

# LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

### BANQUET ISSUE

## ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2008 ~ LEXINGTON HOUSE

*LEO GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 6, 2008 ~ Gleneagles Club*



### From The President

Fellow Alumni:

I can't believe we are in the second year of our term. It has been a great year. We had record turnouts at our banquet and golf outing last year. As promised we established a full scholarship in the name of our great friend and former president, Jack Howard.

We established a great state of the art website [www.thoseleomen.com](http://www.thoseleomen.com). We also we have a Leo souvenir store on that website giving you an opportunity to buy souvenirs commemorating your great years at Leo.

For me personally, it has been very gratifying. I have met so many more of you than I have ever had the opportunity to meet in the past. Please come up to me at the banquet and say hello. I want to get to know everyone.

The banquet will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Lexington House. Complete details are contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Remember we are honoring Bob Foster '58 as our distinguished "Man of the Year". Bob epitomizes what that award represents. I find him very easy to work with and admire his determination and professionalism.

Best regards,

Rich Furlong '59  
President

### Man of the Year

**BOB FOSTER - LEO 1958**

In 1926, The Congregation of Christian Brothers staffed Leo High School in the Archdiocese of Chicago. From that year until 1991, the Irish Christian Brothers educated and molded the characters of many generations of young men from Chicago's south side. Most the young men were first or second generation Irish

Americans and many Leo graduates became some of the most influential leaders in American religious life, business affairs, and public service. Thomas A. Murphy (Leo '33) became Chairman of the Board of General Motors. Thomas Gerrity (Leo '30) was Four-Star General in the Air Force and was Logistics Commander of the United Nations. Robert Podesta (Leo '30) was named As-

sistant Secretary of commerce by President Nixon. Leadership among Leo men continues through men like Andrew Mc Kenna ('47), CEO of Schwarz Paper, Donald Flynn ('56), President of Flynn Enterprises and co-founder of Waste Management & Blockbuster Video, James Hallberg ('69), CEO of Insure One, and William Koloseike ('45), CEO of Bill Kay Chrysler and Chevrolet.

Robert W. Foster ('58) grew up a few blocks from Leo and almost from his baptism was immersed in Leo's traditions of success in the classroom, the athletic field, and in the community. Leo was the school of winners.

Leo captured the Catholic League Championships in football and basketball in 1930's & 40's, as well as the National Catholic Championship in 1941. Bob Foster continued in the winning traditions playing on the 1956 City Championship Football Team. Upon graduation from Leo, Mr. Foster won a scholarship to Purdue University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies. With his degree and football experience, Bob Foster returned to Leo as a teacher and coach in 1962. Later he was hired to coach at Little Flower High School to the immediate west of Leo and gave that school its first winning football season. From there Bob Foster was hired away to Mount Carmel and later St. Rita. In 1970, Bob Foster returned to Leo and remains to this day

In 1991, Leo High School needed a strong leader with links to the school's rich past and influential Alumni; that person was Bob Foster. As the first lay Principal of Leo High School, Foster called upon Leo men who are among the most powerful and influential corporate and civic board members to offer advice and support. That support helped Foster eliminate a deficit and build confidence in Leo High School beyond the Alumni. In 1997, Robert W. Foster was appointed President and CEO of Leo High School by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Alumni response has been significant. Powerful corporate captains and venture capitalists helped line up support for his school. The mission statement was matched by the activities in the school. Discipline was tightened, but fairly meted out. Mentoring became as important as pedagogy. Student efforts are reinforced

By the constant message that they should expect to succeed. The capital raised by Foster and Leo Alumni went into student financial aid and the improvement of the physical plant, which had been neglected for many years. The school is generated by pride.

Leo is not an ivory tower. It is a sharp edged five story



place of educational business. Students who want to succeed come to Leo. Many have been turned away from Catholic high schools with national reputations for excellence. Many freshmen score well below the 40th percentile of the national average on entrance exams; but, eighty percent of those admitted to Leo graduate and 93% of Leo's graduates are accepted by colleges and universities. Leo students are not affluent. They come from very tough neighborhoods, characterized by gang violence, drugs, and despair. They come from families that hope and have faith. Leo's tuition remains the lowest of the Archdiocesan high schools and the \$5,000 tuition is a great sacrifice to Leo families. This school boasts a 99% tuition payment rate. Parents are active in the education of the young men who attend Leo. The Alumni remains active in support of the school's mission. Bob Foster is the iron link that bonds the worlds of success and achievement. He preaches the gospel of focus and faith. Leo men can win because they are taught that others will help them to succeed. The fire within a young man's soul is cupped from the winds of despair that blow down 79th Street and gently fueled to burn with great passion within the walls of Leo Catholic High School.

