

# BETWEEN TWO WORLDS



STEPHEN STANTON CORNELY '71

From the wind-swept mountains of Mexico to sun-kissed Pacific Ocean beaches, to the largest city in the United States – Stephen Dwight Stanton Cornely has called many places “home”.

Born in Mexico City of US citizens, Stephen Stanton spent the first seven years of his life there. Spanish was the lingua franca of the household. A move with his mother to New York for the next seven years - where he had to learn English - foretold a life navigating between two worlds and two cultures as he bounced back and forth between the United States and Mexico. After another year in Mexico, he found himself in New Orleans, boarding at Holy Cross as a sophomore.



*Steve as a 10th grader*

“Holy Cross High School is a gift from Heaven, a foundational three-year experience that granted me knowledge, friendship, some understanding and a love of creation and humanity in all of its expressions,” recalls Stanton. “New Orleans has a special place in my heart.”

“Boarding at Holy Cross High School was really an experience. There were people from other parts of the USA and from other countries, mostly from Latin America. I didn’t fit into typical stereotypes, being Anglo-Saxon and from Mexico, so my ‘history’ wasn’t exactly right, with either group,” he continues. “I fondly remember the warmth and friendship that grew with

jocks and nerds, buddies and bullies-made-friends alike. I don't have a sour memory to recall. Friendship stands out in my memory. The variety of people and places of origin, as well as the different likes and dislikes made for a constant growing and learning experience."

And he recalls his pride for the Fighting Tigers, Mardi Gras, proms, and the crawfish boils in the cafeteria. And then there were the hard times he gave the brothers. He was also selected to represent the school at an LSU inter-high school event and was in a musical play there. The local news covering the events had Stanton sitting on a piano stool next to Duke Ellington. He didn't realize until later that Ellington was jazz royalty.

### *Difficult Decision*

At 18, though, Stanton had a tough decision to make: Mexican law said he had to choose only one country for citizenship. Although he was also a United States citizen with a social security number and draft card, he renounced his US citizenship – which he got back last year. His reasoning was he was going to live with his father in Mexico and being a non-citizen would create enormous barriers for him when dealing with the authorities.

After leaving Holy Cross, he spent two years studying drama and theater in the Performing Arts curriculum at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. His plan was to work in his father's advertising agency in Mexico but there was a corporate policy that did not allow family members to join the ranks. With working at his dad's advertising agency no longer an option, he adjusted his plans and decided working in the travel and hospitality industry best suited him.

He says of the change in plans, "What better than to work in an industry where one can help people learn through travel or to just have fun. That also got me into studying history a bit more closely. I have learned that it is the shared history of a nation that binds its peoples' identity into a union, into a oneness."

"My career in tourism took me to very different places. After some years in Mexico City, sending thousands of people all over Mexico to beaches, colonial towns and to see ancient pyramids, I moved to the beach in Manzanillo, a port on the Pacific coast, to work at the hotel where the movie "10" with Bo Derek was filmed," he adds, noting that he was six months too late for the filming.



*Working at Hotel Las Hadas*



**Waterfall near Tapalpa . . . Photo from Jim & Carol's Mexican Adventure blog**

At the Las Hadas Hotel he worked in sales, groups and conventions and eventually was named International Director of Marketing. When the Westin Hotels chain took over, he stepped down to Sales Manager because the new company came in with their own executive committee. He also emceed for festivals simultaneously translating in English and Spanish.

### *To the Land of Colors*

He married, did not have kids, and after 13 years got divorced. It was then that he relocated to Tapalpa and the mountains that he would come to love. Drawn by the mountain terrain, its natural beauty and quaint environment, Stanton spent 25 years in Tapalpa, Mexico, about 50 miles from Guadalajara. In late summer through early fall the entire countryside explodes in colorful blooms, which gave Tapalpa its name in native Nahuatl, The Land of Colors. It was so remote, it was literally at the end of the road.

"Tapalpa proper was only seven thousand people strong, within a municipality of some 14,000. Its pine forests saw lumber, paper and turpentine industries bloom in the late 19th century. If you had a job then, you were "someone", however poor. By the late 20th century, the paper mill was gone and in historical ruins, the lumber mill was still a successful company and sapping pine trees was still practiced... to make the turpentine used by artists and some painters. And the tourism industry grew Tapalpa became the weekend retreat for the well to do families from Guadalajara, Mexico's #2 city, just an hour and a half away," he notes.

But Stanton was an outsider, which in such a small and isolated town could present obstacles to overcome.

He explains, "I was a white guy with an English name. So those were two strikes. I never let a third strike go by. I made friends and created relationships. I also partnered into selling coffee and pastries right on the main square. Imagine the joy of giving humble country folk, a young couple on their first date, their first cappuccino?"

He later helped create a touring agency, studied the region's history, gave tours and trained guides as the tourism industry grew more and more every year. Among other accomplishments were performing some in local theater and music, singing and playing the flute, and working at a couple of hotels. He also became involved with a very small indigenous community that was in the process of reconnecting with their ancestral heritage.

"Learning Tapalpa's history, from the Prehispanic, through the Colonial, into the last century and then into this one, as well as referring it with pride, all gave an example to locals and visitors alike of the importance of knowing your own history and others' histories. History is a pillar of identity and knowing it grants 'belonging' within a collective. To have locals, 'Tapalpenses', express amazement and gratitude for helping them learn about their history and to value their heritage, which I made mine too, was wonderful," reminisces Stanton.

