



The

Communiqué

Vol. 30, No. 1

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

Winter 2004

A First Primer for First-Timers – Part One

It was quite a joy when the editor of the *Communiqué*, Rita Walczyk of the Detroit CAC, came up to me at the convention and asked me to write something for it recounting my experience as a First-Timer at a CAC convention. My thanks to her, along with my assurance that I'm experienced writing newsletter articles, I put out one for my Knights of Columbus council, so I promise an entertaining effort.

Actually, you might say I'm a "First-and-a-Half-Timer." This is because last year, though I was unable to attend the CAC "Convention-Proper" on the Georgia coast, I was able to make it to the Post-Convention down the road, and just across the state line, in Fernandina Beach, Florida. This brief but pleasant stop on my trip had me yearning for more, and I was absolutely thrilled when I learned the next Convention was going to be at one of my favorite destinations, Tahoe.

Once there, one of the many surprises was how many people recognized me from the previous year even though they had had just one full day to get to know me in Florida. One very nice lady from one of the Eastern clubs had pictures she had taken of me in St. Augustine, found me at the convention, and graciously brought them to me. Finding me in the crowds (over 200 of us, I'm told) probably was a formidable task for her and the others who recognized me, though I have a theory that a quirky tradition of mine may have helped at least some of them: The

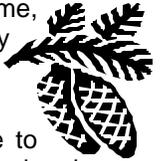
first day out on each big trip I take, I like to wear my souvenir T-shirt from the last trip (in this case, emblazoned with a picture of the space shuttle), a tradition strangely akin, I suppose, to the handing on of the Antwerp Olympic flag.

Thus began a week combining nature's beauty, the town's sights and shows, the hotel's amenities, and our own Convention agenda. Of this last, may I begin with a few words about the meetings. Most of us, I'm sure, are accustomed, back home, to meetings where someone drones on about how "quarterly sales were down such-and-such percent..." Meetings at the



Convention were a lot more upbeat. First, our President Barbara Accordino of the Louisville club, is a jolly-good organizer and speaker. Second, some of the material covered, such as the locations of the next two years' gatherings (in San Antonio and Portland), was intrinsically attention-commanding. Third, if you did happen to get bored, you could leave quietly, someone

which, if done back home, might result in some ugly red-pen marks on your time card.



I also had the chance to attend a western Regional meeting for the first time, and this occurred in a somewhat different atmosphere from the National meetings downstairs. First, it took place on an upper floor, so the term "atmosphere" can be taken somewhat literally,

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Singles Sunday

In 2004, CACI's annual celebration of *Singles Sunday* is April 25. Chapters are encouraged to celebrate Mass and participate in another activity, such as a potluck dinner or a community or charitable service.

Singles Sunday focuses on the needs and contributions of single Catholics to the Church and society. *Singles Sunday* increases the Church's awareness of its mission to single people and promotes the importance of singles in the Mystical Body of Christ. CAC clubs across the country join together one Sunday a year to be encouraged, and to encourage one another, in what often can be considered the "forgotten state" of single adulthood in today's society.

In January, chapter Presidents will receive a promotional packet on *Singles Sunday*. Start your planning now! (Chapters can select another day if they wish.) For more information about *Singles Sunday*, contact your chapter's President or Religious Chair.

Michael Coogan
(Washington, DC)



Second Term President Stresses Membership Issues

As I write this letter, the start of the fall season is beginning. The crispness of the air, the changing colors of the leaves, and the sounds of football games are all around. One may think that it is the end of the year, but in CACI it is the beginning. First, I would like to thank those who put their trust in me and elected me for a second term. Secondly, I want to assure you that those of us who were elected are working to make our organization the best that it can be.

Those of you who attended the convention in Lake Tahoe know of the wonderful time that we all shared. As for me, San Francisco and Tahoe was one of my most favorite vacations. Besides the fun, there was business, also. The delegates voted to raise the annual dues by \$.50 per person. Portland, ME was selected at the site for the 2005 convention. The

election of the officers included three new Regional Vice Presidents.

