

# ST. JOSEPH'S - ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Spring 2001 Newsletter

## ALUMNI RETURN TO SEMINARY

We are happy to inform you that two of our alumni have returned to the seminary and are students at St. Patrick's: Patrick H. Curran, R'54 and Lawrence P. Percell, Ph.D. R'67.

### BUZZY IS BACK

by Rev. John Cloherty, R'54



*Msgr. John J. O'Conn or, Patrick 'Buzzy' Curran, Robert M. Driscoll, and Rev. John Cloherty, all R'54, at the Diaconate Ordination of Pat Curran on January 27, 2001 at St. Patrick's Seminary. (Not shown: Rev. Harmon Skillin)*

**O**n the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, September 8, 1948, seventy-two teenagers entered St. Joseph's College as Sixth Latiners. These young men came to St. Joe's to begin their 12 year journey to priesthood. Patrick H. Curran, nicknamed 'Buzzy', from St. James' Parish in San Francisco, was one of the seventy-two. He was joined by such personalities as Atondo, Breen, Cloherty, Collins, Driscoll, Fitzgerald, Gaffey, Horan, Kelly, Kennedy, McAuliffe, O'Connor, Persano, Re, Sabog, Sarubbi and Skillin.

After six years in the seminary, Pat changed course and began work in the electronics industry. He first attended City College in San Francisco, followed by law school, and then began a career in Stockton working for San Joaquin County. While in Stockton, he married

Hedwidge, and together they raised four children: Steve, Bill, Denice and Sylvie. After his wife's death, Patrick once again responded to God's call and entered St. Patrick's Seminary to resume the journey that began in 1948.

Saturday, January 27, 2001 became a glorious day for the Church when Patrick "Buzzy" Curran was ordained a transitory deacon by Bishop Daniel Walsh, R'57. Sharing in the joy of the day was his mother and four children.

At age 67, Patrick will be ordained a priest at the Cathedral of the Annunciation on June 9, 2001. His First Mass will be the next day at his home parish, Church of the Presentation, in Stockton, CA. ■

# The Road Not Taken?

by Lawrence P. Percell, Ph.D., R'67



Some thirteen years after Pat Curran entered St. Joseph's, another young man from the mission district of San Francisco began his seminary journey. I asked Larry Percell, R'67, to describe his vocation discernment process and he graciously submitted the following.

Forty years ago this Fall, I left my family home on Church Street in the Noe Valley District of San Francisco and began the journey to St. Joseph's College. My seminary experience began in the old system: six years of Latin, three years of Greek, two years of Spanish, visiting Sundays, walks to Loyola Corners only once a month, Ramblers, Trojans, Bears and Indians. But my years there, which coincide with the Council, also saw many changes in curriculum, freedom, and personal responsibility. In 1967 my class was the last to graduate as Rhets because the following year (1968) would see the reorganization of the seminary system into separate high school, college, and theologate programs.

1968 would also see other changes in my life. I began to have serious doubts that I could live a happy celibate life. To explore this, I transferred to Cal Berkeley where I encountered National Guard on campus three of my five quarters there, light years away from the sleepy campuses in Mountain View and Menlo Park. During this time a seminary classmate asked me to be his best man. His bride-to-be asked a grammar school classmate of hers (Joan Herrmann of San Mateo) to be her maid of honor. Four months after their wedding, Joan and I were engaged. I had found my answer to the question about my ability to live a happy celibate life.

In August of 1970, Joan and I were married and moved immediately to Tucson, Arizona where I earned my doctorate in clinical psychology. Because we were both Bay Area snobs, we returned here as quickly as we

could. I landed an internship at the Veterans Hospital in Menlo Park in the shadow of St. Pat's and later a job with the San Mateo County Mental Health in Redwood City where I worked for twenty-seven years.

In 1975 with a four month old daughter and a second child, a son, on the way, I was hired as an adjunct faculty member at St. Joseph's College. (by now I am sure you are getting the picture that what began in 1961 was to be a thread running through the rest of my life.) I taught mostly upper division psychology classes there for twelve years. In the mid 1980's with dwindling enrollment at St. Joe's I was kicked upstairs (so to speak) and began teaching pastoral counseling at St. Pat's, which has been a delight for me, because of the course itself, the many wonderful students, and the outstanding faculty.

Throughout all of these years, Joan and I were active in our parish in Sunnyvale. Joan had been a member of the Immaculate Heart Sisters in Los Angeles for a few years before we met. With our backgrounds we had a lot to offer the parish, and our leadership in lay ministry was warmly received. When our son was about nine years old, a parishioner asked him about his hobbies. He told the person that he played soccer and collected stamps; but then he added, "My dad's hobby is Church."

