Banquet a grand success

The Knights welcomed more than 250 alumni and friends back for the annual banquet on June 5 at Alta Villa in Addison. Congratulations to chairman Bob Riley ’59 and the Golden Anniversary Committee. They were able to round up more than 90 of their classmates - a record! With 65 wives also in attendance the Golden Anniversary contingent was a festive 155! Thanks, too, to Br. Alfred Marshall who, along with Deacon Dexter Watson ’69 and Al Brags ’69, helped coordinate the 40th anniversary class of 1969 that prompted more than 20 classmates to assemble to celebrate their 40th. Br. Alfred was the Director of St. Mel’s in the late 1960s.

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 respectful Presentation of the Colors, to Bob Hanahan ’59 for the invocation, and to Rich Corpolongo ’59 for introducing a very special Knight at the beginning and leading us in the school song at the end. We are grateful to Deacon Dexter Watson ’69 and Bob Riley ’59, for their remarks on behalf of the anniversary classes, and to Tony Fasano ’59 for introducing and acknowledging the Golden Anniversary committee. We thank Bert LeLoup ’59 for his special remembrance of their deceased classmates, and Frank Sladek ’59 for his introduction of Bob Riley ’59 as Mel-Man of the year. A special thanks to Casey Cieniawa ’59 for introducing the “Mel-isms” he published in his memorial booklet, Golden Remembrances, for his efforts in locating the St. Mel cornerstone from 1917, and for the special display honoring the deceased members of their class. Finally a big thanks to Bob Hanahan ’59 for the special name badges for the Golden Anniversary class.

The Christian Brothers are especially grateful to the class of 1959 for their thoughtful anniversary gift of $10,000, presented by Len Ricco ’59 and Frank Capilupo ’59, in support of poor and disadvantaged students at our San Miguel schools, for the Lasallian Faith Formation programs for our faculty and staff members, and for the support of our retired Brothers.

The Brothers recognize and appreciate this contribution as just the latest example of the significant support they receive from the St. Mel Knights.
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 nearly $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 6, 2009. The Brothers extend their appreciation in advance to all those who choose to participate and lend their support in this way.

St. Mel Memorabilia

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.

We sincerely thank…

• Tom Wagner ’55 for an album containing the newspaper articles chronicling the 1954 City Championship St. Mel basketball team and copies of The Observer from the 1950s.
• Mike Trainor ’69 and Thom Alcazar ’67 for their mint-condition letter sweaters.

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.

Dancing at the banquet

The Class of 1959 even arranged for some dancing as part of the anniversary celebration. Here Frank Bleers ’59 dances with his daughter, Nancy, who with her husband, Barry, were our DJs for the evening.
Christian Brothers
Golf Outing – Sept. 14

Join Ray Zielinski ’43 (left) as he celebrates his 66th anniversary by teeing it up once again with the “young” Knights, Len Ricco ’59, Mike Scelsi ’58, and Bill Kearns ‘58, all pictured at last year’s outing. Call Br. Thomas Dominic at 630 323-3725 and he’ll mail you the information packet.

Texas Knights stay in touch

Remembering Br. L. David

Br. L David Pieters
served at St. Mel from 1948-1950.

He died on Jan. 29, 2009
He had been a Christian Brother for 62 years. He was 88.

In Memoriam…

Please keep our deceased alumni in your prayers, especially the following about whom we have been notified recently, several thanks to the research of the class of 1959 anniversary committee.

