



CrossRoads: Bulletin of the Passionist Alumni Association

November 2023

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Virtual Reunion II



By Carl DeLage

The second virtual reunion occurred on October 21 at 2 p.m., Eastern Time. We have had only two virtual reunions; however, I enjoyed this one even more than the first one. Why this one, you might ask? After all, the Alumni Council has determined that we will have one every two years between the physical (face-to-face) reunions, so they should get better and better – right?



Fr. David Colhour, CP.

After each virtual and physical reunion, we take a survey. We use the results of the survey to improve the next reunion. This year, we incorporated many of the suggestions of the attendees. Using the suggestions, we had a significantly different format, so I loved this virtual reunion.

We shortened it to two hours with an additional hour to continue conversations. We fixed many of the technical bugs that plagued us two years back. We removed the lectures and focused on reuniting with each other. After all, isn't that what a reunion is about, virtual or physical!

I would like to introduce you to those who did so much to make this event happen. Mike Owens is the Alumni Council Coordinator. With his encouragement and guidance, we put this virtual reunion together. He also recorded an interview with our new Provincial, Fr. David Colhour, C.P. That interview was seamlessly woven into the reunion. Jack Dermody and Claire Smith ensured that people were aware of and reminded of this reunion. Fr. John Schork, C.P., let the vowed Passionists know we wanted to include them. He also did the opening devotion/prayer.



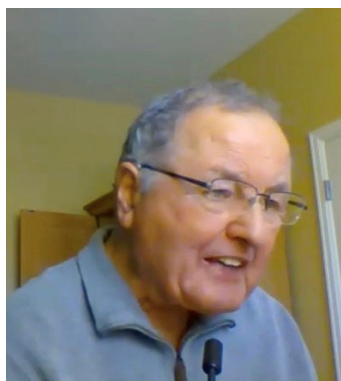
Fr. John Schork, CP.

Virtual Reunion II, *cont'd*

Jim Byrne was the moderator and did a fantastic job keeping us on track. In my opinion, he has just the correct skill set for this task. Carl Middleton provided the only status report, and that focused on the Passionist Companions. Under his stewardship, along with his team (Mark Brockman and Phil Jackson), this mission has taken on a vitality that will advance the Passionists' role from now on.



Jim Byrne



Carl Middleton

My favorite aspect of the Virtual Reunion was the breakout sessions that worked so well. They were divided into graduation years. What was remarkable to me was that we could bounce back and forth between the sessions so easily. I started in my class session and visited several of the others.

We wrapped up the session and continued the optional breakout sessions for another hour. I could have continued these discussions for a while longer!

I believe you can see why I am so happy with the outcome of this Virtual Reunion. For those who could not attend, Fr. David's interview is available on the Passionist website, curated by Claire Smith. I cannot wait to see everyone at the 2024 physical reunion in Louisville.

Click here to enjoy Mike Owens' interview with Fr. David:

<https://passionist.org/reunions/>

Super Bowl LVIII

Stay tuned for our 3rd Annual Passionist Alumni "Office Pool." This year, we aim to replace the 7-passenger van for the Passionist Sisters at Colegio Guadalupe Pasionista. We launch on December 1. Do you want some good reasons to play? Scroll down to "Join Our Yearly Office Pool."



SignPosts

Welcome New Members

Mike Lee

Mike Krautstrunk

Jack Furlong

Jack Furlong's Biography. I spent my four years of high school at Mother of Good Counsel Seminary, graduating in 1963. After graduation, I went to St. Paul, Kansas for Novitiate, taking Simple Vows in 1964. Subsequently, I spent my first year of college at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in Detroit, Michigan. From 1965 to 1967, I attended my sophomore and the first semester of my junior year of college at St. Agnes Monastery in Louisville, Kentucky, which was affiliated with Bellarmine College at the time. I left the monastery in December of that year, and continued to attend Bellarmine until I graduated in May of 1968. I double-majored in philosophy and psychology.



In August of 1968, I was drafted into the Army, and went to Vietnam in June of 1969, returning in May of 1970 to civilian life. In September of that year, I began my graduate studies in philosophy at The Catholic University of America. I received my Masters degree in 1972, and PhD in 1982. In 1974, I taught my first college courses at Prince George's Community College in Maryland. I accepted a tenure-track position at Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland in 1976, and taught philosophy there until I accepted a position in 1989 at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. There, I taught philosophy and team-taught interdisciplinary courses with biologists, and psychologists involving bioethics and animal ontology. I retired in May of 2017.

