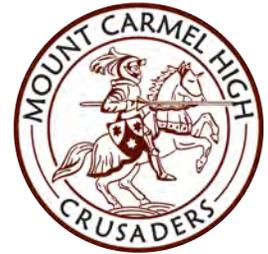


The Crusader

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for us.



May 2018

Published by the Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation

Haynes Women Finish Strong!

Here is a MCAF-Deanery 16 - Marist College success story that should make all Crusaders proud.

Ashley Haynes always followed her big sister Jazmonai. First to John Young's '67 Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (R.B.I.) program, then at his recommendation, their sweet mother, Nancy Granville, enrolled them in Deanery 16's [St. Raphael's School](#) on 70th and Vermont.

Mount Carmel Alma Mater

*On peaceful shores
'neath western skies our
hymn of praise we sing,*

*To thee our Alma Mater dear,
now let our voices ring!*

*All hail to thee
Mount Carmel High,
Crusaders Sons are we!
We love your ways,
your spirit bold!*

We pledge ourselves to thee!

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Next, Ashley followed Jaz to Deanery 16's [St. Mary's Academy](#) in Inglewood. And finally, on to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York under the watchful eye of Dr. Dennis J. Murray '64 the Marist College President Emeritus, and founder of the A.C.E.S. Scholars Program at Marist.



Jaz, Ashley & Nancy (above left)
Ashley & Dr. Murray (right)



Dr. Murray was very interested the MCAF's activities in the old neighborhood. He felt that together perhaps we could make a difference. He decided in 2004 to create his own version of what I call "Murray's Affirmative Action Plan".

This plan had no "governmental mandates", no quotas, no geographical restrictions, and has a flexible, student profile he follows. It would be developed for marginalized, underserved students of color of modest means from Deanery 16 Catholic schools...but not exclusively Catholic

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The purpose of the Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation is to provide financial assistance to the Carmelite Community and to the Catholic elementary schools in South-Central Los Angeles that have provided our alumni with an excellent education. MCAF publishes the Crusader newsletter and assists in regular event planning for the information and fellowship of Mount Carmel Alumni.

“HAYNES WOMEN” continued...

schools. He eventually extended it to Southern California and not just South-Central. Murray’s love is “unconditional”. He wanted ethnic and geographic diversity for Marist. Perhaps he thought Poughkeepsie needed a little SoCal Swag!



Ashley Haynes

Jazmonai Haynes, [St. Raphael’s ‘06](#), [St. Mary’s Academy ‘10](#), Marist ‘14 will receive her Master’s Degree from the Jesuit’s Canisius College in Buffalo, New York in May of 2018. Her Master’s Degree is in Sports Administration.

Both girls always loved sports. Jaz was the Men’s D1 basketball team manager for three years at Marist as her work-study job and her senior year was the Women’s D1 basketball team manager. Ashley, St. Raphael’s ‘09, St. Mary’s Academy ‘13, Marist ‘17 followed her big sister’s love for sports again at Marist, running on both the indoor and outdoor Red Fox Track & Field teams. Ashley holds seven indoor & outdoor Marist College school records, and in May will finish the first year of her Master’s Program at St. John’s University in Queen’s, New York. She received a scholarship to SJU after receiving a national award her senior year at Marist for her academic, athletic and leadership accomplishments. I think you will all agree that this is a wonderful story for all concerned. Congratulations ladies!

Carmelite Connection

by John B. Martin ‘65

Fr. Al Koppes, O’Carm. was principal at Crespi Carmelite in the late 1960s. In the Summer of 2012, he asked the MCAF to introduce him to Dr. Dennis Murray, who was president of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, as well as the former ASB president of Mt. Carmel High School in Los Angeles in the mid 1960s.

Fr. Al always enjoyed hearing about the MCAF’s activities and tried to attend our events whenever possible. He lived in the area, and worked at Loyola Marymount University as a professor and administrator for the last thirty-eight years. He celebrated the Mass the day we dedicated the Alexander-McKeever Field. He had heard about Murray and Marist and all the SoCal students, most considered marginalized and underserved, that because of Murray, found their way to Poughkeepsie.

