

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

April 1999 Newsletter

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES W. SWEENEY, R'40



(The following is an excerpt from the Homily of Bishop Mark J. Hurley, R'39 at the Requiem Mass for Charley Sweeney at St. Mary's Cathedral on December 30, 1998.)

After paying tribute to Charles and his wife, Catherine, as exemplars of the 'greatest generation'- the generation that saw the United States through the Depression and 'the total war', World War II, Bishop Hurley turned to Charles' dedication to the Church:

"The word **oblation** characterizes Charles Sweeney: it means an offering, a free dedication, something spontaneous. I want to extend the word to two contexts.

In the first context, the word oblation embraces his marriage in 1943 to Catherine and his entry into military duty. Both were free-will offerings to God and to

country given fifty-five years ago. This oblation leaves all of us in his debt—together with the multitude of men and women who served overseas and at home—their sacrifice is eternal.

The second context speaks to Charles' acceptance of Our Lord's invitation "Come Follow Me". This fact is underlined in his obituary notice which reminded us that he had attended the minor seminary, St. Joseph's College. So often that invitation is misunderstood: young men do not go to the seminary to become priests; they come to find out if they should become priests, to discover whether they have a vocation.

So Charles spent four years with daily mass, daily meditation, demanding educational exercises, and a community life with other seminarians.

He got his answer: It was , "Come Follow Me", in yet another sacrament, Marriage.

What did he take with him?

Through his years at St. Joseph's, he acquired a deep love for the Holy Priesthood: priests were ever his friends. He had trained with them and had shared their oblation which engendered an everlasting empathy and sympathy for their vocation. Hence it was no surprise that he became a generous benefactor of St. Joseph's College, an active member of the Alumni Association, and its elected President.

The invitation "Come Follow Me" has followed him into eternity!" ■

This Year's Alumni Day is Saturday, April 24, 1999
at St. Patrick's Seminary

CHARLES W. SWEENEY

CLASSMATE—"BOSS"—FRIEND from 1934-1998

by James E. Prindeville, R'39, St. Patrick's Sem. '44

In September, 1934, Charley Sweeney and myself began our Seminary careers at St. Joseph's College as "Fifth Latiners"—2nd year of High School. Charley had come from a year at Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco, while I came from a year at St. Mary's High School in Berkeley. School policy at that time put us together in every class—including a special Latin class which contained anyone coming from an outside high school, no matter what your Latin education might be. We became close friends, even though we were athletic enemies. Charley was a Trojan, and I was a Bear—days of happy memory. Our relationship was not only at the College, but continued during the summer vacations when we were home. Several of us would gather on many weekdays at the YMI building on Oak St. in San Francisco for competition in the gym and a swim in the pool. Following this we would go to MRS. SWEENEY's house near Mission Dolores Church, and she always had many goodies for all of us.

Charley left our class while we were still at the College, but our friendship never stopped. We would meet as often as possible, especially during vacation time. This was before the U.S. entered World War II and jobs were scarce. My dad worked for the S.P. Railroad in Oakland, and he got Charley a job working for him. Unfortunately the only job available was cleaning the tracks after the cattle cars had been washed out. Not exactly the type of job that Charley preferred, so he did not stay there long.

When Charley and Catherine Geary-later Sweeney-started dating, they even invited me along a few times for dinners out and movies. On the day of their wedding at Star of the Sea Church in San Francisco, Mark Hurley and I were the altar boys, and John Glasky, a classmate and cousin of Charley's, was best man. This was shortly before our ordination in 1944.

Charley went on to become a successful business man. He was a pioneer in the field of Trust Fund Administration—administrating Health and Welfare Programs for Labor Unions. The C.W. SWEENEY Co. was highly respected in this field. Charley was looked up to by labor leaders in the Bay Area.

Charley never lost his love for the Seminary. He and a few others were the leaders in forming a group of former seminarians to do whatever they could to assist the Seminary. These few were the beginning of the present Alumni Association.

When after 29 years in the active ministry I made the decision to change my lifestyle, it was to Charley Sweeney that I went for help. He gave me a job with his Company, and there I worked closely with John Glasky and Len Williams—also clergy in transition. Charley was a great help to all of us.