During the officer changeover meeting in Louisville, the CACI Executive Board recognized that our organization is at a crossroad in its existence. Membership has declined. Clubs have dropped from 50 to 30. Most clubs have less than 50 members and there is a definite lack of leadership at all levels. Conventions that used to draw 400 and 500 attendees now have 30 to 100 attendees.

The Executive Board decided to form a constitutional revision committee and offer some changes in the by-laws. During the next few months you will be informed of these changes. Most of them refer to the membership requirements. The name of the organization will be

changed to better represent our makeup. Actually we are going back to the roots of the organization. National Association of Catholic Single Adults Clubs explains just who we are.

Needless to say, the next year is going to be an interesting one. I want all of you to know that we love this organization and never want to see it dissolved, but unless there is a change, more of the clubs will fold and perhaps the national board itself will cease to exist. Let us all hope and pray that God will guide us in our journey.

Barbara L. Accordino
CACI President



In Remembrance Of
Guy A. Dimarino
February 9, 1937 – June 6, 2003

Guy DiMarino, former president of CACI, passed away on June 6. He held chairmanships and various offices in the Youngstown CAC and served as their delegate to the regional and national conventions for many years. Guy was CACI president 1991-1993, after holding the offices of CACI Treasurer, 2nd VP and 1st VP. He was truly dedicated to CAC.

He was a people person – Mr. Personality. Guy was a good listener and would talk to everyone. He possessed a marvelous sense of humor, an overwhelming amount of patience, an outgoing personality and always had a smile on his face.

Guy was a deeply religious man and had begun the diaconate program of studies. His illness forced him to discontinue the program. However, Guy continued to volunteer at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown and a family support group at the Cleveland Clinic. His volunteerism at St. Elizabeth Hospital began in 1995 and continued until 10 days before his death. When at the hospital he always assisted at Mass.

Guy DiMarino was a True Gentleman and will be sorely missed.

Jan Hess (Detroit)
CACI Secretary to Guy DiMarino

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

2003-2004 Officers

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| <i>President:</i> | Barbara Accordino (Louisville)..... | 502-969-2272 |
| <i>First Vice President:</i> | Paula Hartig (Buffalo) | 716-633-8891 |
| <i>Second Vice President:</i> | Michael Coogan (Washington, DC)..... | 301-947-5707 |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | Jim Stammerman (Louisville) | 502-459-2506 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Janet Yntema (Detroit)..... | 313-882-0990 |
| <i>Eastern Region VP:</i> | Tom Evans (Baltimore) | 410-560-0433 |
| <i>Midwest Region VP:</i> | Rhonda Higgins (Louisville)..... | 812-284-4349 |
| <i>Western Region VP:</i> | Sonia Bon (San Francisco) | 650-637-0865 |
| <i>Chaplain:</i> | Fr. Charles Pfeffer (Philadelphia)..... | 215-898-7575 |

The *Communiqué* is published by The Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI), an umbrella organization for the more than 30 local Catholic Alumni Club (CAC) chapters across the country. Members of CAC chapters are college and nursing school graduates who are free to marry in the Church.

The purpose of CACI is to host an annual national convention, facilitate communication among local clubs, and represent the interests of single Catholics in our Church at-large. The annual national convention is held during the first week of August and hosts more than 200 CACers from across the country. Smaller Regional Weekends across the United States are also offered, allowing CAC chapters in specific various regions of the country to come together for fun and fellowship.

CACI is a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the state of Colorado. The address of President Barbara Accordino is 5710 Hasbrook Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, 40229-2944.

Greetings from the Eastern Region

I am the new Eastern Regional VP. I was the Charity chair for the recently held convention. Once again I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the charities at the convention. I would like to congratulate the Washington D.C club upon celebrating their fifty years as a club. The other officers of the region are Assistant Vice-President, Martha Strachan (Boston), and Treasurer, Christine Michel (North Jersey).

