

## From the Editor's laptop

We are now into our 4<sup>th</sup> year. I'd like to thank all those that have submitted articles. It is your input that gives content and interest in the ever-evolving Alumni Paduan. This issue was a difficult issue for me. My employer had cutbacks this past year. I was fortunate to get past the cut but as a result my workload and responsibilities have drastically increased and my free time and family time have felt the pressures. If any one would like to volunteer to help with the editing please let me know. This issue we are paying tribute to Fr. Claude, Padua's Rector from 1949 to 1960. Next issue I'd like to try something different with the Tributes and Memories. There are only a few friars that all Paduans can relate to: Frs. Austin, Emil, Albin and Henry along with Bro's Casimir, Timothy, Alphonse, Marius and Gabriel. Next issue we'll feature Brother Casimir. Please submit your anecdotal/humorous account in a short paragraph or two about Bro Casimir. If that works out we'll feature another Friar from the list above in a future issue.

Please send them to me at: [paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com) or to my return address.

## Reunion 2011

The reunion is planned for the weekend of August 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Class of 1961 will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup>. Other milestones include the class of 1956's 55<sup>th</sup> and class of 1966's 45<sup>th</sup>.

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for St. Anthony of Padua Alumni

Vol. 4 No.1 May 2011



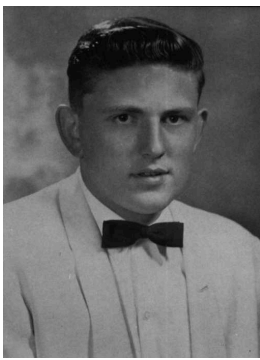
Library Trustee Award recipient Ed Wendol with Suffolk Cooperative Library System director Kevin Verbese

## Paduan Receives Recognition Award

The Library Trustees Association of New York State presented Paduan Alumnus Class of 59 Ed (Wendolowski) Wendol, with it's "Outstanding Trustee Award" for 2010. Ed has been a member of the Comsewogue Public Library Board of Trustees since 1972. For the past 38 years, Ed Wendol has been a dedicated elected trustee who is a passionate advocate for the Comsewogue Public Library, in Port Jefferson Station. Ed is a retired English teacher believes in libraries and the possibilities that libraries provide for their communities

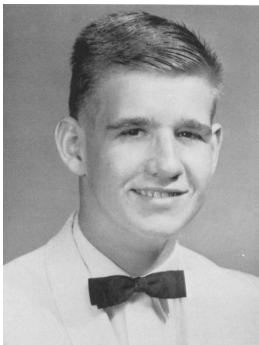
During the 1990's Ed as a member of the board of trustees along with the library administration championed legislation enabling the Dormitory Authority of New York State to fund public library constructions. The Comsewogue Public Library under this new legislation was renovated and expanded from its original 25,000 sq ft to approximately 50,000 sq ft. proudly providing library services to the community residents of the Comsewogue, Miller Place, and Mount Sinai school districts. In addition to serving on the Comsewogue Public Library Board of Trustees, Ed has served on the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System for eight years. He was elected to this position by the Library Boards of public libraries within the town of Brookhaven as their Suffolk county-wide representative.

Ed has never served for personal gain. His boundless energy has also led him to such pursuits as a long time member of the Port Jefferson Station-Terryville Civic Association, the PJS-T Chamber of Commerce, and the Polish American Independent Club of Port Jefferson Station. Throughout his years of voluntary service, Ed has received prestigious recognition and awards. In 2002 he was awarded the Polish American World's Citizen of the year for all of Suffolk County and in 2003, the Port Times Record newspaper honored Ed with their Man of the Year for Civics award.



