

# ST. JOSEPH'S – ST. PATRICK

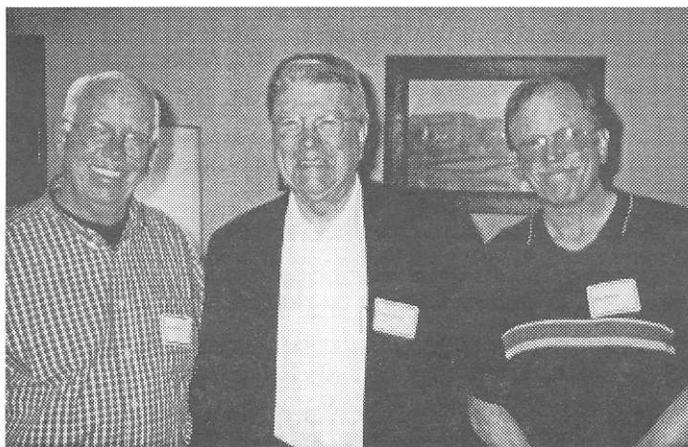
## COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL 2000 NEWSLETTER

### JOHN H. OLIVIER, S.S. A Gentleman of Saint Sulpice

by Gerald D. Coleman, S.S., R'62  
President/Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary

In October of this year, a quiet but significant moment occurred in the history of St. Joseph's College, St. Patrick's Seminary and the local Church. Fr. John Olivier, who served at St. Joseph's from 1947 to 1965 (where he was Vice-President from 1961-1965), and at St. Patrick's from 1965 to 1969, left California to move into the next stage of his life at the Sulpician Retirement Home in Baltimore.



John Olivier, S.S. (middle) with Dan and Mike McHugh

Born in Marquette, Michigan, in 1920, he was ordained in 1947 for Marquette as a Sulpician Candidate. Assigned to St. Joseph's College immediately after ordination, he traveled by train to the West Coast, and moved into the spectacular seminary nestled in the beauty of the Los Altos Hills. Before reaching October 2000, however, Fr. Olivier's incredible ministry reached out much farther than the seminary walls as he served in the Sulpician parish in the Archdiocese of Seattle, and the parish communities of St. Martin's, Sunnyvale, St. Joseph's of Cupertino, St. Peter's, Pacifica, St. William's, Los Altos, St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas Aquinas, Palo Alto, and the Church of Santa Teresa in San Jose.

His academic assignments were straightforward: he taught Latin, English, Speech, Music, Chant and Choir at St. Joseph's, and Homiletics, Music and Choir at St. Patrick's. In every place he served, though, he always taught much more than the curriculum or ministry indicated. In his classic history *The Sulpicians in the United States* (1916), Charles G. Herbermann notes that a French Sulpician should be known primarily as a "gentleman",

one whose human qualities were to be so refined that his priestly ministry would be transparent. What other American Sulpician could one name as a better model of this desire than Fr. Olivier, a true "Gentleman of Saint Sulpice". Yes, he was a wonderful pedagogue; but he was a superb teacher of what it means to be a gentleman-sensitive, courteous, for-

ever thoughtful of others and always a bit naughty and clever!

Fr. Olivier was a "class act", the first to convey a sense of real personal culture, even before he taught the beauty of the arts of which he was a master. You felt this the very moment you saw him. He was something of an artwork himself. It was evident in his demeanor—the way he held himself, his self-consciously graceful walk, the neatness of his cassock, his immaculate vestments, his reverent manner of saying Mass, and above all, the seriousness with which he took himself.

In the forties and fifties climate of St. Joseph's College where humility was all and vanity the first vice, Fr. Olivier's aristocratic bearing said everything a young man needed to know and learn about Christian humanism. In comparison with other wonderful but sometimes less dashing teachers, "Jack" could not help but to strike one as so very different, as—one might say—so French, so worldly, and yet always the perfect gentleman and priest. We should not canonize him quite yet, but these memories describe the powerful impression he made.