The Secretary position is vacant at

...Washington D.C club upon celebrating their fifty years as a club.

the present time and yes I am looking for someone to volunteer his or her talents to be the secretary for the region. If any of the clubs are in need of promotional materials can contact Georgia Mottl for the new brochures and posters. I look forward to working with the other regional officers, club presidents and regional delegates for the coming year.

As you read this article winter will be here. And everyone will be thinking about the Eastern Region's Spring regional which will be held in Mystic, CT, From June 11 to 13, 2004. I will try to keep in touch with the clubs of the eastern region. Please feel free to contact me.

Tom Evans
Eastern Region Vice President
410/560-0433
evansjoseph@msn.com

Fr. Jack Frerker Publishes Novel

Most CAC'ers (except those who have been in CACI about 6 years or less know Fr. Jack Frerker. Former CACI Chaplan CACI's best teller of jokes and stories.

Fr. Jack very recently retired and is now living in Olympia WA has published his first book, a priest detective mystery novel. The title of the book is "Heat" about an elderly pastor in downstate IL. Which is where Fr. Jack is from.

Lou Zeleznock
Washington D.C.



Hello from the Midwest Region

Hello from the Midwest! I'm excited to be serving as the Vice-President this year. My first International Convention was in Lake Tahoe, what a great week! Hi, to all my newfound friends and to those of you I haven't met.

One of my goals this year is to contact all of the chapters in my region to find out what's going on locally. I've already heard from a few and according to Gary Dolinshek, President of the Detroit club, they have been enjoying a dizzying array of activities so far this year. Good going Detroit!

Did you know that the St. Louis club is having a 40th birthday celebration in May?

Happy Birthday St. Lou!

Anyone needing promotional materials can contact Georgia Mottl for the new colorful brochures and posters.

Other clubs seem to be having membership difficulties but are working very hard to promote CACI. Anyone needing promotional materials can contact Georgia Mottl for the new colorful brochures and posters.

I have a great team of officers this year. They are: Assistant Vice-President, Hope Munoz (Dallas), Secretary, Gary Dolinshek (Detroit), and Treasurer, Teresa Walczyk (Detroit). I hope to keep in touch and would appreciate newsletter mailings.

In case you were wondering, the 2004 Spring Midwest Regional is scheduled for May 28-31 (Memorial Day Weekend) in the Southern side of Cincinnati. Hope to see you there!

Rhonda Higgins
Midwest Vice-President
812/284-4349
rhiggins@win.net



Good wishes to all from the West!

I am happy to announce that the same good wishes came upon us when three good-hearted people accepted the challenge of serving the Western Region Board. They are Cindy Parker, Assistant Vice-President (Orange County), Frank Canham, Treasurer (Colorado) and Bob Venverloh, Secretary (Los Angeles). To all of you, thank you.

I am looking forward to working in

...spreading the news of this "best keep secret in the Archdiocese."

unison with the Regional officers and the seven member organizations for the coming year. Specifically, it is important for us to continue in keeping the CAC a safe and an enjoyable meeting ground for single Catholic men and women sharing the same spiritual value and religious heritage for camaraderie and friendship. To achieve this, I would like to see more untapped resources in the grassroots level to come up and join the board members in planning and decision-making, and in spreading the news of this "best keep secret in the Archdiocese."

Come, join us then for a fun-filled Regional Weekend, January 16, 17, & 18, 2004, Las Vegas, Nevada and explore the opportunities in reminiscing and making new friends! I hope to see you all there!

My appreciation and thanks goes to Irene Quinn and Marie Acebo who have planned and are working hard on the coming Regional Weekend in coordination with the new Regional Board. Likewise, my heartfelt gratitude goes the same way to Karen Waldschmidt whose support and guidance I will truly treasure.

Lastly, I will continue to keep in touch with all of you, Western region chapters either by phone or email. Please feel free to reach me.

