

The



Communiqué

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CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

SUMMER/FALL 2012



Experience Portland in 2013

Q: Where will CACers gather in July 2013?

A: In Portland, Oregon, during the week of July 7 – 13, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Portland Hotel. Set aside your vacation time now.

A visit to Portland is a wonderful, sensual experience! This urban area has a European feel with diverse neighborhoods, a compact downtown with walker-friendly blocks, and light rail trains and streetcars which connect shopping and dining districts. Nationally-recognized restaurants emphasize fresh, local ingredients and innovative cuisine. It's a city of cultural assets as well as some funky aspects. (Perhaps you've heard of Voodoo Doughnuts or the popular food carts.) Craft breweries are a popular and growing industry. The nearby Willamette Valley is home to many vineyards and fruit farms.

Three mountains are visible from the city: Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, and Mt. Hood. For an excellent view of all three, ride the Portland Aerial Tram. Also close to

the city are the Columbia River Gorge and Multnomah Falls – possible destinations for day tours at the convention. And for the adventuresome, a jet boat tour on the Willamette River.

There is beauty all around – particularly in the parks and gardens of Portland. The International Rose Test Garden and the Japanese Garden, both at Washington Park, are well-known and nationally acclaimed. Yet the Lan Su Chinese Garden and Tom McCall Waterfront Park also deserve a visit. Or visit the religious garden retreat at The Grotto, the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother, for some moments of serenity.

But to be serious about shopping – this is a state with **no** sales tax. It's tax-free shopping at all stores, local markets, even Powell's Books. Our hotel is just across the street from the Lloyd Center mall, a shopper's delight – and an ice skating opportunity on their indoor ice rink. (Or sit in the food court and watch others skate.)

The DoubleTree by Hilton Portland Hotel has an outdoor pool, indoor exercise facility, and is offering CAC free on-site parking. And just wait until you taste their chocolate chip cookies! The hotel is one block from a light rail station, with easy connections to many visitor attractions and downtown areas.

Getting to Portland is also easy. A dozen airlines that fly into Portland (PDX) offer non-stop flights from such cities as: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. For those who like to travel by train, the city is served by Amtrak.

Since the site was selected just a few months ago, the details for the convention are not yet set. Watch for more information by January on the website or with reservation form and prices. Questions? Contact Ann Eccles (aeccles47@gmail.com phone: 952-937-1437) or Evie Pullis (epullis@geringerdolan.com phone: 201-342-5256) for additional information.

So, start planning your summer 2013 vacation. Come to the city where the ocean meets the mountains and where everything's coming up roses – Portland, Oregon. It will be a visit filled with experiences and memories.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our convention last year (2011) in Rapid City, South Dakota, our CACI Chaplain told us about the book "Rediscovering Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly. He felt very strongly about the message in this book and wanted to put the book in our hands. A copy of the book was given to each of us who were at the convention last year. Following are various quotes from the book.

The human heart is on a quest for happiness. I believe God wants us to be happy (p. 24). It is as if God placed this yearning within each human heart as a spiritual navigational instrument designed to reunite us with our destiny (p. 25). In creating us, God endowed us each with certain talents and abilities. When we hear these talents calling us forth we hear the voice of God, again inviting us to participate fully in the adventure of salvation (p. 37).

Catholicism is a dynamic way of life that encourages and empowers each individual to become the best-version-of-themselves (p. 40). Catholicism nurtures the self and the community (p. 41). God is saying, "Be all you can be." While we are each called to live an authentic life, the exterior qualities of this life can take many different forms ... Some people are called to live an authentic life as husband and wife ... Others are called as priests and religious ... Others still, are called to live as single persons ... (p.58).

The external activity is less important than the internal transformation this activity is designed to achieve in our lives. A man's work may be to sweep the street, but if he does it well, and hour by hour turns to God in his heart

and says, "Father, I offer you this hour of work as a prayer for my neighbor who is struggling with cancer," then he has truly discovered and lived the words "pray constantly". He has transformed an hour of work into an hour of prayer, and his work has improved his intimacy with God and his neighbor. This is the very essence of the inner life – the transformation of ordinary activities into prayer. Every activity of our day can lead us to experience God. The authentic life is compatible with any honest human activity. Every honest work can be transformed into prayer (p. 59).

A club is only as good as the people who step forward. If enough people don't step forward you can't have a club. Why don't more people step forward? Have you stepped forward? If not, why? Only you can answer that question. Do you think you aren't capable? Most likely you are very capable. Prove it to yourself. Not enough time? True for some but not for all. This club has been around for 55 years. In that time most of our officers helped when they were working fulltime. And some officers now are still working fulltime.

Most local club positions don't take much time at all, unless someone has to take on three or four positions because others don't step up. Are you the reason someone has had to handle multiple positions? Spend just a couple of hours each month to help your chapter.

Why aren't you interested in helping or attending events? Don't want the camaraderie? Don't like where they are? We're not mind readers. Tell your Board/officers. Why not coordinate an event yourself such as dinner at your favorite restaurant, or at a special restaurant, or a card and games night at your home with just munchies and soft drinks. Go to a community

theater. These aren't much work at all and they provide fun for you and others, they give people something to do together instead of alone. Don't want the camaraderie? We're sorry for you then. Myself, I can't imagine living life alone in front of the computer or the TV as very fulfilling.

