

For family, friends, & alumni of Cistercian Preparatory School

CCISTERCIAN IRVINGONTINUUM

Fall 2021



ROOTED IN TRADITION

Cistercian's ties to the golden age
of Hungarian soccer

Annual Report
2020–2021 School Year

JP Walsh, Fr. Bernard, and
Br. Matthew Hegemann

THE GREAT CISTERCIAN ROADSHOW

Alumni outreach has increased
in recent years. But how do
alumni meetups outside of
Texas get off the ground, and
what's the key to their success?

Remembering Cistercian with a Planned Gift



Kay & Bob Haaser

Kay and I are richly blessed by the many decades of support and love we have received from our extended family of prayerful monks, talented faculty, staff and coaches, and, of course, from all our enduring relationships with the boys and their parents with whom we share treasured memories.

We are comforted to know that through our gift to the Memorare Society we can continue to support this tremendous Cistercian family and the School's vital mission *to enkindle and to enlighten* future generations.

MEMORARE
SOCIETY

To remember Cistercian with a planned gift, contact Erin Hart.
469-499-5406 | ehart@cistercian.org



CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Rev. Paul McCormick
Headmaster

Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01
Head of Middle School

Greg Novinski '82
Assistant Headmaster
Head of Upper School

Fr. Anthony Bigney
Director of Admissions

Chris Blackwell
Director of
College Counseling

Erin Hart
Director of Development
and Alumni Relations

André Bruce
Director of Athletics
and Physical Education

Shae Armstrong '98
President, Cistercian
Alumni Association

School Board

Rt. Rev. Peter Verhalen '73
Rev. Thomas Esposito
Rev. Bernard Marton
Rev. Paul McCormick
Adebola Adesanya
Victor Arias
Kathleen M. Muldoon
Joan D. Raff
J. Mark Roppolo '88
Peter P. Smith '74
Gloria Tarpley
Jere W. Thompson, Jr. '74
Matthew Wilson

CONTINUUM

Erin Hart
Publisher

Brigitte Gimenez
Editor

Jim Reisch
Photography Editor

FigDesign
Layout

Published each spring and fall
by Cistercian Preparatory School

3660 Cistercian Road
Irving, TX 75039

469-499-5400
www.cistercian.org

Cistercian Preparatory School was founded with the aim of preparing talented boys for the colleges of their choice by challenging their minds with excellent academic programs, molding their character through the values of Catholic education, and offering them guidance with both understanding and discipline. Cistercian Preparatory School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its admission and education policies, financial aid programs, athletic programs, and other activities.

Letter from the Headmaster

From seed to shade

"(The kingdom of God) is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." (Mark 4:30-32)

So much in this issue of the *Continuum* reminds me of this parable as I marvel at the expansive relationships that bind



Fr. Paul McCormick

together our alumni across the nation and world. In our feature article, it is through their native passion for the sport of soccer that the Hungarian founders effectively laid the foundation for what would become decades of great coaches and tenacious athletes with ties binding them together long after graduation.

In "The Great Cistercian Road Show," Cart Weiland '04 recounts our outreach

in recent years to visit with alumni across the country. From Los Angeles to Boston, Atlanta to Seattle, the branches that have sprung from this smallest of seeds truly extend to the full width and breadth of our nation.

In his commentary, alumnus **Clay Tillotson '11** shares with poignancy and humor some of the key lessons he learned while at Cistercian. And, as always, Fr. Roch captures the spirit of this issue as he reflects on the many invisible bonds that unite and uphold us. (Be sure to enjoy the tributes to Frs. Roch and Julius who marked their 60th anniversary of ordination!!)

Finally, the 2020–2021 Annual Report highlights the entire Cistercian family's generous care and concern for helping ensure the ongoing mission of this small school in Irving to form and educate promising young men to one day become the branches from which others may benefit and "dwell in its shade."

Fr. Paul

In this issue

Volume 48, Number 2



Two Sixtieth Anniversary Ordination Celebrations

Fr. Roch Kereszty
Fr. Julius Leloczky

8



ROOTED IN TRADITION

Cistercian's ties to
the golden age of
Hungarian soccer
Mark Talkington '79

10



THE GREAT CISTERCIAN ROAD SHOW

Alumni outreach has increased in recent years. But how do alumni meetups outside of Texas get off the ground, and what's the key to their success?
Cart Weiland '04

44

Departments

News & Notes	4
Annual Report of Giving	17
Class Notes	51
Afterthoughts	59
<i>A Mysterious Bond Unites Us</i> by Fr. Roch Kereszty	60



Cover photo by Jim Reisch

News & Notes

New and familiar faces on campus

Coach Dennis Harris brings a high level of experience and expertise to Cistercian as head coach for varsity cross-country and track and assistant director of strength and conditioning. An athlete in his own right, he captained the track team at Blinn College for two years before being recruited by LSU, where his team won two national championships. He also qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1992 and 1996. Harris credits his successes both on and off the field to his strong work ethic.



Dennis Harris

"I want to emphasize some of the same things that helped me succeed as an athlete, such as developing a work ethic and strengthening one's mindset. Many kids defeat themselves before they ever step onto the track or the field, so we attempt to remedy this by meeting expectations through hard work," said Harris.

Dr. Andrejs Krumins teaches Chemistry (Form IV), Biology II (Form VIII), and a Senior Seminar in Genetics. Krumins has taught at both the high school and graduate level: the Greenhill Hill School for 14 years, Tarleton State Medical Center in Fort Worth, and UT Southwestern Medical Center. With a BS from Penn State and a PhD from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, he is a welcome addition to Cistercian's Science Department. "What I want most from my students is for them to always be curious, always ask good questions, and always begin to see how various things are related and linked to one another," said Krumins.



Dr. Andrejs Krumins

Though Thomas Wolfe might have popularized the phrase, "You can't go home again," Mrs. Christine Medaille is here to prove it wrong. Though the venerable English teacher and former head of the middle school retired in 2017 after 31 years of service, she has returned part time to campus to teach Form I E-Lab. "I'm glad to be in the classroom again with Form I students," said Medaille. "I really do enjoy teaching English Lab, and I am happy to help our youngest students as they begin their journeys at Cistercian."



Christine Medaille

With the space converted to a senior classroom last year to comply with COVID protocols, we are delighted to have the library back in full swing again with a new librarian leading the



Nancy McGinnis

way. Mrs. Nancy McGinnis comes to Cistercian from Marcus High School in Lewisville, where she spent ten years as a librarian after earning a Master of Library Science degree from TWU. "The enthusiasm some of the kids have for reading and literature really warms my heart," said McGinnis, "and to be able to help them nurture that passion is an awesome privilege."

Fr. Julius receives papal blessing

In July, Fr. Julius received a papal blessing in honor of the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination. The blessing for Fr. Julius was initiated by the head of the Conference of Hungarian Bishops, in

cooperation with the head of the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc, Abbot Bernard Bérczi. Written entirely in Hungarian, the document was signed by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Apostolic Almoner for Pope Francis. Fr. Julius said, "Receiving the papal blessing just a few days before my

60th anniversary moved me from the bottom of my heart. Having had the opportunity to shake hands with both Pope Saint John Paul II (1991) and Pope Benedict XVI (2007) was my privilege, and photos of both events hang on the wall of my room. Now the framed papal blessing joins those two photos, forming a trilogy of images."



Fr. Bernard visits the Eucharistic Congress

On September 10, Fr. Bernard joined Abbot Bérczi of Zirc in Budapest for the 52nd Eucharistic Congress. Fr. Bernard attended the closing Mass with the Pope at Heroes' Square



in Budapest. The priests were given vestments and a white hat to protect against the strong sun, which turned out to be a special gift. Fr. Bernard was positioned close to the altar during Mass. "At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis thanked the crowd in his own brand of Hungarian. We finished by singing the Papal Hymn, then the National Hungarian Anthem — that brought tears to my eyes. To sing that beautiful, haunting melody directly under the millennial Archangel Michael's statue that towered over the altar reminded all of us of the extremely important, present position and burden of Hungary in defense of Christianity."