If you have the picture that our life was just sailing along, you are right. Joan and I and our children were very happy. Then in the summer of 1999 tragedy struck. With only minimal symptoms, Joan was diagnosed with cancer of unknown origin, which had metastasized to her liver. She lived for almost eight months. In God's providence, however, she died well, supported through her illness by family and friends who showered us with love and reminded her of what a remarkable person she was. She faced death as she had lived life-with faith, courage,

*Continued on page 3*

## The Road Not Taken?

*Continued from page 2*

humor, and love.

To fast forward to the present, this January I returned to St. Pat's as a student to prepare for ordination in the Diocese of San Jose. I believe this is the path God is laying out for me, and I know that I have gifts to share with God's People. Ministry was very much a part of our married life. When I spoke to my children about my plan, I did not surprise them; but they surprised me.

They told me that Joan had spoken to both of them privately before she died and said to them, "Don't be surprised if your father decides to go back into the seminary." I feel this was Joan's way of giving me her blessing. It is not something she and I talked about directly during her illness although the thought was percolating within me during that time. But I never wanted her to feel for a moment that I was looking beyond our life together. We had promised each other and God that we would love one another in good times and in bad. We were totally committed to one another regardless of the circumstances.

In the current plan, my preparation for ordination is to take two and a half years. My courses this semester are very stimulating: John's Gospel, homiletics, sacramental theology, and spiritual theology. It feels like a sabbatical after working for thirty years. But as you can imagine, returning to the seminary has been an adjustment too. While it is familiar territory to me, the transition from faculty member to student will take time. (For one thing, I have to remember to turn left into the stu-

dent dining room for dinner instead of turning right into the faculty dining room.) Of course, my continuation on to priesthood will happen, I believe, if it is what God wants from me and for me. In the meantime, I will try to enjoy the ride.

In his poem, *The Road Not Taken*, Robert Frost writes: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." For reasons I do not fully understand, God has brought me to the fork in the road once again. I stand at this juncture with a mixture of sadness and hope. I miss Joan tremendously although I feel she remains my partner in life and in ministry. Because of her presence, I feel that I may have the charism of celibacy now.

Questions persist in my mind about how and why all this has happened. Many faith-filled friends have shared their reflections with me, which have helped me to partially understand. Recently, I have also found comfort in the words of Cardinal John Henry Newman: "God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another...I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught....Therefore, I will trust Him...If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about."

Please keep me in your prayers and remember all the seminarians at St. Patrick's as well. I hope to see you on Alumni Day. ■



*St. Joseph's College*

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## REMINDER:

Alumni Day 2001 is on Saturday, April 28, 2001

We will be honoring the Rhet Class of 1951 (50 years); Rhet Class of 1961 (40 years); Rhet and High School Classes of 1966 (35 years), and the College and High School Classes of 1976 (25 years).

Our President, Patrick F. Cloherty, reports that our first Alumni Day in the modern era was held at St. Joseph's on October 2, 1981. Gerald Brown, S.S., R'58, was the President-Rector at that time.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of our modern Alumni Day.

If any older Alumni need transportation to the event, please call Jim Murphy at (650) 591-3492. We will attempt to make the necessary arrangements.



# MARCH IS VOCATION MONTH IN ARCHDIOCESE

## MARCH 12, 1948

Jim Carroll, R'51, forwarded an old poster that he came upon entitled "March is Vocation Month in Archdiocese". The poster was published by the Monitor on March 12, 1948 at San Francisco. Photos on the poster portray a typical day in the life of a seminarian. The featured seminarian was 'Tommy'. Shown below are some of the photos and captions from the poster. If you can provide the identity of 'Tommy' and the other students pictured, please let me know. This is not a contest; I do not know the identities of the young men.



*Suitcase in hand, Tommy climbs the stairs at the entrance to St. Joseph's where he is greeted by Very Rev. Francis J. Rock, S.S., President of the preparatory seminary. After preliminary instructions, registration and assignment of room, he is ready to begin his studies for the priesthood. (Jim Carroll noted that Tommy's suitcase looked like an antique even then!!!!).*

