

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for St. Anthony of Padua Alumni

Vol. 2 No.2 September 2009

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Class of 1962: Walt Kurpiel, John and Joyce Mielnik, John and Carol LaSalle. Class of 1964: Paul Parsych. Class of 1966: Mark Kiefer, Tom and Barbara Malina, Tony and Christine Specian. Class of 1967 Chris and Angie Franzese. Class of 1968: Joe and Chris Biernat.

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Special thanks to Tom and Barbara Malina and family and staff for helping make the 2009 Reunion successful.

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Group photo outside St. Mary's of the Lake Church. Courtesy Tony Mangini

## Reunion 2010

The reunion is planned for the weekend of August 13th to the 15th. The Class of 1960 will be celebrating their 50th while the kids from 1970 will be celebrating their 40th. Other milestones include the class of 1955's 55th and class of 1965's 45th. Start making your plans now to attend. The Longhouse manor which is our home base will be booked by all Paduan Alumni.

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## In Memory

Austin (James) Budnik OFM  
1925-2009

Edited from the Provincial News Letter 101 by Jerry Tokarz OFM. and Fr Austin's obituary.

Anne LaMotte, a contemporary novelist, wrote: Hope begins in the dark. The stubborn hope that if you just show up and try



to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work; you don't give up. Austin was a stubborn man. Some will call his stubbornness principled... committed... dedicated, as he was all these... to a fault. Even where others would give up and move on, Austin, true to his convictions, remained steadfast, come what may. Although his stubbornness often times tried the patience of his superiors and brothers, they could, at the same time, admire the hope that sprung eternally from his strong and deep faith. He was a contradiction of sorts, perhaps seeing what many others were unable to conceive.

James Budnik was born on May 29, 1925 in Winona, MN., to James and Clara (Palubicka) Budnik. He later became the adopted son of late Andrew and Anna Lewinski. In August of 1943, he entered the novitiate of the Franciscan Friars of the Assumption BVM Province in Pulaski, WI. and given his religious name, "Austin." The following year he made profession of temporary vows. From 1944 to 1948, he attended St. Francis College in Burlington, WI., where he was solemnly professed in 1947.

## From the Editors Laptop

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the many kind words received for the past issues. A hearty thank you to all as well as all the contributors to each issue. The success of the Paduan is the result of a group effort and the best part no burning of the midnight candle to rush out an issue, everything is done electronically and at one's leisure. We encourage and welcome volunteers and new ideas for articles or content. If interested please contact me at [paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com). An extra special thanks to Len and Mary Ann Dmuchowski for help to upgrade the program used to create the newsletter.

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## Reunion 2009

Padua Alumni Reunion 2009 was a large success. In attendance to this year's reunion celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> from the class of 1959: Joe Strychasz, Fr. Ronald Regula, Tony Mangini, Robert and Ricia Swillo, Tom and Stephanie Uss, Richard and Wanda Uss, Adam Prochaski; and Ed and Veronica Wendol.

From the class of 69 celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> were: Kevin and Barbara Glynn, Ed and Mary Scarp, Henry and Julie Karcsh, George and Sandy Popko and John and Mary Pludrzynski. Other Paduans in attendance from the Class of 1955; Len and Mary Ann Dmuchowski, Class of 1956: Ed and Barbara Opiola, Class of 1957: Joe and Carmen Barstys, Class of 1958: Michael and June Uss, Fr Joel Szydowski.

His theological studies were done at Lourdes Seminary in Cedar Lake, IN. (1948-50) St. Mary of the Angels Seminary (1950-51) and completed in Cedar Lake (1951-52). Austin was ordained on May 19, 1951 in Green Bay, WI., to the priesthood by Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona.

In 1952, Austin was appointed to the faculty of St. Anthony of Padua Minor Seminary and High School at Watkins Glen, NY, which the Province opened in 1949. He served the students as teacher, spiritual director, librarian and disciplinarian and the friars as the community's last guardian. In 1960, he earned a M.A. in Latin from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY.