I married Nancy Fischer in June of 1969, and we continue to enjoy our life together. We have two children. Ellen teaches psychology at Transylvania and Maggie is a Portfolio Manager at Sentry Management, Inc.(an HOA management company), and in her spare time, is PR Director at Kerrington's Heart. Maggie's daughter, Evie, and our granddaughter, is currently 7 years old.

Prayer Intentions

Louie Smith, rehabilitating from surgery.

Bill Thoman, healing from surgery for severe back pain.

Fr. John Schork, CP, knee replacement.

Phil Jackson, knee replacement.

Glenn Wiczorek, ongoing chemotherapy.

Those We Mourn

Jim Aalen's wife, Lyn.

Richard O'Malley's wife, Mary Catherine.

Those with Big Life Changes

Rich Padilla and Carol Campbell were wed on September 23.

Phil Jackson and Heath McDonell Missner are getting married on December 2.

Alumni Council Nominations



The Alumni Council at the 2022 Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky.
(l-r): Claire Smith, Bob Yeargin, Jim Byrne, Carl Middleton, Carl DeLage,
Mike Owens, Richard Padilla, Don Noltemeyer and John Schork, CP.
(Not pictured: Ray Alonzo, Jack Dermody, Bob Duffield and Phil Jackson).

Alumni Council Call for Nominations

By Mike Owens

Are you interested in serving on the Alumni Council? We have an opening and will be selecting a new member.

The council has 13 members—10 alumni, 2 representatives from the Province Offices, and 1 vowed liaison to the Province. We meet every other month on Zoom for about one and one-half hours. Council members participate in the standing committees—Alumni Reunions, Alumni Membership & Development, Passionist Companions, and CrossRoads Newsletter/Alumni Website.

The expectations of council members are:

- a. Committed to the success of the formation alumni association.
- b. Comfortable participating in council meetings via technology.
- c. Open to the diversity of the formation experience.
- d. Attend bi-monthly council meetings.
- e. Attend special council meetings as needed.
- f. Participate on one or more standing committees.
- g. Support council activities such as submitting CrossRoads newsletter articles, participating in reunions, assisting with membership recruitment, and supporting fundraising initiatives.

If you would like to be considered for the Alumni Council, or would like more information, please email Mike Owens (mtowens2368@icloud.com) by December 1, 2023.

Alumni Council Update



Alumni Council Update

By Mike Owens

Jim Byrne. We are saying goodbye and thank you to Jim Byrne as he ends his term on the council. Jim has been an important and valuable member, especially in support of our alumni reunions. The good news is that Jim has agreed to be our on-site coordinator for next year's reunion at St. Agnes parish in Louisville. If you are interested in serving on the council, see the article "Calling for Nominations" for more information.

2024 Reunion In Louisville. "Save the Month!" We will be reuniting in Louisville in September 2024. Look for more information and "Save the Date" in early January.

Share Our Gifts. Jack Dermody and Paul Schulte and their team members are fine-tuning this initiative which will support the Passionist missions and ministries. Expect a full presentation in early 2024.

Alumni Gatherings. You don't have to wait for our All-Classes reunions to connect with your fellow alumni. Everyone is invited to participate in one or both Zoom get-togethers.

-Coffee with Bro. John Monzyk, CP

-Passionist Alumni Family of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

Phil Jackson coordinates both sessions, so email him at pjackson@passionist.org for the Zoom invitation and details.

Contacting me. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please email me at mtowens2368@icloud.com.

Alumni Council Members

Ray Alonzo:	ArchAngels
Jim Byrne:	Alumni Reunions
Carl DeLage:	Alumni Reunions
Jack Dermody:	CrossRoads Newsletter/Alumni Website
Bob Duffield:	Alumni Membership & Development
Don Noltemeyer:	Alumni Membership & Development
Phil Jackson:	Passionist Companions
Carl Middleton:	Passionist Companions
Mike Owens:	Coordinator
Richard Padilla:	Administration/Province Liaison
John Schork, CP:	Province Liaison
Claire Smith:	Communications
Bob Yeargin:	Alumni Membership & Development

Join Our “Annual Office Pool” - Make a Difference

Office pools are more than just exciting games; they bring people together for an incredible experience. In OUR case, this Super Bowl “Office Pool” speaks volumes about who we are as a community. Together, we have the power to support Passionists in their challenging missions, making a real impact.