Sixty five years of friendship came to end in this world on the occasion of his death. But those years of studying together, competing in sports with each other, and working side by side in the business world will never be forgotten. Thank you Charley—"C.W." as you were known in the business world—for those wonderful years, and thank you for bringing Catherine into our lives. ■

CHARLES W. SWEENEY, R'40, R.I.P.

by Donald C. Carroll, R'58

When we first started our Association around 1981, we were concerned with how the idea might be greeted, and supported, by the more 'senior' alums. We found out very quickly. They came on canes and walkers. Many of hem have long gone Home: Nor Cronin, Al Smith, Charlie Scully...The early success was due in large measure to the visible support of Charley Sweeney, their contemporary.

Not so visible was Charley's support for the Seminary, for seminarians and for priests, both active and inactive. Quietly he regularly gave money to prime the Rector's Discretionary Fund of Gerry Brown, Gerry Coleman and Cale Crowley. The Fund was for clothes, trips home for funerals, and other basic needs for those who could not afford them. As President of C.W. Sweeney Co., he gave work to numerous men in transition. We only know a part of the generosity of Charley and his wife, Catherine.

Charley was a long time member of your Alumni Board and served at least two or three terms as President. His interest and service were gifts to all of us.

Your Alumni Board has voted to honor Charley. Your Scholarship Fund is being renamed in the memory of Charley. (It is a worthy vehicle for your own generous impulses!) And, beginning with Alumni Day in the year 2000, the Association will give an annual award in Charley's honor.

Remember Charley and his family. ■

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Patrick F. Cloherty, R'64

After talking with my cousin, Eamon King, I left for Ireland on Thursday, January 21, 1999. The purpose of the trip was to attend the funeral of my Aunt—Annie McDonagh King. Although still alive when I was leaving SFO, somewhere over the Atlantic, she moved onto her eternal reward. Annie had six nephews who attended St. Joseph's College in Mountain View in the 50's and 60's....my brother, John, R'54, myself, R'64, Jim Mannion, R'61, Tom Mannion, R'65, John McDonagh, R'66, and Paul McDonagh, R'69 (RIP).

I had developed a close bond with my aunt beginning in 1952 when my mother took me to her homeland for the first time. Because of my frequent trips to Galway over the years, a love and respect grew for this woman who was very loving, sensitive and worldly. Annie lived on the western edge of Connemara with the Atlantic literally in her back garden, and outside her front door were the majestic Twelve Pins, the handcrafted stone walls particular to the west of Ireland and the bog lands of Ballyconneely. Here she spent her last fifty-five years as a wife and a mother of three.

The wake was Friday night in the kitchen of the family home. Friends and relatives came to pay their respects to Margaret, Eamon and Eilish—her children. Food and drink were served, and some stayed in the kitchen all night with Annie. All day Saturday, mourners expressed their sorrow to the family, and at 7:00 p.m, we closed the casket and followed the hearse to the church. The Rosary Saturday evening was followed by the funeral Mass and burial in the parish cemetery the next morning. It was a cold, wet, windy, bone-chilling day as we walked to the cemetery. I felt even colder as the casket was lowered into the ground, and neighbors shoveled the soil for the last time.

Three days later, on Wednesday, four first cousins, Michael and Willie McDonagh, Eilish King McCormack (Annie's daughter) and myself began a climb up Croagh Patrick. (Croagh Patrick is Ireland's holy mountain, where the national apostle St. Patrick in the year 441 spent the forty days of Lent in prayer and fasting for the people of Ireland.) We dedicated this pilgrimage to the memory of Annie and offered it as a prayer for our cousin, James McDonagh (brother of John McDonagh, R'66), in San Francisco. Jim is currently on the slow road to recovery after undergoing very serious brain tumor surgery in January.

It was a fresh Mayo morning as we started our ascent. For the first hour, with our spirits and energies high, we set a fast pace. From time to time, we would look back down at the neat fields, reflecting various shades of green, nestled next to Clew Bay. Half way up we made the stop at one of the Stations and said the prescribed prayers marked on the monument. By this time the weather had closed in on us. The top of the mountain could not be seen, and the bay below was only a memory.

We made it to the top, through rain, wind and snow. Reciting all the prayers listed on the markers, we were united in our intention: the return to full health for our cousin, Jim.