With the closure of the school in 1970, Austin requested that he remain and be allowed to work with local civic groups in ascertaining and providing for the needs of the rural poor, especially the culturally deprived in South Central New York State. His involvement eventually led him to attend Syracuse University and earn a doctorate (1979) in the area of adult education. Believing the vacant and still standing school building still capable of sustaining an educational environment, Austin, with the permission of the provincial leadership, opened a free university in 1983. The institution provided continuing education for adults by volunteer teachers in such areas as oil painting, scuba diving and sketching. When it too closed in 1995, Austin's optimism brought forth various suggestions for the use of the property. To his dismay, his persistence and creativity were the only energies astir. For many reasons, the Province was unable to

transform his dreams into concrete solutions.

An auto accident in 2001 brought him to death's door. His injuries necessitated a year of recuperation at Holy Dormition Friary in Sybertsville PA and then Queen of Peace Friary in Burlington WI. It was hoped that this time of convalescence would persuade him to remain and retire. However, his unbridled spirit swept his 76-year old body back to the Lord's vineyard in NY. He still had work to do.

"I've always been interested in the field of education, interested in alternatives. The alternatives of today become the conventional tomorrow," he said in an interview with the Rochester Diocesan paper, the Catholic Courier (June 12-13, 2004).

In the same interview, Austin expressed a fondness for all that the Glen meant to him. After fifty-six years in a village of 2,000 residents, many, if not most, were known to him. The deep expressions of love and respect from a few of its citizens only leave to the imagination of those half a continent away the scope of his impact on the many, many lives he touched. He showed them God's love. In that same interview he expressed his dying wish: "I'd love to live and die here." That fondness for the people and the place was as stubborn as it was sincere. Although the school closed 39 years ago and all the friars have long been gone, Austin wished to remain a Franciscan presence.

"He was a Franciscan to the core," observed a close friend. Even when the property was finally sold in 2002, the new owner gave him use of the renovated guest house for as long as it suited him. The Good Lord saw fit to honor that stubborn sincere wish. Austin was taken to the hospital on Tuesday, May 26 due to severe dehydration.

It was by chance that tests discovered the presence of cancer ... affecting most of his internal organs. He succumbed to its fatal embrace in the early evening of May 31, 2009 around 8:45 PM. He died in the 84<sup>th</sup> year of his life, the 65<sup>th</sup> year of his profession and the 62<sup>nd</sup> year of his ordination. He is preceded in death by his parents. Father Austin is survived by his sister, Clare Swegel of Waterloo; and his friends, Eleanor Jackson, Rick and Eileen Miller, Lynn Marie Wagner, and Donald, Melissa, and Haylee Rose Prouty, all of Waterloo and his Franciscan brothers of the Assumption BVM Province. Fr Austin is buried in the Priest Plot of St. Mary's Cemetery in Watkins Glen.

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### **Joe Lomnicky Class of '63 by Peter Krafinski '63**

It is with the deepest of sympathy and the greatest feeling of loss that we noted the passing of Joseph R. Lomnicky, Class of '63 on June 13<sup>th</sup>, The Feast day of Saint Anthony of Padua. Joe was born in Astoria, Queens on May 29, 1945. Both Joe and his twin brother John attended and graduated from Padua Prep. Joe immediately began employment at the New York Stock Exchange performing entry level "gopher" work while attending Saint Peter's college in the evenings. He graduated from St. Peter's in May 1971 with a BS in Business Administration and Marketing. When Joe retired from the NYSE in 2005, he was the Managing Director of International Listings, after having held the coveted position of Director of Compliance. Joe met his future wife, Mary Ann at his brother's wedding. Both were in the wedding

party, and both had other romantic ties at that time, but it was love at first sight. They were engaged only two months later, and married in December 1971. Joe and Mary Ann have one son, Joseph who was born in 1973. Joe and Mary Ann lived in Bayonne while Joe worked at the NYSC. Joe joined the Marine Reserves in 1965 and was an active member until the rigors of work caused him to request an honorable discharge in 1971. Joe was active in County affairs, his son's sports teams, cub and boy scouts..... he was the go to guy whenever someone needed help. After his retirement, Joe and Mary Ann moved to Valrico, Florida, just outside of Tampa. Again Joe became active in County affairs, Church activities and became a member of The Home Owners' Association as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Community Development District of Diamond Hill. Joe will be remembered as a quiet, sincere, methodical man, a loving husband who never forgot an important date, a father who loved his son, and a loyal friend and mentor who positively affected the lives of a myriad of people throughout the world.