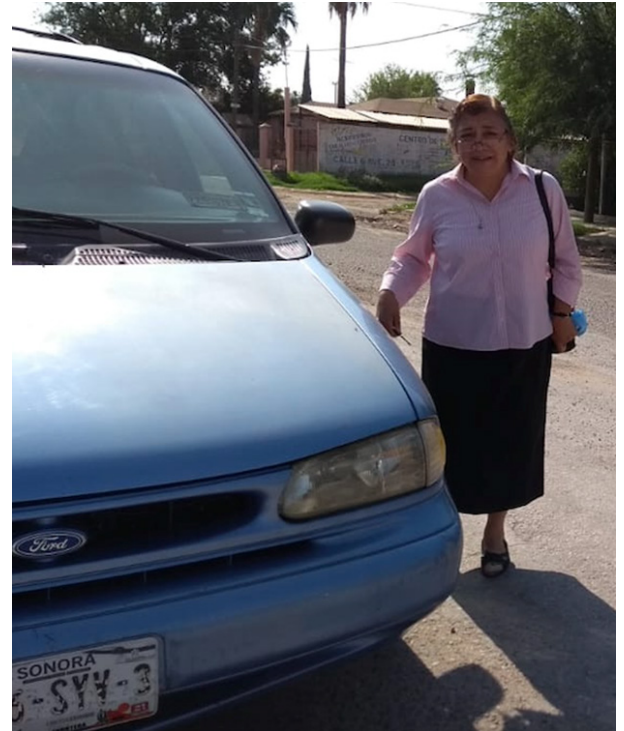
Imagine the difference we can make by helping the Passionist Sisters in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Their 7-passenger van is on its last legs, desperately needing an upgrade. [**Click here**](#) to see firsthand how essential this van is.

By joining this initiative, we contribute to a noble cause and extend the invitation to our beloved family and friends. Let's share the excitement and the joy of giving, involving everyone close to us.

The Passionist Sisters in Agua Prieta embody the spirit of selflessness and dedication, akin to three Mother Teresas. Together, we can support their tireless efforts and have a tangible impact on their mission.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 1, and seize the chance to be part of the office pool. With every contribution, we bring the Sisters one step closer to acquiring a sturdy van. Moreover, we'll have the opportunity to rejuvenate our souls by performing acts of mercy.

Be a catalyst for positive change. Together, we can create a lasting impact and uplift the lives of those in need.



School Director, Sister Rosa Maria,
aside the creaky Ford Windstar
("Do they still make those?" you may wonder.)

Fall Report from Louisville, Kentucky

By: Jim Byrne

Our group continues to meet for breakfast every Monday morning at Frisch's located at I-264 and Poplar Level Road. If you happen to be traveling through Louisville, try to join us on a Monday morning. We typically have between 5 and 8 attendees each week.

Since the last edition of Crossroads, we had several visitors join us for breakfast. On August 14, Ed Schmidt broke bread with us, followed by Paul Wadell on August 21, and Jim and Jean Ryan on November 13. It was a pleasure to have them visit and catch up on their lives. Please take a look at the attached photos.

We were delighted to have Claire Smith from the Provincial Office join us on October 30th. She had been visiting Birmingham and stopped by on her way back home. Claire shared entertaining stories about Henry V, her new Westie puppy, who is their fifth Westie.

Jim Williams has been corresponding with his pen pal Bhupinder from India since before he came to Warrenton for his freshman year. Their communication evolved into a lasting friendship, and Jim and Claire have visited India multiple times. Bhupinder and his wife have also visited Jim. In September, Bhupinder and his wife visited Louisville, although Bhupinder couldn't make it to our breakfast. However, Jim shared pictures and anecdotes to provide context for the photos. Thank you for sharing, Jim.

Tom Mugavin continues to make progress and is active and driving. When I last spoke to him, he was playing a round of golf and savoring the beautiful autumn weather. Tom and his family are grateful for the prayers sent through his Passionist connections.

Please also keep Louie Smith and his wife, Nancy, in your prayers. Louie has spent the past 12 weeks either in the hospital or a nursing home for physical therapy due to a serious surgery and subsequent complications. He is currently back in the nursing home and hopefully will be returning home soon.

On a somber note, one of our brothers, Jim Aalen, experienced the loss of his beloved wife, Lyn, on September 12, 2023. Many of us had the privilege of attending her service, which was a beautiful and deeply moving tribute to a gracious and loving woman.