"As I became more engaged within the town and the community, I inevitably struck up relationships with the government. Just like throughout my career, law and politics crepted into my life," he states. "I ran for mayor and lost, but my relationship with Tapalpa became deep and meaningful. A few years later I was tapped to be the Municipal Director of Tourism by the winning candidate, and I took up my office right on the main square." Then he added: "after those first two strikes, that was my home run!"



*With his two sisters, step-mom, and a family friend*



*With his brothers and father in Mexico*

Tapalpa was one of the first towns to be made a Magic Town under the federal government's "Programa de Pueblos Magicos". Magic Towns are recognized for their cultural and historical importance, yes, but also for their growing tourism industries. For a town to become a member, it had to have a plan to attract tourists and a committee to oversee the plan. Then the federal government would give it funds to execute the plan.

“From 2015 to 2018, this ‘outsider’ represented and promoted Tapalpa, I helped the small indigenous community create an annual Spring Equinox Festival that is in its tenth edition, and I was instrumental in getting Driscoll’s and the many strawberry farmers to celebrate an annual Strawberry Festival which had its ninth edition this year,” he adds.

### *Alchemy of the Mind*

Stanton has come a long way from his days of pin-ball between parents, between countries, and between languages.

“I was what I would call emotionally challenged during my early years. Bouncing back and forth between two countries and cultures, and two estranged parents, had its impact”, he exclaims. “I had learned a bit about concentration and meditation before going to Holy Cross. Then I learned about the religions of the world with Mr. John Arms, who I remember with the greatest respect.”

At this stage of his life, he began his journey from darkness into light. An alchemy of the mind started taking place, which has been described as “the process of transformation that happens on the mental and spiritual planes. Through mental alchemy, man transforms his inner life from undesirable (lead) to desirable (gold).”

“I had always loved the stories about King Arthur, the Knights of The Round Table and the Holy Grail, but more so about Excalibur and Merlin,” he continues. “Once I learned about the mysticism among the Saints and Popes, I became enthralled with learning more and more about “the unseen” - - as from ‘I believe in the seen and the unseen’ or ‘in the visible and the invisible’ in our creed.”

*(AI Overview: “A prominent Bible verse emphasizing the importance of focusing on the unseen, eternal realm rather than the temporary, visible world is 2 Corinthians 4:18: ‘So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.’”)*



*With fellow boarders Randy Caire and Alexis Barahona*

"So, I became a student of ancient philosophy, theology, mysticism and psychology - they all work together. With more knowledge, my spirituality also grew. My hobby is a mix of them all: knowing my brethren (Philosophy), learning of God's infinite presence through ancient traditions (Theology and Mysticism), studying how they interact (Psychology) and finally, the Alchemy of the Mind. It gets deep; I love it! And it all together touches the Spirit, through which we are One, in Eternity."



*Dorm life*

And of his return to the United States: it is a case of the truth being stranger than fiction. In Mexico City, when he was 21, he dated a young US girl of 16, Jaye, and worked for her stepdad. "When she was at an event where my band Zig Zag played, I'd sing the Beetles song YOU'RE 16 to her. That was cool!"

A year later, Jaye and her family returned to the United States, and they lost contact with each other for 45 years. Jaye eventually found him, came to Mexico to visit and they decided to make a life together, getting married in 2017. They lived in Mexico for a year, then moved to Illinois where her parents lived. Stanton finally, and proudly, regained his US citizenship in September 2024.



*Clowning around with other boarders*



*On the dorm's balcony*

# Fourth Annual Crawfish Boil

Date: Sunday, 18 May 2024

Time: 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM

Location: The Huddle

Holy Cross High School  
5500 Paris Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70122



## AI Generated Graphics

In making the graphics that go along with Unofficial Reunion announcements, we sometimes call on AI to create tiger images. (The image for this reunion is that of a real tiger.) Dan McGovern created the tigers shown here by entering the prompt of “create an image of a tiger eating crawfish at a crawfish boil.” These are what AI generated:



Using a slightly different prompt creates a different image. For this one, the prompt was “create a tiger eating a plate of crawfish.”



Then I got to thinking: can I create a video in AI? The answer is maybe, but not with the version I used. The prompt I entered was “create a 5 second video of a tiger eating crawfish at a crawfish boil” – pretty much the same that Dan used. This is what I got – a tiger taking a selfie!



## Return to the Big Island



Rachel and Mark Kalbacher made a return trip to Hawaii's Big Island, having been there 45 years ago on their honeymoon. They also revisited the volcano Kilauea which erupted during their honeymoon. This time it erupted a month after their visit.



There was steam coming out of its vents and a large part of the rim had collapsed since the honeymoon

visit and you could no longer drive completely around it anymore. Of the trip Mark states, “A very nice return visit!”

## Golden Shellbacks

By Steve Schulz

Since we crossed the Atlantic by ship late last year, we had planned a trans-Pacific crossing for this year.

