

The Paduan

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Alumni Association Edition

Vol. 1 #1

March, 1979

WHERE DO WE STAND?

When St. Anthony of Padua Prep School closed its doors after a long and bitter fight to remain open, for some that meant the end of Padua and the friends that had been made either while attending Padua or being associated with it. Others, however, never gave up the dream that someday something great would happen at Padua again. Well, friends, we are proud and happy to announce that the day may be coming closer to seeing that dream become a reality.

For years now the school has been dormant, without any real prospects for effective utilization. The Alumni Association has been inactive. There has been no real news among alumni except through personal informal contacts. The buildings and grounds at Padua have generally been unused and allowed to deteriorate. An alumni newsletter was non-existent.

But work has continued behind the scenes by those who knew and loved Padua. Ideas have been worked on that could lead to a productive utilization of the facilities and land in a way that would keep them intact without commercialization and would preserve the beauty and tranquility of the property.

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Malina ('66), plans were made to have an alumni reunion and to re-organize the Alumni Association. Although attempts to notify alumni were hampered by outdated mailing lists, a reunion took place on October 20, 21, 22, 1978 in Watkins Glen. Fr. Austin, who recently completed PhD studies at Syracuse University, presented a "concept paper" during the reunion on some of his ideas on the possible useage of Padua for an adult learning community. New officers were elected, preliminary plans were made to re-organize the Alumni Association, update the constitution and bylaws, and re-establish a dues structure. A newsletter will be published to keep the alumni informed as to what is happening, and another reunion was tentatively scheduled for October 1979 with the goal of more extensive participation by all alumni.

Now, open dialogue, ideas, suggestions, input, and support are needed for plans for the re-establishment of a viable Alumni Association and discovering the best utilization of the Padua facilities. Most immediately, new and accurate mailing lists of Padua alumni, families, and friends are necessary if any of this is to be a reality. So, as we begin what is hopefully a new and dynamic era in Padua history, we urge you to send us not only your current address but also the addresses of any and all alumni and friends of Padua who might be interested in receiving the newsletter.

LADY IN WAITING

A Debutante in years past
A Monument of history
A Tradition of excellence.

Greying, aging, wrinkled
Wasting away
History's forgotten headstone?
A Lady awaiting her tomb?

More a Silent Sentinel
Standing guard over
Treasures of the Past
An Accusing Spectre
Raped, ravished
Ashamed of facing her former suitors.

A Storehouse of Dreams
Fulfilled in the past
Awaiting the future
Yes, A Proud Old
Iron-willed Lady
A Lady in Waiting
Calling, Waiting, Hoping.



-RS

 NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The following alumni were elected for two year terms as officers of the Alumni Association at the business meeting during the alumni reunion held October 21, 1978:

Thomas Malina '66 - President
Box 161
Watkins Glen, N.Y. 14891

Thomas Wojslawowicz '60 - Vice President
93 Kennedy Blvd.
Bayonne, N.J. 07002

Reginald Stanczyk '67 - Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 51
Watkins Glen, N.Y. 14891

Mr. Wojslawowicz served as past president of the Alumni Association and was elected with the specific mandate to represent the metropolitan alumni who constitute such a large group. Mr. Stanczyk will also be editing the alumni newsletter. All the alumni owe a vote of thanks to the outgoing officers for keeping the basics of the Alumni Association intact, particularly the alumni funds, during the past eight years.

FIRST REUNION IN EIGHT YEARS

On October 20, 21, 22, 1978, Padua alumni gathered in Watkins Glen for the first reunion in eight years. Originated in honor of the 25th anniversary of the graduation of the Class of '53 - the first graduating class of Padua - the reunion was attended by about fifty alumni and their families. Attendance was considered fairly good in light of some of the difficulties in contacting alumni after a lapse of eight years.