Robert W. Foster, a south side Irish American, who grew up with dreams of one day coaching at Leo, teaches young men to believe in themselves, succeed at what they hold to be their dreams, and live lives that make a positive difference to themselves, their families, their communities, and their country.

## **2008 Community Service Award**

**ROBERT J. SHEEHY - LEO 1971**

Our community service recipient came to Leo from St. Thomas More Parish. It was while at Leo that Bob began to exhibit his propensity to become actively involved. He played four years of basketball, two years of baseball including a trip to play in Comiskey Park to participate in the Catholic League All Star Game his senior year.

It was in football where Bob received his greatest athletic recognition. In his senior year he helped lead the Lions to an overall record of 9 – 2 including an undefeated regular season. At the end of the season he was honored by being named to the Catholic League and All-State Teams, receiving the prestigious Tony Lawless Award, and being named to the Parade Magazine and Coaches All American Teams! He continued his football career at Purdue while earning his degree.

After graduation from Leo, Bob attended Purdue where he obtained his degree in Industrial Management in 1975. He then continued his education at the Worsham Mortuary College graduating in 1977.

It was shortly after that that Bob began his extraordinary commitment to community involvement. One of his first ventures was involvement in the Leo Alumni Association and he became president and served from 1982 – 1984. While serving as president, Bob was responsible for starting the alumni smokers and golf outing. The Cadillac Raffle was begun under his direction. He continues on the Board of Directors of the Association and was the Alumni Association Man of the Year in 1996 and has also been installed in the Leo High School Hall of Fame.

Bob is president of the Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Homes. He is also very active in the community, professional,

and charitable organizations. Below are just some notable examples.

State Bank of Countryside  
Teamsters Local #727 Trust Funds Trustee  
Orland Park Open Lands Committee  
Leo H.S. Advisory Board  
Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago Director  
Illinois Funeral Directors Assoc. Funeral Directors of Greater Chicago.  
Orland Park Chamber of Commerce  
Father Perez K.C.  
Executive Director of the Mulliganers

Mulliganers is an organization started by Bob and a few friends. It is devoted to helping families with children who are ill or struggling because of some form of financial hardship. Due to the hard work of Bob and the others involved, this organization has distributed over 3 million dollars, assisting more than 150 families since its inception.

Bob and his wife Kathleen live in Orland Park with their two sons Matthew and Brenden.

Bob's motto seems to be *Facta non Verba*.

## **Hall of Fame Inductees**

**H. EDWARD BARNICLE - LEO 1959**

When Leo High School needed to bring a huge donation of office furniture and supplies from Ameritech, Ed Barnicle called Bob Foster and told him to save some money. That was back in 1995, when Foster was making some headway with eliminating Leo High School's enormous debt and every nickel needed to be squeezed for every drop.

Ed Barnicle ordered two 40' Tractor Trailers and two very well-salaried Teamsters to cart the load of donated tables, chairs, filing cabinets, lamps and couches that helped beautify the offices and halls of Leo High School. Ed Barnicle did that for his school, because that is how he lives his life.

From St. Francis De Paula Parish, Ed played football at Leo High School and then went on the United States Naval Academy. Following his Naval Service, Mr. Barnicle took on the direction of Dolphin Cartage, Inc. becoming the President of Dolphin in 1982. Ed Barnicle's work with Dolphin Cartage brought about his three terms as President of the Chicago Region Trucking Association and being named the Chicago Region Trucking Association's Man of the Year. Ed is also the President and long-time member of the Porsche Club of Chicago.

H. Edward Barnicle is the proud father of Edward, Julie and Brian Barnicle. For his great and deep commitment to Leo High School and the broader community, the Leo High School welcomes H. Edward Barnicle to the Hall of Fame Class of 2008.