After meeting Dennis, Fr. Koppes decided to sponsor a “personal candidate” with a Carmelite connection, for his (Partners in Los Angeles Catholic Education), P.L.A.C.E. Corp. at Loyola Marymount University, a program he co-founded with Diana Murphy.

John Young ‘67 had suggested Mellisa Perez, a Marist senior, Education major, from Garfield High in East Los

Angeles. She was one of John’s former softball players from his (Reviving Baseball in Inner-cities), R.B.I. Program as well as one of President Murray’s A.C.E.S. Scholars at Marist. Fr. Al met Dennis and Mellisa at the same event in August of 2012.



Fr. Al Koppes & Marcus Scroggins

P.L.A.C.E. Corp. “PLACERS” teach in inner-city Catholic schools for two years, while attending LMU at night to earn their Masters Degree in Education, as well as their California Teaching Credentials...then graduate debt free.

It is a very wonderful and competitive program. The MCAF hoped that Mellisa would do well enough that perhaps a few future Marist students might be considered for the program.

Mellisa did not disappoint. She was voted Co-PLACER of the Year by her peers. The following year the MCAF sent another very special Carmelite candidate, Noelle Herrera. Noelle’s father and all of her uncles had attended Mt. Carmel. I must share just how ideal Noelle was as a candidate. She had just graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Education, and was a three-time NAIA All-American Water Polo player at Sonoma State University. She probably did not need any help at all from the MCAF. However, on the same day of Noelle’s MCAF introduction, Diana Murphy called and offered

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“CARMELITE CONNECTION” continued...

two immediate lateral entry slots to Marist in the next cohort. Jamison Mahar and Eric Kaufmann were chosen, recent graduates from Marist Department of Education. They joined Noelle in LMU's sixteenth cohort. All three just graduated with distinction and Masters Degrees from Loyola Marymount University on May 6, 2018.

Because of all of these scholars hard work and unselfish “teamwork” in P.L.A.C.E. Corp., they have opened the door very wide indeed. Starting this year, LMU will honor, the now retired Fr. Al Koppes, O’Carm. PhD and Dr. Dennis J. Murray, PhD, by maintaining the bi-coastal “Carmelite Koppes-Murray Connection”. Beginning this year, LMU will offer two slots to Marist College candidates in P.L.A.C.E. Corp. every year going forward.

To officially launch this new collaboration, Marist graduates Marcus Scroggins and Dakota Swanson have been accepted into the program's eighteenth cohort. Marcus is a special candidate from Marist, Today the 2005 graduate of Verbum Dei High School in Watts is known to the MCAF as the “Poughkeepsie Pathfinder”. Since Marcus lead the way, over 100 SoCal students have matriculated to Marist.

Many from Catholic high schools, but not all, with the most coming from Deanery 16 [Verbum Dei](#) and [St. Mary's Academy](#).

Marcus worked for nine years in corporate America after Marist, with jobs ranging from Sales for the Los Angeles Clippers, to Energy Analyst at Southern California Edison. Paydays were nice, but he began to feel that he was not making a difference.

He decided to return to school to get a Master Degree in Education as well as his California Teaching Credential in order to return to teach and coach middle-school in the inner city. Marcus will be a member of LMU's P.L.A.C.E. Corp. 18th Cohort, and has been assigned to Deanery 16's [St. Eugene's School](#) on 95th & Van Ness. Evidently the Jesuit mantra he heard so often at Verbum Dei...“Men for Others” has begun to sink in. Marcus stopped by to visit Fr. Al Koppes, letting him know that the “Poughkeepsie Pathfinder” has become a member of the 18th cohort. Fr. Al is recovering from minor surgery but still manages to say Mass three days a week, and will be 85 years young this August. He is as sharp and witty as ever with a truly great attitude. Marcus thanked Fr. Al for his sixty plus year commitment to Education...and making a difference in the lives of countless students.