Among the graduates attending were Richard Chodnicki and Thomas Colihan representing that original class of '53. Almost every class was represented at the reunion and many more alumni wrote to say they were unable to attend but were still interested in continuing the Alumni Association. The prevalent feeling seemed to be, "It's about time!", and the hope was expressed that next year's reunion would be attended by even more alumni. Counting alumni and their families, and friars, the total attendance was about 100 persons.

The weekend began with registration at the Glen Motor Inn on Friday evening, with alumni filtering in throughout the weekend. With most alumni not having seen each other for many years, "socializing" continued through the wee hours of the morning. Many surprises were noted in terms of changes in appearance which sometimes caused even classmates not to recognize each other.

Saturday brought the arrival of more alumni. The Padua buildings and grounds were open for the alumni to tour and those who had not seen the place since its closing came away somewhat shocked and depressed at the deterioration that had taken place. The friars currently stationed at Padua, under the direction of the Rev. Joseph Drag, hosted a coffee break at the friary.

On Saturday Afternoon, an alumni meeting was scheduled. Although some alumni chose not to attend, the majority were present for the election of new officers, discussion of the state of the Alumni Association, and a presentation by Fr. Austin on a possible use for the Padua facilities. Approval was given by those present for continuing the Alumni Association, updating the constitution and bylaws, and planning for a reunion in October 1979.

The meeting was followed by an Alumni Mass held at St. Mary's Parish Church in downtown Watkins Glen. Following the Mass, the alumni returned to the Glen Motor Inn for a cocktail hour and banquet. Following the dinner and a picture-taking session, most alumni again continued catching up on memories and the changes the years had brought until far into the night.

Sunday morning saw an informal departure by alumni, though some lingered until late Sunday or even Monday. The class of '67, represented by seven members, gathered as a group for a Sunday breakfast along with several alumni from other classes. All in all, the weather was great, the sharing of renewed friendships was heartwarming, new friendships were made, and the hope seemed to be that "next year will be even better".



1953-59: T. Colihan ('53), Bro. Casimir, L. Dmuchowski ('55), R. Chodnicki ('53), J. O'Connor (H.M.), S. Kurpiel ('58), R. Uss ('59), Fr. Joseph, T. Miniciello (H.M.), J. Kuchinski ('54), J. Tereskiewicz ('56), V. Franzese (H.M.).

ALUMNI BUSINESS MEETING

In addition to the discussion on possible uses of Padua, Saturday afternoon was devoted to conducting Alumni Association business. Chairing the meeting was Tom Malina, class of '66, with Reg Stanczyk, class of '67, acting as recorder.

Following some discussion on the status of the association and how the reunion of '78 came about, several votes were taken. First, approval was given to the idea of continuing the Alumni Association in spite of the fact that Padua no longer exists as a school. The alumni also voted to begin preliminary planning for the reunion of '79 to be held the third weekend in October.

Following some discussion on organizational matters, it was decided to proceed with formal elections of officers for an official two year term. Tom Malina was elected President, Tom Wojslawowicz, class of '60, was elected Vice President, with the specific purpose of representing the metropolitan area alumni, and Reg Stanczyk was elected to the combined office of Secretary-Treasurer, including the duty of editing an alumni newsletter.

A resolution was passed giving the officers the authority to update, revise, and implement a new constitution and bylaws based on the old ones but recognizing changes that the years have brought. This task will include a revision of the present dues structure.

Prior to closing the meeting, Tom Malina proposed that the alumni make a contribution to pay for dinner and cocktails for the Franciscan friars present, and this motion was accepted.



1960-66: T. Wojslawowicz ('60), J. Lubonski ('62), T. Zembruski ('60), K. Joswick ('60), M. Asello ('63), J. Gryszan ('63), (unidentified), R. Benedek ('63), M. Srokosz ('64), J. Marcheski ('60), D. McCarthy ('60), L. Siudy ('64), D. Poplawski ('66), T. Malina ('66). Not in picture: J. Sredzinski ('62), M. Kiefer ('66).