Eighteenth century painting of St. Joseph adorns Middle School hallway

Alumni parents Elena and Juan Muldoon (**Juan '05** and **Pablo '09**) donated a beautiful eighteenth century painting of St. Joseph in his traditional pose holding the baby Jesus. "In this the year of St. Joseph and with the Church also commemorating the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Catholic Church, we could not think of a more timely gift to greet our middle school students on their way to class each day," said Fr. Paul. This painting has been in the Muldoon family for fifty years and is from the school of master Mexican baroque painter Miguel Mateo Maldonado y Cabrera (1695–1768).



Elena and Juan Muldoon with St. Joseph painting in Middle School hallway

Ordinations at the Abbey

On Saturday, August 14, **Br. Francis Gruber '01** was ordained to the priesthood and Br. Matthew Hegemann to the diaconate. Bishop Edward Burns presided over the ceremony before a large crowd of family, friends, and classmates. Fr. Francis's ordination brings the number of priests at the Monastery who can claim Fr. Roch as their Form Master to four: **Abbot Peter '73**, **Fr. Stephen '01**,

Fr. Lawrence '01 and **Fr. Francis '01**. Br. Matthew brings the number of younger monks (that is, from Fr. Joseph down) coming from UD to seven.



Bishop Burns with Br. Matthew and Fr. Francis



Four monks with their beloved Form Master, Fr. Roch



Fr. Francis celebrates his first Mass

News & Notes

Ardere Society

Fr. Joseph and **Fr. Stephen '01** have spearheaded the creation of the Ardere Society, which is an initiative to aid our young alumni in maintaining their faith lives in college. Currently, the group has 16 members who engage in four basic spiritual practices: daily vocal prayer, weekly spiritual reading, monthly reconciliation, and spiritual direction each semester. "This isn't a group for perfect people, for Pharisees, or even for heroes. It is just a way of giving our young alumni a few simple and effective ways of keeping their Cistercian spiritual formation alive. 'Ardere' means 'to burn, to be on fire.' If you want to shed spiritual light for others, first you have to make sure your own fire isn't getting blown out by the strong winds of the world," said Fr. Joseph. If you are a young alumnus who is interested in joining, please reach out to Fr. Joseph or Fr. Stephen.



Seniors at homecoming

COVID update

The School continues to work diligently to overcome the many challenges associated with an ongoing pandemic. While we must still adhere to appropriate COVID protocols, it has been exciting to return to a degree of normalcy with the return of various activities and social events for students. "The School has always tried to balance the many different facets of health and safety, while at the same time making sure that we have athletics and social events," said **Gregory Novinski '82**, Head of Upper School. Fr. Ambrose Strong, Director of Student Activities, agreed: "Making sure we could pull off our main events this year, especially Homecoming, was a top priority. It's great that we came roaring back!" Of course, none of these events would have been possible without the support of the administration or the tireless efforts of nurses Kathy Nevitt and Theresa Lobmeyer.

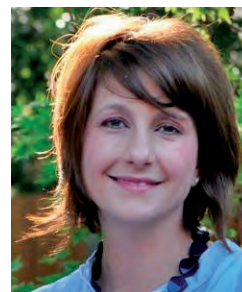
ISAS self-study year

Cistercian is an accredited member of the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and is required to perform an extensive self-study every 10 years before an official accreditation visit. **Fr. Philip '00**, the self-study coordinator, has dedicated considerable time to this endeavor as faculty, staff, administration, students, parents, and alumni discern together the current strengths and weaknesses of our program in light of the School's mission.



Mental health presentations to begin the school year

Dr. Jaqui Otto offered guidance to faculty, parents, and students as we began the second school year in a pandemic. She offered ideas for faculty and parents to help guide our students through this important time in their development, and she provided specific tools to students to help them handle the stressors they face in a healthy way. "The School continues to focus on how to meet mental health concerns with the boys, and these presentations provided a reminder for all that the past year and a half have been hard in so many ways," said J.P. Walsh, School Counselor.



Dr. Jaqui Otto



Another triumph for the theater program with four middle school performances of the musical *Willy Wonka Jr.* shortly before Thanksgiving Break

College Matriculations

College applications during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic caused quite the shake-up in traditional college admissions for the Class of 2021.

Standardized test administrations were canceled causing many colleges to announce “test-optional” admissions, and many students’ summer and fall activities were canceled allowing them more

time to work on applications. These factors led to a surge in the number of applications submitted resulting in admit rates dropping to historic lows. “Even with increased competition and despite these challenges, our seniors maintained a great attitude,” said Chris Blackwell, Director of College Counseling. “This showed in their satisfaction with the outcomes they received.”

Forty-five members of the Class of 2021 are attending 31 different schools, but there are two colleges receiving 30 percent of our graduates: seven students enrolled at Texas A&M University, the alma mater of their Form Master, **Fr. Lawrence Brophy '01**, and another seven are attending

the University of Notre Dame—the most ever from one class. The other 31 students are attending 29 different schools, including four destinations that cannot claim a Cistercian alumnus: **Emmanuel Barajas** to Christendom College (VA), **Stephen Brandt** to Iowa State University, **Max McGuire** to Rollins College (FL), and **Ethan Ramchandani** to the University of Wisconsin.

Many students were ready to leave the area after being tied to their home city all year—only 28 percent of the class chose to stay in Texas for college, compared to 35–50 percent over the past few years. Their interests remain the same, however, and 80 percent of the class is pursuing a major in business or the STEM

80%
Planning to major in STEM or business-related fields

fields: 22 percent will study some form of engineering, nine percent will study physics or math, and 24 percent plan to major in the natural sciences.

Twenty-four percent will study business, finance, or economics, and the remaining 20 percent of majors selected by students include political science, journalism, history, English, music, and video game design.

Although this class was athletically talented, no students pursued collegiate athletics, a first in five years.

Multiple students competed for and were awarded significant, full-tuition scholarships: **Beto De Los Santos** to Fordham University, **Emmanuel Barajas** to Christendom College, **Tri Ha** to the University of Dallas, and a half-tuition scholarship was awarded to **Christopher Fernandes** to the University of Southern California. Three students received full-tuition scholarships with their four-year Navy ROTC awards: **Ben**

Shamai to Northwestern University and **Joseph Smith** and **Aidan Smithson** to the University of Notre Dame. **David Cox** received a full scholarship to the United States Military Academy at West Point in exchange for his future service.

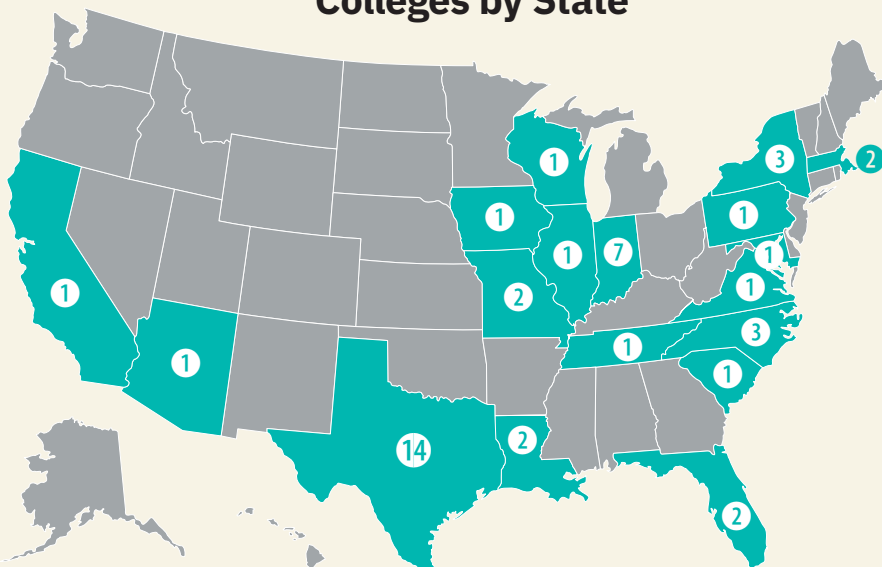
“Even with everything going on, the class went about the college application process the right way. The guys sought out the places and community where they could continue to grow into fine young men. There were bumps along the way, but they certainly earned all the joy they displayed at graduation,” said Fr. Lawrence. “I can’t wait to see what these guys do in college and beyond.” •