Sonia Bon
Western Region Vice-President
650/637-0865
Bsoniak@aol.com



2003 CACI Award Winners



Presented at the CACI Vacation in Lake Tahoe

Winners of the CACI 2002-2003 Newsletter Award Contest

| Class A | Class B | Class C |
|--|--|---|
| 1 st : Chapter: Detroit Newsletter: <i>Sparks</i> Editor: Rita M. Walczyk | 1 st : Chapter: Twin Cities Newsletter: <i>The Tale of Two Cities</i> Editor: Ginny Hansen | 1 st : Chapter: Cincinnati Newsletter: <i>CAC Connections</i> Editor: Joe Matzek |
| 2 nd : Chapter: Boston Newsletter: <i>The Hub-Bub</i> Editor: Diane Donatio | 2 nd : Chapter: Orange County Newsletter: <i>Taste A Slice of a Good Life</i> Editor: Gerry M. Larkin | 2 nd : Chapter: North Jersey Newsletter: <i>Outlook</i> Editor: Loretta Lovell |
| 3 rd : Chapter: Washington, D. C. Newsletter: <i>Potomac Crossings</i> Editor: Lynn Sorbara | 3 rd : Chapter: Baltimore Newsletter: <i>The Skipjack</i> Editor: Susan Zanella | 3 rd : Chapter: Youngstown Newsletter: <i>Insider</i> Editor: Kathy Paolinellie |
| Honorable Mentions: | | |
| New York | Chicago Los Angeles Sacramento San Francisco | Central Illinois Central New Jersey |



Crying Towel:

(A token of sympathy)

Hedy The , Orange County

Web Page Award:

Not Presented

CACie Award

(Largest percentage of club members at the convention)

Washington D. C. Chapter

Community Service Award

See Page 7

CAC Person of the Year

Larry Bleau - Eastern Region

Janet Yntema - Midwest Region

Jim Chinn - Western Region

Evie Pullis - Nominee Eastern Region

Tom Evans - Nominee Eastern Region

Volleyball

1st place Eastern Region

2nd place Midwest Region

3rd place Western Region

Best Golf Shot

Donald Exner

Charity

Eastern Region

Good Counsel

Midwest Region

Coalition On Temporary Shelter

Western Region

St. Francis Center

Host or Local Charity

St. Vincent's Kitchen

Over \$5,000.00 Collected

Club ID:

(Club that best demonstrates the convention theme)

1st Place: New York Chapter

Charlie Award:

(For friendship and hospitality at the convention)

Detroit Chapter

Mileage Award:

(Club whose members collectively traveled the most miles to the convention)

Washington D. C. Chapter

CACer of the Year

| Name | Chapter |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Maryann Porter | Baltimore |
| Janet Kopec | Boston |
| Mary Catherine Haddigan | Central Illinois |
| Dee Macke | Cincinnati |
| Ted Semones | Cincinnati |
| Michael Rabideau | Detroit |
| Mark Arnesen | Los Angeles |
| Patrick Tedaldi | New York |
| Jim Chinn | San Francisco |
| John J. O'Callaghan | Washington, D.C. |

Outstanding New Leader

| Name | Chapter |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Karen Coyne | Baltimore |
| Susan Zanella | Baltimore |
| Julie McDonald | Boston |
| Bill Schumacher | Cincinnati |
| Gary J. Dolinshek | Detroit |
| Angelo Orlando | Los Angeles |
| Robin D'Alessandro | New York |
| Evalyn Kuntz | New York |
| Sonia Bon | San Francisco |
| Lynn Sorbara | Washington, D. C. |

Membership Award

Not Presented



Aspire to be the Best!

Southern side of Cincinnati

Like to be in the middle of it all? Do you enjoy the ocean, European influences, shopping, and entertainment, proximity to a casino, zoo and amusement park? Then come to the 2004 Midwest Regional, the Southern side of Cincinnati, the weekend of May 28-31 (Memorial Weekend).