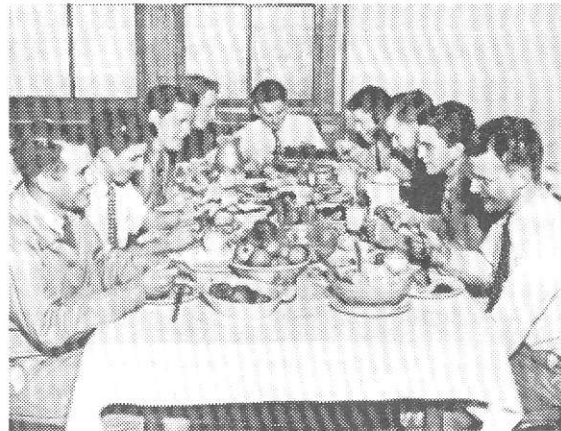


*As it must for all students, the quest of knowledge leads Tommy to 'bear down' on the school books and the intricacies of such subjects as Latin and Algebra. Here he is shown with his classmates between periods in the stately cloister that lines the center court of St. Joseph's.*



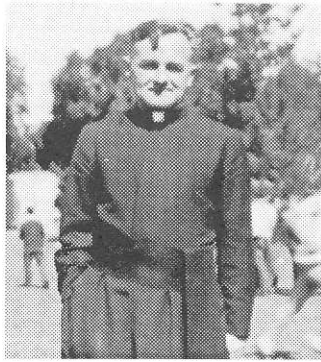
*Recreation plays a favorite role in the daily routine and Tommy is not one to shy from exercise. As he watches a towering foul ball spin off his bat into the green pastures of Mountain View.*

*Five minutes to six is rising time at St. Joseph's, and, Tommy, shown in his private room, stretches as he looks reproachfully at the alarm clock.*

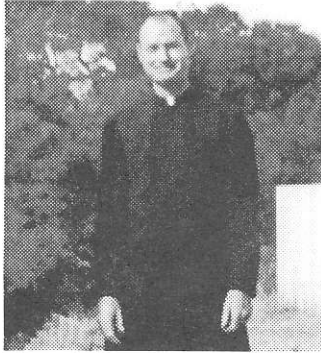


*Chow time is no less popular to St. Joseph's students than to any healthy lad and the cuisine is wholesome and plentiful as the countenances of the boys will attest.*

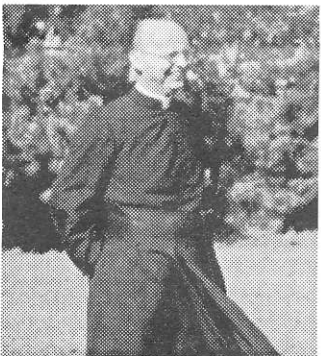
## FORMER FACULTY AT ST. JOSEPH'S



*Lyman A. Fenn, S.S.*



*Laurence V. 'Larry' Taylor, S.S.*



*Francis J. 'Pop' Rock, S.S.*



*Paul J. 'Crobo' Cronin, S.S.*



*William V. 'Bucky' O'Connor, S.S.*



*Andrew A. Forster, S.S.*

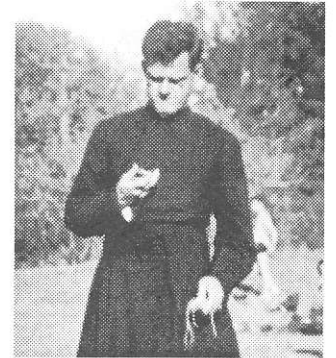
An old priest with a long white flowing beard, ambling slowly in his walker along the corridors adjacent to the refectory and classrooms—a vivid first impression of seminary life. The priest was Royal B. Webster, S.S., aka, “The Floater”. Jerry Coleman, S.S., President/Rector of St. Patrick’s Seminary forwarded the following from the Sulpician Archives in Baltimore:

Royal Bertram Webster was born of Methodist parents in Stockton, California, on May 29, 1879. From 1886 to 1897, he attended public schools in Stockton. After graduating from high school, he taught school in Murphys, California, where he met a family whose influence let him into the Catholic Church. Soon after his conversion, in 1900, he entered St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, attained an A.B. in 1901 and an A.M. in 1902. After gaining an S.T.B. in 1905, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Francisco by Cardinal Gibbons on June 21, 1905. In 1905-06 he made his Solitude in Issy. On his return to the United States he taught from 1906 to 1908 at St. Charles College in Catonsville, Maryland, but was then assigned to St. Patrick’s Seminary in San Francisco; he taught Latin and English there for a brief time until ill health occasioned his retirement from the classroom. When St. Joseph’s College opened in 1924, Father Webster moved with its faculty to Mountain View. He was organist for liturgical services and raised flowers for the chapel. He died on June 7, 1962. (Adapted from the Voice, and from his “Personal Data” sheet; and from notes supplied by Fr. John Bowen)

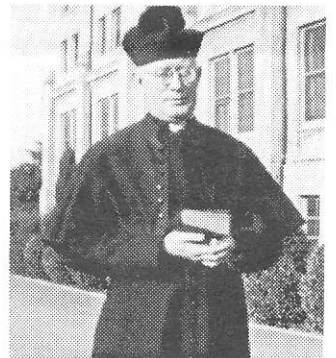
Many an afternoon in the fifties saw Dudley Conneely, R’64, briskly pushing “The Floater” in his walker at speeds approaching 20 mph—a frail cry echoed throughout the inner courtyard: “Stop, please Stop!!”



