

From the Guest Editors Laptop

It certainly turned out to be a great weekend for the annual Padua reunion. The weatherman gave us three sparkling sunny days for reminiscing and enjoying each other's company. In addition to the scheduled social events and dinners, many of us enjoyed touring the many vineyards along both sides of the lake. It seems there are new ones opening up each year. The Padua campus grounds were also visited. It is sad to see the gradual demise of the buildings. The latest casualty noticed this year was the boiler room, which has the large smoke stack as the only remaining part. The gym and lab are still standing although in disrepair and it's just a matter of time before they too are gone. There was a group Mass at the Watkins church Saturday evening which was ended by a rousing singing of "Salve Regina" for which most of us still remembered the words!

This year was of course the 50th celebration for the class of 1963. There were six members in attendance from a graduating class of twenty-three. They were; Mike Asiello, Dennis Springer, Ed Sudol, Roland Benedek, Gerry Szczygiel, and John Gryszan. A total of six of our classmates have passed away; Henry Butka, "Buzz" Bennett, Ted Bieryla, Joe Lomnicki, John Tulko and Ed Walczak. May they and all other deceased Paduans rest in peace. Many thanks need to be given to Tommy Malina for once again organizing the great dinners on Friday and Saturday evening as well as the social evenings at the Longhouse Motel. Plans are currently being made for the 2014 reunion, which will be organized by the class of 1964, as it is their 50th year celebration. For those of you who have not attended a

The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for
St. Anthony of Padua Alumni
Vol. 6 No.2, October 2013



Photo by Carol LaSalle

Group Class of 1963 Picture (L to R) Front Row: Jean Sudol, Ed Sudol, Carol Springer, Delphine Benedek, Sharon Szczygiel. Back Row: Vivian Asiello, Mike Asiello, John Gryszan, Hedy Gryszan, Dennis Springer, Fr. Joel Szydlowski, '58 Roland Benedek, Gerry Szczygiel

reunion, you really owe it to yourself to attend at least one.

Seeing your old friends and meeting Paduans from other classes is something you will always remember.

The exact dates for the 2014 reunion have not been set as yet but it should be approximately the third weekend of August 2014, so make a note on your calendar.
John Gryszan '63

2013 Attendees

Class of 54
John Pilch and Isabelle
Class of 55
Lenny and Mary Ann Dmuchowski
Class of 56
John and Laura Asiello
Ed and Barbara Opiola
Class of 57
Joe and Carmen Barstys

Class of 58
Fr. Joel Szydlowski
Mike and June Uss
Class of 59
Ed & Veronica Wendol
Class of 60
Ed Drozd
Class of 61
Tim Clouser
Class of 62
Mike Gulas
Walter Kurpiel
John and Carol LaSalle
John and Joyce Mielnik
Class of 63
Michael and Vivian Asiello
Roland and Delphine Benedek
John and Hedy Gryszan
Dennis and Carol Springer
Ed and Jean Sudol
Gerry and Sharon Szczygiel
Class of 64
Lou and RoseAnn Czubachowski
Paul Parzych
Class of 66
Tom and Barbara Malina
Class of 68
Joe and Chris Biernat
Vincent Burcz
Gus and Linda Kuklinski

Reunion 2014

Reunion 2014 will be held August 15th to the 17th. The Class of '64 will be celebrating it's 50th and the Class of '54 will be celebrating it's 60th. Other milestone include the class of '59 and '69 celebrating their 55th and 45th respectively.