*Continued on p.2*

**NEXT YEAR'S ALUMNI DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2001  
AT ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY**

## JOHN H. OLIVIER, S.S. *Continued from p.1*

Stanford University's Dr. Thomas Sheehan cherishes most the course in Cicero Jack taught him and his classmates in third year high school: "He was at his utter best throughout—he loved prose and got us to love it too. He had us memorize Cicero's glorious peroration on the humanities, which he (I know) can still recite by heart today. To show us how it should be done, he read it aloud in class and held us spellbound. It was the highlight of the year."

St. Joseph's alumnus Walter Nicholas puts it well, "When I think back on the people who have had the most profound influence on me in my life, Fr. Jack Olivier is there on top. He really has class and taught us how to be classy people. He is a great example of overcoming obstacles and rising to the top. I thoroughly enjoyed him as a teacher and came to appreciate Latin more under his tutelage. He opened up for me the wonderful world of music and singing that is still a part of my life today. I truly admire him as a man and as a priest."

Fr. Olivier, the man and priest, did wrestle with personal demons and obstacles, but never hid this fact. Many years later his students and friends recall those somber days and how much we learned from him in those times of darkness and turmoil. Life is not always bright and even, and we need to rely on God and our friends to help us through. He taught us so many things that have profoundly affected our hearts and lives.

Since his "retirement" in 1993 to the magnificent ranch of dear friends near the Pinnacles National Monument, he has traveled widely while quietly placing himself in this rather isolated geographic area. As distant from highways and city noise as this place is, however, its quiet and beauty and grazing horses has been the perfect place to end one part of a wondrous life. In his small house in the Pinnacles, Jack left behind most of the personal treasures he gathered over a lifetime, including his piano, in order to move forward freely and unencumbered.

The day he left California for Baltimore, he carried little with him. But what he left behind are immeasurable treasures in the hearts, memories and lives of legions of seminarians, priests and so many others. His friends are many and varied, strong and weak, witty and smart, little and great. And they all share a common legacy: their lives have been changed for having met this great gentleman and priest.

When we were kids in high school and college, every one of his music examinations would ask: "What's the best class of the week?" Chant was the right answer. But the truly correct response would have been: You are, Jack. ■

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

On September 28, 2000, Brian F. Cahill, R'60, interim Executive Director of San Francisco Catholic Charities, wrote a letter to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of San Francisco regarding the expense account abuses of former Catholic Charities leadership. The letter was strong, apologetic, and 'faith-filled'.

With Brian's permission, I reprint portions of a truly historic letter:

"Restoring faith in the mission of Catholic Charities has been my top priority. Significant changes have already occurred in terms of executive personnel and organizational structure. All members of the Executive Leadership Team have either resigned or have had their positions eliminated. Monies previously utilized for "executive perks" will be directed where they belong, to core programmatic needs.....

The Archbishop and the Board of Directors fully accept responsibility for the oversight breakdowns that occurred. They received a humbling wake-up call upon their review of the findings of the Board's Special Ad Hoc Committee, which was charged with conducting a prompt and thorough review of the matter. I cannot express fully how sorry we are that this horrendous violation of stewardship occurred, or how much we wish it had not. But given the fact that it did, the best way we can express our regret is to make sure that a scandal like this never occurs again.....

We have added policies and procedures that will ensure that only appropriate business expenses are reimbursed, and that all such expenditures are at a prudent level, in keeping with our very distinct mission to serve those most in need, regardless of their faith.....

The staff that serves our clients is first-rate and includes skilled professionals who are dedicated and compassionate in every way. The services that Catholic Charities provides are crucial for thousands of vulnerable human beings.....

I am aware of the rich legacy of faith-based social services left to us by leaders such as Msgr. Jim Flynn, Msgr. Tim O'Brien, and Msgr. Jack O'Connor and other lay leaders.....

You have good reason to be angry and sick at the great damage done. But if you are angry, I ask that you reason beyond your anger and reflect on the needs of those who benefit from our programs daily. Don't let people with AIDS, homeless mothers, abused and neglected children and isolated seniors become the innocent victims of this situation—they have already suffered enough."

