Banquet a grand success

The Knights welcomed 220 alumni and friends back for the annual banquet on June 2 at Alta Villa in Addison. Congratulations to the Golden Anniversary Committee from 1956. Pat Dalton served as chair. Phil Hannigan, Chuck Heerhold, Don Hogan, Len Keil, Chuck Kirchoff, Mike Laatz, Don McLean, Frank Quilici and Terry Tomaso all served on the team that helped bring more than seventy of their classmates together. The 40th anniversary also did very well as well as Chair Br. Armand Alcazar along with John Maul, Phil Venticinque, and Dennis Wujcik brought nearly thirty members of their Class of 1966 together.

The formal program moved along at an engaging pace. We are grateful to Barry Cicero ’62 for serving as Toastmaster, to the Addison Police Department for the formal Presentation of the Colors (arranged by Mel Mack ’56, Addison Police Chief, retired), to Brother Armand Alcazar ’66 for his special sung Invocation (How Can I Keep From Singing?), to Pat Dalton ’56 and Jim Beatty ’66 for their remarks on behalf of the anniversary classes. We thank Terry Tomaso ’56 for his introduction of Br. Pius Kamphefner as Mel-Man of the year. Finally we thank Pat Dalton ’56, Chuck Kirchoff ’56, and Mike Laatz ’56 for leading the assembled Knights in a rousing rendition of the St. Mel fight song to conclude the evening.

The Christian Brothers are especially grateful to the class of 1956 for their thoughtful anniversary gift of $25,000, presented by Don McLean ’56, in support of the Senior Brothers and the needs of the Brothers’ Lasallian Ministries. The Brothers recognize and appreciate this as just the latest example of the significant support they receive from the St. Mel Knights.

Br H. Pius – Mel-Man of the Year

Br. H. Pius Kamphefner accepts the Mel-Man of the Year Award from Terry Tomaso ’56. Terry warmly remembered Br. Pius’ generous and giving spirit in his years at St. Mel. In his response Br. Pius recalled fondly getting his start as a teacher at St. Mel, crediting his St. Mel colleagues and students with helping to make him the teacher he became.

A Record Gift from ’56

Don McLean ’56 presents Br. Thomas Hetland with $25,000 for the Brothers from his class, an appreciated record St. Mel gift! Although the check appears at $23,710, spirited additional contributions pushed the gift to the goal.
Annual Raffle Continues in support of Senior Brothers

The Christian Brothers Benefit Raffle continues to be a strong source of support for the Senior Brothers and several of the ministries in the Midwest Province. Last year participating ministries shared in over $500,000 that was raised. Of that, $50,000 was for the support of the Senior Brothers.

Two raffle books are enclosed with this newsletter. The proceeds are designated specifically for the needs of the Senior Brothers.

The drawing will take place at the Christian Brothers Provincialate in Burr Ridge on Friday, November 3, 2006. The Brothers extend their appreciation in advance to all those who choose to participate and lend their support in this way.

St. Mel Memorabilia

Thanks to the continuing contributions of memorabilia from many Knights the display at the banquet grows larger each year. The track warm-up suit (lower left) is courtesy of Harry Pawelczyk ’65.

The Alumni Association is grateful to those who have offered some of their St. Mel memorabilia to the Alumni Office. We promise to give items a happy home and to display them at banquets and functions when feasible.

Recently Ray Scott ‘53 brought in a jacket patch and a mint condition American Eagle brass St. Mel cap insignia.

Jerry Schmeltz, the former Br. Julius, who taught at St. Mel in the 1950s sent us a treasure trove of programs, photos, and slides from his days with the Knights.

Thanks, too, to those who came to the banquet with memorabilia in hand: to Ray Zielinski ’43 for his original graduation program from 1943 and the class reunion photo from his 50th in 1993; and to Tom Oswald ’66 for his football shirt and letter sweater.

www.cbmidwest.org

Sign on to this website to find out more about the Christian Brothers and the Lasallian Schools in the Midwest Province: www.cbmidwest.org

Then sign on to www.lasalle.org for information about Lasallian ministries worldwide.