Clockwise from left: Jean Ryan, Jim Ryan, Jim Byrne, Jim Williams, Jim Aalen and Mike Owens.



Clockwise from left: Mike Owens, Carl Middleton, Ed Schmidt, Jim Williams and Terry McDevitt.



Clockwise from left: Paul Wadell, Jim Byrne, Jim Williams and Mike Owens.

The Prostration of '63: Novitiate Dust Chute Incident



The author with schoolmates at 2019 Detroit Reunion.
(l-r): Paul O'Neil, Larry Kazmerski, Jim Newkirk (author), and Jack Dermody.

By Jim Newkirk

In history, certain incidents start as routine, thoughtless activities that later become legendary tales of human discipline and creativity, surviving the test of time. They acquire a life of their own in the memories of all who witness them, passed on through spoken tradition within the monastic community and beyond. Not since the Reformation of the 16th Century has an event taken on such biblical significance.

It was the scorching summer of Saint Paul, Kansas - the "Dust Bowl" of the lower 48 states. Four postulantes, or Confraters, in the latter part of their Passionist Novitiate, received an assignment derived from the Papal Red Bull that established the Passionist Order in Castellazzo, Italy back in 1720. This assignment led them to the Novitiate, a structure built from Kansas' clay pits and composed of red bricks, serving as both a monastery (1894-1987) and a testament to architectural ingenuity.

Among the modern features of the building was the dust chute, an ingenious design that ran from the attic to the basement. Each floor had a small door at ground level, allowing for the release of accumulated dust from the sweeping of the inlaid hardwood floors. The dust would descend through the chute, ultimately reaching the basement for proper disposal.

However, there was one area where dust had gathered undisturbed for centuries - the attic. That was until Father Keenan, the Assistant Novice Master, assigned the task of cleaning this neglected space to a group of hardworking novices, including a spiritually driven rosary maker. The team consisted of Confrater Bruce Brennan, Confrater Eric Newkirk, Confrater Steven Mazelin, and the aforementioned rosary maker, Confrater Jensen.

Bruce and Eric were innovative individuals, while Steve provided the necessary physical strength. Jensen, on the other hand, dedicated himself to prayer for the project's success. Armed with determination, the crew ventured into the long-forgotten attic, only to find every inch covered in dust. It was a sight that would have made Saint Paul of the Cross, C.P. proud, had he lived long enough. Brother Tom Brummet, C.P., may have even witnessed the area during his time.

The Dust Chute Incident, *cont'd.*

As Bruce and Eric assessed the situation, they discovered an empty, antique foot-locker capable of containing most, if not all, the dust from the attic. Their plan was to fill the trunk, transport it downstairs, and ensure its safe disposal after examining its contents for potential health hazards. Steve tirelessly worked with dustpans and brooms, while Bruce and Eric supported his efforts. Jensen continued his prayers.

After back-breaking labor in the sweltering attic, the trunk was filled to the brim. The next command was to “Move the Dust,” but the trunk proved too heavy to lift and carry down the stairs, even with Steve Mazelin’s strength. Bruce and Eric then devised a divine plan - dragging the trunk to the opening of the Dust Chute in the attic and tilting it to dump the dust down the chute. They believed it would be a simple process: the dust would fall down to the basement, get collected, and be disposed of outside.

However, one small miscalculation overlooked the scientific wisdom of Fr. Albert, CP, a science teacher at the Warrenton Mo. Prep. It was a scientific fact that a falling mass of dust, contained within a 3-foot-square area, starting from the attic and passing through unlocked “dust doors” on each floor, would cause a backpressure that blew open every door along the shaft. Consequently, each floor was flooded with its own supply of dust, transforming the corridors and hallways into a haze of fine gray particles.

The “Sanitas Dustest Fixorum” crew immediately realized that something had gone terribly wrong. They were in trouble, a fact confirmed by the Novice Master, Fr. Sucher. Weeks, if not months, of prostration and begging for forgiveness awaited them. Would this be a break from their vocation?

Through the dusty fog, Confrater Larry Goodwin spotted Mazelin. The entire community joined forces to clean up the dusty mess. Jensen crafted a “Commemorative Dust Chute Rosary.” Over time, the “Sanitas Dustest Fixorum” disbanded, but the mythical story, blending fact and fiction, lives on as...