Class notes

Class of '54

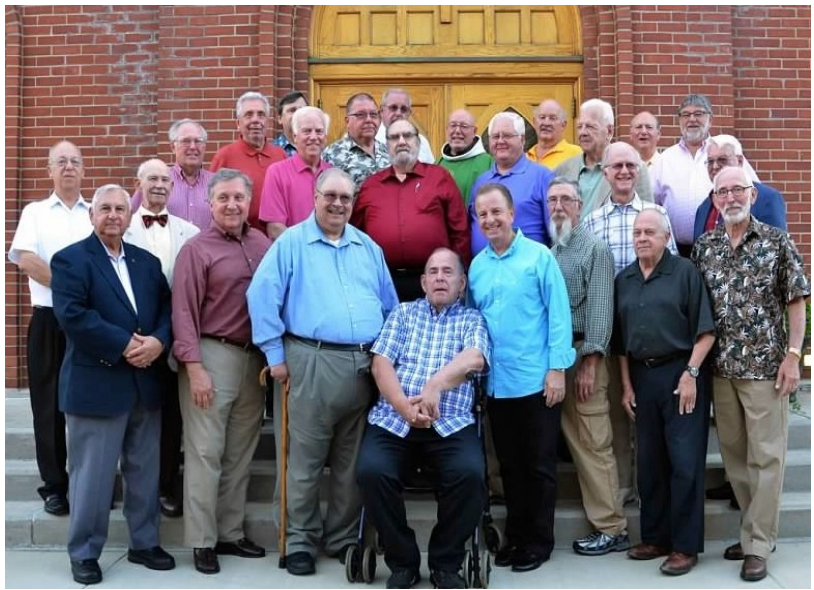
John Pilch was inducted into the "Association of Polish Biblical Scholars" (Stowarzyszenie Biblistów Polskich) at their annual meeting in Toruń, Sept 17-19, 2013. He was abstracting Polish language biblical materials for *New Testament Abstracts* since 1963. One of the Polish scholars recently invited John to write the introduction to his new book on honor and shame (*Honor i Wstyd*). It was a privilege. Thanks to Fr. Henry Naparła who taught John the language superbly well in his inimitable fashion. John spent two delightful weeks in Poland for this occasion.

Class of '64

Congratulations to Dave Susi for celebrating the 20th anniversary of his business RSI roofing. In 1993 with only \$2500 in his pocket, Dave started Roofing Services International in the greater San Diego Ca. area. Today Dave's company employs 75 employees. Under Dave's supervision his company was rated #1 in the San Diego area, #4 in California and #61 in the nation by the Roofing Contractor magazine in sales, and ranked by the San Diego Business Journal as "one of the best places to work". Follow Dave on Facebook and Twitter at RSI Roofing.

Class of '66

Tom Malina's wife Barbara is undergoing medical procedures. We ask special prayers for Barbara Malina and the Malina family. We pray for a complete recovery.



Group Photo by Carol LaSalle

Reflections from the 2013 Reunion Journal

Attending Padua Prep was a great experience. Coming from Brooklyn, NY it was difficult at first to get regimented to doing things at a specific time – but you learned and you go on in life. The education was wonderful and the cost if you remember was minimal for what we received. My wife MaryAnn and I love coming to the reunions to visit with and enjoy conversations with all the graduates and their spouses. Father Joel is a special person and I am grateful that he is able to confer at the reunion so we can have Mass said for all us attending. God bless to all attending and to all who could not attend no matter the reason. Love and God Bless.

Lenny Dmuchowski '55

Only have been to three reunions recently! And renewing friendship keeps getting better. Laura and I have both been looking forward to these occasions. Hope to see you all next year. God Bless you all.

John & Laura Asiello '56

I am so glad I got to stop by and see some great faces from the past.

Tim Clouser '61

It is good to gather together to recall and remember our experiences at Padua. May these memories serve to remind us of the good times we shared. May we continue to gather at this time and any time because of these memories? God bless all of you.

Fr. Joel Szydlowski '58

Continued success to the Class of '63 and Good luck to all! My return to Padua has become an event that I look forward to with enthusiasm. Fond memories of numerous activities and adventures while a student here will be always with me.

Ed Wendol (Wendolowski) '59

As I noted last year, we belong to the most exclusive club in the world. No new members admitted since 1970! We all should encourage our classmates to "come home to the glen" each August.

Once again I note: 4 of the best years of our lives!!!

