

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for  
St. Anthony of Padua Alumni  
Vol. 10 No. 2, October, 2017

## TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

We are about to take a trip down memory lane so put on your THINKING CAPS ! Draw down deep into your subconscious and try to answer two questions:

- 1- What parish sent the most students to Padua and
- 2- Does anyone remember seeing a coal truck making a delivery or an ash truck making a withdrawal?

We would like your feedback. The school boilers were coal fired so they had to have been periodic deliveries. The question is when? Was it in the dark of night? Was it when we were on break?

Did they stockpile during the summer? And conversely when was the residue removed. Please help us answer these questions!

Now, more importantly: Over the years some parishes sent multiple students to the Glen.

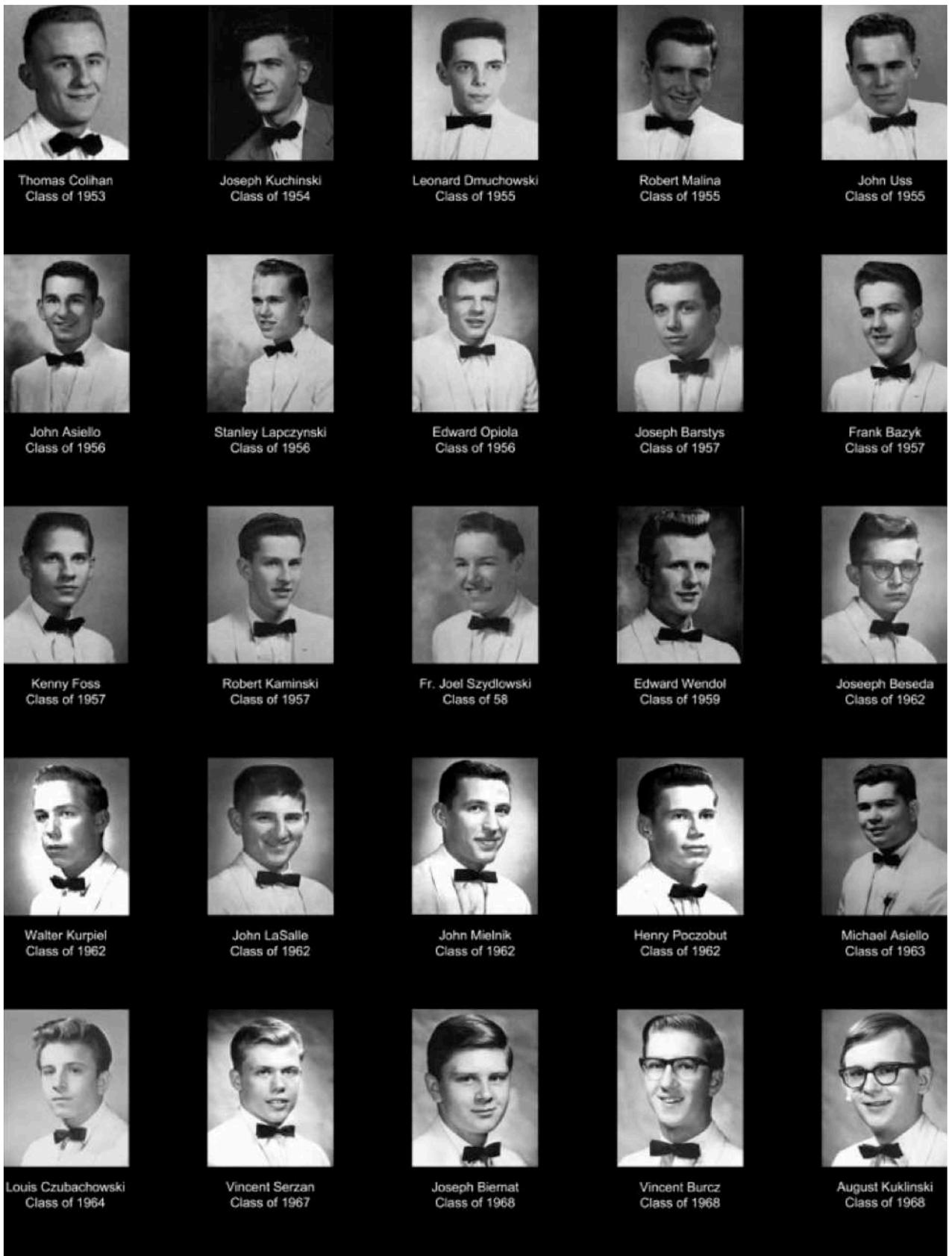
One parish that stands out is Our Lady of Consolation in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. All of the Malina's, as well as Frank Czajkowski, Lenny Dmuchowski, John Sowa and many others. Please give us some feedback about other parishes that sent multiple students. St. Mary of the Lake sent a bunch of day hops and we are sure that there are others that would rank highly.