Road to Trinity Bridge

by John B. Martin '65

Crusaders of my generation attended Catholic schools taught by loving nuns. First grade through eighth grade I had only one lay-teacher for the second half of seventh grade....the rest of the time, dear nuns.

By 1960 there were perhaps 12,000 Catholic elementary schools in the United States. By the mid-1970s many had closed, and in the last ten years alone, over five hundred Catholic elementary schools in the United State have closed. Three in or adjacent to Deanery 16, and several more in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

The primary cause is no mystery, it is the cost of running a private school while continuing to deliver a quality education. Religious vocations in the United States have diminished dramatically in the last fifty years so it has become necessary to hire lay-teachers.

I am involved with a public, middle school, (nowhere near as special as ANY inner-city Catholic middle school) so I know for certain the greatest monthly expense for schools is teachers salaries. The next greatest expense, after rent, may be benefits packages.

When I was in elementary school I was one of six children and the monthly tuition for all of us at St.Raphael's was about \$40.00 per month. When I started Mt. Carmel the monthly tuition jumped to the outrageous additional amount of \$25.00 per month. I felt guilty having my father somehow find a way to pay that amount for what Fr. Morrissey accurately called, “A Coaster”. He said I was just coasting along. He was so right. My academic light did not go on until after I was drafted and discharged from the army. Although I would never be mistaken for a mathematician I was amazed by how much I had learned simply “coasting” in the loving, structured, faith-filled environment of those Catholic schools. Those wonderful nuns, priests and brothers essentially worked for free. Their work was their “vocation”... not their “occupation”.

Times change, I am told now the average Catholic elementary school tuition in the United States is \$4,400.00 per student per year. I am not criticizing or complaining, it is a simple fact. The true “New Math”.

I continue to be amazed at what an excellent job inner-city Catholic schools continued to do, against incredible odds, year in and year out.

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“ROAD TO TRINITY BRIDGE” continued...

I mentioned “benefits”...things like pension plans and healthcare coverage. Due to vocations continuing to decline, and all cost continuing to rise, is exactly why I happen to be writing this article today. I would like to share an amazing story.

Mt. Carmel High School closed in 1976 due to changes in demographics, rising costs, and diminishing enrollment etc.

I was told in those final days Bro. Lawrence had 10% of the freshman class on scholarship funded by his monthly alumni 50-50 club. That was a beautiful gesture and gallant effort....but not sustainable. I think Mr. Wilhelm in his Economics classes in the early 1960s might have used this to demonstrate the “The Law of Diminishing Returns”.

About ten years after Carmel closed, a great old Carmelite, Fr. Richard Nagle, O’Carm, returned to Los Angeles. He was Carmel’s first Athletic Director, and had left in 1947 right after Carmel won their first C.I.F. basketball title.

Fr. Nagle returned to Southern California with an ambitious plan. He planned to organize annual golf tournaments in three states with the help of alumni from Carmelite high schools. He would grow the tournament proceeds to over \$1,000,000.00 until he had enough money to pay off all of the aging Carmelite priest and brothers Social Security contributions, making them eligible to receive Medicare health benefits. You will recall in the olden days those priest and brothers essentially worked for free....and did not pay into Social Security. It took Fr. Nagle over fifteen years to raise enough money, but he did it. Once his mission was accomplished and the aging Carmelites had their health care benefits, the Good Lord called him home at the age of ninety two.

Because so many alumni enjoyed the annual reunions and comradery, Fr. Nagle’s “Padre Golf Tournaments” continue today, and were the genesis of The Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation (MCAF), founded by Al Alessandra ‘54 (Al was also the Chair of the first SoCal Padre Golf tournament in 1987) along with a few other great Crusaders and friends.



The MCAF’s new mission would become...continuing to help the remaining Catholic schools in Deanery 16, and their students, anyway the

MCAF could. If Mt. Carmel was still around it would be right in the middle of Deanery 16 and what is now considered the poorest deanery in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Mt. Carmel was never a large school, even though we all thought it was.