8 Number of students awarded full-tuition scholarships

31

Number of colleges attended by 45 students in the class

Class of 2021 Colleges by State



Colleges

Arizona State University
Boston College
Boston University
Christendom College
Clemson University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fordham University
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University
Northwestern University
Rollins College
Saint Edward’s University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Southern Methodist University (2)
Texas A&M University (7)
The University of Texas at Austin (2)
Tulane University of Louisiana
United States Military Academy
University of Dallas (2)
University of Florida
University of Missouri
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame (7)
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St Louis

Two Sixtieth Anniversary



Fr. Roch Kereszty

ORDAINED
2 October 1960
Sankt Pölten
Austria

FIRST MASS
9 October 1960
Ummendorf
Germany



Photos by Jim Reisch

Ordination Celebrations



Fr. Julius Leloczky

ORDAINED

9 July 1961

Cistercian Abbey of Lilienfeld
Austria

FIRST MASS

16 July 1961

Cistercian Abbey of Zwettl
Austria



ROOTED IN TRADITION

Cistercian's ties to
the golden age of
Hungarian soccer



Mark Talkington '79

“The streets of Budapest were like a ghost town, completely empty,” recalled Fr. Julius Leloczky of a November afternoon in 1953. The Hungarian national team was playing England at Wembley Stadium in London. “Everybody in Hungary was sitting at the radio listening to György Szepesi, the famous sports commentator, broadcasting the game.” (There was no television in Hungary at the time.) Even those not normally accustomed to following sports, like Fr. Julius, tuned in.



The Golden Team in 1953. Front: Mihály Lantos, Ferenc Puskás, Gyula Grosics. Back: Gyula Lóránt, Jenő Buzánszky, Nándor Hidegkuti, Sándor Kocsis, József Zakariás, Zoltán Czibor, József Bozsik, László Budai. Source: Wikipedia

Years before he would become Fr. Bernard Marton and an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, twelve-year-old Anthony Gyuri Marton was beside himself with apprehension about the big game. He knew the name, number, and hometown of each player on the Hungarian side: József Zakariás (from Fr. Bernard’s hometown of Budafoke), József Bozsik, Zoltán Czibor, Gyula Grosics, Nándor Hidegkuti, Sándor Kocsis and Ferenc Puskás — all key players on the legendary team. Nicknamed the Magyars, these men would comprise the best football team on the planet — 11 players who revolutionized the game of soccer and were introduced to the world at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki where they won the gold medal. And, Fr. Bernard remembers each of them all these years later. His school’s headmaster cancelled classes that day, and the students gathered around one radio in the gym. (Fr. Bernard recently listened to the broadcasts of the game in English and Hungarian and enjoyed the Hungarian announcer’s exuberance, and the British announcer’s near silence.)

On that November afternoon in 1953, the Hungarians stunned England 6–3, exposing the Three Lions’ deficiencies. In the process, the Hungarians notched England’s first loss ever suffered at home to a non-British or Irish team. In May of 1954, the teams met again in Budapest. England hoped for revenge, but they were left embarrassed once more, 7–1.



No team stays on top forever. At the 1954 World Cup, so strong was the Puskás-led side that they would beat West Germany 8–3 and South Korea 9–0 in one of the greatest displays of group-stage strength ever seen at a major tournament. They were denied World Cup glory by the Miracle of Bern, however, when the West Germans defied the odds and avenged the memory of their 8–3 defeat weeks earlier. Hungary led 2–0 in the opening 10 minutes. An injured Puskás had a goal disallowed for off sides in the closing minutes, which with today’s video review, would have been allowed. The West Germans rebounded and stole a 3–2 win.

In 1956, the Magyars played at the Sydney Olympics as the Hungarian Revolution began. Many of the players defected, with greats like Puskás going to Real Madrid CF to seal his legacy as one of the greatest players of all time. (In 2009, FIFA established the Puskás Award for the most beautiful goal of the year; Cristiano Ronaldo was the first recipient.)

In 2016, the BBC analyzed every team to have played an international match with the help of a super-computer. They listed Hungary as the best football team ever to have played. Fr. Denis, the former abbot and mathematician, would have approved of the algorithm, including goals for and against, strength of opponent, results achieved in major tournaments versus friendly games, and more.



Fr. Bernard remembers playing soccer after school every day with no soccer cleats and a ball made of old socks stuffed in another sock. The parish priest offered to buy a soccer ball if Fr. Bernard and his classmates would attend evening Mass regularly, a successful move on the part of the priest!

Like most kids at the time, Fr. Bernard's dream was to make the local U16 soccer team for the hometown professional club, because each player received a pair of shoes and a uniform. Fr. Bernard was selected to the team as a 14-year-old, but his mother would not let him join the team. She did allow him to join the Pioneer Scouts, the communistic eastern bloc version of the Boy Scouts, so he still had an opportunity to be close to the soccer excitement when, in 1953, his troop performed at the grand opening of the People's Stadium, later renamed the Puskás Stadium, and the Hungarian Army team defeated Moscow Spartak 3-2. He still has his ticket.



In 1962, only six years after the 1956 Revolution, the Cistercian monks opened a preparatory school in Dallas. The monks were under pressure at the beginning to provide a first-class Catholic school that met the expectations of parents who were looking at Greenhill and St. Mark's. They would need to strike a balance between academics and athletics.

The Hungarians brought with them excitement about fencing and soccer, two sports that Hungary had dominated in international competitions. In the early years of the School, the monks told the boys stories about their Hungarian soccer heroes. The first PE coach hired in 1962 was Emerich DeGal, a fencing coach with the Hungarian national team, who taught both fencing and soccer to the first classes. Fr. Bernard remembers one of the Kurilecz brothers shouting, "somebody please tell us the rules of soccer," and an exasperated DeGal responding, "don't kick it with your hands."



Dettmar Cramer at Cistercian circa 1974

Dallas Tornado				
NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.
1	Ken Cooper	G	6'0"	178
2	Jim Benedek	F	5'8½"	154
3	Oreco	FB	5'9"	170
4	John Best	FB	5'11"	175
5	Dick Hall	FB	5'9"	168
6	Roy Turner	HB	5'10"	170
7	Barry Rowan	F	5'7"	160
8	Tommy Youlden	HB	6'1½"	175
9	Luiz Juracy	F	5'8"	168
10	Tony McLoughlin	F	5'11"	180
11	Mike Renshaw	F	5'9"	164
12	Gabbo Gavric	FB	5'10"	170
13	Tibor Molnar	F	5'11"	170
14	Bobby Moffat	F	5'10"	165
15	Kirk Apostolidis	F	5'10"	165
16	Mirko Stojanovic	G	6'0"	192
17	Ray Bloomfield	HB	5'10"	160
18	Phil Tinney	HB	5'9"	171

NEXT TORNADO HOME GAME

A sort of British Invasion came to the rescue of the fledgling soccer program in the late sixties when the North American Soccer League was formed and Dallas landed a team. Eager to supplement their salaries as soccer players, members of the Dallas Tornado made themselves available to Cistercian.