Our cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean *Brilliance of the Seas* departed from Sydney, Australia, so we flew to Dallas to spend a night with Alicia, Brian, Whitley and Weston. We were there to celebrate Brian's birthday. The next morning, we flew to Los Angeles, then on to Sydney (about 15 hours in the air total). We arrived two days later having lost a day travelling west across the international date line.



We arrived early at the Hilton, Sydney so we checked our luggage and walked from there to Circular Quay where we could see the Opera House, Harbor Bridge and other sites across the Quay. When we could check in, we slept the remainder of the day acclimatizing ourselves to the 12-hour time difference. The following day, we took an 11-hour tour of Sydney and the surrounding area.

We saw various sites in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Royal National Park, Symbio Wildlife Park, had a seaside lunch, Fitzroy Waterfalls at Morton National Park and ended up with a Wine tasting at Centennial Winery. At the end of the tour, we felt that we had gotten a good taste of the Sydney area. We got to pet Koalas, Kangaroos, and Wallabies. We saw many other kinds of wildlife and beautiful vistas.

#### ***Symbio Wildlife Park: Kangaroos and Wallabys***

The next day we toured the Sydney Opera House and learned a lot of the history involved. We ended the day with a fine dining dinner atop the Sydney Sky Tower where we had a great view of Sydney as the restaurant rotated once an hour. The next day we boarded our ship for the next 17 days as we cruised to Bay of Islands and Bay of Plenty in New Zealand, three French Polynesian Islands, and ending up in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In Bay of Islands, NZ, we boarded a Māori canoe with about 30 others and paddled about 5km to the sounds of Māori chants that honored the river, sky, wind, trees and other spirits. We also learned to salute nearby boats and visitors on the shore in the traditional Māori way – by widening our eyes, sticking out our tongues, and growling profusely.

In Bay of Plenty / Tauranga, we made a visit to Hobbiton – the movie set used for the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movie series. It was a dream come true for us to see the sites we so loved in the stories. They had recently added two complete underground Hobbit holes whose interiors showed how the Hobbits lived. We then went on to Raiatea, French Polynesia. We toured a local farm produce area that explained all of the locally grown produce. We went to a pearl farm where they explained how they used the Oysters to produce Tahitian pearls, then toured other points of interest on the Island. Also, at the pearl farm, Claudia got her promised 2023 Christmas present – Tahitian pearls.



***Bay of Plenty/Tauranga: the Hobbiton movie set***

Next was Papeete on the island of Tahiti. We took a Mutiny on the Bounty cultural tour and visited the actual home of American author James Norman Hall, who along with Charles Nordhoff, wrote the Bounty trilogy. We also visited a cultural center and saw scenic overlooks of the beautiful island.

Our next stop was on Moorea, where we took a scenic cruise and swam with sharks and stingrays. It was somewhat disconcerting watching sharks swimming so close but they were docile. We ended our visit with a wonderful Polynesian picnic lunch and learned about cooking with coconut milk, how to tie a sarong and other interesting stuff. We then had several sea days until we ended our cruise in Honolulu, where we spent one night and flew home the next day (via Minneapolis of all things!).



***Steve and Claudia with the Koalas***

Several interesting things took place on the cruise. On day six of the cruise, we crossed the International Date Line- and wound-up repeating day six. They broke the events into day 6A and day 6B. Then, on the way from Moorea to Hawaii, we "Crossed the Line" (the equator). They had an interesting ceremony where representative passengers were baptized with water from the South Pacific and North Pacific and kissed a fish, one, who represented us all, had flour, egg and spaghetti dumped on his head, kissed the fish and then was baptized with the waters of the Pacific. We all transitioned to trusty Shellbacks from Polliwogs.

Actually, we became Golden Shellbacks having crossed both the International Date Line and Equator. One of the things we also enjoyed was going up on the Helipad at the front of the ship at night where we had the best view of the stars of the southern sky. We could also lean over the front railing and do the whole "Jack, I'm Flying" thing from the Titanic movie.

*Steve Schulz*

## ***Anniversaries***

Debi and Dan Colomb 28  
Toni and Gary Ritzmann 51  
Kathy and Robert Turner 41  
Sarah and David Falgoust 43  
Kathy and Jerry Lodriguss 49  
Janice and Billy Arsenaux 43  
Roxanne and Donald Hergert 52  
Shelli and Gary Vinturella 27  
Shirley and John Tessitore 48

Sherry and Rocky Buras 52  
Mignon and Keith Truetting 50  
Cheryl and Bobby Dawson 53  
Suzette and Carl Gaines 45  
Peggy and Al Perry 48

***Special thanks*** to Jerry Lodriguss for his technical expertise in the preparation of this edition of the newsletter.

### ***Nicco Tommaseo wins Nationals***

Maria and Tommy Tommaseo's grandson, Nicco, won the Power Lifting Nationals April 12.

Two weeks earlier:

"On Saturday, March 29th, Senior Captain Nicco Tommaseo posted the greatest total in Holy Cross Powerlifting history and nearly came out a state champion. Tallying a 1640 pound total was nearly enough to take the win which went to Hahnville senior Blaize Donnau who totaled 1650. The lifters fought hard all day and the meet could've gone to either lifter who each missed 3 lifts through failure or technicality.

Our powerlifting family couldn't be more proud of Tommaseo for fighting as hard as he did. Elias Spino, Frankie Marullo and Cameron Parker all competed and finished 9th, 9th and 10th. We are proud of the efforts of all lifters in one of the deepest meets in LHSPLA history.