Remember, "every activity of our day can lead us to experience God." And every honest work can be transformed into prayer. And by helping your club, you are also servicing God's Singles. Please contact your current officers and tell them you would like to help out. Most local club positions don't take much time at all.

Thank you to all of our current local club Board Members, our regional officers, and our national officers for your service. And thanks also go to those who help out with our various CACI and convention committees. I am blessed and proud to know so many of you.

There is so much more in the book "Rediscovering Catholicism." And the parts that I quoted pertain to so much more. I just picked out some pieces that I thought would help with the quest to you to keep CAC clubs going. But if you haven't read the book yet, as someone said to me "it is a good read." It is very enlightening.

Are you the-best-version-of-yourself? Are you being all you can be? Read the book "Rediscovering Catholicism: by Matthew Kelly.

Janet Yntema
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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

As fall is here, I just want to say a cheery "Hello" and "Happy Autumn" to all my fellow CACers. I hope that my message here finds all of you well. By acclamation, I am serving a second term as the CAC Eastern Region Vice President, and, I am very happy and excited to do so all over again for a second time!

Our Spring 2012 Eastern Regional Weekend that was held in Philadelphia/Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in June was a great weekend. On behalf of myself – and all that attended – I can say that a great time was had by all. In addition to providing quality time with each other, the regional weekend also gave everyone the opportunity to see the sights in Philadelphia on our Saturday tour. The attendees were also given the opportunity to visit nearby Valley Forge. Most of all, all of us attendees enjoyed the friendships and comradeship that we all shared over the span of the weekend.

I would like to personally thank – from the bottom of my heart – Loretta Lovell, the regional weekend coordinator, for all her hard work and dedication in making the weekend a truly great one for all of us. I would also like to thank Evie Pullis, the regional weekend reservations chairperson, for handling all the reservations and for doing such a great job of it! Thanks again, Loretta and Evie, for jobs well done.

Our 2012 convention in July in Charleston, South Carolina was another great event for our CACI attendees. It was well attended and there were so many great tours and events that the attendees enjoyed together. It was so good to see so many CACers there, including some new faces as well as some former CACers who are now married couples. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to our convention coordinators, Don Luebbering and Jim Stammerman, for all their care, hard work, and efforts in making the convention such a great week for all the attendees. Thanks again, guys!

The Fall Joint Midwestern-Eastern Regional Weekend was held in Dayton, Ohio on the weekend of Octo-

ber 5-7, 2012. Two new features of the weekend were an optional retreat day, and an optional dinner-theatre event both held on Friday of the weekend. I was glad to see that many other CACers joined us for both of those events.

It is never too early to make travel plans with CAC! Be sure to mark your calendars for April 2013 when our Eastern Region CAC Regional Weekend will be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The year 2013 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War which was the turning point of the war. I know that this regional weekend promises to be another great and special one. I'd like to thank – in advance – Neal Hyatt and Diane Schmitt, the regional weekend coordinators, for all their hard work that they are doing. I'm looking forward to the regional weekend already. More specific details and information will be available shortly.

Until we meet again, take care and Godspeed! Remember that Jesus is our religion's Founding Father, and, He wants us to keep our faith and belief in Him in our daily lives in all we do as fellow CACers and good Catholics. Please let's all remember to do so, and may He be with you every step of the way every day! This is my sincere prayer and wish for all of you!

Pat Dugal
CAC Eastern Region VP

MIDWEST REGION UPDATE

October is here and you know what that means. Fall is upon us, Advent will soon begin, holiday family time together, and the beginning of a new term for the CAC Regional Officers. On October 1st, Susie Shearer will begin her term as the Midwest VP. Let's greet her with open hearts as it is not an easy job taking on the whole Region.

Welcome Susie!

This past year has been a great year!

First we went to Grand Rapids, MI, then, we were all in Charleston, SC, and then we flew into Dayton, OH. Well, wait until you see what we have planned for you next year in May! We are going to Little Rock, Arkansas, May 23-26. This has been a favorite of mine for quite some time. We will visit the Clinton Library, go to the River Market, enjoy an evening dinner cruise, and Hot Springs anyone?

Watch for the upcoming information in the Midwest Regional Newsletter! To be added to the email list to get your copy of the Midwest newsletter sent directly to your email address, please contact me directly at ARBAndi@cinci.rr.com.

It's been a great year! But I think we can top it for next year! Please get involved in 2013!

Andi Brosch, Midwest VP
Assistant VP for 2013

NOW FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Thirty-one CAC members from the Western Region attended the CACI convention in Charleston. We all enjoyed ourselves. Besides meeting new and old friends, the best part was the Harbor cruise and Fort Sumter. Los Angeles CAC won a Charity Award and the Ed Webb Scholarship. More clubs should consider donating to the Ed Webb fund in the future. The L. A. club also won the award for most miles traveled and the San Francisco club won for having the greatest percentage of members present at the convention. We all celebrated with a wine tasting reception before the Friday night dinner, enjoying the three bottles of sparkling wine that our clubs won. For the first time in a while, all the new Western Region officers for 2012-2013 are from the Los Angeles CAC. The new officers are: Maureen Van De Moere, WR V. P., Cindy Cronin, Assistant V. P., Bob Venverloh, Secretary, and Linda Deverman, Treasurer.

