



# CrossRoads: Bulletin of the Passionist Alumni Association

November 2018

Issue#1



Who was this seminarian? Where is he now?  
Actually we do know who (Bob Marra), but do you know WHERE he is?  
Help us out. Let us know.

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## Welcome, Charter Members of the Passionist Alumni Association

You are one of us. Thank you for taking the time to affirm your interest (we call it “opt in” now) and update your information. We come from 32 states. Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, California and Texas are home to the largest numbers. We know by name almost 470 other people whom we have yet to reach or who have not yet decided to join. So if you know someone who has not signed up, send them an email with this link: <http://passionistorderalumni.org/> or send them a copy of this Bulletin and ask them to join us.

What did we end up doing? A few of us are recent graduates. Most of us studied on a Passionist campus a very l-o-n-g time ago. And yes, most of us chose other careers -- from science and education and journalism, to business ventures and military careers. Some made sausages or achieved fame with rock and roll. Some walked uninterrupted along spiritual paths. A few continue to identify strongly with the Passionists, mingle with them, help them.

Amazing then and amazing now. Our high schools and colleges were custom-designed, right? No summer trips to France, or all-state championships. Well, did you know that some classmates managed to earn letter jackets, and at least one daring dude accompanied a queen on prom night? (Find out who in future bulletins.) Yes, we were unique. Yes, we have also been amazing reconnecting with one another since past alumni reunions.

Where are we going with this? We aim that the Passionist Alumni Association delivers the ingredients you hope for in an alumni group. We will find ways to get together--regionally and nationally. We hope to make it easy to help catch up with friends and classmates. We've scheduled a reunion in Detroit in August 2019. Enjoy reading about such things below.

**Note:** *Your privacy and data are protected in our database. Should you choose to unsubscribe all data will be removed immediately.*

## ALUMNI, RE-UNITE!

by Ray Alonzo

I bring you greetings from the PASSIONIST ALUMNI REUNION 2019 Steering Committee, presided over by The Honorable Carl DeLage, yes, from that Would-Have-Been Prep Class of '70.

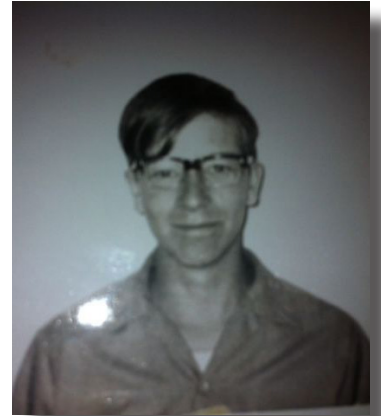
As his Lordship's lowly scribe, Ray Alonzo, Class of '69, it falls to me to give y'all a brief synopsis of dates, times, places, etc. so you will get all excited about joining us for this next all-alumni reunion. Between 105 and 120 participants have shown up at each reunion since 2002 but we'd like this one to be the biggest and best yet! So we need all ya'll who have never been there to jump on in. Your brothers miss ya and the water's fine!

We've been gathering about every three years at different locations nationally, trying to recognize each other. Come on, it HAS been fifty years! We have been experiencing that inexplicable spirit that we've each shared through our seminary, novitiate years, Bellarmine University, the CTU in Chicago, vows, or beyond. For me, at least, it's always been so very much more than a simple reunion.

Come and experience that belonging spirit for yourself! You are getting plenty of notice! Take a moment and write down August 16, 17 and 18 of 2019. It's eight months away, so no excuses!

We'll be gathering at the Passionist Retreat Center in Detroit, Michigan. The place is beautiful, peaceful, and usually quiet, at least until we get there.

We haven't totally nailed down the costs yet, but guys coming alone will probably stay in the rooms at the Retreat Center (very much like the rooms at the Retreat House in Warrenton), because each room has only a double bed. Those who bring a guest may want to stay at the Holiday Inn Express about a mile from the Center at reduced rates. (Carl had to promise to say a Novena for the owner to get such great rates). We'll get the money side of things to you as soon as we can, hopefully in our next letter to you.



*Ray Alonzo,  
Warrenton Class of '69*



*2017 Reunion, Louisville, Kentucky.*

## ALUMNI, RE-UNITE!

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As for the agenda:

Past reunions have included plenty of time to socialize, including a Saturday dinner, and we will be sure to incorporate such time next August. Know that agenda ideas are very much welcome from YOU right now. Yes, send us an idea or two. Also look for a few polls in the newsletter... coming soon.

Any questions will be most faithfully and timely attended to at the following email address: [rayalonzo@gmail.com](mailto:rayalonzo@gmail.com). If some of you old-school typists still resist the computer, my cell number is 314 971 1294.