If you hailed from a parish that sent a host of guys up to the High please let us know. If you can, please give us the names and years and we will publish the results of our survey in an upcoming issue. Please send your feedback to John LaSalle at [jfl416@aol.com](mailto:jfl416@aol.com) or to John Mielnik at [mielnik.j@gmail.com](mailto:mielnik.j@gmail.com).

John LaSalle '62



Front Row: Ken Foss '57, John LaSalle '62, Joe Beseda '62, John Mielnik '62  
Back Row Henry Poczobut, Chris Franzese '67, Fr Joel Szydowski '58, Joe Barstys '57, Vincent Serzan '67, Walter Kurpiel '62, Bob Kaminski '57, Frank Bazyk '57.



#### 2017 Reunion Attendees

Colihan, Thomas '53; Kuchinski, Joseph '54; Dmuchowski, Leonard '55; Uss, John '55; Malina, Bob '55; Asiello, John '56; Lapczynski, Stanley; '56, Barstys, Joe '57; Bazyk, Frank '57; Kaminski, Robert '57; Foss, Ken '57; Fr. Szydlowski, Joel '58; Wendol, Edward '59; Kurpiel, Walter '62; LaSalle, John '62; Mielnik, John '62; Beseda, Joseph '62, Poczobut; Henry '62, Asiello, Michael '63; Czubachowski, Louis '64; Franzese, Chris '67; Serzan, Vince '67; Biernat, Joseph '68; Burcz, Vince '68; Kuklinski, August '68

With every reunion comes some ideas for the next reunion; some new and other well not so new. This year was no exception, however, two of the ideas were presented by multiple individuals and are very interesting and different. Both will be incorporated in the 2018 Reunion.

The first idea is long overdue; especially when the wives ask WHY NOT. So I believe it's time to act upon it. So for the 2018 Padua Reunion all wives and/or female guest attending must have a copy of the high school graduation picture available for posting similar to the guys. For those that cannot utilize their high school (my wife can't; someone wrote their good wishes across the picture) a prom or suitable portrait type picture from that period will be used. Go to local Walmart or any another place that can scan the picture and forward it along with the 2018 reservations so I can incorporate into a suitable group poster.

The second idea is meant to be rather imaginative and funny or maybe serious and that brings us to the "Men's Crazy Hat Contest". Every alumni attending will have to have a hat that will be judged. The hat can start off as a purchased product; so it does not have to be entirely self-made but then it needs to be embellished in a manner that shows originality and creativity. Size, shape, and makeup are at the alumni's discretion. Modeling and walking the runway in all likelihood will take place Friday or Saturday evening after dinner.

John Mielnik '62

### Observations on the 2017 Reunion

The 2017 reunion officially started on Friday August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 but in fact mostly everyone arrived earlier, either on Wednesday or Thursday. Watkins Glen and the Finger Lakes region has become a real tourist mecca with the addition of wineries, distilleries, and great dining experiences.

The class of '62, with five attendees (almost half of the surviving members) had a pre-reunion meal at FLX TABLE in Geneva, NY (a restaurant that has only 14 seats and two seating's) on Thursday. You eat what they decide to serve that night and this restaurant did not disappoint and in fact had been named one of the great new places in the country for 2016! The bread served was so good the chef shared that it was locally sourced from: MONTOUR FALLS! Two days later we were having the same bread from The Village Bakery on Main Street in Montour for lunch at the Long House.

Once again, our gathering was based at the Long House Manor, which in addition to have guest rooms has a great gathering space and plenty of parking. Once again John Mielnik '62 brought his collection of Padua keepsakes including photos and reproductions. His archive brought many memories back to the attendees and started many cross-class conversations.

The attendance at the 2016 reunion was one of the greatest in years and although our numbers were slightly less for 2017 everyone agrees that we hit the right formula. Friday night dinner at the Seneca Station, Joe and Chris Biernat's great spread for lunch at the Long House on Saturday, and Mass at St. Mary's followed by our catered Polish banquet at the Elks Lodge with music and dancing on Saturday evening made this year's gathering extremely enjoyable.