**RICH BUDIL - LEO 1954**

Rich Budil came to Leo High School from St. Rita Grammar and become one of the members of a powerful backfield on one of the greatest Leo High School football teams ever. Along with great football teammates like Gorman, Donahue, Hessian, Thoel, Vlazek, and Schwartz, Rich Budil stands out for his three touchdowns in the 40 -0 romp over Gordon Tech and the defeat of arch rival Mount Carmel for the South Section Championship in Soldier Field.

From Leo Rich Budil went on to University of Illinois and later University of Denver. Mr. Budil dedicated his life to serv-

ing youth through athletics with Chicago Park District and through local school athletic programs.

Rich Budil is a Director and member of the Best Umpires Association and the Leo Alumni Association. Leo High School is proud to welcome to the 2008 Fall of Fame Class.

#### **WILLIAM FANNING - LEO 1943**

Leo High School President gets a "pick-me-up" note from William F. Fanning every month or so "Hi, Bob! I am so proud of the great work that continues at Leo High School . . . & etc." and usually stuffs the envelope with a check. Bill Fanning still has and fits into the Letterman's Sweater with the L Monogram and "Flying Foot" of the 1943 Track Star.

Bill was fleet of foot and sound of mind as he finished in the top five - #3, or 4 in the Class of 1943. Bill keeps in close touch with not only his Leo High School classmates but also a cadre of grammar school pals from St. Barnabas Parish.

After military service, Bill took his degree from University of Illinois at Champaign and went on to DePaul University Law School. Mr. Fanning became a senior Vice-President for Northern Trust Bank and remains a member of the Illinois Bar Association. Bill Fanning will be unable to attend this year's Alumni Banquet, due to a family commitment, but sends his warmest regards to all the Leo High School Family.

#### **MIKE JOYCE - LEO 1986**

Mike Joyce came to Leo High School from St. Cajetan Parish and developed a reputation as scholar/athlete. The late great Brother Francis Rupert Finch called Mike Joyce one of the kindest, smartest and toughest persons that he had ever met in his many decades of teaching and coaching and mentoring the Men of Leo High School.

As well as football and academics, Mike Joyce was a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council Representative. However, it was Coach Bob Galloway's introduction to the secrets of the "Sweet Science" that took root in Mike Joyce. Bob Galloway, Chicago Police Officer, directed the Leo Boxing Club that produced Irish Johnnie Collins and helped turn Mike Joyce into a Professional Boxer in the Cruise weight Division. Trained by the great lightweight Hermann Mills, Joyce tallied an 8-1-1 Record as a Pro and developed into a Boxing promoter.

While Boxing took up a good deal of his time, Mike earned academic laurels as well with a Bachelors Degree from St. Xavier University and a Law Degree from John Marshall. Mike Joyce is a licensed attorney in the State of Illinois and worked in the Cook County States Attorney Office under Dick Devine as the second director of Gene Sullivan's athletic core - Anti gang/drug Program -S.T.O.P. Mike is on the Board of Directors of Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, Licensed Professional Boxing Manager, Personal Injury and Sports Attorney ( clients include Notre Dame Football Team Captain and future NFL and Professional Heavyweight Boxer Tommy Zbikowski), Young Irish Fellowship Club, and Leo Alumni Association.

Mike Joyce is a member of the Leo High School Advisory Board and directs the Leo Boxing Program. Mike Joyce, Leo 1986, is great addition to the Leo Hall of Fame.

#### **KENNETH MASON - LEO 1975**

Kenneth Mason has maintained his position as a leader in making solid financial contributions to Leo High School that grow with each level of success in the business world to which

he advances.

Leo High School President Robert W. Foster remarks that "Kenny Mason always seems to be among the earliest and most generous responses to any Campaign Leo or 21<sup>st</sup> Century mailing that I issue. He has that same giving sensibility as students at Leo."

From St. Helena of the Cross Parish in Roseland, Kenneth Mason lettered in football, track and was member of the dance committee.

Now a successful Chicago Businessman, Kenneth Mason maintains his lead in giving back to Leo High School. Kenneth Mason of the Class 1975 is great addition to the Leo High School Hall of Fame Class of 2008.

#### **ART SKINNER - LEO 1948**

Along with Classmate Jerry Tourville, Art Skinner represents the best in Leo High School folklore - Jerry Tourville and Art Skinner held identical 100% pass and completion records in their junior year. However, the modest Mr. Skinner states "the ball was not thrown as much back then. Truly they are "The Greatest Generation!"

