



The

Communiqué

Vol. 35, No. 1

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Spring 2009

An Adirondack Adventure

Imagine yourself relaxing on the verandah, looking across the grassy slope going down to the lake. Across the lake the hills rise up to the beautiful sky. See the boats on the water, people walking along the beach road, the scenic natural beauty. Perhaps you see someone parasailing. Maybe some of the people strolling along the beach road are headed to the park for a summer concert. What is over there on the right? It's the Fort William Henry Museum. This 1755-57 British fort was the subject of James Fenimore Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans." Where are you, that you are seeing all this?

You are at CACI's 2009 Annual Vacation in the village of Lake George in the Adirondacks of upstate New York. July 12 – 18. You are staying at the Best Western Fort William Henry Hotel on Lake George, enjoying good food, enjoying the sun, enjoying the sights.

We are going back to the 6-days-and-nights vacation. (2007 and 2008 were just 5 nights.) Cost for the week is \$849 based on double occupancy and includes 6 breakfasts and 5 dinners along with your 6 nights lodging with liturgies and dances and parties. The village of Lake

George is at the southern end of the 32-mile long lake. You will have the opportunity to see more of this beautiful lake since one of our dinners is a dinner cruise on Lake George.

You can reach Lake George by plane, train, bus, and of course car. There are many flights into Albany and the hotel provides a van to and from the airport for \$25 each way. The van service will also pick up at the Fort Edward train station, Rensselaer train station, and the Glen Fall bus station.

Besides relaxing on the verandah or in the pool, strolling along the beach road, perhaps catching a concert, browsing in the shops, playing miniature golf, and indulging in the all-important ice cream stores, there are a number of optional tours you can take.

Sightseeing trips include an overview tour of the Lake George area, Glen Falls, Bolton Landing and a scenic drive up Prospect Mountain to the crest overlooking Lake George. There will be a city tour of Albany, including a tour of the state capital building. There will be trips to Cooperstown, Fort Ticonderoga, an Upper Hudson rail trip and visit to the Natural Stone Bridge and Caves Park.

There will be a post-convention day trip to Saratoga Springs on Saturday, July 18. Tour the city with its Victorian architecture, mineral springs, Yaddo gardens. Walk around on your own. The tour will include a visit to the Racing Hall of Fame and finally dinner at the Racino track with a few races. We will bring you back to our convention hotel so you don't need to change hotels for the post trip but you will need to stay over an extra night, the night of July 18. Of course you can stay longer or come in early. Extra nights are available for \$84, double occupancy, additional cost for single occupancy.

Some websites to check out: VisitLakeGeorge.com, LakeGeorgeChamber.com, FortWilliamHenry.com.

For further information contact Neal Hyatt at 301-229-1455 or via e-mail (preferred) at nealhyatt@att.net, or contact Janet Yntema at 313-882-0990 or janety602@aol.com. Both are on eastern daylight time.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to my fellow CACers,

As I write this letter, the flowers are blooming, the trees are beginning to turn green, the grass is growing and according to the calendar Spring has begun, but the weather forecast has snow in it.

Just as Winter has turned into Spring, Summer is not far behind and with it our CACI International Convention in Lake George, New York in July. I hope all of you, just as I am are planning to attend and enjoy all that the area has to offer.

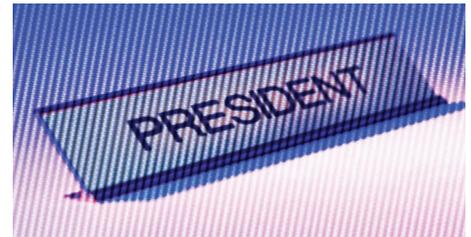
I look forward to spending time with old friends and making new ones at this time. Also, the thought of being in the mountains on a lake, just taking some much needed rest and relaxation is a plus. There will be time for resting and a time for having fun and if you are a history buff, time to explore the wealth of the past.

Our convention co-coordinators, Neal Hyatt and Janet Yntema have been working hard on our behalf with details and more details. They have come up with some great tours for us to take advantage of while we are there. It is a six day convention and for the price it's a bargain. Our lodgings, break-

seminars, entertainment and parties are included. For those of you on the East Coast, it is just a drive away. Others such as myself will be flying into Albany and then making our way to Lake George.

