

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for St. Anthony of Padua Alumni

Vol. 12 No. 1, November, 2019

## From the Backup Editor's Laptop

The 2019 Alumni Reunion held August 8-11, 2019 will go down as three great days for various reasons, not the least that God and the weatherman gave us three sun sparkling days for reminiscing and enjoying each other's company. This year was of course the 50th celebration for the class of 1969 that had a class of nineteen graduates and spearheading the team was Garret Dikun and Witlod Plucienkowski. A total of four of their classmates have passed away; Donald Breault, Alan Ratkowski, Edward Scarp and Gerald Silkiewicz. May they and all other deceased Paduans rest in peace.

A total of just under 50 people participated with a representative from almost every class.

Thursday evening everyone that had already made it up to Watkins and the Longhouse were treated to a fabulous BBQ prepared by the dynamic team of Joseph Biernat and August Kuklinski.

Friday night was a great sit-down dinner and followed Saturday night by a another great dinner after a Mass celebrated by our own Friar, Fr. Joel Szydowski, class of 58, and on both nights rousing renditions

of 'Sto Lat' rocked the restaurant. At the Saturday night gathering, John Mielnik on behalf of the Reunion Committee made special presentations to alumni who have had a major impact in keeping the spirit of the school alive.



*Smiling faces of Joe and Carmen Barstys, Robert and Ricia Swillo, John Uss and Anne Stribling, Joseph and Nancy Strychasz, Tom and Stephanie Uss after a great meal at Seneca Harbor Station.*

Barbara Malina wife of the late Tom Malina ('66) was our resident go-to person in Watkins arranging for our meals at the Seneca Harbor Station and taking the necessary steps to secure St. Mary of the Lake and a pianist for our mass.

Saturday evening after dinner most alumni returned to the Lodge and watched 2 short videos of Padua during the period of 1967 through 1969 which highlighted some fun filled moments of years past.

Plan to attend the Reunion in 2020. The dates for next year are August 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Plan accordingly especially as the NASCAR races will be the week after our reunion. This change may put rooms at a premium as teams and sponsors will possibly arrive early to setup. Charles Cronin and Rudolph Fusco of the class'70 will be the point men welcoming alumni of all classes and their families at the 2020 reunion.

### 2019 Reunion Attendees

Class of '55:

Dmuchowski Leonard, Uss John

Class of '56:

Asiello John, Opiola , Edward

Class of '57

Barstys Joseph

Class of '58:

Fr. Szydowski Joel, Uss Michael

Class of '59:

Strychasz1 Joseph, Swillow Robert, Uss Tom

Class of '62

Kurpiel Walter, LaSalle John, Mielnik John

Class of '63:

Asiello Michael,

Class of '66:

Kiefer Mark, Malina Barbara

Class of '67:

Franzese Chris, Serzan Vince

Class of '68:

Biernat Joseph, Vincent Burcz, Kuklinski

August, Lesczynski Paul

Class of '69:

Dikun Garret, Plucienkowski Witold

Class of '70:

Cronin Charles, Fusco Rudolph, Malina Edward

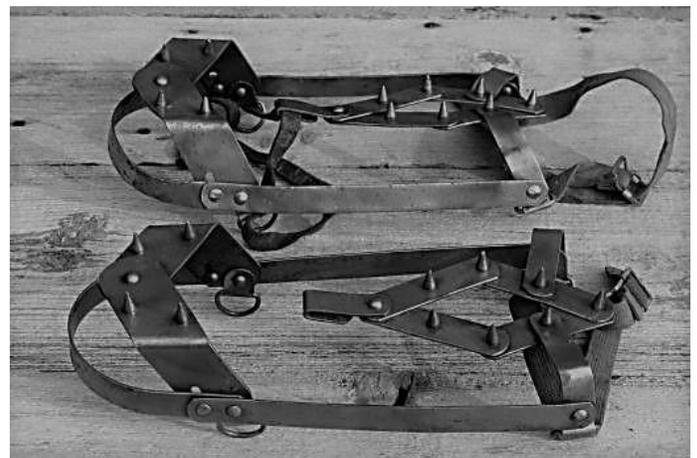
Coach:

Chamberlain Doug

### You Did What?

You're in your senior year and it's just before Christmas you're going home for the holidays on the Phoebe Snow from Elmira to Hoboken, NJ. You and 3 of your closest classmates/friends find an area away from the others on the train because you will be brainstorming for the final stages of your next great adventure that will cap the 4 years at Padua.

We've talked about this hair-brained venture on and off since September but now we agree that we'll do it. However, the when will have to wait and be a last-minute decision. We make up a list of items that are needed for this to even get off the ground and plan to meet next Saturday in NYC on the SW corner of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk around for a while then go to one of the small steak houses like the Ponderosa for lunch (el cheap). After lunch we'll make our way down to Canal Street near Lafayette Street and check out some war surplus stores for items on the list.