Back in the day, in what is now called Deanery 16, there were six Catholic High Schools and eighteen Catholic elementary schools. Today only two Catholic high schools remain, Verbum Dei and their sister-school St. Mary’s Academy....and twelve Catholic elementary schools SMA is the oldest all-girl Catholic college prep school in Los Angeles, established in 1889. You may recall that Verbum Dei was scheduled to close in 2002 when the Jesuits asked permission to try and save it.

For the last several years both [Verbum Dei](#) and [St. Mary’s Academy](#) have had 100% of their seniors be accepted to four-year colleges and universities. The remaining Deanery 16 Catholic elementary schools continue to provide an excellent education in spite of the constant challenges of maintaining enrollment and having to deal with the ever increasing cost of running private schools.

Again, I recall Fr. Morrissey saying, on one of the days I was not “coasting”, that the greek philosopher, Heraclitus, said “Change, was a sign of life! When we all stop to think about it, we know it’s true, yet seems to be human nature to try and resist change or deny it altogether.



DEANERY 16 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER

The MCAF is a small foundation with limited funds, however, I believe that MCAF has created a very helpful tool for Deanery 16 schools to use called...The Trinity Bridge - A Deanery 16 Newsletter.

I feel that once Deanery 16 schools realize that it is not... Saint Us vs. Saint Them...that it’s schools are a brotherhood-sisterhood whose shared mission is to prepare the next generation to follow the path to heaven, and we all are “Our Brother’s Keepers” and must continue to teach students “how to live”, not just “how to make a living”.

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“ROAD TO TRINITY BRIDGE” continued...

I feel Deanery 16 may have a unique advantage over other Deaneries.

I believe because many Deanery 16 students (and their schools) must often overcome difficult challenges, they must have the most compelling success stories and accomplishments to share.

Deanery 16 schools should consider uniting...and co-mingling their email list. The MCAF will guard them, never share them, and only use them to email the The Trinity Bridge Newsletter. The MCAF will manage and pay for the email delivery.

Between the 14 Deanery 16 Catholic schools, there must be 14,000 fans of inner-city Catholic schools out there. And there must be at least 140 golfers out there too who would like to help the MCAF continue to help Deanery 16 schools and students by playing in the MCAF’s annual Padre Golf Tournament. I invite you all to visit the Mt.Carmel website at www.mtcarmelcrusaders.org.

In development, we are always searching for that one

new donor, one new friend of our missions. We don’t know who they are or where they are, or what they will find compelling.

Visit the MCAF website and find TRINITY BRIDGE on the right hand side near the bottom of the main page. Click on it...and see how easy it is for Deanery 16 schools to use. Just email MCAF an interesting photo with a compelling caption. Your photo will have a link to click on and put the reader right back into your school website to finish reading the full story, and featuring all of your promotions as well as school and parish news.

It is the “world-wide-web” so we never know who might find “your” story compelling.

For questions or more information about *The Trinity Bridge - Deanery 16 Newsletter*:

CALL: **John Martin 760-559-7069**

MAIL: jbwmartin760@gmail.com

Ebora Alexander Remembered

It has been thirty-four years since Ebora Alexander was called home along with a daughter and two grandchildren. She may be gone, but clearly, she is not forgotten. On Sunday, April 8, 2018 a Mass was offered in her memory at her former parish, St.Columbkille’s Catholic Church in Los Angeles.

On August 13, 2016 Rudy Herrera had organized a Crusader all-class get-together he called The Class of 1976 “Stoned Soul” Reunion. There was a terrific turn-out and a great time was had by all. The love and brotherhood that was unique to Mt.Carmel filled the room as memories came flooding back.

A number of Crusaders from the would-be-class of 1977 (they all had to transfer to new schools when Carmel closed) were in attendance and were granted a very surprising “distinction” as they were presented with Mount Carmel High School diplomas “posthumously” LOL. The beautiful diplomas (certificates actually) were prepared with very touching language by wordsmiths Rich Monteilh ’76, Dr. Lance A.Williams ’65 and Rudy Herrera ’76. It is always moving to see grown men cry. And there were real tears.That night was so special that two in attendance, Rudy Herrera ’76 and Henry “Hank” Smith ’76 now serve on the MCAF board.