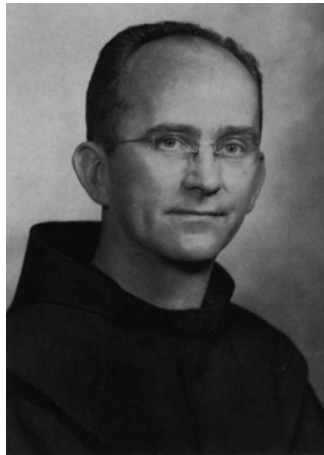
**In Memory**

Bernard F. Martin "Bernie" (Class of 1960), 68, a life long resident of Bayonne, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, November 4, 2010, at home with his wife Jean by his side. Bernie was born the son of the late Bernard J. and Helen. He was a school teacher for the Hoboken and Bayonne Board of Education. Bernie was a member of the Hoboken Elks Lodge #74 and a Graduate of Seton Hall University year 1964. He is survived by his devoted wife Jean; god-son John Ryan; brother Stanley; and a special brother-in-law Thomas Meehan. The funeral was on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 with a 9:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial from Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Bayonne. He will be laid to rest at Madonna Cemetery, Fort Lee.



Alexander Ostaszewski –(Class of 1964) Alexander Ostaszewski from Keyport, NJ - Alexander was born on April 23, 1947 and passed away on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Alexander resided in Union Beach NJ and was a Retired New York City Transit Officer. Alex was a member of the Holy Family Church Union Beach. He is survived by wife MaryAnn 2 daughters; and 2 grandsons and a granddaughter.

**TRIBUTE AND MEMORIES**  
**Fr. Claude Zabinski 6/12/14 -7/21/99**  
**Served as Rector from 1949 to 1960.**  
**Started his Fransiscan life in 1932 in Pulaski, Wi. He completed his Philosophical studies in St. Francis College, Burlington and Theological studies in Green Bay Wi. He taught at St. Bonaventure Minor Seminary Sturtevant W. before serving as Rector At Padua. Had and a poodle dog named Tony and a parrot named Lorreta (given to Fr Claude by Fr. Shannon, of St. Mary's parish in Watkins Glen, in the spring of 1960. Unfortunately, Fr. Claude was transferred that summer to Philadelphia, so most Paduans never knew the parrot.)**



**Fr. Claude, the early years.**

By John Pilch, 'Class of 1954  
I attended Padua from 1950 to 1954. Fr. Claude, the first rector, also taught algebra, geometry and trigonometry. My recollection is that I had Fr. Emil for algebra, but Fr. Claude taught us geometry and trigonometry. Most impressive about him as a teacher was that he'd come to class, place the text-book on the desk, and then proceed to work out the problem on the board without ever consulting the book. We didn't know then that he had been teaching that same textbook for a long while before coming to Padua.

Since all the priests were gone on week-ends for parish ministry in

neighboring towns. Fr. Claude always celebrated the Sunday high mass. His sermons were well prepared and eloquently delivered. He had a favorite phrase, however, which we all caught on to and repeated (behind his back of course): "you may rest assured..."

He was austere looking and a firm disciplinarian. I learned about a different side to Fr. Claude from one of my father's former teachers. My father was born in America but educated in Poland by the Jesuits. Fr. Antoni Makiel, SJ, one of his former teachers was now stationed in Chicago (North Avers Avenue) and conducted parish missions and retreats in Polish parishes across the US and Canada. When he would visit my parish in Brooklyn, he would always visit our home. My father told him I was in Padua, and my rector was a very strict Fr. Claude. Fr. Makiel roared with laughter when he heard that Claude was "strict." He knew Claude well from Chicago. They used to play pinochle together. When I shared this with Fr. Claude, he said: "Oh yes, Tony Makiel. I remember him well. We used to play cards together."

So he also had a kind side for students. To the parents and townspeople he was quite the outgoing person. He befriended the businessmen in town to the benefit of the school. For example, Mr Slobodnyak, the owner of the dairy, hired some of us to sell ice cream at the Grand Prix races. Our area of the course was "Friars' Curve." I recall him complaining that he didn't make a profit that year, but I honestly don't remember eating or giving that much ice cream away. Clearly, my career was not headed for the business world.

