



# St. Mel High School Alumni Association

Christian Brothers

7650 S. County Line Road

Burr Ridge, IL 60527

March, 2011



Friday, June 3, 2011

Alta Villa Banquets

430 N. Addison Road

Addison, Illinois 630 543 1222

6:30 pm Reception

7:30 pm Dinner

\$50 per person

## ANNIVERSARY CLASSES

Join us to honor the members of the *Golden Jubilee class of 1961* along with Knights in the other milestone anniversary classes of 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1966.

## SPREAD THE WORD

Please encourage your classmates and fellow alumni to attend. If you need any information or class lists please call Brother Thomas Hetland at (630) 323-3725.

## RESERVE TODAY

We make every attempt to seat you with your class. You help make this possible by sending in your reservation early! Please respond today. **Use the form on page 3.**

## INVITE SOME FRIENDS

Your wives, family, and friends are also invited. Let them witness first-hand the extraordinary spirit of the St. Mel alumni.

## SPONSOR A BROTHER

We are inviting many Christian Brothers who taught at St. Mel to be our special guests. In the past the alumni have generously purchased extra tickets to cover these costs. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

# Br. Armand Alcazar '66 and Thom Alcazar '67 are brothers helping a Brother



Br. Armand Alcazar '66



Thom Alcazar '67



Kindergarten graduation at Catalyst Schools

**Brother Michael Fehrenbach**, is the Director of Culture and Values for Chicago's Catalyst Schools. The two Catalyst schools were started in 2006 and 2007 as a joint venture between the Christian Brothers' San Miguel Schools and the Chicago Public Schools. The Catalyst schools are Charter Schools within the Chicago Public School system.

In 2008, when the San Miguel and Catalyst networks decided to pursue their missions independently, Brother Michael remained with the Catalyst schools.

Charter schools are eligible for tax funding, but that does not cover all expenses. Brother Michael needed \$6,000 to cover some of those expenses and he then called on his good friend, **Brother Armand Alcazar**, for help. Brother Armand is quick to admit that he is not a fund-raiser. However, he *is* a good cook. As is his brother, **Thom**. So the two put their heads together and came up with an open house food fest on a Sunday afternoon last April.

The three came up with an invitation list of 57 people. The invitation clearly indicated that this would be a fund-raiser. They were most encouraged when 53 agreed to attend. One couple offered to host the gathering in their downtown condo; some guests brought flowers; some brought dessert; some helped serve and clean up. All brought checkbooks.

At the gathering guests were delighted to watch a DVD presentation on the schools and engage in a Question & Answer session with **Gordon Hannon**, President of the Catalyst schools (and former Principal of the San Miguel schools). Gordon was able to share the good news about student performance and promising futures. When all was said and done the Catalyst coffers were as stuffed as the guests. The event had exceeded its goal and provided \$8,000 for the schools.

The alumni office extends a big thank you to Br. Armand and Thom for their heartwarming efforts on behalf of students in pursuit of a brighter future. We also thank and congratulate the many other St. Mel Knights who are making a difference in their own ways and in their own communities with generous efforts that are not as widely known. God bless you all.

## Contributions...

The Brothers say THANK YOU to the 520 generous St. Mel Knights who in 2010 contributed over **\$90,000** to support our students, our ministries at home and abroad, and our retired Brothers. Continued support is critical to ensure the future.

## Estate Bequests...

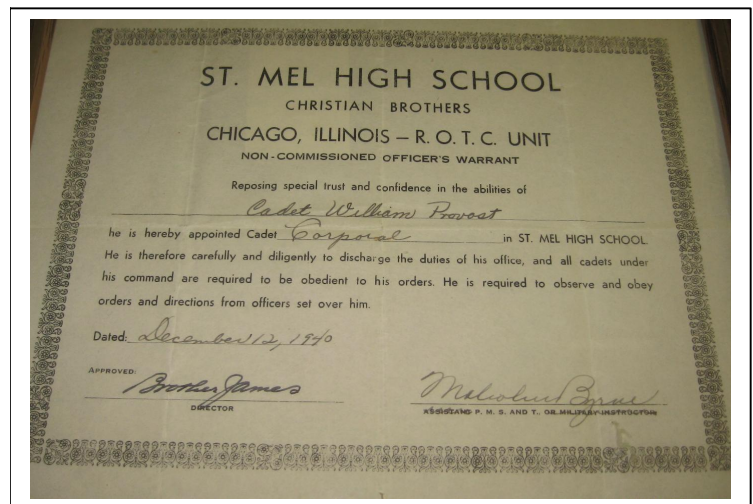
The Brothers are especially grateful to those who have chosen to join the **Heritage Society** by remembering the Brothers with a bequest in their will. Several Knights have elected to do this. In recent years bequests from **Vince Salvino '50** and **Dr. Harold Manfredi '41** have provided more than **\$500,000** to further the mission of the Christian Brothers. Contact Brother Tom Hetland at (630) 323-3725 for further information.