That day I felt a sense of unity with God and my cousins that I have not experienced before. Was it a spiritual awakening? On Croagh Patrick that cold January day, I sensed emotions not felt since my days at St. Joe's.

This spiritual expedition was followed by a late lunch and a few hot whiskies in Westport.

Thanks for letting me share my memories of Aunt Annie, and please say a prayer for Jim McDonagh.

Hope to see you at St. Pat's on Alumni Day—April 24, 1999! ■

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Chuck Smith, R'60



(At present, 20 members of the Alumni Association freely give of their time, ideas, spirit and experience to serve on your Board. One of our members, Chuck Smith, not only serves on the Board, but he also lends his expertise in computer technology to the Association. The following is Chuck's response to pen a few words about himself.)

"Yes, I am married—my wife, Mary, traded her Irish surname of O'Gorman for my 'Smith' some 24 years ago. Mary had been an elementary school teacher until 1996. Our youngest son graduated from Mitty High School and now is at De Anza College majoring in Computer Science, and our oldest son (yes, we have two) is a senior at Caltech in Pasadena majoring in Computer Science. I also have four daughters from a previous marriage who are grown and married (yes, the total is six.) My daughters' professions include school teaching, nursing and computer technology.

My own work career has included many years as a computer programmer with IBM, and I am now a Senior Software Engineer with Lockheed Martin in a small group called the Advanced Concepts Center. I have been providing software consulting services for Lockheed Martin customers. I particularly enjoyed one recent stint with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in Moss Landing.

Mary and I have lived just west of Morgan Hill (for 22 years now) where we keep a sizable garden (flowers, vegetables and trees), and we also raise friendly little chickens and sell eggs. We have traveled extensively throughout the world thanks in part to my job. In addition to travel, my entire family enjoys live theater and music. Mary and I met in a church choir, and we are still involved in church music—she sings soprano, and I accompany our choir on piano. Over the years I have served on the liturgy committee, taught CCD, directed choirs, accompanied choirs, and helped our local catholic school in numerous capacities. Mary and I both have Pope Paul VI certificates for long-time service.

Several years ago, I, my brothers, sisters, our mother and our spouses formed a non-profit organization called **One Family**. All of us had visited Medjugorje in what was then Yugoslavia. After the war broke out and the country broke apart, we decided to try to help some of the families that we had met over there. Our early humble efforts have grown significantly as we now have almost 1000 individual contributors and many organizations (e.g. hospitals) that also contribute. We take (accompany) about three large shipments each year to Bosnia; our focus is primarily in the Mostar region. This work is ongoing, and it could be the subject for another letter, so I'd best stop here." ■

ALUMNI DAY REMINDER

Please remember that the annual Alumni Day for St. Joseph's/St. Patrick's College and St. Patrick's Seminary will be held on Saturday, April 24, 1999.

Registration	3:30 p.m.
Mass	4:00 p.m.
Hosted Social	5:00 p.m.
Dinner	6:00 p.m.

If you did not receive an invitation, or have misplaced it, please contact Brett Lowart at St. Patrick's Seminary (650) 325-5621 or Jim Murphy at (650) 591-3492. This year the following classes are being honored: *Class of 1949, 50 years, Class of 1959, 40 years, Class of 1964, 35 years, and Class of 74, 25 years.*

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Approximately 65 alums attended the Day of Reflection on February 20, 1999 and experienced a brief respite from their busy schedules. Fr. Jerry Brown, S.S., R'58 and Lawrence Percell, PhD, C'69 presented the day's theme of 'Forgiveness'; St. Patrick's Seminary hosted the event; and a memorable time was had by all.