One of my jobs was to clean his office which also included buffing the floors of the chapel, the hall, and the guest parlor. I don't recall whether I also went into the building to do the refectory and the other corridors. I

learned that the back office had cigarettes and a well-stocked refrigerator. This was not only for guests that he entertained, but also for the Friars who come to relax there after class. I don't recall whether it happened during my years, but the story was that some student(s) crawled through the office transom to steal cigarettes.

Perhaps like many students, we were turned on by Fr. Albin and science. We enjoyed his classes and became very friendly and trusting of him. During one class in our junior year, we were chatting with him in class quite frankly about the school, the program, the discipline, and our frustrations. He listened attentively. We didn't have class at all that day; he just let us talk. The next time Fr. Claude came to class, he put the textbook on the desk as usual. However, he didn't begin working out a problem on the board. Instead he faced us and asked: "Well, what do you have to say?" We were surprised and puzzled. He continued: "You surely had a lot to say to Fr. Albin." And he went on from there repeating the complaints we had shared with Fr. Albin. I don't recall whether anyone answered his questions or responded to his reports. His scolding lasted for the entire class, but our trust had been shattered both in Fr. Claude and in Fr. Albin.

With my class, however, he did redeem himself. We had lobbied for a class trip to Washington, DC or to New York City. He (and the faculty, we gather) were not in favor. I think they were concerned about costs, insurance, chaperones, etc., etc. Instead, the school was taken for a picnic to Toughanock Falls, New York. It was a park, and when we arrived, we wondered what we would do there? After lunch, the faculty went off to a local golf course for a few rounds. What were we to do? The majority of my senior class decided we'd walk to the nearest

town and buy some beer. We did, and as we walked back toward the park along the highway, we were chugging our bottles of beer. Cars were whizzing by, but one car slowed down as it passed. Those of us who looked at the car saw Fr. Claude's face looking out the rear window. We were caught, but we were still a long way from the picnic grounds.

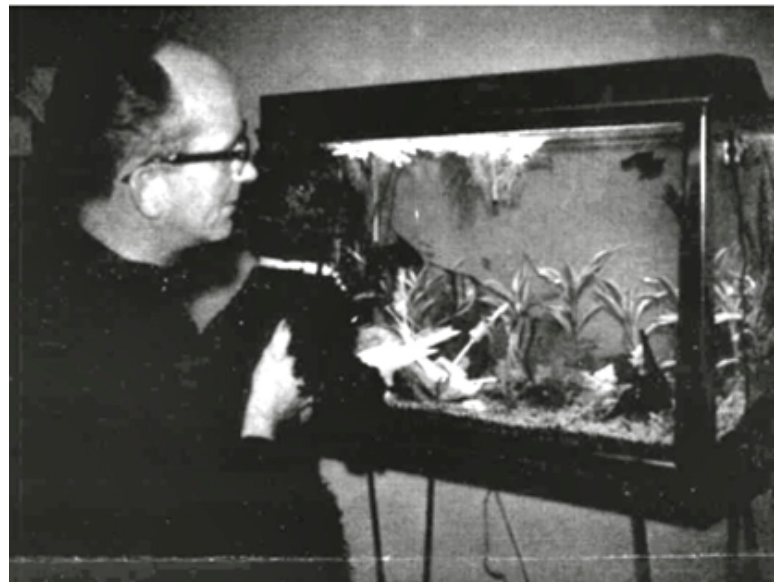
Shortly thereafter, another car stopped and offered us a ride. We took it. I'm sure Fr. Claude and the others in their car were surprised to see us back at the Falls so soon after passing us on the road. A soft-ball game between the faculty and the students began, and everything seemed "normal." No one was inebriated.