1967-68: M. Rembisz ('67), A. Zawoyski ('67), R. Stanczyk ('67), C. Franzese ('67), P. Lesczynski ('68), A. Dabrowski ('67), R. Prelich ('68), D. Wojno ('68), J. Barnikiewicz ('67), Fr. Austin, V. Burcz ('68), D. Prelich ('67).



1969-70: K. Skislock ('69), J. Romelczyk ('70), C. Cronin ('70), J. Gomiela ('70), J. Carney ('70), A. Yannetta ('70), R. Fusco ('70), T. Manning ('70), D. Tillman ('70), G. Sipski ('70), P. Widynski ('70).

(Because class photos were reproduced from color negatives, some loss of contrast resulted. Negatives were donated by Donald Prelich and are available through the secretary to interested alumni who might want color prints. Thanks, Don!)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1978

T. Colihan ('53), L. Dmuchowski ('55), P. Lesczynski ('68), P. Widynski ('70), J. Bartnikiewicz ('67), R. Chodnicki ('53), Fr. Joseph Drag, J. Kuchinski ('54), A. Zawoyski ('67), D. Wojno ('68), A. Dabrowski ('67), S. Kurpiel ('58), T. Wojslawowicz ('60).

LET US REMEMBER...

Several Padua alumni have died and been received into eternal glory. We ask you to remember them in your prayers. As provided for in both the original version and the proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws, a memorial Mass will be offered for the intention of these alumni, with the Mass stipend provided for from the alumni treasury. To the best of our knowledge these records are accurate. If you have any further information, please let us know.

Thomas Bekiempis, class of '64, died 3/21/67 in Vietnam.

Albert Hryczyk, class of '57, died 1/17/77.

Thomas Kelley, class of '56, correspondence returned marked "deceased".

Anthony Montoya, class of '65, died 10/68 in Vietnam.

Walter Sabolefski, class of '62, died 11/5/66.

Anthony Tulko, class of '59, died 3/6/67 of a stroke.

Ralph Zawoyski, class of '70, died 1/16/76 of bone cancer.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

USE OF PADUA EXPLORED

During the alumni meeting on Saturday, Fr. Austin Budnick (Lewinski) presented a concept paper on the utilization of the Padua facilities as an Alternatives Education Learning Community. Fr. Austin reviewed some of the educational topics he became familiar with while completing his PhD in adult education, pinpointing some of the problems with current educational institutions and proposing alternative ways of structuring these institutions and viewing educational possibilities. He conducted a "goals analysis" survey to determine what the alumni saw as important in the development of ideas for the use of Padua.

Some of the alumni present expressed their desire to re-establish Padua as a boarding school "the way we knew it". Other alumni expressed a feeling that Padua "the way it was" is not a viable educational set-up in today's world. For one thing, it was noted that the Franciscan community wants nothing to do with Padua, except to sell it. Even if this obstacle were overcome, the condition of the buildings and the extent of the remodelling and refurbishing necessary would probably cost more than is economically feasible. It was also pointed out that current federal and state educational laws might necessitate operating as a co-educational facility if any type of government aid at all were envisioned.

At this point in the discussion it was noted that there seemed to be some alumni who were seeing the ideas proposed as completely in opposition to each other and as "final proposals" rather than simply as possibilities for future discussion. The possibility was raised of these ideas being compatible, with the grounds and facilities at Padua being large enough to accommodate several programs. Fr. Austin then continued with his presentation, outlining his plans for further discussions and workshops in the upcoming year.

Anyone interested in more information on Fr. Austin's ideas or in subscribing to a "Padua Alternatives Newsletter" he will be publishing can contact him directly:

Rev. Austin Budnick, O.F.M.
St. Anthony of Padua Friary
Watkins Glen, N.Y. 14891

REMEMBER -

THE NEXT REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1979 SOMETIME AFTER RACE

WEEKEND. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. YOU ARE THE KEY TO AN ACTIVE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:

-KEEP IN TOUCH

-SEND YOUR 1979 DUES EARLY

-PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1979 REUNION

THANKS FOR THE IDEA!