Tommaseo's lifts broke 5 program records in the squat, bench, deadlift, total and all-time total(all weight classes).

His lifts were:  
Squat-680  
Bench-395  
Dead-565  
Total-1640"

*Holy Cross Power Lifting*



***Nicco Tommaseo***



**Phil Kessling and Yuri**

**Phil Kessling** aboard his wife Rhonda's horse, Yuri, although his show name is Fever's Western Sky. This breed of horse is called an Irish Cobb in England, as it is the small draft horse the Travelers use to pull their wagons. Over here, it's called a Gypsy Vanner.

**Rodney Culotta**, with beard, when he was working at a Chalmette pharmacy



**Roxanne and Donald Hergert's** granddaughter Shylah graduated from Fontainebleau high school



**Shylah**

**Noralee and Darek Guichard's** grandson Jacob '26 was elected to the Holy Cross Student Council as Communications Director

**We're Number Two!**

<b>TOP 5 CLASS TOTALS</b>	
Class of 1966	\$289,691.43
Class of 1971	\$78,378
Class of 1943	\$75,200
Class of 1965	\$66,593.26
Class of 1984	\$36,820

## Pop Up Lunch #2

Glenn deGruy set up our second Pop-Up lunch. This one took place at HC grad-owned Mr. John's Steak House on St Charles Avenue.



**David Jemison, Charlie DiGange, Alvin Albe, Tommy Giroir, Bobby Wahl, Cary Ketterring, Charlie Spitale, Mark Kalbacher, Louis Reuther, Dan McGovern, Glenn deGruy, John Tessitore, John Glorioso, Ron Blitch**

## Multi-talented Typing Teacher

*(Perhaps one of the most beneficial classes Holy Cross offered was typing. Although I can't remember the last time I used a typewriter, I use the keyboarding skills learned in that class every day. John Kokemor '69 looks back at typing teacher Br Vincent DePaul Hujar's career.)*

*By John Kokemor '69*

Jerome Hujar was born in Chicago, Illinois May 23, 1919 and was admitted to the Sacred Heart Postulate in October of 1939. He received the habit August 15, 1940 and his new name Brother Vincent de Paul at St. Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana. Brother made his first profession of vows, August 15, 1941, and then began his studies at the University of Notre Dame. He professed his perpetual vows August 15, 1944 in Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame, Indiana. He was assigned as a Scholastic Brother to Holy Cross College in New Orleans in 1944. He received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Notre Dame February 28, 1945.



*David Ponthier at the keyboard*

Notre Dame. Brother also took post graduate courses at St. Edward's University, Austin Barry College, Miami and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

### *Dramatics Department*

In 1948 Brother Vincent, also known as VDP, was named director of the Wig and Mask Society, a unit of the Dramatics Department. Brother selected the annual play, directed the student actors and actresses (from The Academy of the Holy Angels), designed the actors costumes and the stage props. For one production Brother was not satisfied with the costumes he ordered from a New York supplier. He sent them back and used the skill in the tailor shop to sew them himself. Brother also researched and applied the makeup. Brother Alfred Grilli was Director of the Music Department and adapted the musical scores for the Orchestral section of the Holy Cross Band. There were usually three performances of each production and held in the Gym.

The Mikado in April 1952 was the first in collaboration with Mr. Richard Crosby, who joined the faculty in the fall of 1951. The two act operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan was of such quality that it was broadcast live on radio station WSMB and televised on WDSU. In April 1953, H.M.S. Pinafore another Gilbert and Sullivan two act operetta was performed. Brother Alfred Grilli wrote the musical score for each instrument of the concert band and Mr. Crosby the piano score.

### *Lourdes Grotto*

Brother Vincent had a desire to build a Lourdes Grotto in honor of the Blessed Mother. He drew plans, consulted individuals for advice, solicited donations and procured materiel. Coincidentally 1954 was a Marian Year and ground was broken in October at the rear of the quadrangle. It was a replica of the one on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. It was sixty feet wide, seventeen feet tall and was 35 feet deep and sloping toward the Mississippi River. Brother Vincent DePaul, project director, was assisted by Brother Edward Boyle. Brother Mary Joseph Siok supervised the labor and was assisted by Brother Melchior Polowy.

He was reassigned to Holy Cross College New Orleans from 1945-1947. Brother taught Latin, English, Religion, Church History and Moral Guidance. 1947-1948 was served at Cathedral High in Indianapolis. Brother taught English and Latin. He was also Librarian and Director of Dramatics. He then returned to Holy Cross School in 1948.

During the summer months 1950-1953 Brother Vincent de Paul undertook graduate work and obtained his Master of Arts Degree in education, August 4, 1953 from the University of

Brother Canisius Mooney's religion class held a fund raiser. Brother Salvator Esposito was in charge of a fund raising dance.