A few of the regulars were not able to make it this year. Ed and Barbara Opiola and Mike and June Uss will be back next year. Committee anchor and former local resident Barbara Malina will be temporarily relocating to Florida for the winter but will be back.

Make your plans to be with us next year and consider coming a day or two earlier to enjoy yourselves. Two carloads traveled to Aurora, NY (north and east of Ithaca) to visit the McKenzie-Childs factory. Last year many alumni took in the Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua and next year a side trip to Letchworth State Park (the grand canyon of the east) beckons. Ithaca is a great place to walk around as is Hammondsport which often has arts and crafts fairs. The Glenn Curtis Museum is a wonderful place to visit as well.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions we invite you to get in touch with the "standing committee", John & Joyce Mielnik, Joe and Chris Biernat, Ed and Barbara Opiola, John and Carol La Salle and Barbara Malina.

By the Paduan Staff

## Obituary

Class of '53

Richard Julian Chodnicki, age 82, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Mohegan Lake, N.Y. on July 15, 2017 with his wife and daughter at his side. He is the son of the late Ambrose and Joanna (Siemaszko) Chodnicki from Duryea, PA. He was the youngest of 9 children and was preceded in death by 6 of them - his oldest sister Wanda Orloski and his brothers Ambrose (who died in WWII), Joseph, John, Reverend Francis, and Raymond. He was married to MaryAnn Walling from Plains, PA 56 years ago in May. They have 3 children - daughters Cheryl (Kelly) Lowman and Lori (Jason) Kavanaugh, son Lt. Colonel Joseph Chodnicki and 4 grandchildren - Samantha and Sarah Lowman and Sebastian and Abigail Kavanaugh. Two sisters also survive - Sabina Krymowski from Cleveland Ohio and Dorothy Russick from New Castle, PA. He graduated from Padua High School in 1953 in their pioneer class. He then went on to study at the University of Scranton and graduated with a B.S. in 1958. He participated in the R.O.T.C. while attending the University and after graduation he served two years at Fort Belvoir in Virginia entering as a second lieutenant and finishing as a first Lieutenant. He then got a job at IBM in Endicott, N.Y. and eventually transferred to Poughkeepsie where he worked for many years before taking an early retirement so he and his wife could enjoy time with family as well as enjoy travel especially cruises to the various islands. His jokes and his love for his Polish heritage will be missed by his many nieces and nephews.

## Things to do when visiting Watkins Glen

By [John Mielnik](#)

How far and how much will it cost to

Drive to [Watkins Glen](#)?

Yes the [Glen](#) is still there and open.

Museums: [Corning Museum of Glass](#), [Glenn Curtiss Aviation Museum](#)

Cruises: [Captain Bill's Seneca cruises](#)

Shopping: [The Windmill](#) [Waterloo Premium Outlets](#),

[Finger Lakes Connection](#)

Places to Dine: [Montage at Glen Motor Inn](#), [Seneca Harbor Station](#)

Places to Stay: [Villager Motel](#), [Idlwilde Inn](#), [Glen Harbor Hotel](#), [Longhouse Lodge](#)

If you have an interesting hobby, event, or travel you would like to share with your alumni friends please consider submitting an article or a short comment for class

notes. Volunteers or contributors are always welcome. Please email me at:

[paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

Contributors: Bob Kaminski '57, John LaSalle '62, John Mielnik '62 . Tony Specian '66





St. Anthony of Padua

Watkins Glen, New York



### **PADUA ALUMNI INAUGURAL CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCHEON (2017 EDITION)**

Calling all alums within easy driving distance of NYC/Northern NJ

We are planning to have a Christmas luncheon early in December with a target date of Friday December 8th.

If we have enough interest for that date we will look to reserve space at the Royal Warsaw restaurant on River Road in Elmwood Park, New Jersey. This restaurant is conveniently located very near Interstate 80 and Rte 46. Over the years we have held some lunches there. We plan on starting at Noon and having everyone on their way home by 2PM.

If this interests you please email John LaSalle at [jfl416@aol.com](mailto:jfl416@aol.com) or John Mielnik at [mielnik.j@gmail.com](mailto:mielnik.j@gmail.com) or call John L on his cell at [516 987-6650](tel:5169876650). Hopefully there will be enough interest for us to have this luncheon and put it on our calendars for future years!

