

The



# Communiqué

Vol. 38, No. 1

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

WINTER 2012



## Nation's "Number One Vacation City"

July 22—28, 2012

### Charleston, Where History Lives!

...where tree lined, cobblestone streets wind past antebellum homes, and soaring church steeples watch over the harbor, a city of historical ambiance—as well as 21st century cosmopolitan flair where the New South comes alive!

The 2012 Convention/Vacation of Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI) is set for the popular vacation city of Charleston, South Carolina from Sunday, July 22 to Saturday, July 28. The region each year attracts more than four million visitors and in October, 2011, Charleston was voted as the Number One Vacation City in the nation by readers of Conde Nast Traveler, the leading travel magazine. Other cities in the top ten

Included San Francisco, Chicago, Savannah, New York City, and San Diego.

The region boasts a theme "Where History Lives!" and features sites from both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War in addition to many renowned restaurants famous for Southern cooking as well as fresh seafood; and fabulous shopping districts a short distance from our hotel, The Francis Marion.

The hotel is located on legendary King Street in the heart of the city's historic district. Three free city trolley lines make stops near the hotel and take passengers throughout the downtown area.

On Monday evening, we will have a private sunset dinner cruise around Charleston Harbor, where we will see Fort Sumter, Patriots Point (where the aircraft carrier "Yorktown" is docked), Sullivan's Island where more than half of the African slaves brought to the US first arrived, plantation sites and the historic Charleston skyline. The dinner cruise will be included in the convention package in addition to six nights at The Francis Marion, four hotel banquet dinners by award-winning chefs, dances, after-hours parties, liturgies, special events, and much more.

The tours that are planned include a city tour, a trip to Fort Sumter, plantations, the battleship "Yorktown" and Mepkin Abbey. This year, the tours will start out in the morning which means that you

will have the afternoons free to enjoy yourselves.

As you can see from the reservation forms and tour descriptions which have already been mailed out, the Convention Coordinators Don Luebbering and Jim Stammerman have planned an exciting week.

If you haven't received your registration form, please contact Don Luebbering (donluebbering@fuse.net) or Jim Stammerman (jstammer64@aol.com) or check the CACI web site for information and registration forms.

Just to add some fun—does anyone know who the "Swamp Fox" was?



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

My Fellow CACers,

The Catholic Alumni Club has been a very good thing for me. I joined CAC Detroit many years ago. My friends were married so I needed someone to socialize with, to do things with. A CACD member told me about the club. I went to a couple of events, had a very nice time, and decided to join. I have had a wonderful time in the club. I have done things I probably would not have done otherwise. I enjoyed many canoe weekends and ski weekends, picnics, games and card parties, house parties, dinners out (and in), movies and even the work sessions for our newsletter composition and newsletter mailings. I have done a lot of traveling with CAC and with CAC friends, visited many locations I would not have seen otherwise. CAC is my extended family and has been very good to me and for me. Many of you have made lasting friendships through CAC. And there are many people out there that need an organization like CAC.

As many of you know our membership has been declining. Many of our

members have married and that is good. Many have moved on to other things. But I believe there are people out there that need us but don't know about us. One of the best ways to advertise is by word of mouth and all of you can help in that respect. The internet is a big part of many lives now also. If you are on Facebook, Twitter, etc., talk about CAC.

Clubs, send e-mails to your parish bulletins to tell them about your club. Many parishes have family activities but not so for singles. Many churches might not put your information in so come up with an event for Catholic singles that they can't refuse to in. At our national convention in Rapid City last July, Chaplain Fr. Joe Codori (Pittsburgh) said perhaps we are losing our Catholic identity. He recommended every club have a yearly retreat and focus on a relationship with God. If your club were to sponsor a retreat for Catholic singles to get together, how could the parishes not put it in their weekly bulletins or in the Vicariate bulletin. If you are hesitant about trying a full weekend retreat, start with just one day. Another thing could be a First Friday mass and go out for dinner after. Or a First Satur-

day mass followed by breakfast and perhaps an additional event.