The Prostration of ‘63: Novitiate Dust Chute Incident

“And that’s the way it was, Saturday, June 1, 1963”
(Walter Cronkite, CBS News sign off)

While the Vietnam War raged on and two 24-person orbiting Space Stations were constructed, Willie Pastrano won the world lightweight boxing championship, and Alfred V. Kidder, a 77-year-old American archaeologist, passed away - all appropriately coinciding with this eventful chapter.

You Called Me “Bhupinder”

By **Jim Williams**

Graduated from Mother of Good Counsel in 1967.

Nickname at the Prep: “Bhupinder” – I was given that name early in my freshman year in 1963 after someone saw a letter on my dorm bed from my penpal in India. Later, when I first visited Bhupinder in January of 1978, I learned that the name means “God of the Earth.” In other words, Bhup means dirt. Now you know what you were calling me in those years.

Spouse: Claire – We met in 1979 while both of us were starting graduate school at U of L. Shortly after we met she offered to show me where someone, whom I was working with on a class project, was living on the fifth floor of her dorm. She walked past the elevator and started walking up the five flights of stairs to their floor. That got my attention as I do the same thing. Claire majored in Art Therapy and eventually taught at the Waldorf School of Louisville.

Son: Jacob – After going through private schools and graduating from Beloit College in 2011 he informed us that he wanted to be a standup comedian – the dream of every parent. He used Chicago as a base for 3 years, before moving to NYC in 2014 where he still resides. He has been on “America’s Got Talent” in 2012, several seasons of Nick Cannon’s “Wild ‘N Out” since 2013, the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and performs standup around the country. Brian (’67) & Vickie Power are his godparents.

In looking back, I appreciate my experience at the Prep. It was a great place for me to grow during my formative teenage years. I enjoyed the balance of study, work, prayer, nature, and community, and I have many fond memories of those years.

After graduating in 1967, my class had our novitiate at the monastery in Detroit. We were there during the 1967 race riots and helped do house-to-house surveys in the affected areas to help locate people in need. We then attended Bellarmine University in Louisville, where I earned a BA in Psychology. While I was drawn to the Passionist community, I did not feel I was ready to commit/focus my life in that one direction. I left in 1972, which was a difficult decision to share with my family, as I think religious vocations were much more than an individual choice in those times.



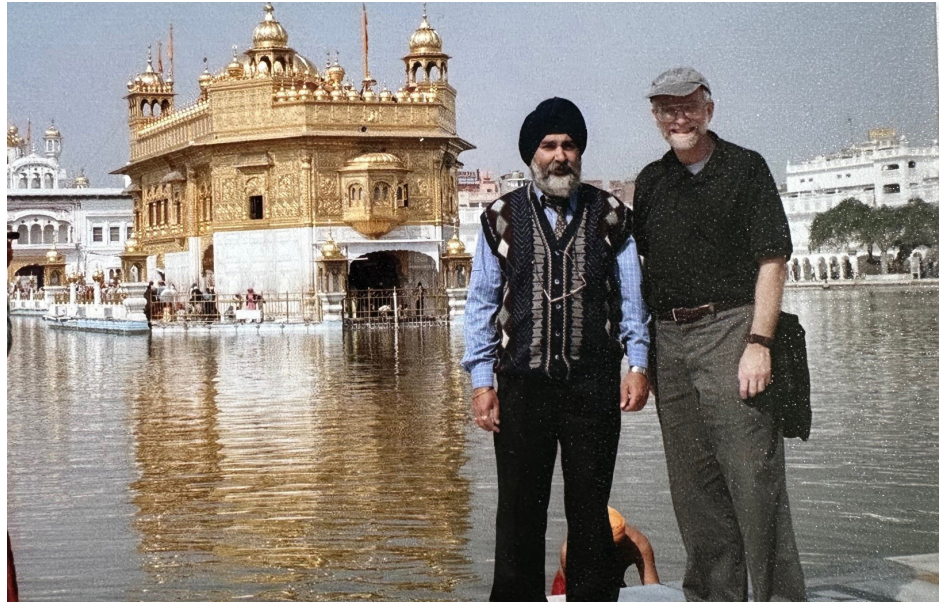
Dimple, Bhupinder, and Jim at Sariska Tiger Sanctuary- January 1978.