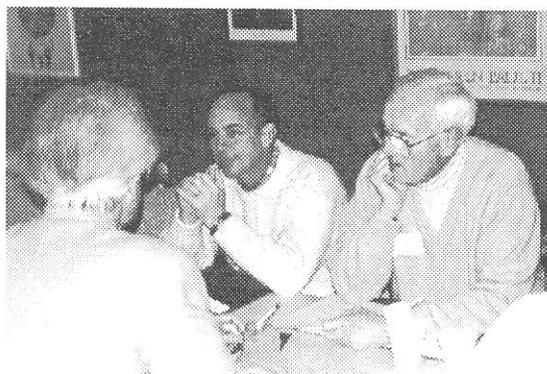


"The motley, mostly middle-aged and older crew"



Charlie Holmes, R'53,
Jim Purcell, R'60
Kevin Connolly, R'59

Charlie O'Malley
Mike Ghorso, C'73
Joe Haggarty, C'73 and
Rev. Steve Brown, C'73



Dan Erwin, R'66
Charles Heinrich, R'37
Dr. Larry Percell, C'69
Fr. Jerry Brown, R'58



In Memoriam

Breen, Jack, R'54, on December 7, 1998; husband of Sandi, father of Bernee, Dubie and Mickey. Jack was the Freshman English teacher for 33 years at Marin Catholic High School and founding member and past president of A.F.T., Local 2240. He was also the favorite Counselor of many campers at Our Lady of the Redwoods camp in Occidental, CA in the 1950's.

Doub, John, brother of George Doub, R'60.

Crilly, Maureen on April 8, 1999; mother of past Alumni Board President, Mike Crilly, C'70 and Jim Crilly, C'71. Maureen was an active member of St. Dunstan's in Millbrae and Catholic Charities in San Mateo County.

Leipelt, Wilhelmina E. (Billie), mother of John C. Leipelt, R'59. She was a 51 year resident of Pacifica and member of Good Shepherd parish.

McQuaid, Helen L., on January 30, 1999; mother of Board Member J. Dennis McQuaid, R'59; she was a member of St. Charles parish in San Carlos for over 50 years and was a 1973 recipient of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici award.

Shea, Rev. Maurice F., STL, JCD, R'50, on January 28, 1999; former Sulpician for many years; recently worked at the chancery in the Diocese of San Jose and in residence at St. Leo's in San Jose.

Sullivan, Rev. Charles J., R'44, on January 5, 1999; Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle parish in San Francisco and brother of Rev. Daniel Sullivan, R'45, Deceased.

Sweeney, Charles W., R'40 on December 26, 1998; husband of Catherine and father of Chuck and John.

Mother of Rev. Roger P. Tenorio, C'89.
Tollner, Rev. Gary Brent, R'55 on February 17, 1999; former Administrator and Pastor of St. Philip Neri Church in Alameda; head of the diocesan Liturgical Commission in Oakland for 18 years and director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY OF RECOLLECTION

by Richard J. Brett, R'65

*(Richard attended the Day of Recollection and emailed the following impressions of his day long experience. The quoted stanza is from **Fern Hill** by Dylan Thomas.)*

"I visited St. Patrick's on gray, rainy last Saturday for the Alumni Day of Recollection.

Two excellent speakers spoke to a motley, mostly middle-aged and older crew of possibly 60 Roman Catholic men. The room was cold. We ran out of coffee. But magic happened.

Fr. Jerry Brown, a Sulpician, did a fabulous job talking about forgiveness and how we forgive. Lots of great ideas and quotes.

Dr. Larry Percell, a psychologist-alum, spoke, not as lively as the good priest, but just as well and very wisely and with a kind spirit.

Time was there for solitude. And groups. And it was great to see Wally Nicholas, Dan McCarthy, Gerry Dunn, Dan Erwin, Clo, Andy Kelleher, Bear McMahon (dashing in 49er apparel), Jim Purcell, and many others, a lot with Irish names. And to see this big photograph of Plimley, Ganci, and Rizza, in cassocks, in the green and carefree laughter of youth, in the snow on the Philosophy side. Amazing. Joy!!

Two things struck me:

The Seminary is an extraordinarily beautiful building. And while I could not remember eating in the old refectory, its wood work, color, and design made me think that they had very talented builders and carpenters a hundred years ago.

And the Chapel is magnificent.

I don't know why it hit me so much this time, but in that striking building we were exposed to a level of beauty living around us that deeply influenced our sense of what is art and architecture and taste. I am sure this is one of the reasons we are all classy men, put "onto the fields of praise".

Bunches of black starlings flying out of the willows, oaks, and palm trees brought life to an overcast day. St. Patrick's is beautiful. And lived in.