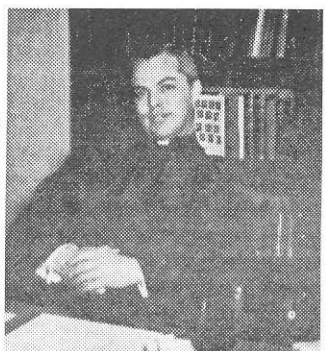
*James T. 'Beansie' Campbell, S.S.*



*Charles P. 'Chuck' Dillon, S.S.*



*Joseph Riddlemoser, S.S.*



*John A. Ward, S.S.*

Wally Nicholas, R'65, reported that his class entered St. Joseph's on September 9, 1959 (must report by 11:00 a.m.) and sent the following from a brochure that was sent to all parents:

General Information for Young Men Entering St. Joseph's College:

**CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION:** Since St. Joseph's College is intended solely for boys and young men who are called to the priesthood, only those who, in the judgment of their ecclesiastical superiors, give signs of a vocation to that holy state, may be admitted.

**TERMS:** Board, bed, bedding, laundry and instruction are \$500.00 per scholastic year, payable half yearly in advance, or in 10 equal monthly payments per year in accordance with terms made with the Reverend Treasurer. Book fees-\$40.00, Laundry Tags-\$1.00, Term Fees (library, medical, athletic facilities and locker rental)-\$15.00.

**PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS:** Each student should be provided with a bath robe, slippers, a drinking glass as well as a dust mop, broom, small throw rug and a small chest of drawers for his room. Each student should bring four or five changes of clothing. All students are required to wax their own rooms; therefore, they are required to bring a wax applicator and buffing cloth. The type of wax required is on sale at the college store.

**LAUNDRY:** Our Sisters do the laundry with the following exceptions: no trousers of any kind; no silk or woolen shirts or sport shirts with unusual collars; limit of 3 shirts per student per week; socks are limited to plain white or black only. ALL articles of clothing, even ties and suits, are to be marked with Cash-woven tags bearing the students assigned laundry number.

**SOME POINTS OF DISCIPLINE:** Seminarians receive visitors only on the third Sunday of each month from 1:00 PM to 4:15 PM. Visits are restricted to parents or guardians and near relatives. ....

Seminarians are not allowed to receive or possess books, magazines, papers etc. except those specifically approved by the school authorities. They are not permitted to have radios, television, phonographs etc. .... The domestic department of St. Joseph's College is in the capable hands of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family from Sherbrooke, Canada. The better to guard their health and to keep control over their dietary habits, the students are discouraged from receiving packages of food, especially through the mail. ■

## ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE DAILY BULLETIN

The following excerpts are from the Bulletin for November 6, 1968:

1. Anyone who is interested in refereeing soccer or basketball games (\$5.00 per game) can contact Mr. Lacey.
2. Election Straw Poll Results:  
    Presidential:  
        Humphrey       94  
        Nixon           16  
        Wallace         1  
        Cleaver         5  
        Ted Kennedy     1  
        McCarthy       4  
    Senatorial:  
        Cranston       105  
        Rafferty        6
3. Fr. Coleman is selling his 1960 Ford Falcon, an excellent commuter car: Only \$70.00
4. Bonus Films for Film Club on Monday and Wednesday nights: "Nobody Waved Goodbye" and "Nothing But a Man".  
  
    Thought For the Day:  
  
        *Not all Hippies have beards, and  
        not all beards have Hippies.*  
                                    --- Chuck Lathrop.



## *In Memoriam*

**Finn, William, C'70**, in November, 2000, at the age of 56 at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital of pneumonia. Bill was born in Sebastopol, studied at Santa Clara University, St. Patrick's College and St. Patrick's Seminary, and Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained in 1972 for the Society of the Precious Blood. In 1977 he became principal of Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa. Bill also served as a priest in Alaska and Washington. At one time, Bill took a leave from priesthood and went into business in Sonoma County. He is survived by his brother and sister.

**Donohue, Thomas J.**, on December 9, 2000. Husband of Teresa, father of Andrea, Regina, and Patrick; son of the late James Mel Donohue, R'30, brother of Hugh Donohue, C'72, and nephew of Most Rev. Hugh A. Donohue, R'33, deceased. Building contractor and proprietor of Donohue and Carroll Memorials.

