

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for  
St. Anthony of Padua Alumni  
Vol. 7 No.2, October 2014

## From the Guest Editor's Laptop's

### The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Thank God for Tom Malina who took it upon himself again to make the arrangements even when he and his wife were going through some difficult times. I was called once to discuss the menus and agreed with all of Tom's work.

Driving down Rt. 14 from Geneva, I was amazed at the number of wineries that have sprung up. Some of them well known and others building a name. The name I always liked for a winery was Pompous Ass. I always look for that wine when I am told to bring wine.

The drive was relaxing and I chuckled when I went by the Scenic Overlook of Seneca Lake. In the 60's the lake was visible, now a few years later there are so many wonderful trees.

I arrived and checked in the motel and went to the Longhouse manor to see who was there. Walking in I saw familiar faces from past reunions. John Mielnik had the Padua signage on a table and our crest. He also had found family photos of his time spent there and some student and parent handbooks that were never used. They were hilarious to read.

Wine and beer and liquor were available as well as snacks as everyone waited for classmates to arrive. Lou Czubachowski and wife appeared. David "Bill" Broszka walked up and shook my hand and had to introduce himself again. Tony Vallaro and his wife showed up and the group of Paduans got larger. Dave Susi and his wife were to meet us at dinner.



Group Class of '64 Lou Czubachowski, Dave Susi, Tony Vallaro, Dave Brzoska, Paul Parszych along with The late Alex Ostaszewski widow Mary Ann Ostaszewski and daughter Jennifer Rodgers Ostaszewski.

Steve Smolenski has moved to Nevada and had some surgeries performed on various joints and Lou said Steve had heart surgery – he sends his good wishes. Al Ostaszewski, who died to 2010, was represented by his wife and daughter, his brothers and their families came and couldn't stop telling people about how much Al wanted to be there. The two brothers are also Paduans.

After the delicious dinner at the Seneca Harbor Inn, we returned to the Longhouse Manor and continued with our story telling.

The activities for Saturday were the same. Morning on our own – walk thru the Glen, visit some wineries; go to the Windmill Farmers Market and Flea Market. A buffet lunch was served at the Longhouse manor followed by more story telling. After Mass a Polish buffet was served at the Longhouse Manor.

## News from the class of '64.

Tony Vallaro told us stories of his experiences delivering papers in all kinds of weather; Dave Susi still is involved in his roofing business but he finds time to Travel. Dave "Bill" Broszka has too many degrees to mention. Telling us about his travels led Louie to use his I phone and find pictures of beetles and have Dave identify them. Dave did well – he plans on several trips to all over the world to add to his collection of tiger beetles. Louie and his wife are enjoying retirement as am I.

We all wished others could have made it for the 50<sup>th</sup>. If you are on facebook you can look for St Anthony of Padua Alumni. It is a group where members can post info. If interested in pictures, go to <https://paduareunion.shutterfly.com/> Password is Padua (case sensitive).

Next reunion in August of 2015 the weekend after the NASCAR race at the Glen.

Always wonder why I go back.... It is good to see the members of a most exclusive club. It is enjoyable to hear how the customs and rules changed.

Hope to see new faces in 2015 God willing.

**Paul S. Parzych**



2014 Group Photo by Carol LaSalle

## The 60th Reunion

The annual Padua Alumni reunion took place at Longhouse Lodge Hotel and Manor, Watkins Glen, NY on Aug. 15-17 with record setting attendance. Sixty alumni, family, and friends gathered to renew the bonds of brother- (and sister-) hood rooted in our common experience of the Franciscan tradition of education and formation. Over the years, some alumni have begun arriving earlier in the week to allow more time for visiting and catching up.

Anniversary celebrations this year honored the Class of '54 (60 years), Class of '59 (55 years), and the Class of 64 (50 years). The Class of '54 was represented by Conrad Olszewski (and his wife, Kathy), Edward O'Neil, and John Pilch (and his friend, Isabelle). Pilch was able to locate O'Neil through VetFriends.com, the largest Web site reuniting U.S. Veterans, active and reserve military, family and friends with over 1,682,259 members nationwide! Ed retired from the Navy as a medic and then consulted in the health care industry over the years. This was the first reunion he has attended. It was sixty years since we last saw him.

Conrad and his wife live in Buffalo and have been blessed with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a full-time occupation even in retirement. He enjoys attending baseball games and when visiting Baltimore, he and Pilch have been able to connect for a visit. John lives in Catonsville (Baltimore) and continues his activities as professor (in the Hopkins Odyssey program), author of books and article on biblical topics, and performer with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society and the Baltimore Symphony. His friend, Isabelle, is a physician who herself attended a boarding school in Dolgellau, Wales, before going to the University of London for medical school.

There were eleven students in our graduating class. We have not been able to locate Ernest Lominac or John Pojawis. Francis Jedziniak may have died, if the obituary on-line pertains to him. As noted in a previous newsletter, Lawrence Pijanowski died on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

In attempting to locate John Rentflejs, Olszewski discovered that his house in Buffalo is on the market, and he is in a home somewhere in the Midwest. Joe Kuchinski and his wife live in Madison Township, PA, Bernard Petrick and his wife live in East Stroudsburg, PA, and Roger Yurko and his wife live in Bolivia, NC. Tom Malina, who looked after local arrangements for our reunion for many years, sold his restaurant, Castel Grisch, since our last gathering. Hence this year, he arranged for our Friday evening meal with our preselected choices at Seneca Harbor Station. The ambience was beautiful at the lakeside, and food and beverages were top notch. The wait-staff was very attentive and friendly. One of the young ladies said that she thought her grandmother (!) had dated one or another of the students at Padua. This young lady's comment is a stark reminder of how old we are! Nevertheless, though the buildings are gone, the memories still remain.