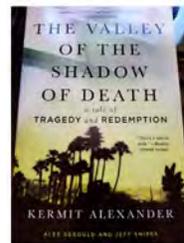
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ALUMNI MASS, MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION, & FUNDRAISER



EBORA ALEXANDER

She inspired us to be better people



Memories:

- “She watched over us in the school yard.”
- “She was my catechism teacher.”
- “She helped run bingo.”
- “She prepared priest vestments.”
- and so much more.

APRIL 8TH

9:00 AM MASS
ST COLUMBKILLE
CHURCH: 6315 S MAIN
LOS ANGELES, CA 90003

10:30 AM
MEMORIAL BENCH
DEDICATION
@ SCHOOL COURT YARD

11:00 AM
GATHERING IN
SCHOOL HALL
\$5 LUNCH TACO MAN
OPEN MIC, MEMORIES
SEND PICTURES TO
#SCALEXANDER18

DONATIONS MADE TO
WWW.COLUMBKILLE.ORG
C/O EBORA ALEXANDER
FUNDRAISER

ST COLUMBKILLE

145 W 64th Street,
Los Angeles, Ca. 90003
RSVP Rudy Herrera
text 909-518-6533 or email
rudyh@casaherrera.com

Mesa S.T.E.P.s Up To Aerospace Career

Francisco Mesa graduated from Deanery 16's [Nativity School](#) in 2014. He used Ron Crimins '59 S.T.E.P. program to help him enroll at St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy in Downey.

Pius X was a strong member of the once feared and famous Catholic League. Today it is usually referred to as PMA. Their survival story over the last thirty years is remarkable as well as encouraging. You will recall that Pius X's was a large co-ed Catholic school back in the day.

I don't have to know the details. We all know how difficult it has been for Catholic schools to maintain enrollment and balance the budget over the last several decades.

The school and enrollment were in decline, but instead of closing all together, they turned it over to St. Matthias, the all-girls school from Huntington Park. St. Matthias relocated and operated as an all-girl school on the old Pius X campus for several years. The campus was very large and the economy of scale was never there, and the all-girl school continued to struggle.

The powers that be decided to give it another try and provided the necessary support and leadership in an effort to bring it back to the glory days of the 50s and 60s.

Recently, I spent some time on campus, and I must say I believe they have found the right president to do it in Erick Rubalcava, and his staff of highly motivated and innovative professionals. Erick would be quick to point out he would not have survived long without his excellent board of directors. The campus is beautiful once again with plans in the works to make it even better with partners like the J.F. Shea Company and others. It will get done!

On my recent visit I met the very special Mr. Meza. He really loves PMA. After his freshman year his family was forced to move to Fontana in San Bernardino County, as L.A. County rents continued to climb. Francisco loved PMA so much, feeling it was the perfect fit for him to succeed, he decided to ride three buses to school everyday. When it became necessary for him to take a part-time job to help with expenses at home he worked at the fast food franchise just down the street from PMA. He would work his shift after school then do all of his homework on the long bus ride home. Then get up and do it all over again...day after day.

"EBORA ALEXANDER REMEMBERED" continued...

And it is inevitable that at some point at a Crusader function names of high profile graduates will come up. Usually Kermit Alexander's name is somewhere near the top of the list. But after all the dots were connected someone realized just how important Kermit's mother Eborra was to those who attended Deanery 16 St. Columbkille's School.



Alexander Clan

Evidently, she was a fixture working at weekly bingo, a member of the Altar Society taking care of all the priest vestments and a daily school-yard monitor that some insist

had more power and clout than the school principal. She was a counselor, mentor and life-coach. A one woman "Neighborhood Watch". She was highly skilled after raising so many children of her own. Anyway, all the students from "back-in-the-day" loved, and still remembered her. She was a parent volunteer like is seldom seen these days. So it was decided that a memorial school yard bench be installed in her honor and dedicated on that Sunday in April. There were several Crusaders and many Alexanders in attendance, it is hard to get an accurate count because there are so many in the Alexander clan. After the Mass and dedication, kind words and funny stories were shared during a delicious lunch, and...as usual, a good time was had by all. Just the way Eborra would have wanted it.