John LaSalle '62

In reading all the previous post I think it's all been said. It appears that Padua had the same impact on all that was privileged to attend. It has been a pleasure to attend these reunions and relive all those memories with some of the best people I have met in my life. I hope we continue to meet for many years to come.

John Gryszan '63

This reunion was my first in 6 years. The early ones were great and our 50th was as wonderful. Great to see old friends and reminisce over old stories that get better at every reunion. Wait till our 75th.

Dennis Springer '63

As usual a great get together with classmates. Good memories and wonderful stories. Fun for the wives.

Jerry Szczygiel '63

Paduan Memories re-energized! New experiences shared and old ones retold. Friendships grow stronger each year at the Padua School Gathering. The 1AM sessions are getting harder but I wouldn't miss it for the world. It is great meeting new Padua Alumni, sharing their memories and what the Padua experience meant to them and how it molded their lives and built their character. This year the theme for me was the Brothers at Padua and the experience we had with them.

Joe Biernat '68

Another great time visiting and sharing our experiences and thoughts with our "brother". Hope to see you all again next year. Looking forward to it, but in on piece next time.

Gus Kuklinski '68

In Memory

Henry Cecce '53

Henry L. "Hank" Cecce, age 78, of Route 414, Corning, NY, passed away on Saturday, August 31, 2013 surrounded by his loving family at Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, PA.

Born on February 14, 1935 in Corning, he was the son of the late Henry and Margaret (Valentino) Cecce. He was a [graduate](#) of St. Anthony of Padua Minor Seminary & preparatory school, Watkins Glen class of 1953, the first graduating class from that school. After graduating, Hank joined the United States [Army](#), serving honorably from 1955 to 1958.

Hank worked as a [roofing contractor](#), for his company, Cecce Roofing, Corning, NY.

He was a devoted member of the Caton United Methodist Church, volunteering as a greeter for many years. He was an award-winning artist in painting and also enjoyed photography and restoring antique vehicles. He was a longstanding patron of Donna's Restaurant in Corning, going every morning to have breakfast. Hank was a loving father and grandfather and will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by one daughter: Margaret Cecce of Atlanta, GA; and one son: Mark Cecce of Troy, NY; grandchildren: Anthony Cecce, Andrew Cecce and Henry Dari; three sisters: Florence Ann Cecce, Margaret "Cookie" McDougal, Josephine Blodgett; and two brothers: Roger Cecce and Joseph Cecce; also several nieces and nephews.

Henry used to play one of the pump organs in the side chapels for Mass. There is picture of him in the 1953-year book, on the page that says "Camera Club" and "Music Makers." Legend has it that during a

mass celebrated by Fr. Emil; Henry was playing something that eventually Fr. Emil recognized as "On top of old Smokey!" You can imagine what happened next.

John Pilch '54

Henry was a classmate of mine for 4 years at Padua. We were reunited in 2003 at our 50th reunion. Hank was quiet but also was kind of a prankster.

At the reunion Henry reminded me of the time that he "short sheeted" me. I didn't know what was going on when I tried to get into bed as my feet would not stretch to the bottom of the bed and Henry got a good laugh out of that.

Henry and I along with John Pilch played the organ and sang at the Masses at the chapels in the monastery section. John was the top organist so he played in the main chapel. We were kind of jealous of John because he played the big organ in the main chapel and we played on the surplus army pump organ in the smaller monastery chapel. It was strange to play in the monastery chapel because it was just the celebrant, the altar boy and the organist and they were all high masses so we had to sing the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Credo etc.

Fr. Henry Naplara was the language master. He used to pronounce Henry's last name the Italian version, which was "cheche". That always caused a few laughs.