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### **Phillip Flagg class of 1970**

Philip H. Flagg, 56, of Elm St., died on Thursday, July 16, 2009 in Bolton Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Marlborough after an illness. Phil graduated from St. Anthony of Padua High School, Watkins Glen, NY in 1970. He attended Worcester State College and worked for Honey Farms Corporate Office in Worcester MA and previously managed several stores in the area.

### **Deceased classmates from the class of 1959:**

Robert Gondek, Charles Bodziak, Felix Kopycinski, Regis Kobus, Harry Pinola, Thaddeus Krzciuk, Joseph Szczeniakowski and Anthony Tulko .

### **Deceased classmates from the class of 1969:**

Donald Breault and Gerald Silkiewicz

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### **Lost Paduans and the Facebook Experiment.**

How are Paduans found after all these years?

Over the years some classmates have kept in touch. Others have done searches by phone calls, mailing to possible known or found addresses and more recently searches via the internet. The paduaprep.com site has played a major role in keeping Paduans in touch. It also serves as a vehicle for lost Paduans to find us.

It would be great if we could keep everyone in touch, but unfortunately this is not the case. Each mailing of the Paduan results in the loss of few alumni by the address or email. The major obstacles such as a retirement, a move, a change of email address or death result in loss of communication. Useful free search engines outside of a google search are: an electronic phonebook, [zabasearch](#) and [family.org](#). Classmates.com has 153 registered for Padua. About 135 of those enrolled are actual graduates. However if you want to make contact you have to "pay". On classmates.com there are about a dozen Paduans registered who have not been found. It has also been around for years and some of the registrants may have changed their information or passed on.

More recently [Facebook](#) has become a major electronic socializing tool.

**Facebook** is a "free" social networking website that is operated and privately

owned by Facebook, Inc- Users can add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region.

There are about 45 Paduans or family member registered on Facebook. So a St Anthony of Padua Watkins Glen NY group was initiated with a pointer to the paduaprep.com site. After 1 month we have 33 Paduans or family members in the group and all classes except 54 and 56 are represented. We have recouped one lost email and prior to that found one lost Paduan. So hopefully this will help widen our search efforts. If you join list St Anthony of Padua Watkins Glen as your high school..

As with anything else on the net Facebook can have disadvantages and problems. Screen your friends carefully if you join; be careful of the advertised downloads, games available and any suspicious activities. Most importantly, to input only as much information as you would like to share with your friends and family. They will be the only ones allowed to view the content of your site.

Another Facebook type site for professionals is [LinkedIn](#). Linked in does not have an info entry for high school, only for a college or university. This would only be of help if you are aware of the college your Paduan friend attended.

As always the paduaprep.com website will serve as our home base. But we will continue to explore all aspects out there to bring those lost Paduan friends to our fold.

## Directory Update

The directory is a never ending project because personal information changes. Thanks to all for updating any changes in their personal info. A special thanks goes to John Pilch '54 for his thoroughness in scanning the directory for errors. The directory is probably the most accurate since it was established 2003. The whole alumni directory is too large to send via email but I will send any particular class directory on request. [paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

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## Class Notes

1955

Bob and Eva Malina celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August and their son will be wed in September. Bob and Eva have 3 children Robert, Elizabeth and Stephen and 2 grandchildren Avery and Coco Marie.

1956

Ed and Barbara Opiola are proud grandparents for the 7<sup>th</sup> time. Nathaniel Michael Opiola born 10/17/2008.

1959

Joseph Strychasz and wife Nancy reside in Tonawanda NY. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Amy; and five grandchildren Mateo, Lucca, Avery, Easton and Dominic. Joe is now retired but worked for 31 years as a social worker at a VA hospital. Joe enjoys Movies, reading history, fishing and gardening.

Robert Swillo and wife Ricia reside in Ambler PA. They have four sons: James, Gregory, Kevin and Douglas; and one grand child Chiara Jade. Bob is retired Pharmaceutical Senior Scientist after 40 years of service. Bob enjoys coin collecting and playing Pinochle



1959 group photo at the Longhouse Manor. left to right: Bob Swillo, Rich Uss, Adam Prochaski, Tom Uss, Fr Ron Regula, Tony Mangini, Ed Wendol, sitting Joe Strychasz. Group photo courtesy Tony Mangini

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Anthony Mangini and wife Teresa reside in River Edge NJ. They have two children David and Alexandra. Tony enjoys reading, photography and gardening. He jokingly states a milestone as "Still Breathing".