We want to give singles linked by Catholic values an opportunity to share religious, social, cultural, and even athletic activities. So let them know about you and your club. If you as a member haven't been to a club function in a while, get away from your computer and television/dvd and mingle with members.

And we also provide the opportunity to travel and meet CAC members in other chapters. So please check out the articles in this newsletter about our upcoming vacation in Charleston, South Carolina and also the various regional getaway weekends planned for you. Get a friend and sign up but don't be afraid to travel alone. You won't be alone when you arrive. And if you don't have a roommate when you sign up, we can always find you one. Many sign up for a double without a roommate. I hope to meet all of you so come join us.

*Janet Yntema*  
CACI President  
janety602@aol.com

***Catholic Alumni Clubs International***

**2011-2012 OFFICEDRS**

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- Eastern Region VP:* Pat Dugal (New York) .....718-527-7178
- Midwest Region VP:* Andrea Brosch (Cincinnati).....513-821-2440
- Western Region VP:* Dorothy Hann (San Francisco).....925-735-0208
- Past President:* Loretta Lovell (North Jersey)..... 201-723-6692
- Chaplain:* Fr. Joe Codori (Pittsburgh).....412-427-7896

The *Communique* 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 Janet Yntema, 3862 Grayton, Detroit, MI 48224

## A WORD FROM THE EASTERN REGION CAC

Hello, fellow CACers! Since I have been a CACer for over 20 years, probably many—if not, most—of you know me already, but please allow me to introduce myself for the first time as CAC's eastern region vice president. I am Pat Dugal of CAC of New York and I wish to begin to tell you just how glad and excited I am in my new role in CAC.

I have served as the CAC eastern region treasurer for the past six years while at the same time serving as publicity coordinator for numerous past CAC eastern regional weekend conventions as well as serving as a delegate for at least the past 15 years or so at CAC eastern regional weekend conventions and the CACI annual summer conventions.

Since my term as regional vice president began in October 2011, my first CAC eastern regional weekend convention as vice president was in Boston in November 2011. I wish to extend my sincere congratulations, kudos, and gratitude to CAC of Boston for running such a great regional weekend. Our weekend was historical, patriotic, educational, and fun. I am sure that I am speaking not only on my behalf, but on behalf of all the attendees of the regional weekend. The coordinators for the Boston regional dedicated a lot of time, effort, and hard work that truly paid off. I give them a great round of applause! Great job, everyone!

Going forward, I strongly urge everyone to flag your calendars for our next upcoming CAC eastern regional weekend convention which will be held on the weekend of June 22-24, 2012 in the Philadelphia/Valley Forge, Pennsylvania area. We coordinators of this weekend—the CAC eastern regional officers—are promising you another historical, educational, and fun-filled weekend—with our own flair—as we will continue our march through American Revolutionary history from Boston to Philadelphia and Valley Forge.

Stay tuned for more details about our weekend. You will find more information concerning it in upcoming issues of your local club's newsletter and *Communique*.

Please be sure to also mark you calendar for our annual CACI convention which will be held the week of July 21-28, 2012 in Charleston, South Carolina. Our convention coordinators are working very hard already and are promising everyone a truly fabulous convention for all of us this year, and I have no doubts about it! Please do plan to attend. Again, consult your club's local newsletter and *Communique* over the next several months for articles detailing information about it. Let's see everyone there!

Before closing, I also want to thank many other officers and friends of mine in CAC—especially those who are past CAC eastern region vice presidents—for all their expertise, help, and support in my new role. Just as Jesus explained to us that we together—as His church—are his body, we CACers come together as many unique body parts with many God-given gifts and talents to create a truly special organization in Christ's name which is devoted to the vocation of Catholic singles. Let us always pray and ask God for His help, guidance, and protection; this is my parting prayer and wish for all of us until we meet again. God bless you and best wishes,

*Pat Dugal*  
CAC Eastern Region VP

## MIDWEST REGION UPDATE

It's that time of the season again to start thinking about CAC conventions!