Brother VDP arranged for the City of New Orleans to provide broken concrete that would serve as stones. An old boiler from the school aging steam plant was placed in the center. Students serving Saturday disciplinary detention, provided much of the manual labor. There was a recessed cave with an altar for liturgies. The walkway leading to the Grotto was interspersed with marble. There was running water in the cave and soft lighting that emitted an illusion of starlight. Wrought iron borders and small kneelers made the Grotto an area peaceful prayer and piety. Some of the donated money was used to purchase a five-foot statue of Our Lady of Lourdes set in the cave and a three-foot statue of Bernadette kneeling before the Virgin Mary. The statues were carved in Carrara, Italy under the supervisor of Brother Loyola Christoph.

The donors wrote out their prayer requests and placed them in niches at the base of the statues. Brother Vincent landscaped the area with plants, shrubs and ivy. The Grotto was blessed in conjunction with the dedication of the new classroom building in October 1955. From 1955-1965 the Lourdes Grotto was a site for prayer and meditation for students and the Brothers. It was a picturesque backdrop for many Homeroom yearbook pictures. Pep rallies were held on the Grotto grounds during the football season. The team gathered there to pray before boarding buses for games.



*Br. Vincent leading his charges through their paces*

During the years 1948-1957, Brother Vincent also formed The Opera Study Organization. Members were able to attend rehearsals of the local Professional Opera. He headed the Bookmen and National Honor Society. He directed the Chapel Choir, which sang at school liturgical events, First Friday High Mass and student retreats. He was also director of the Knights of the Altar (servers).

Brother was concerned about the struggles of teens and their parents. He met with parent groups and spoke of those challenges youth encountered in an ever-changing world.

### *At St Edward's High School*

In 1957, Brother VDP was transferred to St. Edward's High School, Austin Texas. Again, he filled many roles: Latin and English teacher; dormitory prefect; supervised practice teaching

as he was a certified master teacher; revamped food service; director of the altar servers and sacristan.

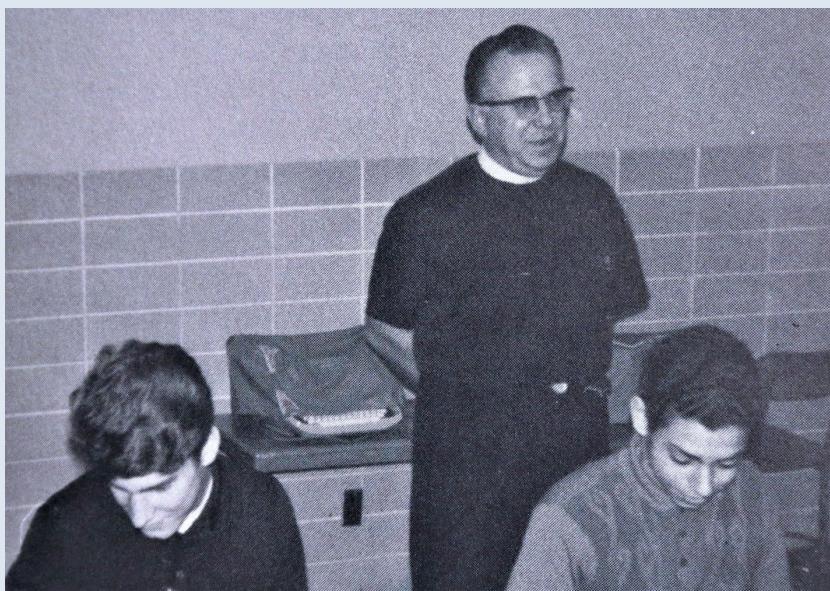
Brother Vincent also renovated the Brother's recreation room by changing electrical fixtures, installing a refrigerator and sink, and changing the carpet and drapes. Brother also decorated his dormitory thereby providing a warmer environment for the boarders.

Brother Vincent was transferred to Archbishop Curley High School, Miami, Florida in 1965. His assignment included teaching Latin and English and duties as assistant principal. Of course he took on other projects. He added a patio and the changed landscaping around the Brothers Residence.

He also planned and supervised a major makeover of the Principal's office. The carpet, drapery and ceiling tiles were changed. The furniture and cabinets were changed. Brother accepted a donation of artwork for the walls. He also redesigned the school shield. Brother retained the most minute details of his special projects at all of his obediences.

### *Return to Holy Cross*

In 1968, Brother Vincent DePaul returned to New Orleans. The Holy Cross campus and City of New Orleans had undergone much change. Hurricane Betsy in September 1965 toppled much of the Lourdes Grotto, blew the facade off of The Old Gym, and knocked down the cinder block walls of the football and baseball practice field. Eventually the damaged structures were demolished along with the former "slave quarters" buildings.



***Bobby Wahl and Tommy Tommaseo***

The layout of the rear of the campus was changed and a new Student Residence Hall was erected where the Grotto was formerly located and the gazebo moved closer to the Brothers Residence. Brother Vincent was devastated that the Lourdes Grotto was not to be restored. Not all of the Brothers appreciated the significance of the Grotto and one sarcastically referred to the Grotto as Brother Vincent's pile of rocks. Nevertheless, he remained relatively silent and went about his assigned duties. He no longer taught English and Latin but accepted teaching typing

and business courses. His instruction was to "strike the keys as if they are hot lead".

On campus, Brother Vincent would be allowed to design and construct a rose garden, rimmed with shrubbery trimmed to mimic shape of the Lourdes Grotto. The Blessed Virgin Mary statue was prominently displayed in the garden. The same statue and that of the kneeling Bernadette are present in the Lourdes Grotto replica on the 5500 Paris Ave. campus.

At both St. Edward's in Austin and Holy Cross New Orleans Brother the moderator of the Knights of the altar and sacristan for the boarders chapel. In his later years he was placed in charge of liturgical services and was sacristan for the Brothers' chapel.

Brother, however, suffered from either congenital or acquired kidney disease. In the early 1990's his reduced kidney function required dialysis. And later developed cancer. He was blessed with a servant heart and deep dedication to his vocation and ministry of educator. He was humble, pious and devout.

Dominick Gulotta fondly remembers Brother Vincent De Paul as, "a gentleman of the highest order". He had an unselfish devotion to the students, parents, faculty and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross. "I felt that nowhere have I found such kind, generous, affable and hospitable people-parents and students as in Holy Cross School".

## *John Kokemor '69*

### *Sources:*

*A Religious of All Details Reflections on Brother Vincent de Paul Hujar, C.S.C. 1919-1993 by Brother Fisher Iwasko, C.S.C.... Tiger Year Books .....The Newsette Vol. 7 No. 4 January, 1955 .....The Newsette Vol. 8 No. 2 November, 1955 .....Tiger Tales 1988 by Brother Berchmans Gibbons..... Dominick Gullota .....Douglas Degan '82 Digital Files ....Thomas Crais '61 .....Dr. Kenneth Tedesco*

## *Rocky and Carlo's Honored*

"On April 24, 1965, Rocky and Carlo's opened its doors to customers. Famous for its large portions of food and its baked macaroni, Rocky and Carlo's quickly became a local institution attracting visitors from around the world."

"Parish Government helped commemorate this 60th anniversary by presenting Mr. Tommy with a proclamation. Also on hand for the occasion was State Representative Michael Bayham, elected officials, members of the St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce and loyal patrons."

*St Bernard Parish government*



*Iceland*

*photo by Steve Schulz*



*Do you remember Razzle Crews?*

What about Rooster Beane?

No?

Neither do I.

Those are just two of the many Facebook users that want to join the HC71 Facebook group. On average, we get about 10 requests from people no one has heard of each week.

We have two security questions that are posed to the prospective group member.

One of them is “Please let us know what are your connections with the 1971 graduating class of Holy Cross High School in the lower ninth ward of New Orleans, LA?”

The most common answer, if it's answered at all, is “Yes.”

Stephen Murphy – probably not his real name – answered with “I was a student of this school. I've been looking for you a lot. Today I am very happy to have this group in our class.”

Olivia James commented “I am a former student of the school. I am a 1971 graduate.” Her profile says she went to WE Boswell High School, Fort Worth, Texas.

Theresa Murat-Prater simply says “I'm a Alumni Student.”

Elliot Meridith is in 20 different high school Facebook groups from 70s to the 90s, including Sioux Falls, Ann Arbor, and Annapolis. He states, and this is a direct quote: “I was an alumni student of this school. I was graduate 1971. I have many past connections to this school. I have many friends to join this group. So, I have interest to join this group.”

Danny Morel is in 92 groups. He gets points for his creative answer: “I want to join this Facebook group to stay connected with classmates, participate in discussions, and collaborate on class-related topics. It's a helpful platform for sharing resources and staying updated.”

Danny must be friends with Linda Emmy, Cindy James, Debra Bowman, Irene Willis and Dustin Johnson. They all gave the exact same answer that Danny gave!

I'm really hoping that someone remembers Rooster Beane and Razzle Crews. They sound like they'd be pretty cool to hang out with!



*The last bell was rung . .*

and the last door was locked at 4950 after the Class of 2006 Baccalaureate Mass. Earl Schneider locked the door as Mr. Rodi looked on.

*Photo by Pat Garin '75*

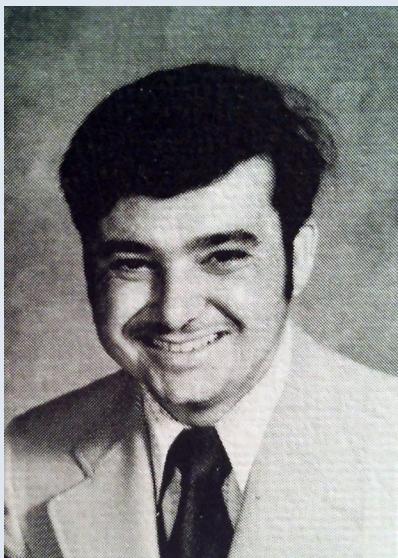
## *Gayle Lang Galle*

age 72 of Sweeny, Texas, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, March 13, 2025 in Sweeny. Gayle was born July 19, 1952 in New Orleans, Louisiana and was a resident of Sweeny for the last 13 years formerly of Metairie, Louisiana. She spent many years teaching dance and loved spending time with her family, never missing any event for her grandchildren. Everyone knew her as "Maw Maw." Gayle is preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Alice Lang Jr.

Gayle is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Francis Galle Jr.; daughter, Christine Spano and husband Anthony Jr.; son, Brian Galle and wife Kelli; grandchildren, Alyssa Spano, Allyson Spano, Austin Spano, Preston Galle, Parker Galle and Paxton Galle; along with numerous extended family and friends.