Francisco knew what he wanted, and what he needed to do, and where he needed to be for him to reach his goals.



Francisco Mesa

Francisco Mesa never complained, and is graduating this Spring with a 4.2 GPA, and will be studying Aeronautical Engineering at Long Beach State University in the Fall.

The MCAF sends best wishes to PMA and the amazing Mr. Meza. And a shout out and hearty thank you to Mt. Carmel's Ron Crimins '59 and his S.T.E.P. program too.

**Have a Great Day
for only \$160**

Schedule of Events

- 10:00 AM Golfers Check-in
- 11:00 AM Putting Contest
- NOON Shot-gun Tee-off
- BBQ Lunch on the Course
- 5:00 PM Happy Hour
- 6:00 PM Banquet



**Montebello
Country Club**

Directions

FROM 60 FREEWAY EAST:

Exit at Garfield Avenue/Wilcox Avenue;
At bottom of ramp turn right at light onto Garfield Avenue;
Turn right into Montebello Golf Course Entrance
(Via San Clemente)

FROM 60 FREEWAY WEST:

Exit at Garfield Avenue/Wilcox Avenue;
At bottom of ramp proceed through first light at Wilcox Ave;
Turn left at second light onto Garfield Avenue;
Proceed under overpass and through light at Via Campo;
Turn right into Montebello Golf Course Entrance
(Via San Clemente)

FROM OC - I-5 NORTH:

Exit Garfield Avenue;
At light turn left onto Telegraph Rd;
Turn right onto Garfield Ave
Proceed approximately 3 miles to Montebello Golf Course entrance
(Via San Clemente)
Turn left into the Montebello Golf Course Entrance

The Super Ticket

\$40

Includes:

- 2 Mulligans
- 5 Chinese raffle tickets
- \$10 Cash Card to Roger Dunn Golf Shop
(Redeemable in store)

Entry info:

- The longest drive contest
- Hole in One Contest
- Closest to the Pin contest
- Putting contest

Drawing for \$100,000 shot (4 chances)

Scratcher game:

Lowest card of scratcher wins a 4 day/3 night vacation for 2 at one of 24 destinations throughout the continental US, Hawaii and Mexico (Airfare not included)

Not A Golfer?

It doesn't matter! Come and join us for the Banquet to follow the Padre Golf Tournament!

There will be a Chinese raffle with great prizes, delicious foods and it's the perfect chance to catch up with your old high school friends!

**For more information or if you'd like to volunteer on the day of the tournament please call
Tournament Chairman
TOM FORGUE
(714) 778-5555**

Players in Foursome

(Use First lines for individuals)

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Banquet Guests

Name _____ Class _____

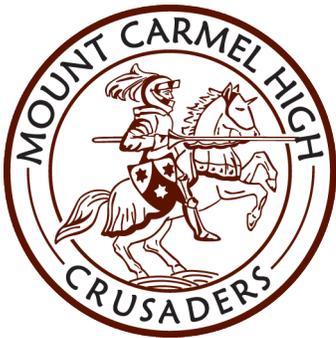
Name _____ Class _____

Name _____ Class _____

Name _____ Class _____

Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation
P.O. Box 91152
Los Angeles, California 90009

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE



MCAF Presents Donations



MCAF's Hank Smith '76 (R) presents donation check to St. Odilia's Principal, Sima Saravia-Perez.



MCAF's Rudy Herrera '76 (R) and Ralph Walker '76 (L) present donation check to St. Columbkille.

OFFICERS

Richard Monteilh '76
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SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN

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Marilee Alessandra
Bernard Alex '76

Kermit Alexander '59

George Guzman '63

Christopher P. Herrera '66

Rudy Herrera '76

John B. Martin '65

Henry "Hank" Smith '76

Ralph Walker '76

Lance A. Williams, PhD. '65