There are a lot of great possibilities for you to take advantage of this year. That's also where the camaraderie begins. It's a chance for you to meet other CAC members from other parts of the country. In May, there's a great weekend planned in Grand Rapids, MI, May

25-28, 2012. We're off to Charleston, SC for the National Convention, July 22-28, 2012 and in October we're flying into Dayton, OH, October 5-7, 2012.

But in Dayton, we will not have just any ordinary convention weekend. On Friday, October the 5th, we are having a Day of Retreat. Fr. Larry Ventline, our Midwest Chaplain, will be conducting the Retreat on "Rediscovering Catholicism". Yes, we're actually going to try this! You will need to come in a day early for the Dayton Convention to be a part of the Retreat. The reservation forms are already available on the CACI website.

Last year's Memphis convention had very good attendance. The National Convention in Rapid City, S.D. also had a great attendance. In November, Boston was well attended. This is the time of year that most companies want you to plan your vacations. Why don't you think about attending one or more of this year's convention weekends? Maybe you can convince your single Catholic friends to join CAC and attend a convention with you! That would be great! Plus we could work on our membership numbers. It's all a matter of word of mouth. Let's all plan to get the word out about CAC and our Convention Weekends! We want to see all of you at a weekend this year!

*Andi Brosch*  
Midwest VP/CAC of Cincinnati

## UPCOMING REGIONAL WEEKENDS



### Around the Grand CAC Midwest Regional May 25-28, 2012

Join us for our CAC Spring Midwest Region get-away weekend May 25-28, 2012, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We will be staying at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel, 4747 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512; phone 616-957-0100. The hotel has shuttle service to and from the airport. Amtrak and Greyhound also service Grand Rapids. Cost for this 3-night weekend is \$275 for double occupancy and includes 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners and a dance. Cost for a single is \$420.

Grand Rapids is the gateway city to Michigan's West Coast, a region of unparalleled natural beauty. Condé Nast Traveler says our West Coast is one of the 25 Most Beautiful Shorelines in all the world. Explore the rich history of Grand Rapids fertile region where covered bridges still stand and historic homes are a part of the downtown fabric. Downtown on the west bank of the Grand River is the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum where visitors can take a holographic tour of the White House. The Grand Rapids Public Museum showcases the local furniture industry with a partially operational reconstruction of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century furniture factory. A planetarium is also within the GR Public Museum. The Grand Rapids Art Museum contains more than 5,000 works of art. Home to one of Frank Lloyd Wright's historical homes that you can tour, Grand Rapids is also known for its Dutch ancestry.

On Saturday we will have a tour to Holland and Saugatuck, MI. On Windmill Island tour an original 1780's operating windmill brought from the Netherlands. See Klompen (wooden shoe) dancing. See wooden shoes being made and the beautiful Dutch delftware that is made right in Holland, Michigan. See a herd of bison. We will also visit Saugatuck, a picturesque small town with nostalgic charm, and take a Saugatuck Dune Ride.

On Sunday we will visit the Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park with works of art within a variety of natural settings connected by waterways, meandering paths and quiet walkways. Take the narrated tram tour to view the park with its works of over 30 bronze sculptures by renowned artists such as Rodin, Degas and others. Visit the tropical conservatory, arid desert garden, and other gardens. See downtown Grand Rapids on the Grand River and the Heritage Hill National Historic District with over 60 architectural styles dating from 1844-1920's.

Contact Janet Yntema by phone at (313) 882-0990 or [janety602@aol.com](mailto:janety602@aol.com) for more information and/or a reservation form. There is a lot to see and do. You just might want to stay an extra night which is \$49 for a double and \$97 for a single.