*Army surplus crampons*

We all arrive in Hoboken go our merry way and just as planned we meet in NYC the following Saturday have lunch and only two of us go down to Canal Street the other 2 go back to Brooklyn and Queens.

On Canal Street we find a store that has army surplus crampons; a traction device that is attached to footwear to improve mobility on snow and ice. They also had some army



*Army surplus mittens*

surplus trigger mittens with leather palms and wool liners, like new. So, of course we purchase one of these, two of those, an ice pick and head back to New Jersey.

A week later were heading back to Padua and have a few hours to discuss our plans for the great adventure along with showing off our purchases to the rest of the team and in addition the 2 hanks of twisted manila hemp rope that I purchased.

We're back at school and everything is normal except for the seasonal change - it's cold and there is an abundance of snow. So now we add ice skating to our activities thanks to Br. Tim along with tobogganing down the golf course or skiing on the trail.

Now one or two individuals start questioning this adventurous idea; what if we get caught, what if something goes wrong? The answer from the remaining members was simple, we are not getting caught and nothing is going wrong. We now had to move 2 hanks of rope from the dorms to the gym and not get caught doing that. We didn't even want other classmates or students to know because of the

fear of that adage 'loose lips sink ships' could put our plans in peril. It's like everyone walked around Padua with this 75 or 100 ft bulk of rope. Somehow, we were able to move the rope making it from my room, down the corridor, down the flights of stairs, out of the building, up the walk, into the gym and into 2 different lockers without getting caught.



*Manila rope*

Saturday on WENY, 1230 on the AM dial out of Elmira has Sunday as being seasonably cold with bright and sunny skies. We pass the information to each other and decide that tomorrow will be the day. Sunday starts out like every other Sunday; mass, breakfast and a little bit of book time and its already lunch. So we make it to the refectory, two of the team are seated at the same table in the dining room while the others are spread amongst the other tables but everyone on the team knows that as soon as the meal is over move, get to the room, get your coat, hat, gloves and whatever else was needed and make it to the gym.

We're all on the way making haste but not enough to cause suspicion as 3 members are going to go around the far side of the gym while 2 of us are going in to retrieve the 2

hanks of rope and I take my pair of Puma track shoes. We all meet up above and behind the gym and start heading toward the cemetery. We eventually reach and pass through the cemetery and now are looking for a specific landmark that will take us to the starting point of our adventure. At this point you must realize by the direction we are traveling we are headed to the Glen. At this time the Glen is closed for the winter to all visitors because it wasn't safe for the public.

This landmark was established months prior by team members as means of placing us in a position above the Glen that was the closest to the trail below and had a narrow crack or rift in the wall similar to a crevasse



*Beautiful but so dangerous*

that would allow us to shimmy down with the help of the rope and of course to get out. Well as you might guess we found the spot. At this point there are 5 of us, the Savage is not going

in with the team. His sole job is to know where we went in, in the event we don't make it back for study hall prior to supper and then tell the faculty what we did.

We all took our time and made it down to the area below the rim to one of the walking trails at which time I put on my Puma track shoes. The Beak and Guy put on the crampon we picked up in NYC and we start to walk on a sheet of ice. Everything is a sheet of ice. Along the trails where there were short walls, well the tops of those eighteen-inch-high walls were now equal with the path we were walking or below because of all the ice that layered and accumulated. We all grabbed a place on that manila rope for safety (at least we thought so) and started a slow walk deeper into the Glen with me in the lead. The walls glistened as the sun peaked into the canyon as most were ice glazed from the natural moisture found in the glen and then there it was our first obstacle, a stalagmite jutting up from the trail and so large in diameter that it went from the wall past the edge and over the wall into the glen itself. This irregular formation had to be at least ten foot in diameter on the path we were on and four foot for most of its height which was impressive.

At this point I took out my ice pick and started hacking toe and hand holes into the column while tied about my waist with our trusty rope. Once finished I was on the opposite side of the stalagmite and now one by one each member made his way around utilizing the rope as a safety.

It wasn't long before we made it to another obstacle this time it was a beautiful stalactite that acted like a prism with all the colors of the rainbow glowing thru it. This object is hanging from a slight overhang in the wall and just built up and at some point in time as

it had increased in diameter it bonded itself ice overhang to the wall halfway down its length. This formation was somewhat easier



*A little tight walking/crawling under that ice*

to navigate around then the first as its diameter at the path wasn't jutting over and into the glen. So we made it past our first two obstacles and now looking up the trail there was three and four that we could see and they were huge stalactites, both larger than the first one we encountered and what may have been a fifth but too difficult to see fully. Decision time, do we continue or call it quits. I for one thought we had done great seeing things that others have never seen and my feet were freezing, remember I'm wearing these doe skin Puma track shoes. I believed we all thought the same of our accomplishments.