Brian, thank you for undertaking this heavy task and for your courage in facing a truly difficult situation! ■

# Hearing Aids and Saint Joe's Connections

by Larry Ottar Ratto, R'54

I live in a community about 50 miles north of Los Angeles. Having an old hearing-loss problem recently compounded by age-related loss, I used the Yellow Pages to find a local hearing aid dispenser. During my visit with the audiologist, he made mention of the very old style breast style hearing aid. (These were a cigarette-pack-sized box that had a microphone grill and volume control knob on the front; it was clipped to a shirt pocket or hung on the chest with a neck lanyard. Some wires conspicuously coiled up to an ear piece. The electronics were not sophisticated and required the wearer to frequently adjust the volume.)

The mention of this type of hearing aid brought back a St. Joe's memory which I thought the audiologist might find entertaining. I told him that I had attended a "Catholic School" where I had a priest for an English teacher who wore one of those hearing aids. I described the teacher as a frail, scholarly type who had the amusing mannerism of referring to authors by their diminutive first names—Shakespeare was Bill for instance. (The teacher was Fr. William Bucky O'Connor.) I went on to tell about a prearranged prank we students perpetrated. When a student at the rear of the classroom was called on, he spoke in a quiet voice. After Bucky had turned up the volume on his hearing aid, another student in a front desk slid a book off his desk so it banged on the floor. The very pronounced start and wince by Bucky surprised

us, and we later felt guilty for our prank which had produced a much more harsh and unpleasant reaction than we had anticipated.

I also told him about another incident in The Barn that had contributed to my initial hearing loss. I was assigned to be a timekeeper for a basketball game. I had my wind-up stop clock and chrome-plated horn resting on a ledge while the game was in progress. A Sixth Latiner came by, picked up the horn and blew it right in my ear. I vividly remember the incident because it was quite painful. (Older alumni who preceded the addition of the College wing and gym will remember The Barn—it had really been a barn that was converted into a basketball gym with three courts. The two outward courts were very narrow and had wooden walls for sidelines. We could make passes around defenders by ricocheting a bank-shot off a side wall; today it would be called arena basketball).

At the end of my hearing examination, the audiologist asked about the location of my English teacher's school. I told him it was near Mountain View, California, and he replied "St. Joseph's? I went there, too!". He is Michael W. Marion, R'65.

Michael and his wife, both audiologists, have an audiology practice in Camarillo, CA. They have three grammar-school-aged children. I have three grown children and work with the Navy as a defense contractor. ■

## A Day in My Life at St. Joseph's (1958)

by Bill Wall, R'63

Bill Wall sent the Association a 21 page remembrance of his days at St. Joseph's. If you want a complimentary copy, you may email Bill at Bill\_Wall4@yahoo.com or write him at 5479 Fairway Dr., San Jose, CA 95127. The following is an excerpt from his work detailing a process that many of us experienced.

"As strenuous and rigorous as the daily routine was, if you really wanted to be a priest someday, the demands of the average day did not bother you. ...I loved my first two years at the seminary.....all of a sudden, as I started Third High, subtle questions came to me about the seminary and priesthood and whether I fit into all of that. At first I thought this was just a phase I was going through, and that this period of doubt would pass. It didn't. ....I talked to my Confessor, Fr. Connor, extensively during this period. He was very helpful and comforting, but af-

ter he tried to talk me into staying several times, he basically said the decision was mine. Old 'Doc' Connor was a good listener....I told my parents that I was going to leave St. Joseph's right after Christmas. A couple of days later, my father drove me to the seminary during Christmas break to pick up my personal belongings. I went to see Fr. Campbell and told him of my decision. He talked to me a bit, but when he realized I was firm in my decision, he asked me to write a letter of resignation. Then he shook my hand and wished me well in whatever I did. As you might imagine, I was pretty choked up at the time. That was a long ride home that day. I called up my best friend, Jim Nice, who lived in San Mateo and told him that I would not be returning. We said our good byes over the phone, and that conversation was punctuated with some tears. That took place in December of 1959". ■