### CONTINUE THE REVOLUTIONARY JOURNEY EASTERN REGIONAL WEEKEND JUNE 22-24, 2012

Join your fellow CACers as we continue our Revolutionary Journey which began last fall in Boston.

While the first shots were being fired at Concord and Lexington, our Founding Fathers were in Philadelphia writing the Declaration of Independence and declaring our freedom from England.

We'll walk in the steps they did and see the Liberty Bell as well as other sights including the first Roman Catholic Cathedral in the United States. Valley Forge, the sight of Washington's Winter Encampment is only a short distance away. You can visit it on your own.

We'll be staying in Plymouth Meeting, PA at the Doubletree Suites where every room is a suite.

The cost of the package is \$275 for a double and \$375 for a single and includes 2 breakfasts, dinner on Saturday and 2 after hours parties.

Reservations have been mailed to the local clubs. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for what promises to be a fun filled, historic weekend as we continue the journey.

Contact either Loretta Lovell at 201-723-6692, e-mail [msbunkerville@yahoo.com](mailto:msbunkerville@yahoo.com) or Evie Pullis at 201-342-5256 for more information or a reservation form. We look forward to seeing many of you as we "Continue The Revolutionary Journey."





**Joint Eastern/Midwest  
Regional  
Fall Fun In Dayton  
Oct. 5-7, 2012**

Plan to come to the Joint Midwest Eastern Region Fall Weekend **Oct. 5-7, 2012**. The price for a double is \$219 for a double. Price includes two breakfasts, 1 dinner, 2 nights lodging, dancing, and after hours parties. Dayton is famous for its National Air Force museum. A tour to the museum is planned. Other activities planned are a visit to a comedy theater on Friday evening, a retreat is planned on Friday for those who arrive a day early and wish to attend, and some sports competition (volleyball, bowling) if enough folks sign up. Please come and see CAC'ers from around the country. It is a great way to meet new people and see friends met at past weekends. More details are on the application. Ask your club representative for a copy or contact Mike Kappel at 618 397 2320 or [mikek21798@aol.com](mailto:mikek21798@aol.com).

**ED WEBB  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

As Administrator for the Ed Webb Fund, I just want to say thank you for your nominations for last year's awards.

For those of you who were not at last year's Convention, the winners from each Region were for the Eastern Region— Ralista Sullivan, St. Anselm Catholic School, Midwest Region— Kyle Hoffman, St. Lawrence School and Western Region— Nativity School. Each winner of the scholarship received \$1000 to be used by the schools involved. When the winner was an individual the funds were sent to the school to be used towards either the tuition or fees for the individual student.

In April letters will be sent out to the Club Presidents, Delegates and Regional Vice Presidents requesting your nominations. Once the nominations are received they will be sent to the Regional Vice President. The Regional Vice President will then contact the clubs in their region for the final vote. Once again each region will be awarded \$1000 for their finalist.

As a reminder, the scholarship can be awarded to either a school or to an individual and sent to the school to help offset the costs for that student.

Once again, thanks for your nominations and please start to think about this year's nominations.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give me a call at 201-723-6692 or e-mail me at [msbunkerville@yahoo.com](mailto:msbunkerville@yahoo.com).

**THANKS FOR  
EVERYTHING  
GOD BLESS  
AND  
GOOD LUCK**



Father Joe Raeke presided at the Mass at the Eastern/Midwest Regional Convention in Woburn on November 6<sup>th</sup>. This was the last Mass for Father Joe as chaplain of the Boston CAC. He has served the Boston CAC for the last 6 years but due to an increase in workload he is unable to continue. Many CACers will remember Father Joe as the National and Eastern Regional Chaplain in the 1990's. He has been a good listener, a source of strength and spiritual direction. One can tell immediately when talking with him that he is truly a man devoted to our Lord unconditionally.

The participants at the Regional honored Father Joe by generously donating over \$1200 to his charity, My Brother's Keeper in Easton, MA.

Thanks, Father Joe. We'll all miss you.

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