



L - R Standing: Shirley, Alanna, Christine, Dianae, Kay, Carol L., Carol G., Barbara, Ruth, Karen, Sharon, Joan
Kneeling: Julie, