

Bishop's Latin School Alumni Newsletter

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Back To Our Future

For those of you who buzzed off our last gathering on September 17, you missed a lot more than a great celebration of the past. Together with Bishop Dan DiNardo's inspiring video taped message, we reconfirmed our group's celebration of our newly formed mission to help the Church recruit and nurture vocations.

The event was staged at Fr. Lou Vallone's community room in Mt. Washington. Over 70 BLS alum's and family members attended for an afternoon of fun, great food and engaging conversation. Of the 40 or so alumni who came, it was disappointing to see so few who could have traveled by car.. and very gratifying to see so many who traveled by plane! We were thrilled to see people land on our reunion from all over the US...Illinois, Connecticut, Maryland, Ohio and California.

I feel the highlight of the day was Bishop DiNardo's recorded address. He welcomed everyone, and encouraged all our BLS alumni to consider following a "second calling" by joining in our alumni association's commitment to work as a small but focused and unified team to foster vocations to the priesthood. Reminded that this was the original purpose of the Bishop's Latin School for which most of us have fond memories, Bishop Dan sent

the official seal of the Bishop's Latin School.

In his address, Bishop Dan pointed out the fact that even though BLS survived for only a short period of time, its impact was impressive. Our grads are doing great things for the Church everywhere, and we should all be very proud that over 30% of our former BLS attendees today are serving God and Our Church as priests. Collectively, we represent a valuable resource and talent pool that I believe can be harnessed and leveraged to achieve a greater purpose. Hopefully, as our first group of believers and board members have done, you will want to become more active in our group, either by contributing your time, and/or talent, and/or treasure.

We need support from as many of you as possible to help make our dream a reality. In the next year, our Alumni Association will be formalizing our structure and agenda for future plans and actions. We have already laid the groundwork by initiating conversations with Fr. Bonnar, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and Joe Palmisano, who is Development Director for the Serra Club of Pittsburgh. And the best news of all is that we have been given great encouragement and support from none other than the Jesuits, by allow-

ing Fr. Joe Henry to come to Pittsburgh to help get our group and its programs off the ground and running smoothly. He officially moved from Wernersville to Pittsburgh, and for at least the next six months, thanks to the kindness and hospitality of Fr. Dave Schorr, he will be living at Fr. Dave's Most Holy Name Parish rectory in Troy Hill.

Thanks to Fr. Henry and Gary Gayda, our alumni data base is more complete than ever, we have a Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Class Representatives and our newsletter is alive and well. We have had four board meetings, drafted our mission statement and developed some preliminary ideas on what initiatives we might consider. Our next challenge is to draft our bylaws and set up our non-profit organization.

In conclusion, thanks to all who have committed so far. Thanks to Fr. Henry and Bishop DiNardo for your leadership and inspiration. And a special note of gratitude to Skip Hary, Angelo Spagnolo and their families who volunteered to make our September event a great success. Please consider the Bishop's invitation to a second calling and, by all means, keep praying for vocations.

Take care and God Bless.
Norb Sieber