## *Dominick Samuel Gulotta*



81, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 8, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Dom was born in New Orleans, Louisiana to Dominick and Angelina (Mancuso) Gulotta. He was the middle child, between his brother Vincent and sister Lynn. He was married to his wife Mary Beth (Favaloro), for almost 53 years. He was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, uncle, godfather, cousin and friend to anyone he had ever met. He was a brilliant educator within the Archdiocese of New Orleans for 43 years. He spent his formative years as a proud member of the Peace Corps from 1967-69 and has shared stories to last a lifetime of travels to Brazil and around the globe. Dom continued his service as a member of Knights of Columbus Council 9347 at Our Lady of Divine Providence.

## *Dom taught us what caring means*

*Dr. Ken Tedesco*

Dom Gulotta embodied all that a Christian man symbolizes and stands for: working tirelessly and unselfishly for his family.....working tirelessly and unselfishly for his students....working tirelessly and unselfishly for Holy Cross.....without expectation of acclaim or material reward. Dom's sincerity, devotion and commitment to his family ....to Mary Beth....to his children Christie and Michael and especially to Bryan....should and must be recognized. Dom taught us what caring means.

He taught us what caring really looks like. Dom showed us what the poor in spirit is, what hungering and thirsting for justice entails and what mercy means. Dom was a natural in his generosity, his good humor, his willingness to help and serve, in his plain human decency.

Dom Gulotta touched many lives. In a world of differences, Dom made a world of difference in the lives of countless people, and embodies the words of Stephen Grellet, "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

May the arms of God that welcomed our beloved friend, Dom, into heaven...be the same that hold Mary Beth and his family in comfort at this difficult time.

*Ken Tedesco*

## *Let It Snow!*

Snow scenes of the 2025 snow storm on Paris Avenue campus. Photos by Pat Garin '75

This is the [link to watch the video of the snow on campus featuring Pat Garin's photos](#)



## Dauphine St Campus

2025 – photographer unknown



1963 snow storm:



**WHAT IS SO RARE . . . as snow on Holy Cross's New Orleans campus?**  
Shucks, students missed a holiday—it was New Year's Eve.

*Toucan*

*photo by Michael Pearson*



*'This [is] a Caesar. When comes such another?'*

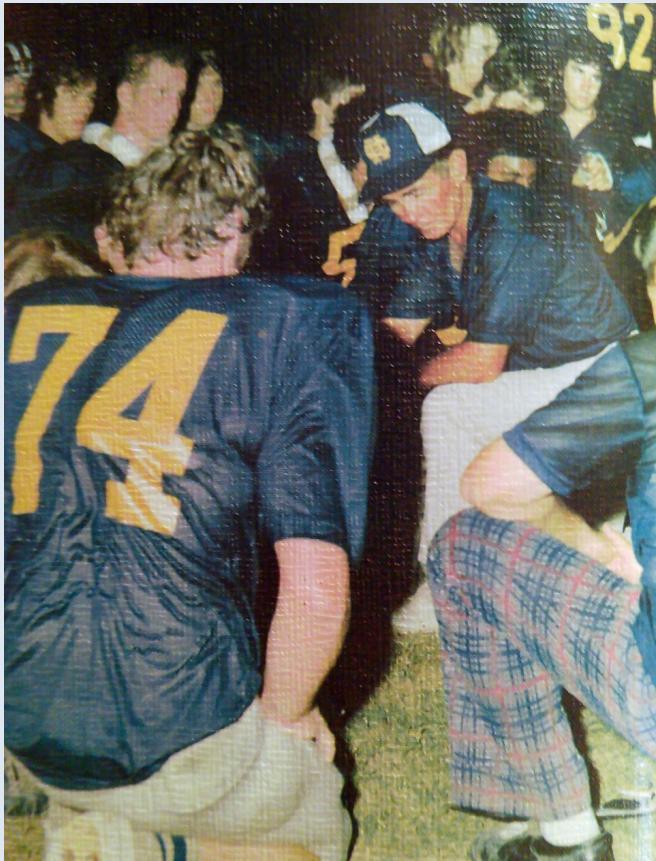
*by Michael S. Leach*

Just who is this guy in the mismatched tennis ensemble and floppy be-bop cap, the one bumming a light for his next Camel and groping for yet another cup of putrid coffee?

Yes, it's Holy Cross' own living legend, John Kalbacher, a man whose lean and leathery body appears as fit today as it was yesterday, whose strong and solid face looks as though it were carved from a sun-baked cypress stump, whose eyes reflect the wisdom of one who has lived for a million years, whose authoritative voice has the resonance of a lion's roar, whose commanding demeanor is like that of a Spartan warrior, but whose contradictory identity is akin to that of stale jelly doughnut - an intriguing paradox whose interior is rich and gooey.

The public JK requires no exposition. His magnificent record speaks for itself; his impact of three decades is obvious and awesome; and all of the stories about JK, some entertaining

and some inspiring, emanate from his rough-and-tumble, scrap-iron image. Therefore, the story untold, the private JK, the rich and gooey nougat, demands further scrutiny.



As Sue Ellen Lyons observed, "JK is a real gentleman, one from the old school." She's right. Indeed, deep down, where it counts, JK is a "gentle" man. And the gentleness, virtually a chivalrousness, defines the essence of who he really is. To understand what makes JK tick and thereby to appreciate him fully is to recognize this gentleness as central to his being and to acknowledge that everything else about the man is ancillary.