From St. Christopher and Little Flower Parishes, Art Skinner came to Leo High School in 1944 where he excelled in athletics playing football all four years including the 1947 Championship Season and three years of basketball.

After Leo, Mr. Skinner went on to University of Notre Dame and then to San Francisco University. In 1951, Art Skinner was in the United States Marine Corps and after boot camp was sent to Quantico Virginia training future Marine Officers.

From 1957 until 2007 Art Skinner worked as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #134 and received the 50 year pin of service from that union.

Art Skinner is married to Phyllis and father of five children, grandfather of ten and great-grandfather of two. Art Skinner is a constant and passionate supporter of Leo High School and it can safely be said that no Leo Alumni or Leo High School Function takes place without the presence and active support of Art Skinner.

#### **DAN STECICH - LEO 1975**

Dan Stecich came from St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish to Leo High School and began a career of achievement as a student/athlete. Dan Stecich lettered in water polo, swimming; lettered in the band; wrote and edited for the Oriole and the Lion and participated in Intramurals.

Dan went on to University Oklahoma for a BBA in Finance and returned to Chicago to earn a MBA in Finance from DePaul University.

Married to Patricia and father of two daughters ( Maggie, Therese) and a son Danny, Dan Stecich always devoted time to helping Leo High School with this time, treasure and talents. A Member of the Leo Alumni Association Board of Directors and a constant fixture in the stands of Leo athletic events, Dan Stecich is great addition to the Leo Hall of Fame Class of 2008.

#### **GERALD TOURVILLE - LEO 1948**

Gerald Tourville (Leo '48) is an athlete and a public servant. Athletics and service have been the public aspects of Jerry's life, begun in the Chicago Roseland Community where he attended Holy Rosary and St. Nicholas parish grammar schools before coming to Leo High School.

As a scholar-athlete, Jerry Tourville holds the record for the longest quick kick of 80 yards in the 1947 Catholic League Championship Season. Jerry played baseball, and Intramural basketball at Leo High School. He was also selected for the south section All Star football team and also the Swim Team which experience would serve him well years later.

In 1948, Jerry Tourville was named co-Captain of the University of Colorado football team and tied as the team's leading scorer. Transferring to St. Michael's College in Santa Fe NM in 1950, Tourville excelled as football co-Captain, leading scorer and MVP as well as baseball Captain and MVP.

Jerry Tourville's college athleticism was interrupted by the Korean War and thirteen months in Korea with the United States Marine Corps - 1951-1954

Upon return from service, Jerry Tourville completed his education at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado and began his near forty years of service to the Chicago Park District as physical education instructor and Park Supervisor for Sherman, Bensley, McGuane, Palmer and Mt. Greenwood Parks. In 1970, Jerry Tourville saved the life of infant Darrin Taylor and awarded the Chicago Park District Merit Award. Jerry Tourville's public service merited him awards from Sertoma, Knights of Columbus, Mt. Greenwood Lions, many Parish and Church awards and recognitions, as well as service as a teacher of physical education with St. Anthony, St. Cajetan, and Holy Rosary schools. In all of his full life of service Jerry Tourville always put in many, many hours of service to Leo High School and the Leo Alumni Association - which are pleased to name Gerald "Jerry" Tourville to the 2008 Hall of Fame Class

## Alumni Banquet:

The date for this years banquet is April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Lexington House. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m with dinner following at approximately 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Please make every attempt to purchase your tickets in advance, which allows us to have sufficient seating for each attendee with his class. If you purchase your tickets at the door we can't guarantee you will be able to be seated with your class.

The class of 1958 will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary. Contact Larry Sink, 630- 953-9594 for tickets or information.

The class of 1983 I celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary. Contact Dan Moss 312 - 282-6196 for tickets or information.

As usual we are hoping for a good turnout of our younger alumni. Like all organizations these people are the future.

Our highest honors, "Man of the Year Award" and "Community Service Awards" will be presented.

Inductees into the Leo High School Hall of Fame will also be duly honored. Be sure to read elsewhere in this newsletter the profiles of these deserving recipients.

This is the largest social event we sponsor. It is a great opportunity to get together with former classmates and continue with the Leo experience. See you April 25th.