# A Country to Be Grateful For

*as submitted to the LA Times Op-Ed and printed with the permission of it's author, Edward McGlynn Gaffney, Jr., R'61 (Ed is a professor of law at Valparaiso University and is currently Director of Content of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia)*

Schoolchildren typically associate Thanksgiving with 17th century Pilgrims at Plymouth inviting to a fall festival the Natives who welcomed them to these shores and who rescued them from peril, not to say disaster. The national holiday, however, began in 1789 with a Presidential proclamation rooted in the key events of our history, our struggle for freedom from imperial tyranny and our commitment to liberty and justice for all reflected in our federal Constitution and the several state constitutions that preceded it.

Our first President, George Washington, recommended that on Thursday, November 26, 1789, Americans would "all unite in rendering unto God our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation." Last Sunday I gave thanks in Old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia. When this church was founded in 1733- forty-three years before our becoming a nation-it was the only place in the English-speaking world where it was legal for Catholics to celebrate Mass. From the tradition of Quaker hospitality in Pennsylvania came the American commitment to free exercise of religion, something that people of all faiths-and of none-can be grateful for. Even before the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791, Washington urged our ancestors to be grateful "for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed".

Each of the other reasons Washington assigned for thanksgiving at the dawn of the republic resonates in our own lives today. Not just the founding generation, but all of us can be grateful for "the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war." Our war for independence turned the world upside down, and our revolution committed us irrevocably to a task of achieving liberty and equality. We haven't yet completed that project, but the very enormousness of the task is a blessing.

We can also be grateful, as Washington wrote, "for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have enjoyed." Or as President Clinton put it in this year's proclamation: "We have much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving Day. Our Nation is free, prosperous and at peace". Clinton' words take on a particular poignancy shortly after his historic visit to the only place

where we lost a war. It is a time for grateful remembrance of all who died in that conflict-Americans and our allies, and the Vietnamese whom we can finally number as friends.

Washington urged not hubris, but humility: "that we may unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications beseeching [God] to pardon our national and other transgressions." The association of this holiday with Pilgrims and Indians is an opportunity for us to acknowledge responsibility for destructive violence against those who precede the white settlers to this continent for many millennia.

Other national transgressions include the treatment of African Americans. As Lincoln reckoned time, it was "four score and seven years" from the Declaration of the self-evident truth that "all are created equal" to the battlefield testing whether a nation so conceived and dedicated could long endure half-slave, half-free. And our second great revolution-the adoption of the Civil War amendments ending slavery and securing equal protection of the laws-was postponed for nearly another century before the promise of equality would verge on fulfillment in our time.

We also transgressed against the human dignity of women. The Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed the right of the newly emancipated slaves to vote in 1870, but women had to wait until 1920 before the Nineteenth Amendment secured the franchise for them.

Other transgressions could be listed, but this is a day primarily for rejoicing. So I am placing high on my list of gratitude all who amended our Constitution in a way that has been widening the circle of those included within its protections. As President Clinton put it, it is a good thing that Americans should "reach out in gratitude and friendship to our brothers and sisters across the land who, together comprise our great American family." Happy Thanksgiving, America! ■

## URGENT!

Our voluntary dues are substantially behind last year's. Please mail your contribution now to:

St. Joseph's-St. Patrick's Alumni Association,  
320 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Robert Del Tredicci, R'59:** In our Spring/Summer Newsletter, I forgot to mention that Bob took all of the photographs at our Alumni Day 2000, and 14 of his photographs were printed in the Newsletter. Bob lives Montreal, Canada, and we thank him for his generous efforts.