So, we turn around and start our way back. It's slow, it's cooler than it was when we



*The glen's water almost frozen solid.*

started and it seems everyone is content until Wally said, "what if someone made it to our landmark and pulled up the rope". Well there was nothing we could do till we reached the point where we entered the glen and we did and yes, the rope was there. We shimmied up and out of the glen, I put on my boots and we made our way back to the gym but first dropping off the bulkier items a safe distance away. We all refreshed ourselves and made it back to the school. Savage was a total wreck from worry but so grateful to see us back safe and sound.

### **Padua Genealogies: Family and Parish**

The last issue of The Paduan (June 1970, vol 21, no. 2, pp. 2-3) included a piece by "an extremely biased historian" which proposed the MalUssina Theory as central to Padua over its 21 years of existence. Padua officially opened in Fall 1949 and closed in June 1970. During this interval, a member and at times several members of the Malina and Uss families were students at Padua, except for the 1961-1962 school year during which cousin Jim Kaczmarek was enrolled. All completed their high school education at

Padua, in addition to two other cousins. The family lineage at Padua, perhaps the “MalUssKacz”, was as follows:

Joseph Malina – 1949-1953 (deceased)  
Robert Malina, John Uss – 1951-1955  
Michael Uss – 1955-1958  
Francis (Tom) Uss – 1956 (Jan)-1959,  
Richard Uss (cousin, 1955-1959)  
George Uss – 1957-1961 (deceased)  
James Kaczmarek – 1959-1963  
Thomas Malina – 1962-1966 (deceased),  
Mark Kiefer (cousin, Kaczmarek)  
Edward Malina – 1966-1970

The roots of this lineage trace to two immigrants from rural north-central Poland, Michał Wesołowski from the village of Biskupie near Ślesin, and Prakseda Rakowska from the village of Rogowo in the district of Rypiń. Both arrived independently in the U.S., specifically Williamsburg (Brooklyn), which was a haven for new Polish immigrants early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prakseda lived with her older brother (to my generation, Wuja Alex) who worked at the Domino Sugar Refinery, which is now a Williamsburg landmark. Michał also worked at the refinery; thus the relationship perhaps had its roots in sugar. Our grandparents married in 1912 and subsequently had eight children. Of relevance, three Wesołowski daughters, Agnes (John Uss), Mary (Joseph Malina) and Sophie (Andrew Kaczmarek) were the mothers of the sequence of brothers/cousins who attended Padua throughout its brief history.

A question of interest is the following: How was Padua brought to the attention of the Malina family and eventually others in the family? This can be traced to Brother Edward Kraszewski, OFM, who recruited youngsters for the Franciscan school in

Sturtevant, Wisconsin (St. Bonaventure) and eventually for Padua. Brother Edward was born in Buffalo in 1897 and was the vocational director of the Assumption Province of the Franciscan Friars (OFM). How he identified the Malina family as a source of recruits is not known to me. It probably can be traced to our Polish parish in Williamsburg – Our Lady of Consolation, which had its roots in 1909-1910, and which was built to accommodate the relatively large numbers of Polish immigrants into this section of Brooklyn. It can, perhaps, also be related to a personal link – a graduate of the Our Lady of Consolation parochial school, Fr. Adalbert Kalenty, OFM. The Kalenty and Malina families were neighbors at 136 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street, across from Our Lady of Consolation in the late 1930s and early 1940s (the Malina’s moved around the corner to a larger apartment at 119 Grand Street in 1944). Brother Edward recruited the oldest Malina, John (Bruce) to attend St. Bonaventure in the Fall of 1947. I personally recall my brother’s departure for Wisconsin from Penn Station and cried like a baby when he left!

Shortly thereafter, Brother Edward recruited the next Malina, Joe, who was a member of the inaugural class of Padua in 1949. This was soon followed by myself and John Uss. I do not recall having a choice; it was assumed that I would attend Padua. In the process, Brother Edward contacted other families in the neighborhood and recruited others from Our Lady of Consolation to Padua. Brother Edward regularly visited Williamsburg, other parts of Brooklyn and Queens, and the New York City region which had communities of Polish ancestry. This included the Uss brothers at St. Adalbert’s in

Elmhurst (Queens). The rest is, as often noted, history!

As an aside, Fr. Richard Tulko, OFM noted the role of our father (Joseph Malina) as a recruiter. In a recent e-mail, Richard indicated the following: “I remember your dad being a great recruiter for Padua. I remember being packed into his car for the long 8-hour drive from Brooklyn to Watkins Glen. We spent a week picking cherries, drinking Bro. Anselm’s “bug juice” (Kool Aid) and having a wonderful time.” This trip and others were in the summers before we were enrolled at Padua (see also the comment of John Pilch, class of 1954, in The Paduan Alumni Newsletter 7, no. 1, May 2014, pp 1-3).