Ed Wendol and wife Veronica reside in Port Jefferson Station NY. They have 4 sons and 8 grandchildren. Ed enjoys travel and touring, visiting wineries and camping.

Tom Uss and wife Stephanie reside in Huntsville Al. Tom is in Financial Services for families. Tom joined the Franciscans in 1959 and taught at Padua the last 2 years of its existence 1969 to 70. Tome enjoys singing and study of the Cultural world of Jesus.

1964

Paul Parsych is a retired School teacher and resides in Boonville NY. Paul has 3 Children: Amy, Dawn and Melissa and two grandchildren: Myra and Callan. Paul enjoys golfing and skiing.

1969

John and Mary Pludrzynski reside in Delmar NY. They have 2 children. John is in the ceramic tile and marble counter top business. John enjoys golfing. John and Mary are looking forward to retirement to travel the country.

George and Sandy Popko Reside in Skillman NJ. They have 3 children: Brooke, Luke and Alex. George presently serves as a Health Care executive.

## Registration on Paduaprep Bulletin Board

Apparently, some alumni would like to register on the [Bulletin Board](#) (BB). I encourage all to do so. However, because of spam with the site, and because this version of the BB does not have a spam filter (Captcha), the only way I can control (viz. eliminate) spam is by shutting down registration. The work around for alumni that want to register is this: Notify me by email (webmaster link at the [paduaprep.com](#) site) of your wish to register. I then will open up the registration for the day, let you know of this opening, you can register and then I close registration once again.

If I upgraded to a new version of the BB the above problems could be avoided. However a new BB would cost another \$200 which I do not have. If anyone has any suggestion, please let me know.



### Padua Prep Hats available

A limited number of embroidered Padua Prep caps in brown are available for \$15 (plus \$2 S & H). These can also be viewed on the Gallery at the [PaduaPrep.com site](#). Please check with [paduans@mac.com](mailto:paduans@mac.com) for availability, as well as where to send check, and purchaser's address.

When the caps were made I had the logos (PaduaPrep/Watkins Glen; the tripartite emblem of the school) digitized so these can be

placed on anything which needs embroidering in the future. I would gladly offer these for such a project. Some alumni have stated they might want a cap. If enough alumni want new caps to be made, this could be done and probably cost c. \$20 a cap. Probably the easiest way is to notify me by email (webmaster link on the site): state your preferences. If I think of an easier polling method I'll post it on the site.

### 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 Museum](#)

Cruises: [Captain Bill's Seneca Cruises](#), [Seneca Day Sails](#) ,

[Esperanza Rose](#)

Shopping: [The Windmill](#), [Waterloo Premium Outlets](#), Waterloo Market Street – Corning

Places to Dine: [Castle Grisch](#) ; [Edgar's in Belhurst Castle](#) ; [Seneca Harbor Station](#)

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

[10 \\$ Seneca Wine](#) tour submitted by Mike Asiello '63



## Sports Section

If you have a personal sports highlight you'd like to share please submit.

### Alumni Golf Outing

by Kevin Glynn '69

On Friday Aug 14<sup>th</sup> a group of Alumni and spouse played a round of golf at the [Watkins Glen Course](#) owned by Greg Coons a former Padua student. Mary Pludrzynski, Henry Karcsh, and Kevin Glynn versus Ed Scarp, John Pludrzynski and Richard Uss. The team of Mary, Henry, and Kevin were the winners, but a good time was had by all. On Saturday there was a rematch with John Pludrzynski, Ed Scarp, Henry Karsch, George Popko and Kevin Glynn. The game was just a bunch of classmates getting together for a fun time. It is hopeful this will be the beginning of an alumni tradition.