The newly opened Newport Aquarium is a close-encounter with sea life in the middle of the USA. Newport on the Levee has shopping, restaurants and entertainment. For those wanting to try their hands at a little gambling, the Argosy Casino is a short drive away. There is the nationally noted Cincinnati Zoo and for those of you who enjoy thrill rides, Kings Island is about 20 miles away.

We are planning to take you to Bavaria right in the middle of the heartland at the world-famous Hofbrauhaus, which offers great German cuisine and entertainment.

We will be staying close to the Cincinnati International Airport, with complimentary airport shuttle service. For those of you who may drive, it is near major interstate highways and easy to find.

We would love to see all of you there in the spring. There will be more information in the spring Communiqué or you can contact Rhonda Higgins at 812/284-4349 or rhiggins@win.net

Rhonda Higgins
Midwest Convention Coordinator

O Almighty and merciful God, who hast commissioned Thy angels to guide and protect us, command them to be our assiduous companions from our setting out until our return; to clothe us with their invisible protection; to keep from us all danger of collision, of fire, of explosion, of fall and bruises, and finally, having preserved us from all evil, and especially from sin, to guide us to our heavenly home. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Adventure in the Old Southwest

Howdy CACers! Bienvenidos. Catholic Alumni Clubs International happily invites you to join us on our thrilling adventure in the Old Southwest. San Antonio is a most unique and intriguing city. Texas is spectacular. We're staying at the St. Anthony Wyndham Hotel, a Texas and National Historical Landmark. The dates are from Sunday July 25 to Saturday July 31, 2004

The St. Anthony has a rooftop swimming pool, hot tub and fitness center. You can walk to the Alamo, River Walk, shopping trolley lines and nearby sites. Visit the Mission Trail, Market Square-El Mercado, Buckhorn Saloon Museum and Fort Sam Houston.

Experience San Antonio's lively cultural scene intertwined with multi-cultural traditions. The city really knows how to party (fiesta). Viva fun, amigos. So c'mon. Celebrate!

Mosey on over to adjacent area - LBJ ranch, President Bush's Prairie Chapel Ranch (security), TH longhorn cattle grazing, operating oil-wells, Gulf Coast, windmills, Alamodome. A rodeo, Tex-Mex fare and barbecue with an attitude, mariachi, fajitas y margaritas, chili, For desert order caramel pralines.



CAC offers volleyball, golf, water sports, fishing, horseback riding, Liturgy, seminars, dances, talent show, awards. Romance? Included are six nights lodging, 6 breakfasts, 5 dinners, and surprises. All with hundreds of single and eligible CAC'ers. Camaraderie.

Contact our vacation co-chairs are Bob Giardina at 504/456-0303 and Ellen Scherrer at 513/451-6959. Reserve early for our CACI extravaganza in the Lone Star State. Yippie-yi-yo-ki-yay.

San Antonio - The story never ends. Be part of the story. Be there! Happy Trails.

Geraldus Patricius Madigan

Viva Las Vegas!

Frontier Hotel - Las Vegas, NV
January 16, 17, 18 2004
(Martin Luther's King Birthday)

Yes, come and join the fun for camaraderie and friendship with your fellow CACers from the Western Region. We will stay at the New Frontier Hotel, which is located in the heart of the Las Vegas strip, very convenient to the Convention Center and the Sands Expo. The hotel prides itself of its friendly staff comfortable atmosphere, state of the art gaming equipment and a variety of dining opportunities. Gilley's Saloon, Dance Hall and Bar-B-Cue kick up its heels nightly with non-stop action, toe-tapping tunes and ice-cold beer. Four other restaurants are on the premises plus a showroom featuring local talents and headliners around the world.



Explore the opportunities to enjoy, reminisce and meet new friends during this fun-filled regional weekend in Las Vegas!