In 1953, Padua graduated its first class. 1978 marked the 25th anniversary of that pioneer effort. Although the school closed in 1970, the spirit that characterized Padua never died. October 1978 marked the first reunion in years and thanks are due to those who helped crystallize the idea. As we understand it, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dmuchowski and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Czajkowski batted the idea around, then approached Tom Malina of Watkins Glen who did a great job of trying to organize a reunion under trying circumstances. Thanks to these people and any others involved for helping us renew friendships of the past!

FRIARS AT PADUA

Although Padua as a school has not existed for some time, the Assumption Province has maintained a friary at Padua to oversee the care of the buildings and grounds. All the friars currently at Padua were also stationed there at varying times during the years it operated as a high school. Rev. Joseph (Cherubin) Drag is currently the administrator. Fr. Joe has been at Padua since 1963. Rev. Austin Budnick (Lewinski) has been completing his PhD studies in the past few years and has been at Padua since 1952. Brother Casimir Orleanski is fondly remembered by all Paduans for his efforts at keeping us healthy since the beginning years of Padua. Brother Valerian Klodginski was stationed at Padua for several years in the 1950's and has been there since its closing as a school.



ABOVE: Bro. Casimir with some of his patients in the infirmary during the "good old days".



Bro. Valerian during coffee break at alumni reunion.



RIGHT: Bro. Casimir as a missionary to China

IN TRIBUTE

From the day Padua opened until the day it closed, there wasn't a single Paduan who didn't come to know and love Brother Casimir. His warmth, generosity, dedication to the Franciscan ideal and the boys he cared for, and his joy in living - so evident even today - make Brother Casimir truly one of Padua's "All Paduans". 78 years young, he still brings joy to our hearts and to everyone he meets. Brother Casimir, we salute you! Reprinted below is an article that appeared in the January 24, 1979 issue of the area's Catholic newspaper, the "Courier-Journal".

After 30 Years, Missionary Recalls China

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Watkins Glen—One resident of Watkins Glen had a special perspective on the recognition of mainland China by President Carter last month.

Brother Casimir Orieanski, OFM, who has spent the last 30 years at St. Anthony of Padua here, worked in China from 1932 until 1947.

A native of Poland, Brother Casimir joined the Franciscans in 1928. Now a citizen of the United States, the 78-year old's English is that of someone who knows other languages better.

"My humble opinion" on the recognition of mainland China, Brother Casimir said, is that "we lose face" by the recognition, in the sense of the Oriental "loss of face." The move meant that the United States gave "away their friend," he noted.

But, he added, the United States probably had to recognize mainland China for economic reasons, which he understands.

"Another thing," he added, the move is "a punch in the nose for the Russians."

While in China, Brother Casimir worked in the city of Hankow, for an Italian bishop there. For the first two years, he recounted, he studied Chinese and worked in a college.

In the seminary, he served as disciplinarian and as a nurse in the hospital. He assisted in operations and did other nursing duties there. He also taught the Franciscan prayers, in Latin, to the seminarians.

He liked working with the Chinese, he said, pointing out that they are a "humble people."

During the Japanese invasion of China, Brother Casimir said, each day he went through the Japanese lines and brought refugees back to the college. The Japanese soldiers, he explained, were taking the Chinese people's homes so they could live in them. The religious were issued identifying armbands, he said, and the soldiers respected them. But they often terrorized the refugees, he recalled.

During the entire time, the bombing was severe, he said, so that "you no care for your life you so exhaust."



After the war, when American soldiers came to Hankow, Brother Casimir said, one saw the work he was doing with the refugees and told him "I would not do for a million dollars." I said neither would I. But for God, I would do."

After the war his health was bad, he said, and he was sent to San Francisco to recover. He planned to return to China after his convalescence.

But "in the meantime, Mao Tse Tung closed the curtain, the bamboo curtain," he recounted, and he couldn't go back.