## DECAL DRIVE

As you know our decal drive that now funds the "John R. Howard Memorial Scholarship Fund" is underway. It is our only request for funds and as always its purpose is to help young men receive a Leo education. If you did not receive your letter or if you misplaced it, please submit your contribution today payable

to the Leo High School Alumni Association and mail to P.O. Box 603, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60454.

## BOURKE / MAHONEY GOLF OUTING

This shotgun and a half event will be held on Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> at Gleneagles Country Club. This has become a very successful and satisfying good time for all of us. Please understand that the reason we don't accept tee time reservations without payment in full is because whether or not you show up we are obligated to pay. Don't forget non-golfers may come for dinner only. We will be notifying last years golf foursome "Captains" of request for the foursomes as the date approaches. If you have not golfed in the past and would like to do so, please call Larry Lynch 773- 445-2575.

In the past years we have been fortunate enough to have sponsors for golf hats, golf balls and towels we include in the bags we hand out. If you or a corporate sponsor would be interested in helping in this fashion please let us know. It saves us a considerable sum of money - which means more for our Alma Mater.

## And The Greatest Leo Team Of All Time Was...

Banquets are great. Stand back and listen to the conversations. Invariably the conversation will get around to great Leo football teams.

How about the 1937 team. They won the Catholic Championship and played in perhaps the most famous high school game ever played when they faced Austin in the Prep Bowl before over 120,000 fans. (Rumor has it the jug brother that year told all of the students they could skip jug that day if they went to the game.) John Galvin was perhaps the first of the many legendary Leo legends.

Move down 2 tables and somebody will offer the back-to-back City Champions of 1941 and 1942. Arneberg, Hanlon, Kelly and Baranowski. No argument from me.

Now I get to my table and the guys are heralding the great City Champions of 1956. Ryan, Boyle, Szwast, Winiecki, Flynn and Hoey. Ah! My sentimental favorite.

All of the above entries are great teams and were great representatives of Leo.

However the legends don't end there. Leo's great teams started in the 30's and continue today. Watch out for Mike Holmes latest edition next fall. But great teams, lets throw in the 1987 Lions. They wound up the season 10 - 1. During the 11 game season the Lions scored 308 points while surrendering just 58. They were undefeated until the last game of the season, when they lost in the state semi finals to Cary Grove while playing without 5 starters lost the previous week to injuries.

In the season opener they beat eventual state champion Providence. I had a son playing on that Providence team. My dream was a state title match featuring Providence vs. Leo. Leo was a great team and I had watched Providence make huge strides as their season progressed. Who would have won? No comment from me. Leo was led by one of the most exciting running backs I have ever watched in any era. His name is Livetius Johnson. He was a compact version of Corey Rodgers of the

1990 team. Speaking of the 1990 squad the arguments could go on for them and forever. I have to go now I just heard a couple of guys ask what was the greatest Leo basketball team of all time.

Rich Furlong '59

## Miscellaneous:

There is mass at 8:30 a.m. on the first Friday of every month at Incarnation Church at 5757 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street Palos Heights. The mass is said in honor of deceased Leo grads and faculty.

Don't forget to review our great state of the art website, [www.thoseleomen.com](http://www.thoseleomen.com) Note the great souvenir store we have on site.

If you would like anything posted such as breakfast gatherings of classmates or any such things contact me at [rc5463@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rc5463@sbcglobal.net) and I will be glad to post it in the next newsletter.

## What Happened to Celio?

The April 26, 1971 Oriole contained a blip about a young boy named Celio Fortunato Diniz, from Brazil. Leo students were helping to support him with mission money back then. He was 11 years old at the time of the article by Leo student Pat Dunne. He would be about 48 years old now. His father was dead and his mother could not feed the family. She sought out help from Family Helper Project and thus Leo got involved. He lived in strictest poverty.

I wonder whatever happened to Celio. Did he die young, did he survive into adulthood, did he continue to live in poverty or might he have achieved some success in life? This newsletter goes out to over 7500 alumni, many with law enforcement and government connections. Can someone suggest a way this man could be traced and the above solved?

Rich Furlong '59

## Lions Laughter

This information is for "Catholics" only; therefore, it must not be divulged to others. The less they know about our rituals and words the better off they are.

Amen: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Bulletin: Your receipt for attending mass.