I hope to see all of you there.

Rhonda Higgins
CACI President



Catholic Alumni Clubs International

2008-2009 Officers

- President:* Rhonda Higgins (Louisville) 812-284-4349
- First Vice President:* Loretta Lovell (North Jersey)..... 201-723-6692
- Second Vice President:* Susie Shearer (Detroit) 330-471-7458
- Treasurer:* Steve Valko (St. Louis) 314-680-3303
- Secretary:* Evie Pullis (New York)..... 201-342-5256
- Eastern Region VP:* Gerry Voelkel (New York)..... 718-655-3365
- Midwest Region VP:* Mike Kappel (MMRV) 618-397-2320
- Western Region VP:* Vacant
- Past President:* Michael Coogan (Washington)..... 301-916-6336
- Chaplain:* Fr. Joe Codori (Pittsburgh)..... 412-931-4624

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 during the Summer and hosts more than 150 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 Rhonda Higgins is 210 Ettels Lane, #107, Clarksville, IN 47129

**MESSAGE FROM
THE EASTERN REGION
VICE PRESIDENT**

The Spring Eastern Regional took place at the Marriott Waterside Hotel in downtown Norfolk, Virginia on May 1 - 3, 2009. A detailed report about this weekend will be given in the next issue of the COMMUNIQUE.

I hope to see many CACers at the CACI Convention which will be held in Lake George, New York on July 12 - 18, 2009. The summer is a beautiful time of year to be in upstate New York!

Plans are well underway for the 2009 joint Fall Eastern/Midwestern Regional Weekend, which is being coordinated by Neal Hyatt and the Washington CAC. This weekend will be held on October 2 - 4, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. Tours will be offered in DC and in the neighboring areas. Plan to come. These joint weekends are a great way for the CACers in the East and Midwest to get together!

Plans are also underway for the 2010 Spring Eastern Regional Weekend, which is being coordinated by Loretta Lovell and the North Jersey CAC.

My two years as CACI Eastern Region Vice President will be ending on September 30, 2009. It's been a busy and productive time! I've spent most of my time coordinating two regional weekends (Myrtle Beach, SC in April 2008 and Norfolk, VA in May 2009) with the help of a number of CAC officers and members. But, I'm not ending my involvement as a CAC officer. As of July 1, I will be

joining the NYCAC Exec Board as a Rep-at-Large.

I would like to end my two terms as CACI Eastern Region Vice President by thanking those who have served as Eastern Region officers with me: Evie Pullis (New York/Eastern Region Assistant VP), Pat Dugal (New York/Eastern Region Treasurer), and Loretta Lovell (North Jersey/Eastern Region Secretary). I could not have done my job without their help and support.

I would also like to encourage all CACers to get involved with their local clubs and/or on the Regional or International levels. The Catholic Alumni Club has flourished for more than 50 years because of its generous members who have volunteered their time and energy for the club. The CAC needs people to both run events and to serve as officers in their local clubs and/or on the Regional or International levels. If you want the Catholic Alumni Club to continue to flourish, GET INVOLVED!

Gerry Voelkel (New York)
Eastern Region
Vice President



Midwest Regional Update

The region was responsible for the joint Fall Regional in Cleveland. It was held Oct. 10-12, 2208. The weekend included a cruise on Lake Erie. Many good comments were made. A survey was mailed out about the weekend in December, but not enough responses were received so far to share the results other than most comments were complementary. The results will be presented at the May meeting. There were 35 attendees from the Midwest and 13 attendees for the East. The profit was \$2520.85. The region was issued a check for \$1838.12 and the Eastern region was issued a check for \$682.73. The charity collection was a total of \$659.25. The breakdown is as follows \$88.33 Ed Webb Eastern Region, \$137.83 Ed Webb Midwest Region, \$333.09 Cleveland Catholic Charities, and \$100 Midwest Chaplains Fund. The weekend included a dinner cruise and a city tour. Educational Seminars to promote club growth and help were held. Kevin Brown from the Chicago club helped bring off the wonderful seminars and is chairperson for the ones planned in Louisville. Barbara Accordino picked a nice hotel for the event. Unfortunately, she was not able to attend. The Midwest officers who already were working on the convention filled in for Barbara. Thanks to all who helped bring off a successful convention. A special thanks to Barbara for her great planning. Loretta Lovell from the Eastern Region served as the Liturgy chairperson. Thank you Loretta.

