaid (Rhet '59)**  
*Treasurer and Corporate Secretary*

On behalf of all of you, our deep thanks to Mike Sheehan (H '71) and Fr. Joe Gordon (R'65) who served as President and Treasurer respectively for the last three years. (But, they are not leaving the Board!).

## HISTORY OF THE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

In 2000, the Alumni Board introduced an annual award to be given each year on Alumni Day. The Board wanted to recognize alums who had done wonderful things with their lives. Immediately there was a problem: too many candidates for a single award. Although the first awards tended to recognize one individual, the Board soon changed to recognizing two. Further, this award was a chance occasionally to recognize alums who had been renegades, at least in the minds of some people. An early example of the latter was Bishop Mike Kenny (R'57) who upon the occasion of an ad limina visit to the Pope told Pope John Paul II that it was necessary to equalize the treatment of women. Whereupon JPII told Mike to "get out of my presence and do not come back into it again." (Mike did not; the Holy Spirit took Mike home while Mike was walking on a pilgrimage in the Holy Land.) Here is the list to date:

- 2000 Bishop Mike Kenny (posthumously)
- 2001 Bishops Mark and Frank Hurley
- 2002 Vincent Briare
- 2003 John J. Kelly
- 2004 Rev. William O'Donnell; Mr. Lawrence Purcell
- 2005 James McIntee (posthumously); Msgr. Eugene Boyle
- 2006 Mr. Dudley Conneely; Bishop Frank Quinn
- 2007 Bishop John Cummins
- 2008 Rev. Bill Leininger; Mr. Walter J. Harrington
- 2009 Rev. Brian Joyce; Rev. Larry Goode
- 2010 Msgr. John Brenkle; Mr. Dennis O'Brien
- 2011 Mr. Kevin Ryan (posthumously); Rev. John J. Cloherty
- 2012 Msgr. Michael "Buckshot" Winterer; Rev. George Crespín
- 2013 Msgr. Jim O'Malley; Mr. Bill Cane
- 2014 Rev. Jack Issacs (posthumously); Rev. Jack O'Neill
- 2015 Rev. Tony McGuire; Mr. Gilbert Loescher
- 2016 Rev. Tom Seagrave; Msgr. J. Warren Holleran
- 2017 Mr. James P. Murphy (posthumously)
- 2018 Rev. Mateo Sheedy (posthumously); Mr. Jim Kennedy
- 2019 Bishop Richard Garcia; Mr. Brian Cahill
- 2020-21 (COVID – No Alumni Day)
- 2022 Rev. Gerald Coleman PSS; Mr. J. Dennis McQuaid
- 2013 Rev. James Hagan; Mr. James Purcell
- 2024 Msgr. Jim Gaffey; Mr. Dakin Matthews

We have far too many to recognize in this life but at least celebrate the ones whom we do recognize.

## NECROLOGY

The following alums have recently died. We will remember them by name on Alumni Day. Hold them up in prayer, confident that they are with God because of God's mercy.

Donald M. Ahlback, Rhet '60

Michael J. Anderson, Rhet '64

Very Rev. Gerald Brown, PSS, Rhet '58. SPS '64  
co-founder of Alumni Assn.

Paul Calhoun, H '69

James Casey, Rhet '51, SPS '57  
former Board member

Most Rev. John S. Cummins, Rhet '47, SPS '53

Angelo DeManti, Rhet '51, SPS '57

Joseph B. Devine, C'77

William J. Kennedy, Rhet '60, SPS '66

Lawrence Moorman, Rhet '61

Lawrence Murphy, Rhet '55

Edward F. O'Brien, Rhet '56  
former Board member

Rev. William O'Connell, Rhet '49, SPS '55

Rev. Paul Perry, Rhet '61, SPS '67

Victor Schmeinsky, Rhet '54 (M.M.)

Paul Schneider, Rhet '65

Michael Sullivan, Rhet '59, SPS '65

Msgr. Michael "Buckshot" Winterer, Rhet '54, SPS '60

Requiescant in pace.

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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!

Don Carroll, R'58 Email: [donandmaryjocarroll@gmail.com](mailto:donandmaryjocarroll@gmail.com)

### **Contact Information**

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

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*Editor, Jim Harvey*