Also check out www.classmates.com. Several Knights have registered on that site.

Senior brother doesn’t have to mean sedentary brother. Here Mel-Man of the Year, Br. H. Pius Kamphefner (right), is congratulated by Phil Hannigan ’56. Br. Pius remains active as Administrator of St. Gabriel’s Parish, serving the poor and disadvantaged in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. At a youthful 76 Br., Pius cannot find the word “retirement” in his vocabulary.
In Memoriam…

Please keep our deceased alumni in your prayers, especially the following about whom we have been notified recently.

- Peter Galvin '24
- Joseph Rafferty '31
- John O'Malley '32
- Robert Lennon '36
- Joseph Cresham '38
- Hubert Kain '38
- Walter Watts '39
- John McCullough '43
- Edwin Tazelaar '43
- Harold Gleason '44
- Thomas Beagley '47
- Albert Krueger '47
- Thomas Donahue '50
- Dominic Infanti '50
- Vincent Salvino '50
- Robert Eaker '52
- Robert Ratcliffe '52
- Robert Janowiak '53
- Raymond Gilgenbach '54
- Donald Kedzior '54
- Raymond Peterson '54
- Robert Krasny '55
- Kenneth Burian '56
- Jerome Chuman '56
- Willard Einspar '56
- John Errera '56
- Ralph Gargano '56
- John Guzialek '56
- Thomas Kula '56
- James Pomyza '56
- Charles Schwab '56
- John Shannon '56
- George Stanczykewicz '56
- Ernest Wollenberg '56
- Alfred Adreani '58
- Raymond Garloff '58
- Jack Sheahan '58
- Joseph Healy '61
- Maurice Dailey '63
- Eugene Maczka '66
- Roman Ostapczuk '66
- James Mundo '67

Considering An Estate Bequest?

In the Spring/Summer 2005 issue of the Christian Brothers publication, Partners in Mission, there appeared the story of Walter and Irene Bowman and the gratitude of the Brothers for their charitable bequest of nearly $500,000. Just last March the Christian Brothers received a generous $50,000 bequest from the estate of Joseph Cresham, St. Mel '38.

Many generous donors make gifts to Catholic organizations, including the Christian Brothers, through estate bequests. Such gifts are made in the context of an overall estate plan, which implements provisions for one’s spouse, children, grandchildren, and other heirs, along with gifts to charity.

Bequests are simple and flexible: “I give $XYZ to the Christian Brothers of the Midwest, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Burr Ridge, IL,” is all that’s needed to make a gift in your estate plan.

You can also be more specific. Bequests can be directed to help the Brothers address your specific areas of interest, for example:

- Care of the retired Brothers
- New and existing educational ministries with the poor
- Formation of Brothers and Partners in the Lasallian Mission
- Scholarship funds
- Foreign missions.

Bequests to non-profit organizations help preserve as much of an estate as possible through tax-saving devices and opportunities. Under current law, some assets are subject to extremely high tax rates when passed to heirs through an estate. Such assets are ideal resources to use in making a charitable gift by will or trust.

Our official title is: Christian Brothers of the Midwest, Inc. For more information on how you can include the Christian Brothers in your estate plans, talk to your estate planner or call Brother Thomas Hetland or Leo Hirsch at 630-323-3725.
Reflections of a St. Mel Knight

An “Old Mel-Man” reflecting
About his Judgment Day
When he would stand before his Lord
Wondered what he’d say.

“I wasn’t just some Shamrock, Lord
Blowing in the breeze.
Nor was I some old Dragon –
No, neither one of these!

“And I wasn’t just some Friar
Though I’ve taken my share of heat.
And I’ve learned to face with courage
Both victory and defeat.