Choir: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the parish to lip-sync.

Hymn: A song of praise sung in a key three octaves higher than the congregations range.

Incense: Holy Smoke

Jesuits: An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.

Jonah: The original "Jaws" story.

Justice: When kids have kids of their own.

Magi: The most famous trio to ever attend a baby shower.

Kyrie Eleison: The only Greek word that U.S. Catholics recognize beside gyros.

Manger: Where Mary had to give birth because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO.

Processional: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass consisting of altar servers, the celebrant and late parishioners looking for seats.

Recessional: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd out of the

parking lot.

Relics: People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel and stand.

Usher: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

## Leo Class of 1959

At this years banquet we will observe the class of '58 celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup>. anniversary. They are experiencing a fantastic turnout and that is due to a years hard work. Right after the banquet it will be time for the class of '59 to prepare for our 50<sup>th</sup>. If you graduated from Leo in 1959 please send me your name, address, phone number and e mail address. You can mail it by U.S. Mail to me at 16216 Goose Lake Drive, Crest Hill, IL 60403 or even better e mail it to me at [rc5463@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rc5463@sbcglobal.net). Please do so even if you are not interested in coming. We will respect your wish but by so doing you will save us search time.

Rich Furlong '59

## In Memoriam

### Unfortunately we have lost several alumni and family members.

Fr. J. Austin Graff (Brother of Bob Graff '42)

Loyola A. Ryan (Mother of John '61 and Dan '64)

John Hartigan '51

Michael Brennan '66

Helen Joyce (Mother of Jim '60, Tom '62 Ed '70 and Pat Joyce '76)

Charlie Fasan '49

Dan Kelly '79

Lloyd "Bud" Attaway (Father in law of John Linehan '77)

Anna Mae Harper (Mother of Bill Harper '57)

Dan Schofield '47

Andrew McGann '43

James Andraco '40

Joe Fitzpatrick '53

Neal McCann '47

Jim Kane '47

Bro. Robert McNamara '52

Charles T. Dolan, Jr. '63

Thomas Qualter '31

Edward G. Dignan '39

**May their souls and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen**

# BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

**James T. Strzelecki '64**  
President



St. Andrews Products  
500 Mariner Drive  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
acmonger@sap-corp.com

219-879-1000  
Fax 219-879-1570  
crshaia@sap-corp.com

**NICHOLAS J. MOTHERWAY '57**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

MOTHERWAY & NAPLETON, LLP

(312) 726-2699

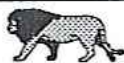
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SUITE 200  
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+ rest in peace

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Attorney At Law

9231 S. Roberts Road  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

www.thomaswlynchpc.com

Email: thomas@thomaswlynchpc.com

Telephone: (708) 598-5999

Facsimile: (708) 598-6299

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tcesarz@crowechizek.com

## SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY

3700 West 103rd Street • Chicago, Illinois 60655

**Bob Hallberg '62**  
Athletic Director  
Head Women's Basketball Coach  
Tel. (773) 298-3109  
Fax (773) 298-3111  
E-Mail: hallberg@sxu.edu



## SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY

3700 West 103rd Street • Chicago, Illinois 60655

**Tom O'Malley '57**  
Head Men's Basketball Coach  
Office (773) 298-3104  
Home (773) 779-0183  
Fax (773) 298-3111  
E-Mail: omalley@sxu.edu



**Edmund J. Swain '54**

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Louisville, CO 80027-9572

bob@lynn.org

http://lynn.org

PHONE: (708) 222-6702

FAX: (708) 222-3087



**Ben Nowakowski, Ed. D**

Superintendent

Morton High School

District #201

Administrative Center  
3145 South 55th Avenue  
Cicero, IL 60804

Mailing Address  
2423 South Austin Boulevard  
Cicero, IL 60804

Chris Caraher '88



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JOHN D. FINERTY '67  
Attorney at Law

414-271-0130 - Fax 414-272-8191 - E-Mail: jdf@ffsj.com

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Best Wishes

To

Leo High School

And To

THE JUBILEE CLASSES

From

The Prendergasts



JOHN 1935      JIM 1937  
TOM 1939      DICK 1943  
RICH 1984

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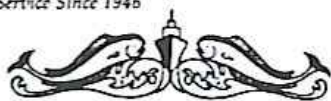
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