In consequence, JK's dominate gentleness explains why he is leader and not a despot; why he is an organizer and not a manipulator; why he is a planner and not a plotter; why he has mustered a sliver of tolerance for, although certainly never acceptance of, displays of rah-rah, boola-boola, and group-grab (all affectations which he despises); why, to borrow the line, "When JK talks, people listen"; why the field general who delights in the savage grunts and groans of gridiron collision can likewise value the intricate choreography of the ballet, the lavish regalia of the opera, and the graceful finesse of classic court tennis;

why the same man who espouses "challenging an opponent's strength until it collapses" can also be charming, gallant, and as playful as a puppy, why he could endure the rigors of coaching for an eternity and then in an instant depart from it with quiet elegance, why with wit and insight he can engage an English teacher in a literary dialogue and in so doing demonstrate genuine experience and not simply empty lip-service; and why he is an exemplary husband and father, especially now, since gracious Carmen, their children, and he are in the midst of a drama most formidable, one which is relentlessly testing them all.

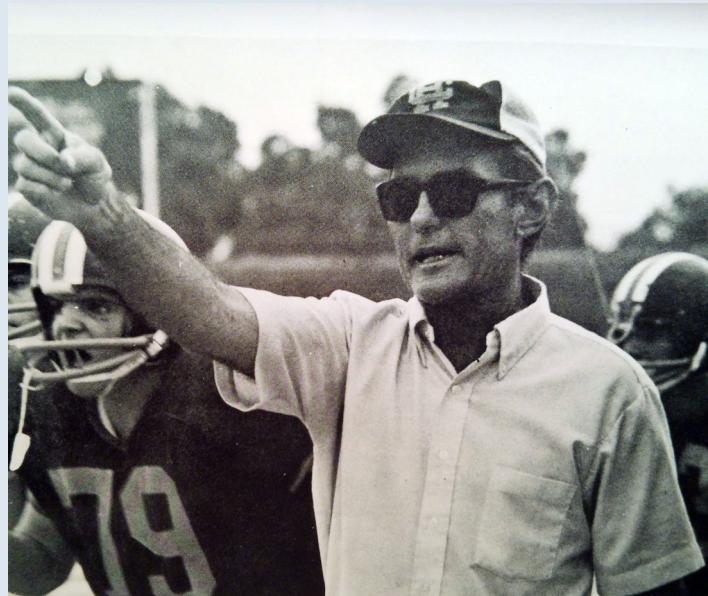
Somehow gentleness becomes kindness and is accompanied by an inner peace, a sense of assurance, perhaps a kind of mystical transcendentalism prompting allegiance to righteousness and devotion to truth. In that context, JK is not only a good man - he's a great one.

Unbeknownst to him, JK revealed just what he's made of - not when he guided the HC football team to the state championship in '63 - but when he reigned as King John I in the extraordinary Krewe of HC just a few years ago. This gesture was a turning point. It exposed the jelly.

It triggered JK's gradual release of himself to the HC family - and the family has been savoring the richness of the goo ever since. In effect, it proclaimed to all, as in Marc Antony's praise of Julius Caesar: 'This [is] a Caesar. When comes such another?'

*Michael S Leach*

*Tiger Tales*  
1986



### *An Historic Plaque*

was placed on the grounds of Holy Cross - 4950 Dauphine Street - we were limited to only 120 words/spaces. Below is a pic of the installation.



*From John Kokemor '69*  
Here is plaque wording:

**"HISTORIC HOLY CROSS SCHOOL**

In 1849, five Brothers of the French Congregation of Holy Cross were sent to New Orleans. They and three Marianite Sisters managed St. Mary's Orphanage through epidemics and the U.S. Civil War.

In 1879, they opened St. Isidore's College on the former site of the Reynes Plantation. Louisiana chartered the institution in 1890, empowering it to confer degrees. Renowned architect James Freret designed the administration building in 1895, the school was renamed Holy Cross. Two wings were built in 1913 from Freret's plans by alumnus Lionel Favrot (1914).

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the school, which moved to Gentilly. Holy Cross School is second only to Notre Dame as the oldest sustained foundation worldwide in the Congregation of Holy Cross."



*Montana Sky . . . photo by Bobby Wahl*

Contact Info: [tigerlink@aol.com](mailto:tigerlink@aol.com)

### *Social Media:*

*Yearbooks:* All four years of our high school days can be found [here](#)

[Holy Cross Tiger Yearbooks - Google Drive](#)

*Holy Cross Bulletins* on google drive:  
Class of '71

[Holy Cross Bulletins - Google Drive](#)

*Facebook page*

[Holy Cross High School Class of 1971](#)  
[| Facebook](#)

*Web Page* - - access all 25 previous  
HC71 newsletters

[Holy Cross New Orleans | Hub Hobby Shop](#)

*Class of '71 YouTube Channel* - - Four new videos since the last edition of the HC71 Newsletter: *Let it Snow* - - *Sicilian Liqueur versus Croatian Liqueur* - - *Honoring the Wives* - - *Wine Bottle Presentation*

[Holy Cross New Orleans Class of 1971 - YouTube](#)