You Called Me “Bhupinder,” *cont’d.*

In 1972, I enlisted in the U.S. Army for three years to avoid the two-year draft during the Vietnam War. After basic and AIT training, I was stationed on Okinawa where I served for thirty months in a medical company as a drug/alcohol counselor and a social work psychology specialist on the Psych unit. I enjoyed Okinawa, where I lived in a couple Okinawan villages with the local people and went scuba diving in the East China Sea just about every week. I visited Artie (R.T. Kelly, ‘68) in the Philippines, where he was in the Air Force, and was able to explore S. Korea, Thailand and Burma. I got permission from the Army to be discharged on Okinawa, when my enlistment was up, and spent the next six months traveling through Japan, S. Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. I was able to visit classmate Larry Finn (‘67) and the Passionist community in Korea & Japan. After three years in Asia, I delayed my dream of traveling around the world and returned to Louisville in May 1976 for the ordination of my class at St. Agnes.

My time in Asia whetted my appetite to travel more. In January 1977, I left Louisville to continue my quest to travel around the world. I traveled with an 80-pound backpack on my back to learn how people lived in other countries. I did a little hiking in California, and hiked in some great places in Hawaii, New Zealand, Malaysia,

Thailand, and Nepal. I saw Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip in Pago Pago, visited the outback in Australia, bicycled in Bali, studied batik in Yogyakarta, had a Singapore Sling at the long bar in Singapore, hiked across the Golden Triangle in Thailand, followed the road to Mandalay & visited the ruins of Pagan, traveled deck class by boat through the delta rivers in Bangladesh, visited Mother Teresa’s ministry in Calcutta, rode an elephant in search of one horn rhinos in Assam, went on three major hikes in the Himalayas of Nepal and studied Buddhism for a month at a monastery there. I visited several places where people had not seen a westerner before and tourism had not yet corrupted the local areas. I traveled through the deserts of western India, lived on a houseboat in Srinagar in Kashmir, stayed in Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh, and hiked to the cave of the Indian god, Shiva. I lived with Bhupinder’s family and was there for the birth of his first child, Jyotika.



Sikh's Golden Temple in 2004.

You Called Me “Bhupinder,” *cont’d.*



Jim & Bhupinder with their parents,
and Claire and Dimple in June 1984

After my passport and camera were stolen in northern India in early July of 1978, I traveled through Pakistan and Afghanistan to Iran, where I hoped to purchase a camera before returning to India to continue my journey.

Shortly after arriving in Tehran, I got a job teaching English at the Imperial Iranian Air Force Base - not the best timing. I ended up living in Iran as an expat for 6 1/2 months through some very intense months of their revolution, where I witnessed Iran's transformation from a modern pro-western country into its post-revolutionary Khomeini-inspired Islamic Republic. This phase of my life still impacts my life journey and memories. I left Iran a month after Khomeini's arrival, and a few weeks

after the revolution “ended.” As I felt emotionally and physically exhausted upon entering Turkey, I decided to return home earlier than planned, rather than continue my leisurely paced journey. I arrived home in March 1979. My wandering years left me with both an appreciation of diversity in the world, as well as how much people in various lands share so much in common. As I followed world news, I felt that I was a world citizen as all news seemed to be “local” for me.

From 1979 - 1981, I attended University of Louisville, where I earned a masters in social work and got to know Claire. I had thought of returning to the developing world to work in various missions and organizations serving people in need, but after Claire and I married in 1983, she convinced me to remain in the States with maybe an occasional adventure overseas.

In 1983, I was diagnosed as an insulin dependent diabetic. Since 1986, I have been a participant in two landmark long-term studies of diabetes (DCCT and EDIC). Claire and I still enjoy hiking, camping and canoeing whenever we can find the time. We also go for evening walks in our neighborhood and parks. We try to stay close to both of our families in WI & KY. I feel very lucky to be married to my best friend.

Much of my Social Work career was in community based not-for-profit agencies in Tulsa, Pittsburgh and Louisville, including four years as Executive Director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's programs in Louisville. The last 16 years of my career were spent in medical social work at the University of Louisville Hospital/Brown Cancer Center and the Veterans Administration Hospital.

In July 2005, my family became members of St. William Church, a peace & justice Catholic faith community which developed shortly after Vatican II. Since leaving the Passionist Community in 1972, I have continued to view myself as a Passionist at heart. I have welcomed the growth of the Passionist Family concept and enjoy my regular visits to Sacred Heart Monastery in Louisville and gatherings with other members of the Passionist Family for breakfast on Mondays. Since 1990, I have continued to be active with the work of St. Vincent de Paul at various levels. In 2003 I joined the Community of Passionist Partners in Louisville

You Called Me “Bhupinder,” *cont’d.*

By the end of 2019, Claire and I both retired, just a few months before the COVID pandemic took hold. I have continued to serve on the Board of Directors for St. Vincent de Paul and as President of the SVDP conference at our parish. We both enjoy volunteering at church and a variety of organizations. We also look for ways to support causes which we value, and to help people in need.