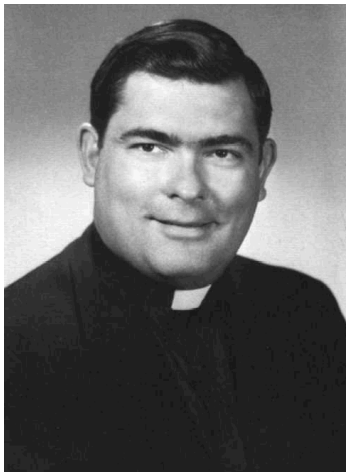
Tom Colihan '53



Henry at the army surplus pump organ

Rev. Liguori Mierzwiak OFM

Those who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those the art of living well. These words, attributed to the philosopher Aristotle, can easily be used to sum up the mission and purpose of Liguori Mierzwiak, OFM. Liguori was born in Toledo, Ohio, on January 12, 1933 to Roman and Jean (Wisniewski) Mierzwiak. He was baptized Norman Thomas at St Stanislaus Kostka Church in Toledo on January 29th. Having completed his [elementary education](#) at St Stanislaus Kostka School and attended Central Catholic High School in Toledo for three years, Liguori (then known as Norman) transferred to St Bonaventure High School in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, for his senior year. Having completed high school in 1950, Liguori was accepted by Fr. Isidore Cwiklinski, OFM, Provincial Minister, into the novitiate of the Order of Friars Minor at Assumption BVM Friary in Pulaski, Wisconsin. After completing philosophical studies at St Francis College in Burlington, Wisconsin, and theological studies at Christ the King Seminary in West Chicago, Illinois, Liguori was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Martin McNamara in West Chicago on June 6, 1959. Liguori continued his studies in Moral Theology at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.



The first decade after completing studies included stints as an instructor in Latin and Greek at St Francis College in Burlington (1960-61); preacher and home missionary in West Chicago (1961-64); retreat director at Lourdes Retreat House in Cedar Lake, Indiana (1964-66); and instructor in Latin and Polish, vice-rector, and vice-disciplinarian at St Anthony of Padua High School in Watkins Glen, New York (1966-70). In 1970 Liguori [completed](#) a master's program in Educational Administration at Cornell University. With the closing of the high school in Watkins Glen in 1970, Liguori journeyed east to join other friars who opened Archbishop Ryan High School in Philadelphia. With an all-male student body reaching almost 2500 students, Liguori found plenty of opportunities to put his wealth of experience and playful humor to good use. He served the high school community from 1970 to 1993 as an instructor, dean of discipline, vice principal, and principal (1978-84). No matter what duties Liguori took on, it was clear that the student was number one, that the teacher must stay two steps ahead of the student to outfox whatever life presents, that joy was necessary for any success, and that relationships are for life. "Ligs", as he was known, had an uncanny ability to remember people and dates, and he used that gift to maintain life long relationships with his students and their families.

In 1993, after 23 years in Philadelphia, Liguori took a much earned sabbatical during which he spent time on a Tohono'om Indian reservation near Tucson, taught English to Polish and South American Franciscan seminarians in Jerusalem, and taught English in Lipnica Murowana, Poland.

After this year of prayer, [study](#) and rest, Liguori stretched himself into new ministries including stints as associate pastor at St Stanislaus Parish in Cleveland (1994-95),

chaplain to the Felician Sisters in Lodi, New Jersey (1995), missionary to the Holy Land in Jerusalem and Ein Karem and editor of the Holy Land Magazine (1995-97), chaplain to the sisters and to St Mary's Home in Manitowoc, Wisconsin (1998-99, 2002-03), and pastor at Assumption Parish in Bridgeport, Michigan (1999-2001).

In 2003, having [completed](#) a life of public ministry in which he was able to make each person he met feel like they were the only person in the world, Liguori retired to a ministry of prayer at Queen of Peace Friary in Burlington, Wisconsin. The continued decline of his health, and especially that keen memory that was so legendary, necessitated Liguori's transfer to St Mary's Home in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in 2007. Liguori's health continued to decline steadily necessitating a short stay in the hospital. He returned to St Mary's Home where on Saturday, October 12th, having taught many the art of living well, he peacefully welcomed sister death in the 80th year of his life, the 59th year of his profession as a friar minor, and the 54th year of his ordination.