### Fr. Albins Smoke Out experiment.

TV's Smoke out commercials is very common these days. Joe Strychasz '59 remembered even though Fr Albin smoked he wanted to show the class the effects of smoking on your lungs. Fr Albin took 2 beakers filled with water and in one soaked tobacco. The following class he placed a pollywog in each beaker. The following day the pollywog in the tobacco soaked beaker died. He pointed out the pollywogs skin is similar to our lung tissue. Doc may have been a pioneer in realizing the effects of tobacco. Cigarette commercials back then were very common. The last cigarette TV commercial (for Virginia Slims) was broadcast on the Johnny Carson Tonight Show at 11:59pm on January 1, 1971. The first great antismoking ad campaign began on Thanksgiving

Day 1966, by 1967 there was one anti smoking for every smoking commercial. The most memorable of that era was in 1968.

Dying of lung Cancer actor Bill Tallman who portrayed the district attorney Hamilton Burger (who always lost to Perry Mason) appeared in a rather convincing anti smoking commercial.

### **Top 10 (in no particular order)**

#### **What the Friars were happy they accomplished.**

- 1.) Punctuality. The bells!!! the bells!!!
- 2.) Good Study Habits. 3 plus hours a day of forced study habits
- 3.) Good eating habits. 3 square meals a day and 2 at the weekend. If you didn't like what they served, one less meal that day.
- 4.) Independence. If you lasted four years you were truly independent.
- 5.) Clean organized room and properly made bed. Later became experts at short sheeting, and de-organizing or planting an unexpected surprise in a classmate's drawer.
- 6.) Prayer. Thought to be especially useful before tests or exams.
- 7.) Good note taking. Perfected technique to make us look like we were listening, instead we wrote a letter to home or girlfriend.
- 8.) Proper attire. Would our mothers have let us out the door with some of the clothes combinations we wore?
- 9.) Good behavior. Or pay the consequences.
- 10.) Physical Fitness. Fr Emil, need we say more.

#### **What the Friars would not want to hear.**

- 1.) Bed Body Molding. Perfected for sneaking out after hours.
- 2.) Exploring. Off school property of course.
- 3.) Networking. Learned how to obtain contraband.
- 4.) Padua Feudalism. Friar, senior, junior, sophomore and peasant.
- 5.) Efficient time management. Get up 5 minutes before chapel bell, make your bed, brush your teeth and get dressed.
- 6.) Becoming an early morning server. To sample the left over Altar wine, Wonder if that's where wine tasting originated on Lake Seneca ?
- 7.) Last minute study at mass or chapel.
- 8.) Behavior on an unsupervised group bus or train ride.
- 9.) Cat napping perfected at study hall or class.
- 10.) Practical jokes and pranks. Some got out of hand but you probably can remember a few if you reach back into your memory bank.

#### **Paduan Staff and Contributors.**

Mike Asiello '63, John Gryszan '63, Peter Krafinski '63, John LaSalle '62, John Mielnik '62, Chad Orlowski '65, Tom Malina '66, Tony Mangini '59, Tony Specian '66, Brian Glynn '69, Reg Stanczyk '67, Joseph Strychasz '59

Special Thanks and Kudos to Brian Glynn '69 and Joe Strychasz '59 for searching out classmates and making the reunion weekend possible.

#### **Did you know by Reg Stanczyk**

- who came up with the name "Cascaders" for all the sports teams? (Art Richards, the journalist)
- what one of the alternatives was? (Padua Pandas)
- -who scored the first goal ever at Padua in Soccer? Frank Czajkowski '53
- who wrote the school song? (Father Brendan, of course!)
- who donated the flag pole by the chapel to the school? (Class of 1953 as a graduation gift)
- what was used as the gym before the gym? (An old boiler room that the friars and students removed the machinery from and poured a new concrete floor in, and the roof top solarium on the north wing)
- when was the roof top solarium removed? (Fall of 1958)
- that Johann was not the only refugee to live and work at Padua? (There were at least two Polish families with children, plus Brunek and others)
- who was the refugee who lived and worked at Padua the longest? (Johann, of course!)
- who built the star that was placed on the cupola for Christmas? (Johann for Christmas 1952, with Brunek and electrician)
- who sponsored the refugees? (The Catholic Welfare League. It would be interesting to know how this program got started, how the friars got involved, and to know a little more about each of them besides Johann)
- where the gym was supposed to be built originally? ("Northwest corner of athletic field with the entrance facing south". That would have placed it near the baseball backstop I think. It would have been a long walk back to the school! I think someone told me the reason it wasn't put there was the field was too wet.)