**Burns, William (Bill), R'48**, on December 21, 2000 at his home in Aptos, CA. Survived by his wife, Joan, and step-children and his brother, Rev. Thomas Burns. Prior to retirement, Bill worked for Hewlett-Packard.

**O'Malley, Joseph A.**, on December 25, 2000, native San Franciscan. Survived by his seven sons and brother, Rev. James O'Malley, R'39; retired Sergeant from the San Francisco Police Department.

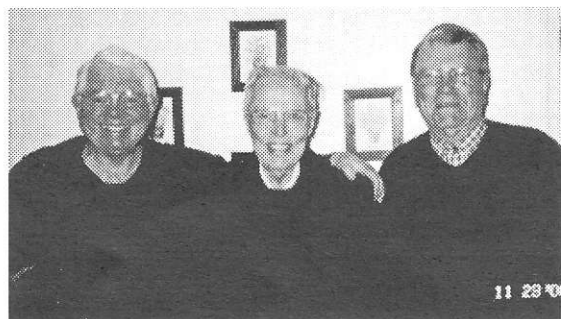
**Hurley, Most Rev. Mark J., R'39**, on February 5, 2001 following surgery for an aneurysm, age 81. Bishop Hurley is survived by his brother, Most. Rev. Francis T. Hurley, R'45, retired Archbishop of Anchorage, Alaska, and his sister, Mrs. Phyllis Porter. Bishop Hurley was the Bishop of Santa Rosa from 1969-1986. He was a graduate of St. Agnes in San Francisco, St. Joseph's College in Mountain View, and St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA. He received a Ph.D. in education from Catholic University of America. During Vatican Council II, Bishop Hurley was a 'periti'. He was a very capable educator and the founder of Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, CA. Bishop Hurley was a loyal supporter of our Alumni Association.

**LaBarbera, Robert J.**, age 82, on March 10, 2001 at Oakland, CA.; father of Rev. Robert D. LaBarbera, R'64, Donna Manuel and Nina Debra Blackledge.

**Duryea, Robert F., R'41**, on March 11, 2001 at home in Los Gatos, CA. Survived by his wife, Luilan, and children, Paul and Nicole, and his brother, John S. Duryea, R'37. Prior to retirement, Bob worked for 20 years as Director of a Family Counseling center at Shinn Park in Fremont, Ca.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**FRANK T. FOSTER, R'52**, Maryknoll, reports that our former professors, John A. Ward S.S. and John H. Olivier S.S. are doing well and that Fr. John is adjusting to life in Maryland. Both professors joined Frank and his wife, Shirley, for Thanksgiving dinner on November 23, 2000.



*Frank T. Foster, John A. Ward S.S., & John H. Olivier S.S.*

**Rev. Scott McCarthy, C'70**, is pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Carmel Valley, CA. In 1978 he compiled *That All May Be One: A Handbook for Worship* (updated 1996) and has authored *Celebrating the Earth* (an earth-centered theology of worship with bless-

ings, prayers and rituals) and *People of the Circle, People of Four Directions* (explains the spiritual symbols of the native people of North and South America). During 1990-91, Father was on sabbatical at the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana. If you would like more information, you may reach him at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 9 El Caminito Rd., P.O. Box 195, Carmel Valley, Ca, 93924, (831) 659-2224, Fax (831) 659-9186, E-mail is [www.mtcarmel@callamerica.net](mailto:www.mtcarmel@callamerica.net) Fr. needs HELP. The college class of 1970 designed a class ring, and his was recently stolen. If any of Scott's classmates can help him or get a duplicate made, please call him at the above phone number.

**James Herning, Ph.D., MSW, R'65**, has returned to San Mateo after many years in St. Louis. Jim is now working as Director of the Missions Office for the Diocese of San Jose. Jim will be in charge of the Society for Propagation of the Faith, Missionary Cooperation Program, Catholic Relief Services and Holy Childhood Association. Welcome home, Jim!! ■

## THE MIGHTY TROJANS



*Help! Let us know if you can identify these Men of Troy*

## Your contact...

*If you need to contact our Alumni Coordinator with any Alumni concern (opinions, suggestions, alumni updates, changes of address), you may write Jim Murphy at St. Patrick's Seminary or you may contact him directly as follows:*

*James P. Murphy  
1710 Robin Whipple Way  
Belmont, CA 94002-1851*

*Phone: (650) 591-3492  
E-mail: MURPUR@aol.com  
Fax: (650) 654-3503*

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



*Happy Easter*

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