With their help, Cistercian would emerge as a hotbed for soccer in the Dallas area, hosting a FIFA soccer clinic and multiple soccer tournaments, as well as filming Bobby Moffat's televised soccer show. And from the NASL champion Tornado team of 1971, Cistercian hired Jimmy Benedek, Kenny Cooper, Roy Turner, Mike Renshaw, and Bobby Moffat. These Brits gave Cistercian a fighting chance throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. Other Tornado players would coach at Cistercian too: Pepe Dill, Brian Harvey, and Charlie DeLong, Jesuit's varsity soccer coach for the past 40 years. Dill would later become head coach and president of the Bermuda Soccer Association.



The Tornado's influence on Cistercian soccer can't be underestimated. These pro players from England instilled a level of seriousness to training, demanded great effort, and maintained a low threshold for goofing around. Most of these pros had left school in England by the time they were 16 to focus on their professional soccer careers. Joe Nicholson '74 remembers Coach Kenny Cooper's orders before every game: "You gotta shave, shower and sh**," emphasizing the importance of preparing for the game mentally and physically. Cooper refused to tolerate slackers. Their passion for the sport was a part of their being. That is why many of the boys played year around and in summer leagues when they



Pepe Dill talking to players circa 1969

returned home from college. “Soccer is about being fast over a short distance, it’s better to be the fastest player over five yards,” Coach Pepe Dill always told the boys.

Of course, boys will be boys, and there were several pranksters — none more daring than Mike Haggerty ’71. Famously (in those days), Haggerty once jumped into the driver’s seat of the team bus while Fr. Melchior Chladek stopped by the monastery before heading off to a game. The student drove the bus around to the back, leaving the priest aghast when he found the bus missing. Pranks aside, Cistercian saw three boys from its first two graduating classes go on to play collegiate soccer: Peter Kurilecz ’70 at Vanderbilt, Mike Kurilecz ’71 at Washington & Lee, and Steve McAuliff ’71 at Rollins.



Coach Bobby Moffat remembers that coming to America was not easy; soccer alone was not enough to cover a family’s expenses. Moffat and the other players had to have second, and sometimes third, jobs. Coaching at Cistercian would help the English players succeed in America. Later, Moffat built a successful soccer clinic company that he ran for 30 years. Roy Turner sold Rolls Royces. Pepe Dill used to give the Nicholson brothers a ride home to Oak Cliff, because he worked at the Bronco Bowl, which (like the Tornado) was owned by Lamar Hunt. Joe Nicholson ’74 remembers asking him why he was working as a janitor, and Dill responded that he worked to play the sport he loved. Dill eventually became the head coach of Bermuda’s national team and later took over as president. Billy



MIKE
RENSHAW

The only remaining member of the original 1967 World Tour team, winning - goal scorer in the 1971 championship game, Renshaw this year has adapted himself to a new position. (See “Caught in the Middle,” pages 6-7.)

Photo:
Raff Frano

Page 8 - TOUCHLINE - July, 1973

Mike Renshaw

Hassell ’74 remembers Kenny Cooper taking a special interest in every player. He gave Hassell a pair of his shoes, rides home on occasion, pep talks on good values, and some sober advice on the length of his hair. (Not even Fr. Denis, Hassell’s Form Master, could persuade him to cut his hair!)

Each coach’s tenure would last only a year or two, but their time at Cistercian would impact the boys for decades. Mike Renshaw was hired by the Dallas Tornado as assistant coach and then head coach. Roy Turner was hired away to play and then coach in Topeka. Bobby Moffat had a televised soccer program on Channel 11 right after the popular *Slam Bang Theater*. He once filmed a series of eight episodes at Cistercian in one day.



In 1974, Fred Talkington, a Cistercian parent and soccer coach in 1972 and 1973, invited Dettmar Cramer to Dallas and Cistercian. Miraculously, the FIFA coach (who later led Franz Beckenbauer’s



Roy Turner

Bayern Munich club and the German national team) accepted and came to Dallas to lead clinics at Cistercian for coaches and players. This would be like Fr. Bernard asking the NFL to send Bill Belichick to a Cistercian school in Hungary to teach Hungarians how to coach American football and run clinics for their students.

Years later, Mike Kurilecz '71, who had attended one of Cramer's clinics at Cistercian, saw him surrounded by press at the Athens airport. Thirty minutes later, Kurilecz felt a tap on his shoulder. "Do we know each other?" Cramer asked. Kurilecz reminded him about the clinic at Cistercian. That led to nearly an hour-long visit. On another trip, Kurilecz asked a hotel manager in Bermuda if by chance he had ever heard of Pepe Dill. To his surprise, Dill showed up at the hotel the next morning. They reminisced together over breakfast. Dr. Joe Nicholson '74 was treating a patient 10 years ago who happened to be from Bermuda, and he asked her if she had heard of Pepe Dill. She said she was his cousin, and soon after, Nicholson received a gift and thank you note from Dill.

While Cistercian and its students certainly made an impression on these talented coaches, they did more than shape successful teams — often with less soccer and athletic talent than their opponents. They created unforgettable bonds, lit lifelong passions for the game, and taught them important lessons about soccer and life.



The last 14 years of soccer at Cistercian — the J.P. Walsh era — have lifted the team into the top ranks of area teams, one in which the Hawks now contend for titles on a perennial basis. Walsh arrived with an impressive soccer pedigree, having played collegiate soccer and participated in the Olympic Development Program. At Jesuit, Walsh played for Coach Charlie DeLong, who began his coaching career at Cistercian. Quite unlike the Tornado players of years gone by, Walsh works full-time at the school. And as Cistercian's counselor, he enjoys relationships with virtually every student, not just soccer players. Equipped with his love for and knowledge of his players, he can apply his soccer acumen with precision.

"J.P. is a great coach and teacher," said Joe

Capasso '88, who has volunteered his time for the past 14 years to coach Cistercian's goalkeepers. "He really gets the game. He can take the highest level of player and the lowest level of player and bring them together. He meets guys where they are and is honest — he will tell them exactly where they stand on the team.

"The boys will run through a brick wall for him."

Capasso's commitment, meanwhile, means a lot to Walsh and all the soccer players he's coached over the years. "I love soccer. I love this place," Capasso explained. "More than that, I was given a ton here, as were my brother and my son. And I get an incredible amount of enjoyment from helping. I get to stay connected to the school, the monks, the teachers — some of whom have been here since I started in Form III. That's invaluable to me!"

In a heartwarming blast from the past, a future Fr. Matthew has joined the monastery and stands on the sideline like his predecessor (only closer to the



Fr. Raphael Schaner

Joe Capasso '88 coaching Cistercian goalkeeper



Jim Reisch

Keepers of Tradition

Fr. Bernard celebrated Hungary's success at the 2021 European Soccer Championships when he was home in Texas in June, a feeling he hasn't had since the fifties. This current edition of the Hungarian national team paled in comparison to the teams of his youth. The 1956 Hungarian Revolution led to the decline of that team with the diaspora of so many players, everyday Hungarians (including the 15-year-old Marton), and 12 Cistercian monks.

One of those monks, Fr. Matthew Kovács, would stand out as the most enthusiastic soccer fan at Cistercian — from its founding in the early 1960s until he passed away in 2013. In fact, at alumni reunions, the winners of the alumni soccer tournament have their names etched on the highly coveted Kovács Cup, named in his honor. Peter Kurilecz '70 recalled that Fr. Matthew inspired his class to take up soccer. During Latin class, "he told stories of the 1954 Hungarian soccer team and had us memorize the Hungarian lineup for the 1954 World Cup; I still remember Kocsis, Puskás and Hidegkuti," said Kurilecz. Billy Hassell '74 remembers Fr. Matthew asking the Latin class, "How about a game?" Once a semester, he canceled class to go play soccer with the boys.



Fr. Matthew playing soccer in 1973

half line). Br. Matthew Hegemann, who started for the University of Dallas varsity team during his playing days, has helped out part-time for the past three years. Beginning with the 2021–2022 season, Br. Matthew assumed a full complement of duties on the coaching staff — assisting with both the Middle School and Upper School teams.