Convention Package Price:
Double: \$145 (2 nights)
Single: \$245 (2 nights)
Extra night at midweek rate:
Double: \$26.50
Single: \$53.00
Late fee of \$20 .00
if postmarked after December 1
Cancellation fee: \$50.00
No Refunds after December 31
Cut off date for room reservations:
December 20

Convention package includes: 2 nights lodging, Friday night Welcome appetizer party, 2 nights after hour parties, 2 buffet breakfasts and Sunday brunch/lunch, and free guest parking registration is available on the web. Click web site address:

<http://www.caci.org/cac/conv.html#wreg>

For more information, please contact:

Marie Acebo 818/404-1137
epicenter@socal.rr.com
Sonia K. Bon 650/637-0865
Bsoniak@aol.com
Irene Quinn 916/361-1607
il ikjqforu@yahoo.com

A First Primer for First-Timers – Part One - Continued

in both a negative and a positive way: The room was uncomfortably warm at times, but the sky's-the-limit view from the window was unforgettable. Second, instead of the formal, orderly rows of tables downstairs, there were just a few pieces of furniture, with many of us sitting around on the floor.

Not that there was anything unpleasant about this, understand: It seemed, at once, both cutting-edge, innovative, like Paul Newman and his buddies in those old pictures of the Actors' Studio, and warmly nostalgic of kindergarten storytelling hour. Third, it whetted the "appetite," again, quite literally, for the several after-hours socials that took place in the same room, since plenty of drinks and munchies were always on hand. (One of the parties was themed especially for First-Timers.)

Then, there was the religious program. I extend my thanks to the priests and convention-planners who saw to it that we had opportunity to attend Masses not only on Sunday but all through the week, with the addition of a seminar and Confessions on Sunday itself.

I was also impressed by a procedure I noted at the Convention Masses: As each person arrived in the ballroom that served as our chapel, we were instructed to set aside one piece of the altar bread, in effect giving an exact "head count," so that no consecrated Host would be left unconsumed after Mass. Now not being familiar with all the rubrics of the altar, I don't know offhand whether this is the procedure required of a priest when he offers Mass in a location other than a church, or whether it's the CAC's own procedure, but if it's the latter, I credit the person who thought of it with being *very* wise. The alternative – carrying the Eucharist out with us, would have been risky, to say the least. Our Lord's Body and Blood are just what we traditionally call them – Precious – and, considering the vastness of the casino we had to



pass through on our way to and from the ballroom, and the similar sizes of their betting chips and our Hosts, a slip-up like unknowingly dropping or mislaying our container could have led to an occasion requiring big-time spiritual damage-control. I'd hate to think how the Almighty would feel if His holy Sacrament were to show up on someone's baccarat table.

Meeting individuals from the other

Meeting individuals from the other clubs in the country was a voyage of discovery.

clubs in the country was a voyage of discovery. Interestingly, some of the East Coast clubs were represented in large numbers, demonstrating the far reach of Tahoe's appeal as a vacationland, and the contingent from Washington, with more than thirty participants listed in our program, was clearly the largest of all.



Not to be outdone, the state capital, like the national one, has some great folks in it too. One was Sally, who belongs to the Sacramento club. Her determined effort to get me to join the group going to the Boston rock concert Tuesday night ended in failure, though I admired her flamboyance. (I instead chose to spend the evening at a local-yokel type of entertainment, seeing a Caribbean-style steel-drum band, part of the Valhalla Music Festival, at a state park, and, missing my bus back, added an eight-mile scenic walk back to the hotel to my vacation plans.) But the following day, we were up at Zephyr Cove to play volleyball.

Then, oh, the tours. To me a trip isn't a trip without tours. I availed myself of two, of the four offered. The first covered Virginia City, with a short preliminary stop in Carson City to visit the Nevada State Museum. I regret not getting pictures from the inside of this institution, which boasts many treasures from both human and natural history. My only photo is

of the exterior, though by itself it has turned out to be a significant conversation piece. Everyone wants to know what the Liberty Bell was doing in Nevada.