Frank Thomiszer ’38
Raymond Trainor ’39
James Collins ’40
Martin Hawkins ’40
Joseph Cuddy ’44
John Durkin ’44
Ronald DeFreece ’46
Joseph Marabotti ’48
John Fredette ’49
Bernard Rusnak ’49
Jerome Selusnik ’49
Frank Moran ’52
Michael Locelso ’53
Thomas Martin ’54
Donald Frede ’56
John Virgilio ’56
Guy Colby ’58
Frank Altiere ’59
Richard Andrzejczak ’59
Robert Aquino ’59
Michael Bante ’59
Thomas Barrett ’59
Gregory Bleers ’59
John Burke ’59
Russell Burns ’59
John Cappi ’59
Guy Cardamone ’59
Elmer Cooney ’59
Thomas Coughlin ’59
Frank Drzewicki ’59
Kyran Duffy ’59
Robert Fitzgerald ’59
Eugene Gargano ’59
Gerard Gaynor ’59
Thomas Gibbons ’59
Richard Gondeck ’59
George Gubbins ’59
Robert Eugene Hall ’59
Vladimir Hayduk ’59
Richard Iwan ’59
Daniel Kaczmarek ’59
John Karkoska ’59
William Keough ’59
James Kuby ’59
Kenneth Kukawski ’59
John Kulikauskas ’59
Carl Leshik ’59
James Martin ’59
John Mastrangelo ’59
Roy McCardle ’59
James Merritt ’59
Robert Muszynski ’59
Raymond Niewiezal ’59
Robert Nowak ’59
Walter Nowicki ’59
Eugene O’Keefe ’59
James Olsen ’59
Phillip Pawelski ’59
William Pergl ’59
Timothy Pudlo ’59
Edward Ryan ’59
Theodore Safran ’59
William Serpico ’59
George Soukup ’59
Gerald Stejkowski ’59
Augustine Stiglich ’59
Paul Terlizzi ’59
Anthony Tripoli ’59
Kenneth Waibel ’59
Martin Ward ’59
John Whalen ’59
Thomas Gibbons Jr.’60
Peter McEnery ’62
Thomas Brosnan ’64
Anthony Signore ’64
Thomas Gibbons ’65

When Br. Thomas Hetland, Alumni Director, was in Dallas earlier this year he was delighted to get together with Pat Savage ’36, and Mike Phelan ’61, both proudly sporting their St. Mel caps. Pat is our long-time Alumni Association President.
Considering An Estate Bequest?

Last December the Christian Brothers were most grateful to be the recipients of a generous bequest of $150,000 from the estate of Dr. Harold Manfredi, St. Mel Class of 1941.

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 at 630-323-3725. Thank you!
Len Ricco '59 (left) and Frank Capilupo '59 present Br. Thomas Hetland with a Golden Anniversary class gift of $10,000 to help the Brothers sustain their widespread efforts.

Edwin Nolan '39 (left) was on hand to celebrate his 70th Anniversary and is here congratulated by his “kid” brother, Regis Nolan '41.

Faculty members at banquet

Br. L. William Brynda was on the faculty in the late 1950s.

Tom Buscarini was on the faculty in the 1960s.

Jimmy Jack '49 was on the faculty in the early 1950s.

On the night before the banquet members of the Class of 1959 gathered at Maryville for a mass in memory of their deceased classmates. Fr. John Smyth was the celebrant and is pictured here with Fran and Paul Bleers '59 (left) and Nancy Corpolongo.

More than twenty members of the Class of '69 gathered to celebrate their 40th anniversary. On the left is Br. David Paszkiet who was one of their teachers.
The Golden Anniversary committee did a spectacular job of bringing together a record number of classmates from 1959. Seated (from left): Frank Capilupo, Casey Cieniawa, Bob Riley (chair), Gordon Knapp, Paul Bleers. Standing (from left): Bob Hanahan, Tony Fasano, Rich Corpolongo, Frank Sladek, Len Rico, Frank Bleers, Bert LeLoup, and Sir Knight (a surprise guest!) Pearl Bleers. (inset, lower right) Frank’s wife, was made an honorary member of the class for her persistent efforts in locating lost classmates. All remain saddened by the sudden loss of Greg Bleers (inset, upper left), classmate and fellow committee member, who died in April but was with us in spirit.

Rich Corpolongo ’59 (left) leads the assembled Knights in a rousing rendition of the school song to conclude the evening. At right is the Golden Remembrances booklet creatively conceived by Casey Cieniawa ’59 as a memento for his class. Casey also verified that the St. Mel main building cornerstone (1917) is on the campus of Lewis University in Romeoville.

Gene Pingatore ’54 – in the record books!

Many former players and friends surround Gene Pingatore ’54 on January 30, 2009, the night that Gene, the long-time (and only!) head basketball coach at St. Joseph H.S. in Westchester won game number 827 to put him in the record books for most career wins in Illinois High School basketball. He finished the 2008-2009 season with 840 total victories and he’ll be back to “run up the score.” Congratulations, Coach Ping!