Charles Hawalka '72

Charles B. Hawalka, Jr., age 59, of Monmouth Junction, passed away at his residence on Tuesday October 15, 2013. Beloved husband for 39 years of Maryann K. (nee Brown). Devoted son of Mary and the late Charles B. Hawalka, Sr. Loving father of Kimberly D. Dudash.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Hawalka lived in Winfield and most recently Monmouth Junction for the past 20 years. Mr. Hawalka earned his doctorate in Computer Science from Kean University. He worked for Wakefern Foods Corp. of Edison, as a computer systems analyst for over 30 years. Mr. Hawalka was a Master Mason with the Philo Lodge 243 of South River and a member of the Moose Lodge 263 of South Brunswick. He was an avid hunter and fisherman who loved travelling.

Charlie attended Padua 1968-70. Even though he did not graduate from Padua because of the closing in 1970, Charlie was very fond of his days at Padua and like most of us it left a lasting impression on him. He frequently revisited the Watkins Glen area to visit his many friends and enjoyed the activities including fishing and, hunting. Charlie reunited with the Padua circle of alumni in 2009 and had expressed an interest in attending the 2013 reunion but was not able to attend due to a prior commitment. He had a Watkins Glen friend drop off a Padua basketball jersey as a donation to the Padua Alumni.

Tony Specian '66

Padua Prep Blog

Visit our internet home at Paduaprep.com. A [blog](#) section was added to the site. Link up and register to join in.

Below is a previous blog by Chad Orlowski '65. It is blogs like this that will rekindle those Padua days:

The Bulletin Board

This may be the most unappreciated or elemental part of Padua that ever existed...The Bulletin Board at the base of the central staircase.

Just think of it. Nothing ever happened at any point in the whole campus of Padua Prep, if it did not start at the base of that central staircase. It's almost scary thinking about it, that such a thing could have existed in the lives of impressionable teenagers. Yet it did. Consciously or unconsciously. Maybe the nature of what Padua was way back then even demanded that this exist.

There must be a Bulletin Board at the most critical junction of school activity!

All I know is that, on reflective hindsight I was always checking that crazy bulletin board. In today's world that bulletin board probably would be your email on your iPhone or iPad (or other such mobile

device). It was the place to be connected, to be social (in so many words) that no one ever questioned its authority.

Everything that was critical, that needed to be said, was posted on the Bulletin Board. Who was going to the basketball game (off campus) tonight? Was there a change in classes? Who was on work detail? What was the intramural sports schedule for that day? These are just a sampling of the highlights of what was posted. I cannot even begin to recall the myriad details that were posted. Was there a schedule change for anything? It was stated here with — AUTHORITY.

So, I say to that lowly Bulletin Board, so overlooked and unappreciated, "You were the backbone of what was happening to Padua Life way back when. Hail to you. You live on in Spirit, if not with fanfare, at least with quiet certitude.

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, [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](#)

Match the Friars with their Birth Names

- 1.) Fr. Roland Jaskulski
- 2.) Fr. Reynald Jarecki
- 3.) Fr. Cherebum Drag
- 4.) Fr. Albin Miklaszewski
- 5.) Fr. Austin (Lewinski) Budnik
- 6.) Fr. George Dubowski
- 7.) Bro. Martin Bak
- 8.) Fr. Herbet Silko
- 9.) Fr. Cajetan Bogdanski
- 10.) Fr Tomian Uss

- a) Stanley
- b) Anton
- c) Bernard
- d) Boleslaus
- e) George
- f) James
- g) Tom
- h) Edward
- i) Joseph
- j) Adrian



Contributors: Mike Asiello '63, Tom Colihan '53 John Grysza '63, John LaSalle '62, John Mielnik '62, Chad Orlowski '65, John Pilch '54, Tony Specian '66.

Answers: 1>e, 2>j, 3>i, 4>a, 5>f, 6>h , 7>b, 8>c , 9>d, 10>g