On Saturday evening after Mass, we enjoyed our traditional Polish meal at the Manor, courtesy of Babci's Bistro, Utica, New York. This venue is owned and serviced by a relative of Lynda Kuklinski, wife of Gus (Class of '68). The menu included soup and salad, smoked and fresh kielbasa with sauerkraut, potato and cabbage pierogi, gołąbki, kluski śląskie, and for dessert chruściki, poppy seed roll, and other pastries. Everything was made by the young owner who learned the recipes from a Polish neighbor (from Poland, of course).

Saturday evening Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joel Szydłowski, OFM (Class of '58). Stan Ostaszewski delivered a brief reflection after communion on his late brother, Alexander, who was a member of the Class of '64 and an outstanding gymnast.



Class of '54 attendees Conrad Olzewski and John Pilch flank Mass celebrant Fr Joel Szydłowski OFM '58.

There is always a collection of memorabilia on display: student handbook, photos, baseball cap, basketball team shirt, and the like. Some still have – and wear – their graduation ring! Everyone, however, would agree that the personal memories of our shared Padua experience are one of the major incentives for attending the reunion each year. Moreover, the impressive professional and personal achievements of the alumni – even those not in attendance – is a tribute to the Friars who taught and nurtured us. May those – Friars and alumni – who have already gone to their eternal reward rest in well-deserved peace. Pax et Bonum.

**John Pilch '54**



Class of '54 attendees Conrad Olzewski and Ed O'Neil reminisce at the Longhouse Manor.

## 2014 Reunion Attendees

Class of 54  
Conrad and Kathy Olzewski  
Ed O'Neil  
John Pilch and Isabella  
Class of 55  
Leonard 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  
Stanley and Alyce Ostaszewski  
Fr. Joel Szydowski OM  
Michael and June Uss  
Class of 59  
Tom and Stephanie Uss  
Richard and Wanda Uss  
Joseph and Nancy Strychasz  
Robert and Ricia Swillo  
Class of 60  
Ed Drozd and daughter Coleen  
Class of 61  
Chester and Donna DeHaven Ostaszewski  
Class of 62  
Walter Kurpiel  
John and Carol LaSalle  
John and Joyce Mielnik  
Class of 63  
Mike and Vivian Asiello  
Class of 64  
Dave Brzoska  
Lou and RoseAnn Czubachowski  
Mary Ann Ostaszewski and Jennifer  
Rodgers Ostaszewski the wife and daughter  
respectively of the late Alex Ostaszewski.  
Paul Parzych  
Dave and Janice Susi  
Tony and Denise Vallaro  
Class of 66  
Tom and Barbara Malina  
Class of 68  
Joe and Chris Biernat  
Vincent Burcz  
Gus and Linda Kuklinski  
Class of 70  
Ed Malina

## Notes from reunion

This is my first but hopefully not my last reunion. The memories that exist are momentous. My classmates and the others who followed exude the intelligence and comradery that I have not found elsewhere. This was my first reunion; it will not be my last.

Ed O'Neil Class of 54

This is one of my most satisfying days of my life. Being able to attend this reunion allowed me to meet my classmates and new friends; discussing the great times we had in school and the discipline we learned at PADUA. Hope I can make more reunions.

Thank You

Conrad J. Olszewski Class of 54

Another great reunion – good times with old friends and Paduans I've never known. A great bunch of guys with great stories of our times at Padua and the priest and brothers that taught and fed us. Can't wait for the next reunion. God willing we will be there in 2019 if not sooner,  
Ricia and Bob Swillo Class of 59

Always love coming to reunions when I can.  
Chester R. Ostaszewski Class of 61

A high-light that I'd like to share with other Alumni: just that I truly enjoyed my four years.  
Stanley J. Ostaszewski Class of 58

## Editor Notes

If you have any milestones in your life (Retirement, anniversary, grandkids, travel etc.), we'd like to include it in the Alumni Paduan Class notes, please submit to: [paduan5370@gmail](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

## 2015 Reunion

**Reunion 2015 will be held August 14th to the 16th. The Class of '65 will be celebrating it's 50th and the Class of '55 will be celebrating it's 60th. Other milestone include the classes of '60 and '70 celebrating their 55th and 45th respectively.**

## Obituaries

### Class of 1961

Gerald Joseph Guzinski 3-18-44 / 5-18-14  
US Air Force 64-68, MBA from Fairleigh  
Dickenson 1970  
wife: Nikki Ann Guzinski and son:Gerald  
E. Guzinski Granddaughter:Vivian  
Guzinski

### 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:[Montage at Glen Motor Court](#)  
[Edgar's in Belhurst Castle](#) ; [Seneca Harbor  
Station](#) ; [Seneca Lodge](#)

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

If you have an interesting hobby, event,  
or travel you would like to share with  
your alumni friends please consider  
submitting an article or a short comment  
for class notes. Volunteers or contributors  
are always  
welcome. Please email me at:  
[paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

Interesting tidbit. In the 1999 Movie “10  
things I Hate About You” based on  
Shakespeare’s “Taming of the Shrew”  
takes place in Portland Oregon. Padua  
Prep was the name of the High School the  
main cast attended.



Contributors: Dave Brzoska '64, Lou Czubachowski  
'64, Roger Hetel '67, John LaSalle '62, John Mielnik  
'62, Chad Orlovski '65, Paul Parzych '64, John  
Pilch '54, Tom Malina '66, Tony Specian '66, Dave  
Susi '64



Class of '59 attendees celebrated their 55th.  
Bob Swillo, Joe Strychasz, Tom Uss and Rich  
Uss with Fr Joel Szydowski OFM '58.