Maureen Van De Moere
Western Region VP

CHARLESTON, S.C., HOSTS 53rd ANNUAL C.A.C.I. CONVENTION

More than 150 CACers from 24 states took part in the 53rd annual CACI Convention/Vacation July 22-28 in historic Charleston, South Carolina. The gathering was based at the classic Francis Marion Hotel in historic downtown Charleston, the city voted as the Number One Vacation City in the U.S. in 2011. CACers from 24 states took part. The week was filled with several interesting tours, four delicious banquet meals prepared by the hotel's award-winning chefs, three dances, a sunset dinner cruise on Charleston Harbor, special liturgies, after-hours parties, and relaxing and fun times with CAC friends old and new. The hotel's location in the heart of the city offered opportunities for visiting historic sites and museums, shopping at unique local markets and shops, and sampling some of the special Southern dishes offered at Charleston's many fine eateries.

In addition to fascinating tours to three historic area plantations (Boone Hall [1681], Drayton Hall [1738], and Middleton Place [1741]), the Civil War's Fort Sumter and the aircraft carrier Yorktown, the convention also offered special visits to the first Catholic Church in the Carolinas, St. Mary of the Annunciation and to the Mepkin Trappist Abbey. The abbey visit included a welcome by the abbot and the opportunity to be present for the monk's noontime prayer service. Private strolls along some of the city's tree-lined streets and free rides on the many trolley routes in downtown Charleston added to the enjoyment of the week.

Some nine convention attendees were participating in their first national convention. Twenty-four local CACs were represented in addition to several people who hold "at large" CAC membership. More than two-thirds of the CACers in Charleston completed and returned Convention Evaluation forms which will help in planning future CACI conventions.

. Convention delegates voted to schedule our 2013 convention in Portland, Oregon and our 2014 event in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Don Luebbering, Cincinnati
Jim Stammerman, Louisville
Convention Coordinators

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS

Mileage Award—CAC of Los Angeles—26,424 miles

Number of Members attending—San Francisco with 11 of their 44 members attending.

CACer of the Year Awards:

Catherine Casper - CAC of Los Angeles
Charles Gallagher - CAC of Boston
Gloria Taccad - CAC of New York
Lynn Sorbara - CAC of Washington DC
Janice Litch - CAC of Detroit
John Twomey - CAC of Chicago

Outstanding New Leader Awards:

Carlos Barajas - CAC of Los Angeles
Karen Mongiello - CAC of New York
Dan Hitpas - CAC of Central Illinois
Tracey Becker - CAC OF Cincinnati
Larry Fuller - CAC of Cincinnati
Anne Kearney - CAC of Washington DC
Perlita Powers - CAC of Washington DC

CACI Person of the Year Award:

Pat Dugal - CAC of New York - Eastern Region
Michael Kappel - MMRV - Mid-west Region

Newsletter Awards:

Class A

First Place - Don Bauer, 'Potomac Crossings', Catholic Alumni Club of Washington, DC
Second Place - Carolyn Kowalski, 'Sparks', Catholic Alumni club of Detroit
Third Place - Peter Cuneo, 'The Gothamers', Catholic Alumni Club of the Archdiocese of New York

Class B

First Place - Brian Otting, 'The Tales of Two Cities', Catholic Single Adults Club of the Twin Cities
Second Place - Elinor Tanck, 'Cable Car Courier', Catholic Alumni Club of The San Francisco Bay Area
Third Place - Mark Bare, 'The Dayton Communicator', Dayton Catholic Alumni Club

Crying Towel

Jack Benedek & Nick Csercsis

Charlie Award

Bill Welsh

Ed Webb Scholarship Awards

Eastern Region—Thomas Pinto—North Jersey
Midwest Region—Oscar Aponte—Detroit
Western Region—Guardian Angel School—Los Angeles



**BOSTON'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

The CAC of Boston celebrated its 60th Anniversary on September 30th. The Club welcomed 125 current and past members to a reception at the Embassy Suite Hotel in Waltham for an afternoon of conversation and reminiscences. A banquet that evening was enjoyed by 75 including many couples who met and married within the club. Many married couples continue to organize masses and charity events for Boston. Present at the events were past members of the club from every decade from the 1950's to the present. Charlie Gallagher and his committee presided over the events of the day. Pat Dugal, Eastern Regional Vice President, sent a congratulatory note to the gathering. The photo includes presidents from all decades (Maurice Flynn -1950's to Charlie Gallagher - 2012) of the CAC of Boston.

IN MEMORIUM

Those members who have passed away since our last convention:

Al Schneider – Buffalo

Mary Welsh – Dayton

Rosemary DuMouchelle – Detroit

Bob Taylor – Twin Cities

Robert Simpson – Los Angeles

May they rest in peace.

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