*'And I was green and carefree, famous
among the barns
About the happy yard and singing as the
farm was home,
In the sun that is young once only,
Time let me play and be
Golden in the mercy of his means,
And green and golden I was huntsman and
herdsman, the calves
Sang to my horn, the foxes on the hill barked
clear and cold,
And the Sabbath rang slowly
In the pebbles of the holy streams.'*

And that leads to the second of my poor insights.

The place has life and memory-ghosts. We had our lives there when we were younger. Our lives. And sitting in the awesome Chapel Saturday made me think we were in our twenties here and so many others had a part of their twenties, their lives here, over and over, lived in a line of a hundred years. One hundred years!

I was surrounded with starling-like memories bursting out of the brown monkish pews, the startlingly vivid stained glass windows, the sages on the back, curved wall, a ceiling full of symbols. The fire in the darkness, and the Exultet of Easter where our faith got stronger by music, song and art, and some powerful preaching. Diaconate ordinations. Decisions to stay or quit, brooded there in the silent quiet. Sleeping during 6:15 AM meditations. Paul Purta telling us on one Holy Thursday we were better than anyone else. Ernie Brainard, subbing for Jim Moher who was in Tahiti, giving his 25th Anniversary sermon there where, thank God for him, he brilliantly and humbly demonstrated how beautiful it is to be human, to fail often, and not need be better than anyone else. Beretta. Cassocks. Incense. Chant. Pange Lingua Gloriosi. 'Be Thou My Vision'. Veni Creator Spiritus. 'For All the Saints'.

And as I sat there as a man in his fifties remembering men in their twenties, so sat, I realized, bishops and a cardinal and priests—over two thousand of them—and us other guys in a long line. So sat Riordan and Mitty and McGucken and Manning and O'Dowd and Cummings and McFarland and Frank Quinn and Hurley and Kenny and Garcia and Wester. And Vuibert and Ayrinhac and Nevin and Fenn and Mulligan and Wagner and Laubacher and Bonadio and Bleichner and Rock and Roskowski (name three) and Becker and Olivier and Norris and Giguere and McCormack and Chirico and Mattingly and Hogan and O'Brien. And Flannagan and Collins and Cullen and Mullin and Brennan and McGovern and Silva and Keeley and Oliveira and Lucid and Hecht and Coleman and Cardelli and Calegari and Woods and McEntee and Feyen and Pult and Nixon and Issacs and Arvin and Bontempi and Ganci and Peterson and Ruggeri and Prendergast and deGroot and Austin and Ponce and Scavarda and Herning and Grosse and Dells and Kennedy and Rolle and Sparo, and Tom Riley...and all who were there in a line stretching over and over these last hundred years, a line we all stood in and sat in and sang in and kneeled in and saw great people in.

And I thought of Moriarty and Moher. And how totally different (poorer, sadder) my life would have been without them. And Dan Ducey and Rizza and Vassar and Kidney and Cervelli and Denis Ducey(one 'n') and our Purcell and Quinones the Greek and John Dillon Riley and Murphy of the golden tongue.

We live. We die. We stand in a long line!

Come next year!!!!

Best Blessings!! Mercy..." ■

ALUMNI UPDATES . . .

James Czarnecki, R'64 is a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and teaches Art History. In the Fall, Jim was the director for 30 honors students from around the country who were participating in the National Collegiate Honor Council's Semester held at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. Jim recently moved to a ten acre spread about 10 miles out of town, and to quote Jim "I've bought the farm, so to speak"! I think that a little bit of 'Pop' Rock rubbed off on Jim.

Art Goodtimes (aka Art Bontempi), R'65 is still living in Colorado and was a recent presenter at a Nature Writing Retreat for writers and artists of all backgrounds and levels. Art earmarked his annual voluntary dues for the 'Six Latiners' Slackers Club in honor of Fr. Riddlemoser.

Terrence Smith, C'74 is living in Minnesota and is a Minnesota State Arts Board Roster Artist. He has been presenting dance programs for more than 12 years in schools and communities throughout the region. Terrence provides time for all participants to experience and enjoy folk dance.

Ed George, R'52 recently retired as a prison guard. He has written a book about Charles Manson's life behind bars. The book is entitled 'Taming the Beast'.

William Stokes, C'69 reports that he received his Masters in Science/Management Info. Science at Cal State Sacramento and was seen hobnobbing at lunch with his classmate, Bishop Richard Garcia, D.D., C'69.