As for dances, I didn't make it to one every night, but I liked the party atmosphere of the ones I did attend. This despite the fact that my knowledge of how to dance, and my skill in actually doing so, are approximately equal to those of a duck-billed platypus. Essentially I'm faced with two options: Either just watch from the sidelines enjoying the beat of the music, or enter the dance floor and try to *look* as if I were dancing. But I commend my fellow CAC'ers for being most accommodating to my limited abilities. Besides, the deejay we had, a congenial British chap, made it soar by varying the music wonderfully, from country to oldies to hip-hop to Latin to jazz and Big Band – and, of course, an occasional Beatles tune.

The final night was serious in focus. I was impressed with our convention tradition of taking up a collection on behalf of three charities chosen by the three Regions and a fourth, in the local vicinity of the Convention site, by the national CAC leadership. (All four charities supported at this convention have similar missions to the needy in their respective cities.) There was also the formal recognition of particular clubs and individuals with various types of achievement awards. I approached all this with appropriate seriousness, having already had my share of levity for the day. I would say that for a First-Timer I did pretty well: I even received one of the awards at the closing-night dinner, and I can definitely say I made a lot of friends. And the invitation to write this article was icing on the cake.

Besides, I've got a great T-shirt to wear for my next trip.

Bob Venverloh
CAC of Los Angeles



Welcome, CAC of Raleigh!

In August, CACI welcomed a new chapter to its nationwide family. The Catholic Alumni Club of Raleigh was established and is rarin' to go!

Sharon Rohrbach of Raleigh contacted CACI in February 2003 and inquired about establishing a CAC chapter in her diocese. After much planning during the Spring and Summer, an initiation meeting was held in the diocese's only Catholic high school, Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh. It was a great start! As CAC of Raleigh's acting president, Sharon is overseeing the development of the chapter in its early stages.

CACI extends its arms of friendship to the single professional Catholics in Raleigh. Come to our regionals and our next national convention in San Antonio. We look forward to meeting you!



Michael Coogan
(Washington, DC)
Club Development Chairman

Thanks!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who took the time to reply to the Evaluations Forms and Site Selection Forms at Lake Tahoe they were most interesting. This year we had more suggestions over 90 people responded to the Site Selection Survey and 120 to the Evaluation Form. This is the largest number to replies in the three years that I have been compiling the information.

As usual the information and comments proved to be varied and interesting.

With regard to the Evaluation Form, it looks as though Lake Tahoe was a hit. Everyone seemed to enjoy the week with some minor exceptions – most especially with the fact that the pool was closed for most of the week. But as true CACer's, we muddled through the inconvenience and enjoyed ourselves.

There were suggestions for improving everything from the Liturgy to the dinners that we enjoy.

The Site Selection Form proved or overseas sites than previously, everything from the Panama Canal to Kenya, South Africa, with stops along the way in Europe.

So once again thanks for your time and I look forward to seeing you all next year in San Antonio.

Loretta Lovell
President North Jersey CAC

To all my CAC Friends who attended the Lake Tahoe Vacation

Mom and I would like to thank you very much for all the kindness and generosity you showed to her in Tahoe. She had such a good time thanks to all of you. She has met many of my friends and she met a lot more during the vacation. She was so moved by all of the love and support everyone gave to her. I told her "Mom that is what CAC is all about." Thanks again to all of you for making Mom's vacation so wonderful.

Barbara and Valerie Higgins

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award was established to recognize local chapters and individuals for their work and efforts in maintaining a spirit of Christian giving and service in and around their cities. Although that we are sure that each club does more than their part in this endeavor, each year at the annual convention we recognize those clubs and individuals who have done an exceptional job that year.