**Michael Collins, R'53,** his Schola and volunteers sang at St. Joseph the Worker in Berkeley on September 10, 2000. Rev. Bill O'Donnell, R'50, presided and Rev. George R. Crespin, R'56, was in attendance. Michael's regular choir members Ken Solak, Charles Barca and Ray O'Brien were joined by the following alumni: Bill Finnegan, R'61, Paul Gorman, Jack Elliott, and Kevin Ryan all R'53; Mike Mitchell and Ed George R'52; Brian O'Kane R'51, Jack Savant, R'50. Also in attendance was Harry Lema, R'50, Ed Nevin, R'61, Jerry Dunn, R'65 and Jim Murphy, R'64. Mike Mitchell put together a beautiful rendition of 'Jesu Dulcis Memoria' (Mike used to direct the hospital Christmas Choir in the 1950's). The Schola sings on the 1st Sunday of each month at Sts. Peter and Paul in SF, 11:30 a.m. Italian Mass (no singing in May or October). Everyone is welcome to join them—arrive for rehearsal below Church at 10:30 a.m.)

**Reunion:** On October 7, 2000 at the New Pisa Restaurant in SF, a large group of alumni from the Rhet Classes of 52,53,54, 55 and 56 gathered to celebrate life. Jim Smith, R'55 was visiting from Montana and became the impetus for the gathering- it's rumored that many Men of Troy were in attendance. The event was coordinated by Don Puppione, Don Casella, Tim Goode and Larry Murphy (all R'55). Also in attendance were Harry Bush and wife, Bill Cane, Bill Garvey, Jim Leininger and wife, Bob Del Moral and wife, Jim Fitzgerald (1), Jim Fitzgerald (2), Dennis Moriarty and wife, Bob Quigley and wife, Ed O'Brien and wife, Don Carroll (R'58) and Mary Jo, Kevin Mullen, Terry Sullivan, Jerry Horan and Lynne, John McAuliffe and wife, Frank Brady, Bob Moratto and wife, Dan Collins, Dick Wingell, Jim

Monahan and wife, John (Bodie) Healy, Bill Deasy and wife, Vic Lampe, Mike Collins, John Ring, and Kevin Ryan.

**Class of R'65 Reunion:** On the weekend of September 29, 2000, Richard J. Brett, Denis Ducey, Nick Rizza, Gene Cervelli, John Kelly, Mike Gannon, Paul Schneider, Jerry Dunn, Rich Kraemer, Fred Rowe, M.D., Mike Meyer, and John Owen traveled to the home of their classmate, Steve Grosse and his wife, Teri, near Graeagle, Ca. They were joined by Nick Beltrano and Jim Murphy, R'64. Chef Brett nearly burned down the Grosse home, John Kelly managed to sprain both ankles, Mike Meyer took honors at golf, and Gene Cervelli drove the ball about 400 yards. Mike Gannon with guitar and banjo led an old fashioned sing-a-long, and John Kelly produced the original Trojan Year Book for the year 1961-62 (written by loyal Trojan, Gary Plimley—the final results that year were Trojans, Bears, Indians, and in last place, Ramblers.

**Greg Hobbs, R'64,** lives in Colorado with his wife, Bobbie, and two children, Daniel and Emily. Greg graduated from the Univ. of Notre Dame in 1966 and received his JD from Boalt Hall, Univ. of California at Berkeley in 1971. Greg served in the Peace Corps in South America, taught 6th grade in New York, and practiced law for 25 years in Denver in the areas of water, environment, land use and transportation. On April 18, 1996, Greg was appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court and presently is an associate justice of the Supreme Court. (As I write this, we need him in Florida!!!)

**Dan Kugler, R'63,** lives in Albany, Ca. and practices Pastoral Counseling in San Francisco. Dan is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Pastoral Counselor with over 25 years of experience. Dan also publishes a Pastoral Counseling Newsletter. If you need to contact Dan, you can reach him at (415) 921-1619, 1537 Franklin St., Suite 304, San Francisco, Ca. 94109, e-mail DanJKugler@aol.com. ■

### St. Joseph's Memorabilia

If any alums have any memorabilia, copies of old school newspapers, The Blow etc, old photos, sports records, or anything that you think the Association would find of interest, please contact your Alumni Coordinator, Jim Murphy at (650) 591-3492, 1710 Robin Whipple Way, Belmont, CA 94002; Fax: (650) 654-3503; Email: MURPUR@aol.com

## *In Memoriam*

**Bissell, Barry, R'63**, on July 5, 2000 in New York City of an sudden heart attack. Barry is survived by his wife, Kaisa, and his good friend, Rev. Donald Fraser, R'63, of McCall, Idaho.