In looking back on my relationship with Bhupinder since we became penpals in 1960, we have visited each other several times over the years. We had planned earlier for Bhupinder to be the Best Man in our wedding, but he was unable to attend due to illness in his family. The month of our first anniversary in 1984, he visited my family, along with his wife, Dimple, and his parents. In 1999, he visited with his daughter, Jyotika, who had been born in 1978 while I was with him. In 2004, I returned to India to spend time with him and his family. In 2012, Claire, Jacob and I visited his family, and in 2016, I attended his son’s wedding in New Delhi. Most recently, Bhupinder & Dimple visited us in Louisville to renew our friendship. Despite the distance, we remain friends, consider each other brothers, and his children all call me uncle, which is touching.

Thanks to all of you who have had such a positive impact on my life and helped me build such wonderful memories.



Jim, Claire, Dimple, and Bhupinder
at Sacred Heart Monastery
in Louisville, Kentucky, September 3, 2023.

I Remember Father Randal Joyce, C.P.

By Carl DeLage

Father Randal Joyce passed away on September 22, 2019, at the age of 97. As I was reading my calendar notices for September 22, I came across a reminder of Father Randal’s passing, which triggered a flood of memories of this remarkable Christian man.

I refer to his age of 97 as “tender” because I remember him during my time as a student at the Prep in Warrenton, Missouri, in the late 60s when I was studying to become a Passionist priest. Later in life, my wife Debbie and I would visit him at the nursing home where he spent his last few years. He always inquired about Debbie whenever I visited him alone, and they got along quite well.

In the summer of 1966, I attended a “sem week” with a group of guys from the Monastery in Detroit. One of the novices drove us from Detroit to Mother of Good Counsel seminary in Warrenton. I was taken aback by the somewhat bleak appearance of the place, particularly the Recreation Room, which lacked color and was not as inviting as the one at the monastery in Detroit.

That year, I entered the seminary as a Freshman. During a tour of the building with my parents, I was pleasantly surprised by the transformation of the Recreation Room and the adjacent room with its small store. Vibrant walls and hand-built plywood chairs were everywhere. The stereo, housed in a multicolored cabinet against a wall with large speakers on either side of the double-door entrance, caught my attention.

I Remember Father Randal Joyce, C.P., *cont'd*

When I inquired about these changes, I was informed that Father Randal was responsible. Utilizing the carpentry shop in the basement, Father Randal employed his skills to our benefit. Who would have known that a priest who entered the seminary at the age of 14 possessed such talents?

Speaking of skills, Father Randal served as a mentor and teacher, equipping us with the necessary skills for self-sufficiency and independence. Who could forget “Father Randal’s Forest”? It was a serene area for walking and meditation, nestled between the large pavilion and the athletic fields. Father Randal oversaw the printshop, the shoe shop, and the barbershop. The printshop produced various documents, including stationery, using a professional offset printer capable of printing multiple colors. My brother, Don, learned the art of hair cutting from Father Randal and worked in the barbershop as part of his responsibilities. We would sign up for haircuts on Saturday mornings. Father Randal’s talents extended beyond woodworking and landscaping; he was also a poet and graphics artist. With humility, he would write poetry and create unique and beautiful Christmas cards. To this day, I treasure his poems and yearly Christmas cards. One of his poems has become part of my daily prayer routine.



At Phillip Donlan’s First Profession on July 11, 2018.
Newly-professed Phillip Donlan, CP,
with Randal Joyce, CP, who, at that time,
was the longest professed Passionist
in Holy Cross Province.

I remember Father Randal and Brother Tim rebuilding the diesel engine of our school bus. Though my memory may be fading, I believe the Passionist purchased that bus knowing that it required extensive repairs. We relied on that bus throughout my time at the Prep, as many sporting events in Missouri were held at considerable distances.

Father Randal’s most significant role was that of Spiritual Director. His office was located adjacent to the chapel, and I spent countless hours there during my three years at the seminary. Before dinner, all of the students engaged in about half an hour of spiritual reading in the chapel. Father Randal provided us with books to aid our spiritual journeys. He was always a gentle priest, and one could confide in him without fear of judgment. I have not encountered such compassionate conversations since.