## Memorabilia

If you are looking for a happy home for that old letter sweater, knight emblem, yearbook, etc., the alumni office will gratefully provide tender loving care. Please give us a call.

Thanks to

- **Tony Diblik '60** for four basketball letters and two patches
- **Bill Provost '43** for a Non-Commissioned Officer's Warrant (pictured below) promoting Bill to Cadet Corporal. It is dated Dec. 12, 1940 and signed by **Br. James Luke Hurley**.

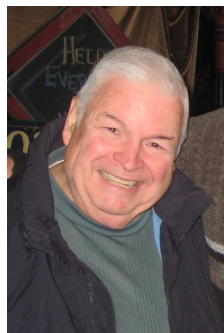


## In Memoriam...

*Please remember in your prayers the following members of the St. Mel Alumni about whose deaths we were recently informed:*

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| William Kelly '36         | Robert Mariner '53   |
| Fr. Raymond Field CSV '38 | Thomas Bradley '54   |
| Joseph Vadovicky '38      | James Donahue '56    |
| Edwin Nolan '39           | James Furlong '56    |
| William Gade '40          | Donald Hogan '56     |
| Edward Roulier '40        | Lino Menconi '56     |
| Bernard Shea '40          | Ronald Trock '56     |
| Peter Stoltman '40        | John Zaura '57       |
| John Tasch '40            | William Vervoort '58 |
| John Thoele '44           | Denisen Grimes '59   |
| James Conroy '45          | Robert Kosiba '59    |
| William McDonald '45      | Michael Ames '60     |
| James Roller '46          | Richard Shelfo '60   |
| Philip Guzaldo '47        | Dennis Theriault '60 |
| John Czech '48            | William Ouska '61    |
| James Jack '48            | Joseph Scelsi '61    |
| Santo Vartola '49         | Allen Oposnow '65    |
| Donald Cernigliis '51     | Richard Stec '66     |
| John Robert Stellato '51  | Fred Valentini '67   |
| Donald Berthelsen '52     | John Breinig '69     |
| Raymond Spink '52         |                      |

## Ray Spink '52 –class chairman and organizer



Ray Spink '52 died suddenly last November. He chaired his class 50<sup>th</sup> in 2002 and was a regular at every alumni banquet. Once a month for the last ten years he scheduled a class lunch at which all were welcome. Frequently 20 or more would attend. He would be pleased to know that his class continues that tradition. Rest in peace, Ray. You were a loyal St. Mel Knight.

## Br. Richard Gerlach

The “Dean of the District,” **Br. Richard Gerlach**, died on Dec. 23, just two days shy of his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. St. Mel is honored to have been among the schools at which he served, although quite briefly, 1944-45. His longest tenure was at Saint Mary’s University in Winona, MN where he served for thirty years.



-----Register ON LINE at [www.cbmidwest.org](http://www.cbmidwest.org) or Clip and mail to: -----

Saint Mel Alumni Association  
 Christian Brothers  
 7650 S. County Line Road  
 Burr Ridge, IL 60527

To register on line go to  
[www.cbmidwest.org](http://www.cbmidwest.org)  
 click on Mission Advancement  
 then click on St. Mel Alumni Association  
 then click on Order Banquet Tickets

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for the banquet. Please send \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \$50 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If you order more than one, please let us know the names and years of the others – Thanks)

Please specify  Prime Rib  Orange Roughy

I'd like to sponsor a Brother. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Let us know his name and we'll give him your regards!)

Here is an extra contribution to help the Brothers continue to \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- support deserving and needy students with scholarships
- support special schools and mission efforts
  - train teachers in the Lasallian tradition
  - care for the retired Brothers

Keep me posted on the Golf Outing

# Bill McDonald '45 RIP – Great Benefactor of the Brothers



*Bill McDonald '45 received the Lasallian Award from the Brothers in 2007. He is pictured with **Br. Francis Carr**, Provincial*



*Br. Caesarius*

**Bill McDonald '45** stayed active on many fronts throughout his life. He was a long-time benefactor of the Christian Brothers. He worked with the St. Vincent De Paul Society and would pack food baskets for the needy. He tutored in his parish Religious Education Program.

Because of his good grades at St. Mel the Brothers let him leave school 30 days before graduation to enlist in the Navy. Throughout his life he remained active with the American Legion.

He treasured the memory of his St. Mel days and fondly remembered many teachers, among them **Prof. Bowler** and **Prof. Connolly, Brother Jerome** and **Frank Ruane**. He would especially relish telling stories about **Brother Caesarius**, who made sure that each boy had a crucifix and made a “raft book.” The latter would contain prayers and other items of spiritual inspiration in case the lad were ever adrift on a raft and needed some special encouragement to see him through. Bill cherished both crucifix and raft book until the day he died.

Bill’s contributions to the Christian Brothers over the years exceeded \$200,000. Through his lifestyle and his generosity he was truly our *Partner in Mission*. May God bless and keep our partner, Bill McDonald.



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Alumni Association

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(630) 323-3725

**Banquet Announcement**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Romeoville, IL  
Permit No. 81