The regions Quarterly Newsletter and the Planned Fall Weekend

The second issue (Jan.-Mar.) of the quarterly (electronic)

newsletter for the region has gone out. . All clubs of the region have been contacted to ask for ideas as to how they are getting new members both young and old. A road trip to the Fall convention was proposed in the newsletter. The fall weekend is scheduled for Oct. 2-4, 2009. The Eastern Region will be running the joint weekend this fall. The weekend is in the Washington DC area. A great place for a weekend and perhaps a few extra days of vacation. Contact Neal Hyatt for more info at neal-hyatt@att.net . The next issue of the electronic newsletter (Apr.-June) is due to be sent out the first week of April via E-Mail. If you wish to be on the E-Mail list please let me know at Mikek21798@aol.com.

Concluding remarks

The region is looking for ideas that help promote club membership and retention. All ideas that are received will be shared among all CAC clubs. Let's get CAC back on the growth track. Please attend regional events as they are a good way to meet other folks from other parts of the country and help one grow their local club. Plan to go to the National convention for a week of fun touring and meeting with fellow CAC'ers.

Mike Kappel
Midwest Region
Vice President

Suggestions for Drawing Younger Members to CAC From Mike Kappel

Fellow CAC'er please consider this article as a starting point for discussion. We need new members to keep CAC going. It is adapted from some ideas I saw on the internet. I choose not to footnote as the ideas seem to be that

of many articles on the internet. I tried to put the ideas in a CAC format.

I have heard frustrations that current leadership want young professionals to participate and join CAC leadership activities but have no idea how to get them involved. It is interesting because Generation Y or the Millennials are community driven, fast acting, and innovative in perspective. They ask ... why do things have to be the way they are now, or why can't we do this another way? A young leader with guidance from mentors, practice in serving and patience with existing ideals can revolutionize an association. If we were to target Gen Y and get them involved then we ought to learn how to communicate with them. This involves new forms of communication using text messaging, blogs, podcasts, social networks, and online communities. More importantly, young professionals want to do their homework online, communicate online, and share online. Young professionals are able to create binding relationships online that add value to one another. Young professionals want to see the transparency in people, groups, and associations so that they can choose how to participate from a distance before they commit to an in person meeting. The CACI.org website is a start to this type of transparency.

It is time to start rethinking the way that we market, communicate, and advertise our services to our members. The future of association lies in the leaders that we select and the new tools that guide membership to embrace innovative concepts and embrace transparency as a way of life.

The leaders of CACI have the tools (technology). The materi-

als, the way to go, and the energy to move CACI clubs to collaborate on new ideas to get new members. It requires all participate. It is a big ship and may not turn easy but with a little guidance, practice, and patience we can recruit young leaders to join CAC.

For Gen Y

Acknowledge the problem.

This isn't just a passing fad. Today's young people have fundamentally different expectations than previous generations, and this isn't likely to change. If you don't meet their needs, we can not get them to join.

Keep an open mind. The biggest barriers to solving the problem are all in the mind. Focus on finding the best solutions, without being constrained by the way things have always been done.

Don't be afraid to ruffle some feathers. Older CAC'er may not be happy that these young upstarts are getting leadership opportunities without paying their dues, but that's too bad. We need to do what's right for CAC's growth. One way to smooth things over is to assign older CAC'ers as mentors for younger members. Despite Gen Yers' reputations for being brash, studies and experience show they keenly understand the value of experience. They also excel at working in teams. Pairing them with more experienced CAC'ers enables the older CAC'er to feel valued and respected, while at the same time satisfying the younger members desire to be a part of a vibrant organization.

Love them like your own nephews and nieces. You might find yourself resenting Gen Yers in CAC, but what if they were your nephews

and nieces? Wouldn't you want them to have immediate opportunities to strut their stuff. Another thing to keep in mind is that like your own relations, these young people ultimately need to take over and run the show for the next generation . Their success will keep them involved and keep CAC going.