One last thought: In the last fifty years, each of us has gone through so many changes. We've gone gray, lost hair (from our heads to our faces), changed shape (many of us several times), gained or lost financially, had heartaches and joys. I can honestly tell you that I have re-met over one hundred of my former classmates, schoolmates and former teachers, rectors and directors. To a man, each has greeted me as a long lost brother. There is no judgment. There is only acceptance and joy at our being together again. Every brother is a dear friend now. I'm so glad we started doing all this. Please join us. We'll both be so much richer because you are with us.

Your brothers miss ya, and the water's fine!  
R.A.



*Ray Alonzo,  
in a class by himself at age 69.*

*Friendly meeting room at  
St. Paul of the Cross  
Passionist Retreat Center,  
Detroit, Michigan.*



## **THE ALUMNI COUNCIL: People who dare to lead and organize**

*by Mike Owens, Alumni Council Coordinator*



*Mike Owens at the Prep.*



*Mike Owens now.*

What if we could capture and direct the excitement and energy we experience at the periodic Passionist reunions, Facebook groups, local dinners, and other get-togethers? Is it possible in today's digital world to make it easier for the Passionist formation alumni to connect and communicate with each other? Are there ways for alumni to participate in spiritual formation, whether or not they live near Passionist communities and retreat houses? To answer these and other questions, a group of alumni from the 2017 reunion spent a few extra days in Louisville to explore the formation of a working group, initially called the Circle of Service but recently renamed the Alumni Council.

The alumni members of the council represent a cross-section of all levels of formation—Prep School, Novitiate, College, Catholic Theological Union, and the taking of vows. They also span the country from Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Kansas to Texas, Colorado and Arizona. Joining the alumni on the council are Phil Jackson and Claire Smith from the Province Office. Fr. John Schork, CP, as usual, wears two hats—council member and liaison to the Province.

The group set 5 priorities which then became the working committees: Communications, Family Events, Spiritual Formation, Lay Association, and Administration/Liaison. Members volunteered to work in their area of interest. Since the organizational meeting in October, the full council has been meeting bi-monthly by video conference call. Between the group calls, the committees have had their own working sessions. Simply stated, this group is energetic and enthusiastic!

## THE ALUMNI COUNCIL

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Here are some of the accomplishments so far:

### **Mission Statement**

The formation alumni mission statement has been adopted after some lively discussion and final edits.

### **Communications: Alumni Database**

Extensive work has gone into coordinating multiple alumni databases, cleaning up data as much as possible, and creating a centralized list of 250 names, home and email addresses, and phone numbers. They have also identified approximately 400 alumni with no contact information. Clearly we all have more work to do!

### **Communications: Alumni Website and Newsletter**

A website editorial team has been established. This newsletter and the revised alumni section of the Province website are the results of the team's efforts. The web service "Flocknote" has been selected and tested as the software for alumni communications. A focus group of 9 alumni is helping with the testing and providing feedback on the website and newsletter.

### **Family Events & Spiritual Formation**

The next reunion is scheduled for August 2019 at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat House in Detroit. Alumni will have the option of staying at the retreat house or a local motel. Planning is underway for morning breakout sessions and afternoon sightseeing activities. (See the Reunion update in this issue.)

### **Lay Association**

The committee is currently researching ideas for lay associations that include existing programs such as the Passionist Partners.



*Left: Deacon Jim Griffith, CP, Fr. John Schork, CP, Don Noltemeyer, Ray Alonzo, Craig Franklin, Bob Durr. Facing: Mark Brockman, Harry Watson, Richard Padilla. Right: Paul Schulte, Susan Komis (facilitator). Backs to camera: Phil Jackson, Charlie Phillips. Behind the camera: Claire Smith*

**THE ALUMNI COUNCIL**  
*continued*

**Harry Watson.** *May he be resting in peace. Harry was one of the initial members of the council. With his expertise in direct mail, he quickly became a key contributor to the work of the Communications committee as it began the cleanup of the alumni addresses. We greatly miss Harry's generous spirit and wise counsel.*



*Harry and Theresa Watson*

**The Alumni Council Members**

Ray Alonzo: Chair, Spiritual Formation  
Mark Brockman: Co-Chair, Lay Association; Technology  
Carl DeLage: Chair, Family Events  
Jack Dermody: Chair, Communications: Website and Newsletter  
Phil Jackson: Spiritual Formation  
Terry McDevitt: Co-Chair, Administration/Province Liaison  
Carl Middleton: Co-Chair, Lay Association  
Don Noltemeyer: Co-Chair, Communications: Database  
Mike Owens: Coordinator  
Richard Padilla: Co-Chair, Administration/Province Liaison  
Paul Schulte: Co-Chair, Communications: Database  
Fr. John Schork, CP: Province Liaison  
Claire Smith: Communications

