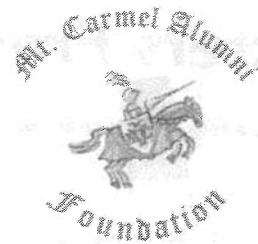


The Crusader

SPECIAL EDITION



Volume 1, Issue 1, Edited by the Board

February 2007

Upcoming Events

- March 16—Crespi High School, Encino St. Patrick's Day Dinner honoring Fr. Gus Carter
- March 19—St. Raphael's Day at Hollywood Park, \$100 p/person, call 323 for more into
- **March 25—Don't miss MCAF's Day at Santa Anita \$80 p/person.**

Send your check to

P. O. Box 4551, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
Your tickets and parking pass will be mailed to you.

- May 21—Mark your calendar for the 2007 Crusader Golf Tournament at Western Hills Golf and Country Club in Chino Hills

MCAF Board Contacts:

For information or questions please call or email the following:

Lance Williams, President
323 646-6146 cell
papanoz@yahoo.com email

George Guzman, Secretary
323 243-5848 Cell
ggelmeromero@sbcglobal.net

Jerry Kelly, Treasurer
714 918-4505 office
jkelly@kelly-co.com email

Lance Williams, Class of 1965, Leads Board Into the Future

This Special Edition is to bring all the Mt. Carmel family up to date on the latest developments in the Foundation. After five years, our founding chairman Al Alessandra, class of 1954, has turned the reigns over to Lance Williams, '65. At the January board meeting Al gave his vision for the future of the foundation, including continued dedication to the South Los Angeles schools, support for the Carmelites and especially for St. Raphael's parish, where we all celebrated **Mass** during our years at Mt. Carmel.

The board then proceeded to elect a slate of officers for the 2007 calendar year which includes Lance Williams, President and Chairman; Al Prukop '57, 1st Vice Chair; Ray Wolfe, 2nd Vice Chair and Jerry

Kelly, '63 Treasurer. At the February meeting George Guzman, '63 was elected to fill the position of board Secretary.

Expansion of the existing committee structure is planned to reorganize the many functions that founding President Al Alessandra handled single-handedly. In addition to the exiting committees, Gift Giving Committee, which Al will continue to co-chair with John Keenan; the Golf Committee chaired by Tom Forgue; the Academic Decathlon Committee chaired by David Gomez; and the School Outreach committee chaired by George Guzman; board member Chris Herrera will be taking on chairmanship of the



Alumni Outreach committee; and John Martin will chair a Fundraising Committee to identify and pursue other ways to increase MCAF's ability to support our mission.

As of this writing, additional board members are being brought on, representing all decades of Mt. Carmel alumni. Introductions will be made in the upcoming regular issue of *The Crusader*.

The purpose of the Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation is to provide financial assistance to the Carmelite Community and to elementary schools in the Los Angeles area 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 the Mt. Carmel alumni.

The ongoing discussion generated by Crespi High School's interest in developing financial support from Mt. Carmel High School graduates notwithstanding, the Mt. Carmel Alumni Foundation's mission and goals

continue to be as stated above. The current MCAF board members are committed to take the foundation and its mission to the next level, in order to increase our impact and influence in the community we all come from. Be

assured, the Crusader Nation continues to grow and thrive in keeping with our mission statement, which the board believes is a direct representation of the values taught for forty years at Mt. Carmel High School.

Letters From Your Classmates



Here are a few letters that have come in since the last issue of *The Crusader* in December

To Mount Carmel Alumni,

I Herman D. Simmons, class of 1968 am aware of the needs of our Catholic Schools. My children attended St. Bernadett's in Baldwin Hills California and graduated. I myself graduated from St. Paul's Catholic School on Bronson and Washington Blvd. in Los Angeles. St. Paul's sent many students that were alumni of Mount Carmel, just to name a few, Eric Aubry, Kevin Bouraguard, Phillip Snyder, myself and others. I have noticed that Carmel alumni have given other elementary schools cash donations or grants. I have been in communication with the school and found there are many needs for the new generation of students. Will you please consider helping my (our) old school a little, the next time you pick schools to assist. St. Paul's needs help too.

Sincerely your brother always,
Herman D. Simmons, Jr., Class of 1968

(There is so much need in the schools we all came from! Herman's letter, along with a similar request from Ed Wiseman, '49 for support for St. Thomas the Apostle School, will be forwarded to the Gift Giving Committee.)