When the Prep closed in 1969, he helped us navigate the changes and provided insight into what lay ahead. Towards the end of his life, he served as a Retreat Master in Detroit until he was no longer able to carry out the duties he cherished. On one occasion, Father Joe Moons (who served as Provincial for two terms) visited the monastery in Detroit. I asked if I could attend Mass while he was there, and afterward, Father Joe invited me to breakfast at the Passionist Living Area. Father Randal and I engaged in a captivating discussion on a wide range of topics. He possessed a modern mindset and remained articulate until his passing.

Lastly, when the Alumni and Professed had a reunion in Detroit, Father Randal was already residing in a nursing home. On Saturday afternoon, we scheduled a visit with him, and to my surprise, a much larger group than anticipated turned up. As each of us entered his room, he greeted us by name. Not once did he complain about the long line of individuals wanting to speak with him that day.

I will cherish the memories of Father Randal for as long as my memory allows. It was effortless to see the presence of our Risen Lord in him. I miss him dearly.

How About Them Passionist Vocations?

What is one sure way to **GROW** the alumni group? Promote Passionist Vocations! Pray, publicize, speak up, especially in your own circles. Do you see that sparkle in someone you know? Introduce them to Fr. John Schork, C.P. Thank you.



The Passionists
of Holy Cross Province
Priests ~ Brothers ~ Sisters ~ Laity

Live with Purpose ~ Serve with Passion

*Passionists proclaim God's love for the world
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STEP UP to your tomorrow.



What's your next step?
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Fr. John Schork, C.P., Vocation Director | 502.544.7808 | jschork@passionist.org

Calling All Alumni “Sports Nuts!”

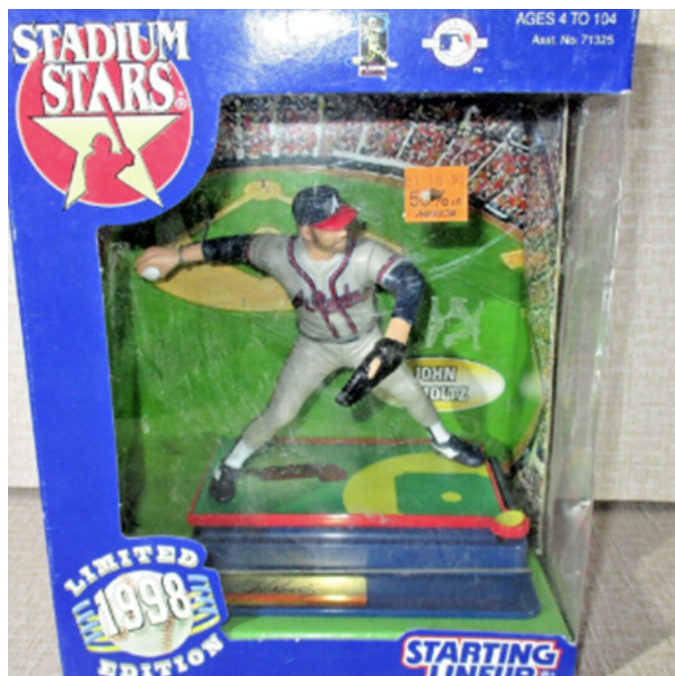
Father Blaise Czaja’s Sports Memorabilia

Fr. Blaise, CP (ordained 1964) inherited from his deceased sister a large collection of “Starting Lineup” sports figures, dating from 1988 to about 1997.

What is it? A variety of collectible sports figures in original packaging – over 1,200 pieces! Truly collectible names from a variety of sports.

He hopes to sell the whole bunch, valued at about \$8,000.

If you are interested or have leads to collectors, please contact Fr. John, CP, at jschork@passionist.org. A complete listing is available. Thanks!



John Smoltz figure may or may not be available.

Thinking of Forwarding This?

Please forward this bulletin to a former classmate or friend who attended school in Passionist formation. The Passionist Alumni Association relies on you to build our membership. Every day we hear stories of renewed friendships and new friendships. Did a friend forward this bulletin to you because you once studied with the Passionists? If so, please **CLICK ON THIS LINK:** <https://passionistorderalumni.org/> to register with the Passionist Alumni Association to stay in touch. Thank you.

WANT PAST ISSUES?

To read past issues of CrossRoads, click this link:

<https://passionist.org/passionist-formation-alumni-crossroads/>

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