While the results have been impressive throughout the Walsh era, the past two years stand out. The Hawks went undefeated last season, scoring 69 goals and giving up only three. They defeated St. Mark's for the SPC North Zone title. *The Dallas Morning News* ranked the Hawks as the #1 defense in Dallas/Fort Worth. The year before, the team went undefeated until the semifinal of the championships, when they lost in heartbreaking fashion. With two minutes left in the second overtime period, a deflected free kick found its way into the net.

Over the past two seasons, Cistercian Varsity

Soccer has a record of 30 wins, one loss, and three ties. They have gone undefeated in SPC North Zone play in four of the past eight seasons. Through 14 seasons at Cistercian, Walsh's record stands at 185 wins, 50 losses, and 30 ties. "Our success is a testament to the type of boys we have here: hardworking, coachable, and always looking to improve," observed Walsh. "We overachieve — our school is smaller and we don't recruit, we just find a way to compete. And that the guys stay in touch and interested in the team means the world to me." It is a golden age for Cistercian soccer, much like the fifties were for the Hungarian national team.

But what may be more impressive is the number of players who call to check in with Walsh about the current team's prospects and show at team practices when they can. "Lots of past players return to train with the kids at Christmas," marveled Walsh. "Some are out of college, professionals with families, world travelers — and they're still coming out." •



Varsity Soccer Seniors 2020–2021



THE GREAT CISTERCIAN ROADSHOW

Cart Weiland '04



What happens after an 18-year-old finishes high school? For one with brains and financial means, the normal story is he goes off to college, finds a profession, perhaps marries and raises kids. As he gets older, life gets busy—working, commuting, changing diapers, mowing lawns. Somewhere along the way he starts to lose touch with the people he grew up with—nothing intentional, mind you, just the normal passage of time. People spread out, have less in common, more immediate demands start piling up. The calls he was going to make, the emails he meant to send to the old gang and the old mentors ... well, he never quite gets around to them.

There's nothing wrong with that story, but there's a better one—rarer, maybe, but certainly not make-believe. It's the same story as the first, but with an important twist: As the man gets older, occasionally there are people he used to know—or people somehow connected to his past—that keep popping up from out of nowhere (*How did you even remember me? How on earth did you find my address?* he wonders). These people reinsert themselves into the man's life, inviting him out for a drink or meal to reminisce, presenting him with a choice.

Reconnect—yes or no?

What if we've all changed too much, he thinks. What if we have nothing to talk about? Plus, that's the night I was gonna watch that show on Netflix.

The man mulls it over and finally decides *Oh what the heck. YOLO.* And when he meets up with the Group from Way Back Then, it goes well—better than expected, actually—and, upon



leaving, he can't help but marvel at What It Means. "There were these people, see," he tells his wife while brushing his teeth before bed, "some of whom I had never *met* before, but all of whom still *resembled* me somehow. We all sort of 'got' each other, because we all came from the same place."

The latter story is more often than not the Cistercian one, fostered through carefully choreographed alumni meetups of various kinds in various places. Of course, alumni events in Dallas are the most frequent and popular of these, and—because of the large alumni base there, and the geographic proximity of the prep school and abbey in Irving—not all that logistically difficult to pull off.

But those aren't an option for the roughly 55 percent of alums who live outside the DFW metroplex. Twenty-four percent of alumni don't even live in Texas, and some smaller percentage, perhaps one percent, don't even live in the United States. And

this is where things start to get interesting: Cistercian does not give up on those non-Dallas folks; the School—Headmaster Fr. Paul McCormick and Director of Development and Alumni Relations Erin Hart, especially—are quite adept at tracking down the out-of-towners. And how do they do it? McCormick and Hart are the Hugh Jackman and Zendaya of a relatively new phenomenon that, pre-COVID, was sweeping the nation—The Great Cistercian Road Show.

In all fairness, the Show did not start with them. Abbot Peter Verhalen '73 recalls, during his tenure as headmaster from 1996 to 2012, that he ringmastered at least



a few of his own. In 2010, for example, he flew to Houston for a set of meetings—one with alumni parents, another with alums at Rice University, and a final one that included what the Abbot describes as “an afternoon beer” with Adam Bayer ’97, Siddharth Prakash ’89, and others. (One wonders if the good Abbot is fibbing about *cerveza* in the singular, rather than the plural.) The trip and meeting were connected to a capital campaign that raised money for middle and upper school renovations.

Several things are worth noting about this early iteration of the Road Show. One is fund-raising—is it the “real” purpose of these events? Are they all a clever song and dance to disguise the School’s need for cash? This author found it telling that, throughout the course of his research, not a single alum brought up donations. No one offered that his favorite part of the meetups was “receiving that reminder that I need to give back” or remembered “Gosh, I went home and wrote a check that very night!” And no one recalled a tithe basket being passed around. So suffice it to say, in a broad and abstract sense, yes, the meetups build rapport among alums, which in turn endears Cistercian to them in a way that might pay dividends down the road. But the evidence seems pretty clear that no one who comes to the Show has ever been given the shakedown.

Another thing worth mentioning: Even the earliest alumni meetup was intergenerational. During the Houston trip, Abbot Peter was struck by how the wisecracking, facial hair-sprouting 18-year-old



seniors he once knew had grown up to be, in his words, “mature and established” adults. Indeed, some even brought children of their own. That is what makes these events different from others like Reunions Weekend, where alums self-segregate, planning get-togethers exclusively for members of their own graduating class. The Road Show, in contrast, is built on a policy of forced integration: There are college bros who hit that free bar tab a *little* too hard; young professionals who show up late—a little stressed, constantly checking work email; older, wiser dads who tell dad jokes; baffled wives who smile politely while wondering why their husbands still talk about high school so

much; rambunctious kids who are just along for the ride; congenial monks who always have that twinkle in their eye; lay teachers who never seem to age; and, of course, the delightfully disarming mastermind of it all, Erin Hart. There’s a melding, a swirling together of stories, as younger grads tell older ones how the School has changed, older grads explain to younger classes the way things used to be, and, in a curious role reversal, pupils of whatever age teach their former teachers how Cistercian has helped them navigate the world.

Not long after the inaugural Houston trip, the then-Father Peter passed the black ringmaster’s cane to Fr. Paul, who devoted more money and resources to the Road Show, grew its cast, and sent it out into uncharted territory. Over the course of a decade or so, Cistercian traveled not only to Texas cities



like Austin and San Antonio, but also to more distant locales like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, and Seattle. A trip planned before COVID to Denver and Phoenix has been postponed.

Each one of these trips is unique, and some are better attended, and feel more significant to the participants, than others. Of course, there's nothing wrong with grabbing a beer or two, catching up, and heading home. (As Chesterton said, "In Catholicism, the pint, the pipe, and the cross can all fit together.") But occasionally, the night takes on an almost spiritual dimension, and graduates get introspective. In the pages of this magazine, Jess Clay '13 has described the Boston gathering in 2019:

Erin [Hart] later described the evening as a family dinner, and so it was—the sons of so many Hungarian fathers, now gathered together to break bread. In reflecting upon our dinner and the bonds we shared, I found myself thinking of the Pilgrims who preceded us in Plymouth, not far from where we dined. I remembered a famous quote attributed to H.U. Westermayer, which I usually only contemplate in November: "The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving." Nobody at the alumni

get-together was so impoverished, but we were still pilgrims of a sort—men who had left their hometowns for new lives in New England, to see what we might find. Some of us were there in passing, and some had settled there for good. But I was glad Cistercian had set aside a day for all of us Texpatriates to come together. As we gathered and gave thanks over a meal, we were reminded of all we had to be grateful for and to whom we owed our gratitude.