In addition to recruiting youth to attend Padua, Brother Edward played an additional and vital role. He recruited donors to provide the tuition for the three older Malina’s (and likely the tuition of others) to attend Padua. There was no way that our parents could afford to send three sons to a prep school, let alone a boarding school. The woman who paid my tuition (at the time, \$1600 for four

years) was Mrs. Frances Walsh from Kearney, New Jersey, and I am forever grateful to her! Talking to John Pilch (class of 1954) several years ago, he indicated that Mrs. Walsh also paid his tuition for Padua. The women who paid the tuition of my brothers John (Bruce) at St. Bonaventure and Joe at Padua were, respectively, Mrs. Biniaszewska and Mrs. Sopran. The younger Malina’s, Tom and Ed, also had no choice but to attend Padua, but neither Ed nor I know the financial details. However, Joe completed his PhD in 1961 and I completed my initial PhD in 1963, so that we were both able to help our mother to some extent. I would suspect there are other Paduans with similar stories.

The Our Lady of Consolation parochial school in Williamsburg, affectionately known as OLC, is also represented throughout Padua’s 21 years of existence. Graduates of the OLC parochial school included the four Malina brothers who are represented in 14 years at Padua, and the four Tulko brothers who are represented in 12 continuous years at Padua, forming a “MalTulkOLC” lineage:

Joseph Malina – 1949-1953 (deceased)  
Robert Malina, Richard Tulko – 1951-1955  
Thomas Tulko – 1952-1956 (deceased)  
Anthony Tulko – 1955-1959 (deceased)  
John Tulko – 1959-1963 (deceased)  
Thomas Malina – 1962-1966 (deceased)  
Edward Malina – 1966-1970

Other OLC graduates who attended Padua were:

Frank Czajkowski (1949-1953),  
Lenny Dmuchowski (1951-1955),  
Paul Golinski (1952-1956),  
Joe Tereskiewicz) (1952-1956),  
John Sowa (1956-1960),  
Adam Pyka (1966-1970)  
John Rybak (1966-1970)

Robert Orzechowski (1966-1970).  
(Unfortunately, I am not certain if my brother Tom had OLC classmates who attended Padua.)

The St. Adalbert parochial school in Elmhurst is also well represented in Padua's relatively brief existence. The four Uss brothers spanned 10 continuous years at Padua (1951-1961) and overlapped with cousin, Jim Kaczmarek (1959-1963). Others from St Adalbert included Tom Waszak (1952-1956) and John Golubowicz (1955-1959). Robert Swillo and Edward Wendol [Wendolowski] (1955-1959) and Stanley Wendol [Wendolowski] (1958-1962) were from Holy Cross parish in Maspeth, adjacent to Elmhurst.

No story is ever complete as each of us has different memories and perceptions of our time at Padua. I apologize if I overlooked any essential details and take responsibility for any errors. We are grateful to our parents and families, to those who facilitated our attendance, and of course, for our school mates, the many good teachers and the always friendly and helpful

Brothers at Padua.

By Robert M. Malina with the input of Frank (Tom), Mike and John Uss, Jim Kaczmarek, Ed Malina and Fr. Richard Tulko, OFM

### **Thomas Peter Kelley Class of 56**

Thomas Peter Kelley, age 81, of Silver Spring, MD, passed away on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Thomas was the beloved husband of the late Mary Ann Hayes Kelley; brother of Jack (Trina) Kelley.

Prior to his marriage he served for 33 years as a Priest in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C.

Visitation was at the Collins Funeral Home, 500 University Boulevard West, Silver Spring, MD, Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>. A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the Church of the Resurrection at Riderwood Village, Silver Spring, MD, with interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery on October 7<sup>th</sup>.



**It should be noted that Tony Specian '66 the Paduan editor and individual behind the Paduan email site has been ill for months and the that the activities are being handled by other members of the Paduan Staff.**

#### **Paduan Staff**

John LaSalle '62, John Mielnik '62, Barb Malina '66, Tony Specian 66, Joseph Biernat '68, August Kuklinski, 68





3rd Annual Metro Area  
Padua Alumni Christmas Party

Friday 12/06/19

12:00 Noon

Royal Warsaw Restaurant

871 River Drive

Elwood Park NJ 07407

201 794-9277

(conveniently located off Route 80)

\$60.00 per person

(all inclusive)

Please join your fellow NY-NJ-PA-CT metro alumni for a Gala Christmas luncheon.

RSVP by email or call:

John LaSalle at [jfl416@aol.com](mailto:jfl416@aol.com) (516 987-6650)

or

John Mielnik at [mielnik.j@gmail.com](mailto:mielnik.j@gmail.com) (570 470-2565)

Last year we had almost thirty people and all are welcome!