Rev. Joseph C. Martin, S.S., former professor at St. Joseph's College and pioneer in the field of alcohol addiction has written his autobiography entitled "One Step More". All proceeds from the sale will go to the Scholarship Fund at Father Martin's **Ashley** a Treatment Center for the chemically addicted.

Bishop Michael H. Kenny, R'57, who died suddenly in 1995, has been honored by the Diocese of Juneau with a book entitled "I Danced With Joy—Bishop Michael H. Kenny Remembered". "This collection of memories, stories, poems, and anecdotes, written by various authors whose lives were touched by this extraordinary, Spirit-filled man of God, was published as a tribute so that others may continue to grow, learn, enjoy and be inspired." Bishop Kenny was the cousin of Art Reardon, R'66. Can anyone forget the Bishop's impersonation of Michael Jackson at one of our early Alumni Days? If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this book contact Jim Murphy at (650) 591-3492.

John Collins, R'64, continues to practice law in San Diego and is the Chair of the Labor and Employment Department of Sheppard, Mullin. John and his wife, Kathy, will celebrate their 32nd wedding anniversary

in August and have three sons. They also own an Art Gallery in downtown San Diego.

Dan Folliard, R'63 emailed that he is teaching in England and would love to attend an Alumni Day when he returns. Dan receives all Alumni updates from Sheridan, OR via Jim Nice, R'63 (Jim held many long distance records in track as a stalwart Bear!).

Greg McAllister, R'61 continues to live in Denver and sends a big hello. Greg has just converted 'The Sweet Life' to video—this was a movie made by Greg and Bob Carroll, R'61 at St. Joe's and starred Bob Leger, R'61. Riley and Monley say 'Thumbs Up'!

A. Peter Lundin, M.D., R'64 is at the State University of New York and is a Professor of Medicine and Director of Ambulatory Hemodialysis at the Kings County Hospital. In 1966, Pete suffered renal failure and started on dialysis. He was accepted to SUNY, Downstate in Brooklyn and graduated Summa cum laude while still on dialysis. Pete married Maureen Fitzgerald in 1974 and writes "As I said at the onset, I have been most blessed to have had a full and busy life. Despite dialysis I have traveled extensively and seen much and regret nothing."

There is much in the news recently about the famous Antarctica explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and his ship, the *Endurance*. Rumor has it that **Tom Pavao** and **Tim Hennessy**, R'63, will soon be releasing their 1963 expose of what really happened on the *Endurance* as told through the eyes of First Mate, Ordelaize.

Jim Monahan, R'56, retired last June after teaching at Serra High School in San Mateo for 39 years. At Serra, Jim also served as a coach, administrator, Dean of Men, Alumni Director, Development Director and Math Department Chair. He was the recipient of Serra's prestigious In Via Award.

INVITATION . . . SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUPS

The annual Day of Recollection has been so successful that your Alumni Board of Governors wants to offer another spiritual benefit. The proposal is to invite interested alums to form spiritual support groups in various geographical areas close to their homes. We all shared the same faith in seminary days. While things may have changed, perhaps even a great deal, we have a more mature, and perhaps even more urgent, need to have the benefit of one another's lived faith in this current time.

*While your Association will be able to provide significant ideas and resources, each group will be completely independent for purposes of deciding how to proceed. You need **not** have had any prior experience with these or like types of groups.*

*We are **not** looking for a commitment from you, but only an 'expression of interest'. If interested in hearing more, please contact Don Carroll, R'58 at (650) 322-8632 or Jim Murphy, R'64 at (650) 591-3492*

'MARCH MADNESS' AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE IN 1950



Five 'Bears' sit on the steps of the old 'Barn' in 1950
Top Row: Harold Pearce, R'51, Merlin Porter, R'51
Bottom Row: Charlie Holmes, R'53, Jack Butler, R'51, Jim McDonald, R'51

*Your
contact...*

If you need to contact our Alumni Coordinator with any Alumni concern (opinions, suggestions, alumni updates, changes of address), you may write Jim Murphy at St. Patrick's Seminary or you may contact him directly as follows:

*James P. Murphy
1710 Robin Whipple Way
Belmont, CA 94002-1851*

*Phone: (650) 591-3492
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