~

Dear Tom,

It seems that the Crespi folks have taken their first step in soliciting funds from Mt. Carmel graduates and they may have stepped into a mud hole. The following letter was sent to Fr. Schrader. I hope other Mt. Carmel graduates feel as I do: supporting another Carmelite effort can be good but not when presented as a Mt. Carmel Fund without acknowledging the established MCAF.

Sincerely,
Rich "Tony" Nolan, Class of '57

Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.
President, Crespi Carmelite High School
5081 Alonzo Avenue, Encino, CA 91316
Dear Fr. Schrader,

As a graduate of Mt. Carmel High School, Los Angeles and an appreciative recipient of a Carmelite education, I have supported the Mt. Carmel Alumni Fund (MCAF) for many years. Perhaps it was an oversight on your part not to mention the existence of this fund in your letter soliciting funds for Crespi High School. I will continue to support the Mt. Carmel Fund for as long

as I am able and as long as it exists.

Your designation of the new fund as the Mount Carmel Fund is an attempt to get Mt. Carmel High School graduates to support your school. That in itself is not wrong, however, your use of the name "Mt. Carmel" without acknowledging the MCAF and the good it does for Carmelite and Catholic education in general in the greater Los Angeles area is wrong. Certainly Mt. Carmel graduates can recognize the importance of supporting the remaining Carmelite high school in the L.A. area as well as the MCAF recipients. It is not necessary to omit one in favor of the other.

Until you change the name of your fund and publicly recognize the MCAF I will only support the MCAF. If the MCAF designates a portion of its donations for Crespi High School I will support that effort.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Nolan, Mt. Carmel, class of '57
Cc: MCAF

*(Thanks a lot Tony... Very well put!!!!
Tom Pinard)*

~

Dear Tom,

Ever since the people at Crespi somehow got their hands on the Mt Carmel Foundation Mailing List we all received solicitation asking for money. I am sure that the Crespi people could use the money and if Mt Carmel Alumni want to help they should donate to that worthy cause.

There is however a conflict with the Mt Carmel Foundation which has a different mission and purpose which is to support the inner city elementary schools and especially St. Raphael and the girl's high schools.

Albert Alessandra (1954) single handedly spent hours creating the Mt Carmel Foundation because he was a very good friend of Father Nagel ("he stayed at his home not at Crespi"). Al had a dream to continue on the work of Father Nagel which was to help support the New York Province which started Mt Carmel, Crespi was started by the Chicago province.

I have been privileged to serve on the committee that distributed the money since the foundation was formed. We on the committee felt that Father Nagel wanted

us to continue to help the New York Province. We receive requests from many of the Mt Carmel Alumni suggesting other causes, we ask them would you feel strong enough about this charity that you would donate yourself. Many of them said "No, I don't donate myself but the foundation should". We did find however that a number of Alumni were contributing money to their former elementary schools in the inner city. Their spouses were also contributing to their old High Schools. A number of the Alumni were sponsoring different students in South Central, (now called South Los Angeles). We therefore started to distribute money in that direction.

You should have seen the letters of thanks that we received from the Principals as to how it made such a big difference that they had some additional money to spend on equipment and other needs.

I personally do not feel that we had any affiliation with Crespi. Crespi was not around to help form our organization or to help develop the "Crusader" or keep our mailing list up to date, or organize some of our special events.

Again Crespi is a worthy cause and if you feel affiliation to their cause you should donate there. However, I feel that the Mt Carmel Foundation is on the right path with our mission is to help the elementary schools where most of us or our spouses attended. They all have a tremendous need and we can make a difference with students in the ghetto. That is what I think we should do unless we are directed otherwise by the majority of the Mt Carmel Alumni Foundation

By: John R. Keenan (1948) - Member Gift Giving Committee

The Crusader

Editor Tom Pinard, '57
P. O. Box 309, Wrightwood, CA 92397
760 249-3431 Fax 760 249-3431
Email TCFinard@verizon.net
Assistant Editor Tom Tice

Yes, Tom finally got some help!

E-mail tice@rosaryhs.org
714 225-5308 Cell 714 854-0975 Home

Published by
Mt. Carmel Alumni Foundation (MCAF)
News items or articles/photos for the next regular edition needed by March 12, 2007