As Clay's mention of the American pilgrims suggests, each gathering reflects a particular city's culture and history. Sometimes these are seen through the venue chosen and attire worn. On the East Coast, there is a big difference, for example, between New York and Washington, D.C.: In our nation's capital, alums mostly have worn suits and ties, and one of the restaurants chosen there—The Monocle—is frequented by U.S. senators and

members of Congress. In the Big Apple, the dress has been less formal—but not because the work is any less demanding. While the alums working in D.C. political offices run on the government's schedule and are off by 6 p.m., those grads in the financial industry have left CPS happy hours in Manhattan only to head straight back to the office.

Texas meetups are their own beast entirely. In Austin in 2014, for example, Fr. Bernard Marton came to a rooftop bar in the gentrifying area east of I-35. In a city that prides itself on being the vanguard of cool, the tattooed waiters and waitresses were at first not sure what to make of a Hungarian man of the cloth sipping a lager. But they soon adjusted. *Right on, dude*, you could almost hear them say under their breath. *The Roman collar is so retro—like normcore and handlebar moustaches.* Thanks to Fr. Bernard, it's now official: Cistercian is keeping Austin weird.

Sometimes there are unexpected obstacles, and last minute changes must be made. In 2016, Ron Hammond '11 was a young congressional staffer and helped organize a gathering inside the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. But just before Fr. Paul was scheduled to arrive, there was an unexpected problem: a nearby shooting resulted in heightened security measures. Would the Road Show go on? Could it? Initially, the answer to both questions was yes, though moving catered food and drink around the Capitol complex required co-opting an industrial-sized recycling bin that most certainly had never been employed for party purposes. Whew, things looked like they were going to work out! But then, just as the festivities were set to begin, the Capitol Police made the decision to close the facility early, putting Ron and others in an awkward spot and forcing them to call last second audibles. Fortunately, the group was able to relocate to a restaurant within walking distance. The moral of the story is that the get-togethers sometimes must happen in altered form—and can only be pulled off if great minds are able to improvise.

By the way, it's not only the monks and Erin Hart who ditch Irving for the hinterlands. There are often celebrity special guests—Bob Haaser, Tim Parker '90, and other Cistercian lay faculty have traveled to the meetups and drawn crowds. This wide cast of characters is one of the reasons why the events belie rote descriptions as “networking” opportunities. One does not “network” with a Bob Haaser. One listens to him, hanging on every word. One venerates him behind his back. Then, upon

UNEXPECTED LOGISTICS IN DC 2016



leaving, one tells his kids that Haaser is a national treasure, a mind that's a bona fide American encyclopedia. At the end of the day, the events aren't really about connecting alums for business ventures down the road, or convincing them to hire one another, or add each other as LinkedIn contacts. Nor are they ego-stroking, credential-reciting exercises.

So what are they, then? The truth is hard to put your finger on. In recalling one meetup, though, Juan Muldoon '05 starts to get at what is special:

Not too long ago, we attended one in Chicago with Fr. Paul... and ironically I saw more classmates there in Chicago than I had seen [when I was back] in Dallas! It was a great opportunity to reconnect and rekindle old friendships, and keep track of where people are—especially for younger [more recent graduating] classes that are still moving around more from city to city. No matter where we met, anytime one of the monks is in town, there's a special Cistercian spirit.

NEW YORK 2019



The “spirit”—ay, that's the rub. What happens at the meetups seems to ripple outwards—to emails that would otherwise not have been sent, to coffees, to dinners. Faculty and alums are put back in touch—or put in touch for the first time. For example, during his year in our nation's capital conducting research for his Ph.D. dissertation, Fr. Joseph Van House occasionally showed up on restaurant patios and alums' back porches to talk politics, theology, and pop culture. These would not have happened were

SAN ANTONIO 2012





Solomon '96 (Atlanta), Michael Uhrick '14 (New York), Michael Morgan '84 (Phoenix), Zach Tracy '08 (Denver), and Steven Reinemund '99 (Seattle), may he rest in peace. All these folks, and others, have stepped up and pitched in, attracting little recognition and asking for nothing in return. The greater Cistercian family owes them its gratitude.



it not for the Road Show passing through months earlier. In New York, meanwhile, Kramer Rice '04 and Coleman Easley '04 recall another unofficial meeting with a certain somebody:

It was a clear, cold night in the Big Apple, and as we approached the Lincoln Center, there stood Fr. Gregory Schweers, anxiously awaiting what the evening held—a night with Dvořák and Brahms. Although we were constantly correcting Fr. Greg's pronunciation (it's "deh-VOR-zha(h)k") and telling him that, uh Father, this isn't the type of concert where people dance in the aisles, a good time was had by all! A lovely steak dinner followed the symphony performance, even though it broke Fr. Greg's curfew (Fr. Greg promised a personal penance as a result). Educational and enjoyable—a night to remember—and Fr. Greg is welcome back anytime.

It's worth stressing that none of the official meetups—or the unofficial ones they spawn—happen automatically. They wouldn't be possible without the interest of, and efforts put forth by, alums like Drew Whaley '89 (San Antonio), George Cruz '91 (Dallas), Jason Mitura '03 (San Francisco and Los Angeles), Jon Kauffman '86 (Seattle), Jeff Roberts '86 (Seattle); Mike Dorsey '99 (San Francisco), Frank Fehrenbach '91 (New York), Patrick Flanigan '07 (Chicago), Josh



have been cut short. But in between these major moments are smaller occasions—in auto shop terms, tune-ups, if you will—that are still important. And that is what the meetups—which hopefully will resume in early 2022—provide.

One should not make more out of these small events than is warranted. But it is not a stretch to say that, every time one happens, every time the monks and their team travel long distances, combing the country to see their former students, there is a glimpse of Luke 15. Most of the alums are not "lost" in the conventional sense. But amid busy lives, there is always the temptation toward the small sin of forgetting—forgetting important people, formative experiences, and even the faith. The Road Show, in its own way, encourages every interested student to come back—to a prime spot where he is known, under Cistercian's big top.

Thus, one could say that what the Show does, really, is both simple and profound: It makes an old world—the world so many of us grew up in—entirely *new*. •



Class Reunions



Class of '83



Class of '01



Classes of '86 and '00



Class of '06



Class of '89



Class of '14



Class of '89



Class of '17

In Memoriam

Jim Grissaffi '89

James Joseph Grissaffi (Jim) was born on June 18, 1970, in Dallas, Texas. He passed away on May 18, 2021, in Tyler, Texas. Jim loved to read, and even as a child always wanted the nice, hardbound edition of a book. As he got older, he made book collecting something of a hobby. At Cistercian, Jim excelled in football and soccer, and remained a soccer enthusiast all his life. As his classmates know, he could also tell a good story, holding a whole room captive with tales of his exploits on the football or soccer field, maybe even with a bit of “braggadocio and a sense for the tall tale.” In the classroom—and with Fr. Roch, in particular—he liked “to argue about the big things, philosophical stuff,” as another classmate remembered. After Cistercian Jim went on to Tulane, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. Jim pursued a career in the communication industry and moved to East Texas. He regularly joined his classmates at Karl Schackelford’s river cabin, having first discovered the Hill Country on his vacations to the family farm. He loved his three boys more than anything – Dylan, Gannon and Finton. His nieces, Clare and Caroline, remember Jim as the uncle who always called them on their birthdays. They insist that he still sends them messages in their dreams or in the hawk that perched for the first time in the tree in front of their house shortly after Jim had passed away. Jim had a smile that swallowed up his face, was the center of the party, and was much loved. His classmates and family have established a scholarship fund in his name. •