**Povey, Peter Gillick, H'68**, on September 1, 2000, at home in Foster City, CA of a massive heart attack. Peter is survived by his wife, Therese, and children, Mollie, Erin, Meagan, Matthew and Colleen. Also survived by his mother, Patricia, and siblings, Phil Povey, H'67, Patricia, Paul, Patrick and their respective families. Peter was a native San Franciscan. He served in Viet Nam as a tank commander and later as a hospital administrator. He graduated from SF State and entered the Import/Export business, rising quickly to vice President. He was an active and long time parishioner of St. Gregory's in San Mateo. Always a large moustache, and always a wide smile. We will miss you, Pete!

**Clancy, Eugene F. (Gene), R'57**, on August 9, 2000, at home in Santa Rosa, CA, at age 63. Gene retired from the State Compensation Insurance Fund in 1994, following a 34 year career. He was a most generous supporter and member of our Alumni Association.

**Lacey, Rev. Thomas E., R'37**, on August 13, 2000. Fr. Tom was the brother of Rev. George F. Lacey, R'39 of Stockton, CA. Fr. was ordained in 1943 and served as associate director of CYO in San Francisco from 1946-1961. He was the Founding Pastor of St. Matthias in Redwood City. He was an avid 49er fan and was fluent in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. In retirement, he taught English to the Spanish speaking adults at the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City.

**Broderson, Mary Rose**, on July 4, 2000, at the age of 81. Mary Rose was the mother of Rev. Donald E. Broderson, R'62 and Phillip J. Broderson, C'69.

**Sheedy, Msgr. Mateo E., C'73**, on October 20, 2000, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in San Jose and Founder of Downtown College Prep. In our next newsletter, we will feature an article on Mateo. His life was dedicated to social justice in the spirit of Christ, Bishop Oscar Romero and Cesar Chavez.

**Hary, Rev. Melvin J., R'48**, on November 6, 2000, at Mercy Care Center in Oakland, Ca. Fr. was ordained in 1954, and served at churches in SF and Oakland before enlisting in the Navy in 1968. A native San Franciscan from St. Cecilia's, Fr. served a two year tour in Viet Nam and received numerous Citations for Meritorious Service. He was pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Rodeo, Ca from 1990 to January of 2000.

**Keane, Rev. James F., R'42**, on November 19, 2000, at Hayward, Ca, age 78, brother of Rev. Patrick Keane, R'45. Fr. was born in Oakland. He was ordained in 1947, received a Masters Degree in English from Catholic

University, and taught at both Serra and Bishop O'Dowd High Schools. He was the Founding Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in San Leandro, and pastor at Our Lady of Grace in Castro Valley and St. Felicitas in San Leandro.

**Brady, Mary Bridget**, on November 28, 2000 at the age of 91, mother of Edward Brady, C'71 and mother-in-law of Brian P. McMahan, R'60. Mary was a dedicated parishioner of St. Cecelia's and counted many a collection with Mary C. Riley.