His superiors offered him a post in Japan, he said, but he had lived with the Japanese occupation for seven years, and he had no wish to go to that country.

So in 1949, he came to Watkins Glen to run the infirmary in the newly opening St. Anthony of Padua High School. The school operated for 22 years, closing in 1970. A private boarding school rented the facilities, and employed Brother Casimir for their infirmary, for two years.

Presently, Brother Casimir and two other Franciscans live in the

friary attached to the school overlooking the village of Watkins Glen. He also helps out in St. Mary of the Lake Parish downtown.

In 1969, during a visit to Warsaw, he met a diplomat in the Chinese embassy there, he said. The diplomat invited him to go to China, he said, and he had to tell him that as an American, he couldn't go to the mainland. They also talked about the threat of an atomic war, Brother Casimir said, and he said he was surprised by the man's reactions.

The diplomat told him that he was not afraid of an atomic war, Brother Casimir said. An atomic attack on Europe would kill its 200 million people, the diplomat said, and such an attack on China might kill 300 million.

That would leave 300 million Chinese survivors, the diplomat reasoned, and so there was no need to fear nuclear war.

"And that's an educated man," Brother Casimir exclaimed.

Asked if he would like to visit China now that Americans are able to, Brother Casimir isn't so sure. The archbishop was killed in the bombing, he explained, and a few years ago he learned that many of the seminarians he knew are either dead or have disappeared.

China is a "different world," he said, and now China probably is very different from the China he knew.

ATTENDANCE AT 1978 REUNION

- 1953 - Richard Chodnicki, Thomas Colihan
- 1954 - Joseph Kuchinski
- 1955 - Leonard Dmuchowski, John O'Connor (Honorary Member)
- 1956 - Joseph Tereskiewicz
- 1957 - Victor Franzese (Honorary Member), Thomas Miniciello (Honorary Member)
- 1958 - Stephen Kurpiel
- 1959 - Richard Uss, Joseph Strychasz
- 1960 - Kenneth Joswick, John Marcheski, Dennis McCarthy, Thomas Woj-slawowicz, Anthony Zembruski
- 1961 -
- 1962 - Joseph Lubonski
- 1963 - Michael Asiello, Roland Benedek, John Grysza
- 1964 - Lester Siudy, Marion Srokosz
- 1965 - John Ambrosone
- 1966 - Mark Kiefer, Thomas Malina, Daniel Poplawski
- 1967 - Joseph Bartnikiewicz, Anthony Dabrowski, Christopher Franzese, Donald Prelich, Martin Rembisz, Reginald Stanczyk, Andrew Zawoyski
- 1968 - Vincent Burcz, Paul Lesczynski, Richard Prelich, Dennis Wojno
- 1969 - Kevin Skislock
- 1970 - James Carney, Charles Cronin, Rudolph Fusco, James Gomiela, Thomas Manning, Joseph Romelczyk, Gregory Sipski, Daniel Tillman, Peter Widynski, Anthony Yannetta

(If we have made any mistakes in the above listing, we apologize and ask for your help in correcting it.)

GYM LEASED

Paduans will be interested to know that the gym building has been cleaned and painted in preparation for useage by the Scuyler County Association for the Retarded. The group has leased the building as a sheltered workshop under the name of "Glen Industries". Further repairs and renovations are being undertaken prior to the beginning of the project in which thirty retarded persons are eventually expected to participate on a full-time basis. A staff of around ten people will work with these mentally retarded or developmentally disabled persons to provide vocational and personal growth training.

The program will offer Schuyler County residents who are retarded employment possibilities through both sheltered workshop industries and contract employment with the community at large. Mr. James Wilson has been hired as executive director of the private non-profit agency which is expected to begin its full program as soon as grant funds are released from the state.

NOTE OF EXPLANATION

At present, our mailing list primarily includes only Paduans who actually graduated and whose current addresses we have. Other alumni, Paduans who did not actually graduate, and friends of Padua who are interested in being on the mailing list are urged to contact the secretary.