“No one dared call me a Demon
And I’ve face my share of Gaels
And I’ve learned when playing by Your rules
No man ever fails.

“I didn’t change the world, Lord
Nor gain enormous wealth
But I’ve learned some most important things
About trying to change My-Self.

“I’ve taken my share of punches, Lord
Trying to make things right.
In those bright, shining moments Lord
I was a St. Mel Knight

“And so please welcome me, Dear Lord
To share Eternal Joy
Remembering that I am still
A faithful Brother’s Boy.”

-- Pat Dalton ‘56

Mullins family has strong ties to St. Mary’s - Winona

In its Spring, 2006 Magazine, St. Mary’s featured the family of Jack ’41 and Joan Mullins (pictured here with the Lasallian Award they received from the Christian Brothers in 2002). Seven of their eleven children have graduated from St. Mary’s. (photo below)

While the Lord called Jack to his eternal reward in 2004 the Brothers remain grateful for the significant support the Mullins family continues to extend to the Brothers and to their schools.

Congratulazioni Senatore Turano

Renato “Ron” Turano ‘61
Elected to Italian Parliament

The St. Mel Knights are proud to have one of their own serving in the Italian government. The president of Turano Baking, who came to Chicago from southern Italy as a teenager, has been elected to the Italian Parliament as the first senator to represent a new district comprising expatriate countrymen.

Ron Turano ‘61, a dual citizen of the United States and Italy, will represent about 200,000 Italian citizens in the United States and 150,000 in Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

The St. Mel alumni congratulate their fellow Knight!
Sean McWeeney '56 escorted Millie Cronin all the way from Washington, DC to celebrate his 50th.

Mel Mack '56 made sure his son, Mike, was on hand to witness the St. Mel spirit. Mel, who served as Chief of Police in Addison until his retirement, arranged for the department’s Color Guard to open our banquet.

Chuck Heerhold '56 served on the anniversary committee and certainly came dressed to celebrate!

The Class of '56 had its own Three Tenors as (from left) Mike Laatz '56, Pat Dalton '56, and Chuck Kirchoff '56 led the assembled Knights in the St. Mel Fight Song.

(From left): Judge Robert Buckley '41, John Campbell '41, and Regis Nolan '41 anchored the Senior Knights table to celebrate their 65th! Joining them were Ted Dabrowski '45, Ray Zielinski '43 and (not pictured) Tom Kearney '46.

Br. James McDonald '44 (left) and Br. Joel Dolan '44 have been Christian Brothers for more than 60 years!

Ron Barile ’56 traveled from Florida for his 50th with his wife, Gwen (left). He also caught up with his St. Mel grammar school classmate, Mary Jane Vogt-Jeffries (right) who chaired their grammar school 50th in 2002.

The Class of 1956 arranged for an additional opportunity to gather the day after the banquet. Prior to a class dinner Msgr. Jack Dalton (left) responded to the request of his “kid” brother, Pat ’56, and graciously said a special mass to remember the deceased members of the Golden Anniversary Class.

After months of hard work members of the 1956 Golden Anniversary Committee were delighted to enjoy the celebration with their wives. Upper photo (left) Len and Mary Keil; (right) Mike and Joann Laatz.

Lower photo (left) Terry and Vivian Tomaso; (right) Chuck and Mary Kirchoff.

In addition to an “open mike” after the special Class of 1956 dinner (at which time several shared their unforgettable stories) there was a raffle (arranged by Mike Laatz ’56) featuring some memorable prizes. Here Frank Quilici ’56 shows his delight at being one of the winners.

The St. Mel Alumni Association would like to congratulate Gene Pingatore ’54 on his induction as a member of the charter class of the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame last spring.

Gene has served at the Brothers’ St. Joseph High School in Westchester since it opened in 1960. During most of those years he has been head basketball coach. Among his many career accomplishments he has placed first, second, third, and fourth in Illinois state basketball tournaments.