**Loughran, Helene**, in August of 2000, wife of Terence Loughran, R'52. Terry writes that his wife "was my very best friend and the love of my life. After a very long illness, she is at last at peace--that consoles me some". Terry, along with Bruce Atkinson and Pierre Calegari, both R'52, came to St. Joseph's College in the Fall of 1958, as newly ordained aspiring Sulpicians--they were gifted teachers, wise confessors, and fantastic role models. ■

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2000

RONALD C. JOHNSON  
Certified Public Accountant  
1350 Carlback Ave., Suite 150  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596  
Telephone: (925) 938-2225  
Facsimile: (925) 938-0617

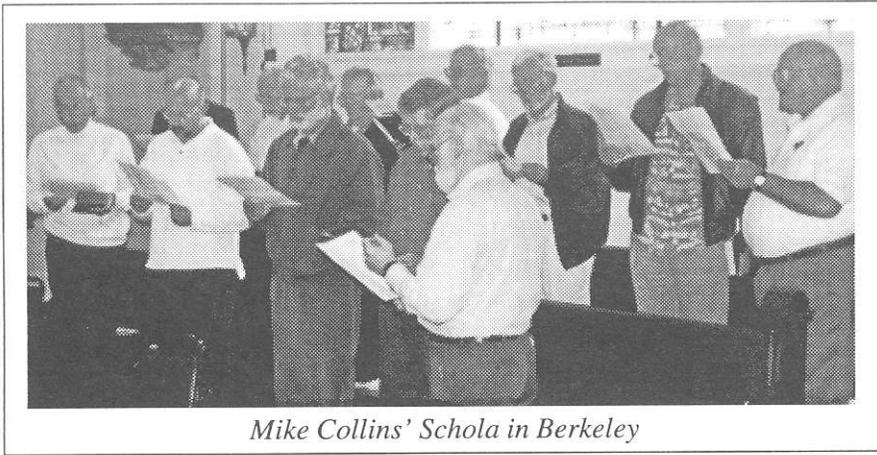
St. Joseph's-St. Patrick's College Alumni Association

I have compiled the accompanying statement of assets, liabilities and net assets-cash basis of St. Joseph's-St. Patrick's College Alumni Association, as of June 30, 1999, and the related statement of changes in net assets-cash basis and supplementary schedule for the year then ended, in accordance with statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The financial statements have been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

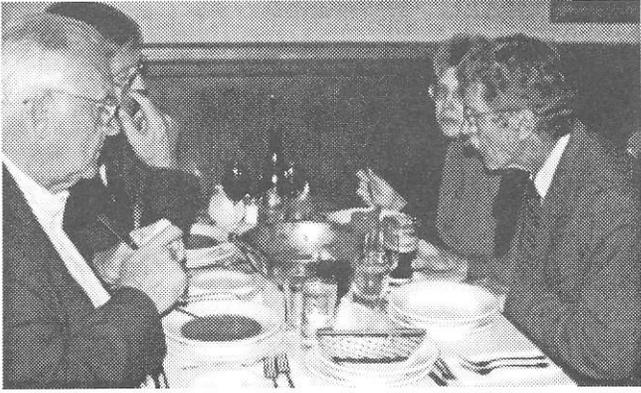
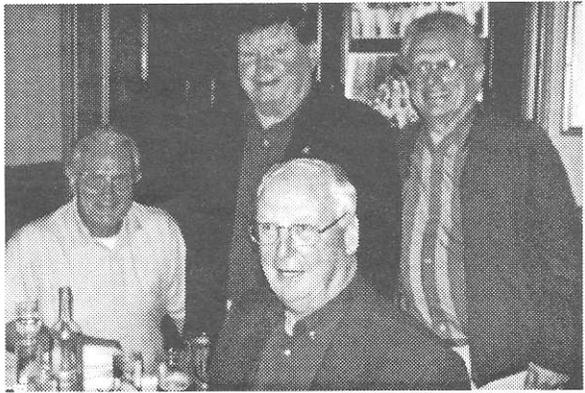
A compilation is limited to presenting in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of the management. I have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures and the statement of cash flows required by generally accepted accounting principles. If the omitted disclosures and the statement of cash flows were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusion about the company's financial position and the results of the operation. Accordingly, these financial statements are designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

Ronald C. Johnson  
August 25, 2000



*Mike Collins' Schola in Berkeley*



NEW PISA REUNION

**St. Joseph's - St. Patrick's College Alumni Association**  
320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*

Mr. Charles P. Smith  
10477 Oak Glen Ave  
Mariposa, CA 95327