I don't recall whether it was that evening or the next day that we were summoned to Fr. Claude's office. He reamed us out, but no one dared speak up. He said that he and the faculty would have to consider expulsion. We were quite frightened, but took some hope in the knowledge that only one member of the class was not involved: Ed O'Neil. Graduation was about a month away, and we wondered whether we'd all be expelled and only Ed would graduate. Eventually (don't recall when), he summoned us back and said the decision was not to expel

us. We were understandably relieved.

As the school year wound down, Fr. Claude held an annual awards banquet. Athletic letters were awarded, medals for academic achievement, etc. He'd invite the businessmen and important people from town asking those who had daughters our age to bring them, too. He would assign us as escorts to the young women. I think I was class president that year, so I gave the requisite speech. In my speech I remember admitting that we were probably not the best of classes at Padua (mine was the second graduating class!). We had our faults, but we were committed and loyal to Padua and grateful for the education and training we had received. Fr. Claude was genuinely appreciative of the comments.

At graduation, I received the Optime Merenti Medal (academic achievement), and Ed O'Neil, the only one who did not participate in our caper at the Falls, received the Pro Excellentia Morum Medal (for good behavior). Ed was deserving and not just because he didn't join the rest of us. In sum, my memories of Fr. Claude in the early years was that he was an effective Rector, a good teacher, a fair disciplinarian, but he



Fr Claude and poodle Tony observe tropical fish in the fish tank

had a good human side when it was important to show it.

John LaSalle (Class of '62) recalls student's referred to Fr. Claude as the "light in the forrest" because of the reflectiveness of his bald head. His memorable quote was "Oh, Come on now boys !" and Tony was an obnoxious mutt.

John Gryszan and Mike Asiello (Class of 63) were both freshman in Fr Claude's last year at Padua. John relates that they called him the "Beacon" because of his bald head. His parrot Loretta was kept in the lobby, and students would try to teach her swear words. His poodle Tony was always at Fr Claude's side whenever he walked the grounds. Mike Asiello recalled that when his great Uncle passed away, Fr Claude gave him 2 days off to attend the funeral. Fr. Claude sat with him for several hours waiting for Mike's Parents to pick him up. Both Fr Claude and Fr Hyacinth were remembered as strict disciplinarians by the class of '63. Fr Hyacinth seemed more outgoing with the students in general.

## Sports

### Here comes Speed Racer

By Alan Costich Class of 1966

How it Started: I didn't know it then, but during my last three years at Padua, every summer I'd go to The Glen to watch three races: The Can-Am, the Trans-Am and the Formula One.

I started my freshman year of college at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and, of course, without much effort on my part, I managed to flunk out after only three semesters.

At that time, the war was raging in Vietnam. Having no deferment, your Uncle snapped me right up. I spent two years as an instructor in the Signal school at Fort



Alan Costich "Now" in Car # 68 parades down Main St Watkins Glen

Gordon, Georgia, and then a year in Vietnam. When I returned home, I got a job working for Xerox.

I purchased an MGB and managed to drive it into the ground. It was pretty clapped out to begin with, but what did I know?

Went back to King's college, got good grades, and after a year transferred to RIT in the College of Business where I produced even better grades. Got married, got a great job working for Hewlett-Packard, had a daughter, got divorced and after nineteen years, got laid off from HP. Bought another MGB (and that's another story!). Bought 1967 Triumph TR4A and went to The Glen for an open track day around 1986. Came home from that event, and it convinced me I did not have the demeanor to be a race car driver.

I started volunteering to help out a tech for the Sportscar and Vintage Racing Association in September at The Glen. I watched all these old, gray-haired guys with their old MG's having such a good time. I figured I could do that, too. During one of those weekends, sitting on the porch at Log Cabin at Seneca Lodge, we got to talking what-if's.

Let me digress. About once a year for ten years, I looked into a friend's barn at an MGB that someone had started to build into a race car. And every year I'd badger the owner about



Alan "back when"

selling me the project car. After, I was laid off from HP, I had a pocket full of bucks and the owner needed a new pump for his well. I was able (actually, his wife and I: he was out of town) to strike a deal. Money changed hands and I grabbed the project car and parked it in my barn for about a year.