Stand and deliver. In an age when blogs and instant messages give young people the ability to communicate with their peers on a global basis in real time, promising more than you we deliver can destroy CACI's credibility so we must deliver what we promise. It's important to start now. Gen Y is the future, and CACI won't be able to survive without them, so lets figure out how to harness their capabilities.



**EASTERN REGIONAL
WEEKEND –
October 2-4th 2009
sponsored by Washington
CAC, Eastern and Midwest**

Plan to join us for a very special, unique, and wonderful weekend in Old Town Alexandria with fellow CACers! We have so much planned for you!

Save the date of October 2,3,and 4th, 2009, we will be celebrating at the Crown Plaza in Old Town Alexandria, VA. The package

price will include 2 buffet breakfasts, 1 dinner dance, and two nights lodging. The price is to be determined for a double, a single will be more. We will also offer partial packages if you wish to attend individual activities. Extra nights to add on to the package will be offered as well.

Tours will be offered of the following: Friday Night Tour of Washington DC and Saturday will be a bus tour to include the Capitol building and followed by a tour to the Shrine and then the Franciscan Monastery. Sunday Night for those staying over an extra night is in the planning. So Be there or BE Square!!!!

For further information call Neal Hyatt 301-229-1455 or at nealhyatt@att.net



**CHRISTIANS, LENT, AND EASTER:
WORKERS, NOT MESSIAHS!**

By Lawrence M. Ventline, D.Min.

While retreat houses struggle to pay their bills in almost every state these days, casinos still sound the noise of coins as the "drug of choice" for older Americans. Bus 'em to Greektown, but not wheels rolling to St. Paul of the Cross Retreat House, or other edifices and monasteries, to be silent and still some. Frenetic lives rule amid the unknown need for satisfying the thirst deep within for God. Other gods get in the way, unsatisfying as they have been through the ages.

We primp on the outside; yet, the soul seems forgotten in our culture - a far cry from the days of my own parents and grandparents where faith and spirituality were front and center. Churches were the center of the life of the neighborhood. Not anymore, sad to admit. Yet, 91% of young people born in 1982 or later who attend Mass monthly, surveys show, give up meat on Fridays and receive ashes on the first day of Lent (the 40-day trek for Christian rigor of intense charity, fasting and connecting with the Creator, called Ash Wednesday. While Lent remains some days yet, Holy Thursday, April 9, marks the end of the holy season for Christians when they celebrate the Lord's Supper of the Eucharist, and the Easter Triduum begins with Good Friday, April 10 with the Resurrection of the Lord remembered and celebrated with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, April 12 closing with evening prayer. For fifty days following, a joyous season fills the air with fresh, new life all around believers, and in creation of colorful tulips and yellow daffodils, for example. Confessions have been made and fasting gives way to the joy of a

renewed life now. The penitential seasons gets out of the way for fully celebrating Easter joy five decades. The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Jesus the Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. Easter is the preeminent feast of all Sunday solemnity.

Drama unfolds for Christians who take this time seriously. All of the feelings of abandonment, betrayal, infidelity, grief and loss, trial and judgment, and depression, the way of the cross, the arrest of Jesus, mocking of Pilate's soldiers, dying, burial and rising have Christians looking at the Gospel of Mark.

A favorite prayer of mine comes to mind these holy days. It is written by the late Kenneth Untener who grew up on Detroit's Belle Isle before becoming a Catholic priest, and, a much loved leader in the archdiocese, ascend-

ing to head the Church of Saginaw before his death five years ago on March 27: "This is what we are about: We plant seed that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not Master Builders, ministers, not Messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

FORMER CAC CHAPLAIN NAMED BISHOP OF JUNEAU

Monsignor Edward Burns of Pittsburgh was named Bishop of Juneau, Alaska by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

Bishop Burns served as Chaplain for the Pittsburgh Chapter of CAC.

On behalf of Catholic Alumni Clubs International, we wish to extend our congratulations and prayers to Bishop Burns on his appointment.



IN MEMORIUM

Sue Kaminski—Kansas City
Bob Frichtel—Youngstown

May they Rest in Peace.

Affix
Postage