Jim Grissaffi '89

Steven S Reinemund, Jr. '99

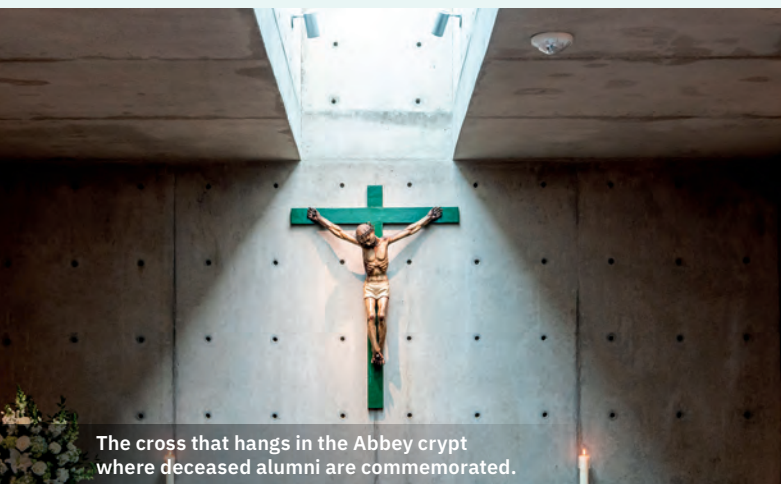
Steven S Reinemund, Jr., beloved husband of Cristina and father of Isabella and Emma, passed away in Seattle, Washington, on August 2, 2021. Steven was the very personification of a servant leader, a man who had visionary ideas and big dreams, but who also always had extraordinary compassion and true interest in the welfare of those he met, who rejoiced in others’ accomplishments as much as his own. His classmates at Cistercian remember him as a person of the highest character and integrity, the unquestioned steady leader of both the class and of the entire upper school, and a trusted friend to all who needed him, both during school and later in life.



Steven S Reinemund, Jr. '99

At Cistercian, Steven was one of the top students in his class, was passionate about cross country, and served as student council president. He envisioned and created the first cross-country trail, and raised the money to renovate the old convent rooms into an Abbey retreat center. In his free time, he formed and led the Salvation Army’s Youth Advisory Council in Dallas, and was so dedicated to service that he was recognized as the top student community service leader in the City. Steven continued his active engagement in academic and community life at the University of Virginia, and was recognized for his contributions to the campus community with a prized room on the UVA Lawn. However, Steven always felt that the greatest reward of his UVA experience was meeting Cristina, the love of his life. Steven’s single greatest daily joy was being father to Isabella and Emma. Whether it was reading to the girls, going on family trips and outings, or volunteering for their school, Steven filled his free time with family.

An entrepreneurial salesman and marketer from his youngest days, Steven would eventually become an executive in the consumer products industry and leader in the e-commerce space. The family asks that donations be made to the new Steven S Reinemund, Jr. Counseling Center at Villa Academy in Seattle. To make a donation please go to: thevilla.org/steven/. •



The cross that hangs in the Abbey crypt where deceased alumni are commemorated.

Betty Sitton *Dressed in White*

Jackie Greenfield

Memories of my time in ministry with Betty at Holy Family parish still warm me. And, even though she is no longer visibly present in a nearby pew, I still see her. Often her eyes were closed as she sang and responded to the prayers of the Mass. She stood erect... and relaxed. She imbibed the “peace I give you.”

In 1993 when I began teaching at Cistercian, an unexpected Betty-blessing came my way: I came to know “Mrs. Sitton” as a colleague. Ahh, the aura of the science building and the woman in the white lab coat, ready to receive the boys flying across the courtyard to another world, Mrs. Sitton’s lab, where you got to do stuff! I taught in the building where the Form rooms are; more than once I too crossed that courtyard—to seek out my friend for advice. It might as well have been a visit to QuikTrip to fuel up on premium Betty. I understand well what a young Cistercian, reflecting on his novitiate, told me—that Betty’s patient listening ear helped him to manage the stress.

A few years ago, I spoke at the celebration of Betty’s retirement from teaching. Her colleagues were well aware of all the hats that Betty wore at Cistercian, Science Chair and Counselor among them. As I prepared my words, though, I wondered how much they knew about the other Betty, the Betty who taught me the best lessons in another setting. Did they know that among them stood not only a scholar but a truly holy woman?

Had they heard this woman PRAY?

After thirty years, my husband still remembers her gathering prayers in Bible Study. I remember her prayers



Betty Sitton

in RCIA. The evening would be closing in on 9:00 p.m. and Director Betty—Who knows at what hour she had begun her day?—was still the focal point, still at it. By this hour, with chem exams left in the car for grading later, the tired teacher leaned against the wall, closed her eyes, and prayed for everyone in the room. Her prayers were specific, and anonymous. It was clear that she knew something

I didn’t know about the wounds of each participant, wounds that had been shared with her, wounds she had obviously wrapped her heart around.

This wife, mother, grandmother, and yes, teacher—well, she was just a walking homily.

She often quoted the Prayer of Saint Augustine, and I’ll not forget one of her favorite lines: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” I thought of her recently when I read these words of St. Thérèse of Lisieux: “It is such a folly to pass one’s time fretting, instead of resting quietly on the heart of Jesus.”

I see Betty as a contemplative in action, able to do all that she did at home, in the parish, for the boys at Cistercian, because she paradoxically was always resting... in the Lord. She could rest and do at the same time! Her rest wasn’t a denial of or retreat from life, but in faith she rested in His arms. Wise, she was. Hers was a reason inspired by faith.

For many Easter Vigils at Holy Family, Betty traded her white lab coat for a long white robe and took her place beside Fr. Jerry near the altar. Her countenance of joy matched that of the catechumens before her. Easter joy—the moving from darkness to light—was, and is, Betty’s constant gift.

To borrow a phrase from St. Augustine, she was “an alleluia from head to foot.”

Fr. Paul’s homily from Mrs. Sitton’s funeral Mass is available at <https://www.cistercian.org/sitton>.

The Chemist

*When she stood at the lab desk of black granite,
Her peace would precipitate from the slurry
Of wild youth, sweat, and unbound energy
As though an experiment she might demonstrate.*

*Let’s sound the classroom bell to mark her passing,
Pound the chalkboard erasers one final time,
And spark the Bunsen burner to re-ignite the blue flame,
Now that her light has disappeared from vision.*

*Perhaps there can never be sufficient tribute
For a teacher who catalyzed and enkindled
Our minds and souls, and beyond the periodic table,
Revealed the element of Grace, blessed more than pursued,
Through the unscientific process of thoughtful devotion
With warmth in her voice and silence as she listened.*

Kinnier Lastimosa ’94

Sports

Hawk Football to SPC Championship

After 665 days between football games at Cistercian, there was much uncertainty about how the season would go. Because of the pandemic-induced hiatus, many players in the program would take their first snaps in high school football this fall. Those concerns were put to rest after the Hawks won their opening game versus Shelton on the road. A few tough losses after their first win would prepare the team for their chance to play for an SPC Championship. The Hawks finished 5-5 and 4-2 in conference play for the season and faced The John Cooper School from The Woodlands for the SPC 3A Championship. Although they fell short of winning the championship, the Hawks played with a tremendous amount of grit and determination that made their coaches, the community, and any alumni who came to watch proud. This year's team was led by captains **Alex Ardemagni '22, Eli Sanford '22, Devon Comstock '22 and Cole Boyd '22**. Ardemagni, Sanford, and Comstock were recognized as All SPC performers, along with **Nonso Unini '23 and Dan O'Toole '23**. Newcomers making their high school football debut had a tremendous impact on the team: **Masaki Fraccaroli '22** with his receiving and kicking ability, **Landry Pingel '22** who served as a utility player on both sides of the ball, and **Jacob Brown '24** with his game-breaking speed that provided multiple touchdowns over 50 yards. **Gus Coligado '23, Stephen Cox '23, Aidan Harrod '23, Connor Lipscomb '23, JP Roppolo '23, Mac Schneider '23, Charlie Humphreys '24 and Ryan Spurl '24** joined the varsity newcomers and will be counted on to contribute in the future.