I did a two-day drivers' school at The Glen and couldn't get enough of it. I finished the project race car, obtained my competition license, and have been racing the car at circuits on the East Coast for about ten years. What I didn't know then was that I had always wanted to drive a race car. Should you happen to be at The Glen the weekend after Labor Day for the Vintage, come around and say Hi. MGB GT White #68

Editors Note: All Paduans remember the fun times we had in the winter speeding down the hills either skiing, sledding or tobogganing. Alan, as well as his classmates, enjoyed these activities. However we did observe that Alan had a yearning for more speed. In the winter we all had figure or hockey skates; Alan had speed skates. In the spring Alan pushed speed to the limit on the hills with his skateboard. One can imagine a skateboard on the Padua property and begin to appreciate Alan's love of racing.



Fr. Tomian (Tom Uss '59) lays up an easy one against the flat footed defense of the Philadelphia Phillies at Ryan H.S. in a charity game . Tom claims we let them win.

### Things to do when Visiting Watkins Glen

by John Mielnik

How far and how much will it cost to Drive to [Watkins Glen](#)?

Yes the [Glen](#) is still there and open.

Museums: [Corning Museum of Glass](#), [Glenn Curtiss Museum](#)

Cruises: [Captain Bill's Seneca Cruises](#),

[Seneca Day Sails](#) , [Esperanza Rose](#)

Shopping: [The Windmill](#), [Waterloo Premium Outlets](#), [Waterloo Market](#)

Street – [Corning](#)

Places to Dine: [Castle Grisch](#) ; [Edgar's](#)

in [Belhurst Castle](#) ; [Seneca Harbor Station](#)

Places to Stay: [Villager Motel](#) , [Idlwilde Inn](#), [Glen Harbor Hotel](#),

[Longhouse Lodge](#)

[10 \\$ Seneca Wine](#) tour

### Padua Prep Website

Webmaster Chad Orłowski has continued to redesign the [paduaprep.com](#) website with new content including a new look to the Bulletin Board. It has the option to enter the site with the nostalgic/ vintage look as we remember it, or to enter the site through an ultra-modern design.

### Remnants of Padua

The buildings are gone. The friars are gone. The memories are beginning to fade. But the remnants of Padua remain.

It wasn't the buildings, historically significant as they were. It wasn't the friars, some of whose example lingers longer than others. And the memories vary by class and perspective.

But every now and then I realize what Padua really meant for me. Influence. Training. Molding. Inspiring. Teaching me to think beyond the norm, and to be more than the norm.

So that I can appreciate, value, support, and marvel at my Hungarian friend Steve's efforts on [www.bookofkindness.com](#). That having lost everything he continues to GIVE, cheerfully.

So that I can ponder the deep truths contained in the concepts of The Quantum Hologram (an intricate, elaborate, and detailed explanation of the notion that we are all connected); and of Sensitive Dependence on Initial Conditions (i.e., the Butterfly Effect: if a butterfly flaps its wings once in Tokyo today, it may cause a hurricane in Brazil next year); that all of creation (everything) is a vibration; that **all** (everything) is there **all** the time, and simply manifests to us depending on our focus, as in a kaleidoscope (with thanks to Gregg Brader's "Speaking the Lost Language of God").

So that I can marvel and be grateful for the love and support that I continue to get from my classmates (Charlie, Wayne, Don and all of them), whose friendship was there, unwavering after 40+ years, not missing a beat, uplifting me in my sorrows and joys along life's path.

God bless you all. God bless Padua and all it means to me, even in its remnants, and for all it allows me to be, even today.

- Reggie Stanczyk, Class of '67



South entrance of the Glenn Springs Hotel

## Looking for Padua Friars

Here is a list of all remaining friars from Padua that we are aware of. If we have missed anyone, please let us know. Those with an asterisk by their name we have contact with. If you have an address or email on any of the others please let us know. Also, we would like to do a mini-feature on each one of them for the next issue, so send us your anecdotes, stories, tributes etc. on any of them for inclusion in the next issue.