This year there were 6 club entries. The winners for 2003 are as follows:

CLASS A

1st place
CAC of Boston

2nd place
CAC of Washington, DC

3rd place
CAC of Detroit

CLASS B

1st place
CAC of Los Angeles

2nd place
CAC of Sacramento

CLASS C

1st place
Catholic Single Adults Club
of Central Illinois



The individuals to be recognized are:

CAC of Boston: Chairperson: Kathleen McNamara. Dianne Richards, Jim Manning, Christopher Flynn, Sheila Manning, Jim Walsh, Diane & Dan O'Connell, Diane & Rich Cullen, Marie Healy, Mary & John O'Callaghan, Cindy LaSala, Tony Perrotta, Dotty Morris, Bill Welsh, Anna Tateosian, Dan Tice and Kathy Cahill.

CAC of Washington, DC: Chairperson: James Beauchamp. Trish Rohan, Carol Patt, Laura (Dawson) Durback, John O'Callaghan, Bonnie Burgwald, Fran Carbone, Marie Mackne and Dennis Mosso.

CAC of Detroit: Chairpersons: Mark LaPointe and Carol Hofer. Barb Davis, Denise Joseph, Robert Klingler, James P. O'Boyle, and Fr. Larry Ventline.

CAC of Los Angeles: Bob Venverloh, Oskar Gruenwald and Nancy Iredale.

CAC of Sacramento: Chairperson: Carol Clark.

Catholic Single Adults Club of Central Illinois: Chairperson: Nancy Hoover. Mark Ferguson & Kathleen Murray.

TRADITION !

"Tradition! Tradition!" sung proudly by Tevye the main character in the first minutes of the musical Fiddler on the Roof. Tevye announces that tradition plays a major role in the life of his village - in his life. In a sense, the entire musical is a reflection on the relationship that tradition should play in the life of an individual or a community.

After returning from CACI's 44th Annual Convention, An Adventure in the Sierras, at Lake Tahoe, I realized that the Catholic Alumni Club is an organization rich with tradition. Some of the traditions are fun and add character to the festivities. For example, the Charlie Award (its appearance defies description) presented to the individual or individuals who exhibited significant generosity and hospitality in a loving way during the convention. Another fun tradition is the Crying Towel, an embroidered towel at this point almost the length of a head table seating a dozen people. The Crying Towel is a token of sympathy presented to the CAC member who had more things go wrong during their travel to and/or stay at the convention.

Another beautiful tradition of the CACI Convention is the Charities Collection. Each year at the convention CAC members are invited to contribute to several charities. Each CACI Region recommends a charity. This year the Eastern Region suggested Good Counsel a

New York area. Good Counsel began in 1985 to care for single mothers and their babies before during and after the birth of the babies. It prepares mothers to live independent, self-sufficient lives.

The Midwest Region proposed the Coalition On Temporary Shelter (COTS). It was founded in 1982 to address the growing crisis of homelessness in Detroit. COTS provides transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and a list of com-

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prehensive supportive services.

The Western Region advocated for the St. Francis Center in Los Angeles. St. Francis provides services such as the distribution of food and clothing to the needy, a program for the elderly, health clinics, parenting, ESL and literacy classes, preschool, etc. The center services nearly 5,000 families, children and seniors annually. In addition to each region, CACI asks the bishop of the diocese welcoming the convention to recommend a local charity.

This year Bishop Straling of the Diocese of Reno suggested St. Vincent's Kitchen, which serves 500 - 800 meals to the homeless and needy people daily in downtown

Reno.

Reflect for a moment on these four worthy charities that care for the poor, homeless, elderly, immigrants, children, single-mothers and babies. What a tremendous good it is to support these ministries. This year the CACI Convention participants donated well over \$5000 to these charities. And CACI has been doing this for years. I am so proud to be the chaplain of an organization whose members each year during their vacation/convention remember God's "lowly ones" and so generously contribute to their needs. In addition, I know that 30+ clubs throughout the country are assisting local charities with their time, talents and treasure. It is all done in the name of Jesus, ". . . whatever you do for one of these little ones, you do for me" (Mt 25:40). Now this is one great TRADITION!

Fr. Chuck Pfeffer
CACI Chaplain



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