Eli Sanford '22



Luke Rakowitz '22, Luke Rain '22

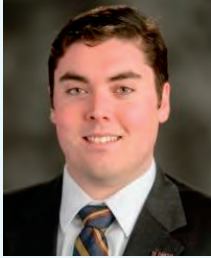
Cross-Country Hawks running strong

Under the direction of new coach Dennis Harris following a long break from competition, the cross-country team had little time to prepare for the new season. Early on, the Hawks worked to build a strong foundation that would carry them through fall. Returning senior **Luke Rakowitz '22** anchored the team, achieving a personal best time of 16:53 midway

through the season and leading the Hawks to victory at both the Dallas Thomas Jefferson Invitational and the Fort Worth Southwest Christian Invitational. In a very competitive SPC Championship meet at Norbuck Park, Cistercian finished 11th. Next year, the team returns with seven of its ten championship competitors, including **Stephen LeSage '23** who also achieved a personal best time of 18:11, **Keegan Cobleigh '24, Jonathon Zabolio '24, Marc Maalouf '25, George Saliga '25, David Fernandes '25, and Sebastian Lee '25**. The future looks strong for Cistercian Cross-Country! •

Reflections of a has-been... 10 years later

I remember like it was yesterday; I put on my bolo tie and best \$200 suit from Jos. A Bank (likely not ironed since I wore it last to Homecoming) and arrived at Cistercian ready for the evening. It was spring, and the Class of 2011—Sen'11ors!—was ready to walk across the stage for commencement. Everyone was abuzz, excited for the next great adventure, and finally away from our parents for four years of [fill in the blank].



Clay Tillotson '11

I, however, was still a little bit nervous about the evening. I had suffered a particularly nasty case of “senioritis” the last semester of senior year and was not doing so hot in the grades department. Or in the words of one of my teachers who shall go unnamed: “Mr. Tillotson, you are failing this class!”

I remember sweating in the old gym beneath my cap and gown, listening to Graham Albert compare our class to a box of Lucky Charms, and waiting for Fr. Peter to call my name. When my name was finally called, I walked across that stage and hugged my Form Master, Mr. Saliga, and the late Abbot, Fr. Denis.

Upon presentation of my diploma case, I promptly opened it in front of the entire auditorium. To my relief, there was an actual diploma inside. I was a graduate! I remember raising my hands to celebrate as the entire audience had a good laugh. Hindsight is, as they say, 20/20. There is a good chance they were laughing at me and not with me, but I doubt there is video evidence of it (there definitely is).

If you were to take a poll of my former teachers at Cistercian about my scholarly achievements, I think the results would be mixed at best... In fact, I wondered often during my tenure at the School if it was worth sticking it out. If you were to take a poll of my classmates, I doubt you would find one person who would say it was easy, but I hope most, if not all, would say it was worth it.

So what did I learn at Cistercian?

About two weeks before I started Form I, my parents and I learned that there were some last-minute changes made in who would lead our class for eight years as Form Master. That man, God bless him, was none other than Peter Saliga. I still don't know if Mr. Saliga understood fully just what he signed up for when he took on our class, but boy did he find out in a hurry.

During one of our first Form Master periods with Mr. Saliga, I remember him imparting his wisdom to us: **“Discipline is the key to survival, attention to detail is the key to success.”** Now I will be the first to raise my hand and admit that at the age of 11 in First Form, I had no idea what this kooky but brilliant guy from the south side of Chicago was talking about. Our class didn't know at the time, but that quote would be one we would hear often over eight years, even outside of writing it 200 times as penance for some poorly planned prank gone wrong.

And that quote still serves me to this day at the age of 29.

Fast forward from Form I to Form VII. I was sitting in Mr. Novinski's pre-calculus class as he lectured on... well to be honest, I don't really remember what his lecture was about that day. But I do remember one thing I learned from him at that moment in that particular class: **“I think the real sign of maturity is knowing when to be immature,”** said Mr. Novinski. It may not be a particularly profound statement, nor do I think Mr. Novinski intended it as such, but that one quote has stuck with me more than any from Chaucer, or Dante, or the other classics I read during my time at Cistercian.

This is not to say that my formal classroom education was for naught. Heck, even I was able to tutor my college fraternity brothers in calculus my freshman year at the illustrious “university of LSU.” If I could offer my younger self a bit of sage wisdom and advice, I would definitely recommend focusing less on football and more on academics, emphasizing the lessons taught by Mr. Saliga and Mr. Novinski.

To me, Cistercian has always been far more than just a diploma; it prepared me for life.

During my time at the School, I always felt compelled to compare myself to my peers—grade point averages, achievements in sports, scholarships for college. These were THE metrics that would determine my future success. But what I have since learned is that it is not about comparing myself to others; it is about comparing myself to who I was yesterday.

Through the past 10 years, I've seen ups and I've seen downs. When I was down, it was usually discipline and attention to detail that saw me through. And knowing that there is a time and place for immaturity has helped me through college and the start of my career. I end by thanking Mr. Saliga, Mr. Novinski, and all of my former teachers and coaches at Cistercian. Each of you left a more profound impression on this graduate than you likely ever realized. •

January 29
**Jim & Lynn Moroney
Award Dinner**

January 29 and
February 5
Admissions Testing

June 4–5
Reunions Weekend

CISTERCIAN
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
3660 Cistercian Road
Irving, Texas 75039

A Mysterious Bond Unites Us

Suppose you came to the realization one day that you are not such a bad guy after all. You remember that you were tempted a number of times to take



Fr. Roch Kereszty

shortcuts, be negligent, vengeful or unethical, or harbor such thoughts. And yet, you managed to choose what you knew was the right thing to do most of the time. You were also aware that God's grace enabled your own free choice and victory. God inspired you often from inside, but how many times were you lifted up by good, external influences, by a great example, or by a few good words from those important to you? Of course, this also applies to me. Our parents, our spouse, our friends and our children have all inspired us at one time or another; or rather, God inspired us through them. We are bound together by a thousand invisible threads; those around us hold us up, and we uphold them. This mutual influence begins with the first look of the baby at his or her mother and father. Their loving gaze paints the first smile on the wailing baby's face, and the baby's

smile draws out the most tender feelings of the parents' hearts. The more closely the parents are united with Christ, the more their love for each other and for their children acts as a magnet to pull their loved ones closer to Christ. The older we become, the more real these invisible connections to what is good and loving—past and present—appear to us.

We are also surrounded, however, by much negative influence, by irritating or malicious words and actions that upset our peace, and even by darkness. Our first instinct is to pass on the hurt to others. If my superior was nervous with me, I will react nervously to those below me. Once, after an upsetting conversation, I entered my classroom. The students were not behaving differently than at other times; they were just a little too talkative and disorderly. On other days, I may have just responded with a smile. That morning, I yelled at them. In the long run, a teacher's or parent's responsibility is very serious. Habitually angry, emotionally distant and cold fathers or mothers may ruin the lives of their children. The children will not believe in their own worth, because the parents' love has not convinced them that they are worthy of love. Such parental behavior may continue in their

adult children, multiplying unhappiness and suffering through generations.

What should we do if we cannot change our outward circumstances? Please do not laugh at this old, trite answer; it is true, and it works: let us offer it up, let us pray at least a short fragment of a prayer for whoever is the cause of our misery. The more love we put into it, the better. St. Bernard said that Jesus was such a unique kind of stone; the harder you hit it, the more beautiful sound it uttered. Let us hope our prayer will sound beautiful for God. In this way, we may save our parents, our in-laws, our spouse or our children. As St. John Paul II said:

Part of the grandeur of Christ's love is not to leave us in the condition of passive recipients, but to draw us into his saving work and, in particular, into his passion. This is said in the famous passage from the Letter to the Colossians: "In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is the Church." (Col 2:24) Everything comes from Christ, but since we belong to him, whatever is ours also becomes his and acquires a healing power.

How beautiful are the fruits of the complementary sufferings of the members of Christ! We see this beauty with our own eyes every day as we look at our Monastery and School that have arisen out of the sacrifice and love of those Cistercians who suffered in Hungary. •