Bertrand Bluma (ex)

Mel Baran (ex)

Benjamin Falkowski (ex)

George Jaskulski \*

Liguori Mierzwiak\* (in nursing home with alzheimers)

Placid Stroik \*

Leonard Stunek

Tom Uss \*

Brendan Wroblewski \*

Gabriel Zulka

In Memory Fr. Reynold  
(Adrian) Jarecki.

Obituary from the Provincial  
Newsletter [No 135 July 8 2010](#)

Fr. Reynold Jarecki : 7/8/10

Paduans from 1966-1970 remember Fr. Reynold as science teacher, class advisor, and model of the patience of Job in the midst of their teasing. It is with sadness that we note that we missed news of his passing to eternal life on July 8, 2010. A tall, strong outdoorsman and down to earth builder with his hands, Fr. Reynold suffered in his later years from multiple strokes that complicated and multiplied his medical problems. We can only rejoice that he is now in the heavenly company of his fellow friars and Paduans who have passed from this life.

I remember with fondness a camping/fishing trip that Reynold, Austin, Br. Martin, John Mlynarski, John Bognacki and I went on to Canada after graduation 1967 in an old army surplus truck Reynold and Tom Kaczmarek had fixed up. Tom could not make it so I was chosen to take his place. What an adventure! We broke down

in Syracuse, spent the night in a bowling alley parking lot, were interrogated by the police wondering what we doing there, "broke down" in the wilderness (Austin, John M., John B., and me) when the boat motor sheared the prop pin on rocky rapids, and we had to tow the boat to shore and camp out overnight in the wilderness while Austin fashioned a pin from a nail and paddles from firewood (since we had none!), were "interrogated" by Canadian forest rescue rangers who saw the smoke from our fire and sent a team to investigate, passed Reynold and Marty on the lake the next day on the way back who just laughed at us and refused to help tow us back to the main camp, but who did provide fish boiled in beer for supper! I have lost the actual pictures of that adventure somewhere over the years but they remain in my memory still. I honor all the friars who served as our teachers and examples over the years and all the Paduans who have already entered their heavenly reward. Morituri Te Salutant!

Reggie Stanczyk 1967

## Paduan Staff and

Contributors Mike Asiello '63, Alan Costich '66, John Gryszan '63, John LaSalle '62, Tom Malina '66, John Mielnik '62, Chad Orlowski '65, John Pilch '54, Tony Specian '66, Reg Stanczyk '67, Ed Wendol '59



# Padua Reunion 2011

Arrive Friday - August 19

Gather at the Longhouse Manor after arrival for friendship, reuniting and conversations (snacks and beverages provided)

Dinner at the Castel Grisch Winery and Restaurant - 7 PM

Return to the Longhouse Manor for more friendship and 'story telling'!

Saturday - August 20

Breakfast and morning on your own

Noon - Lunch catered at the Longhouse Manor (sandwich fixings, salads, fruit, beverages)

After lunch - brief discussion about Padua property and about Padua alumni group (visit to Padua property for those interested)

5 PM - Mass at St. Mary's of the Lake Church---- CLASS OF '61 WILL READ AND SERVE

7 PM - Dinner at the Montage Restaurant at the Glen Motor Inn

Following dinner return for friendship, beverages, snacks at the Longhouse Manor

Sunday - August 21

Breakfast on your own

Meet at the Longhouse Manor to say good bye for 2011!

Please return bottom portion to Tom Malina : ( If you are having a hard time finding rooms, email Tom Malina

([tmmwine@aol.com](mailto:tmmwine@aol.com)) he will do what he can to help you)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of guests \_\_\_\_\_ \$110 per person (covers meals, refreshments, snacks)

Please make check payable to:

Tom Malina

3620 County Route 16

Montour Falls, N.Y. 14865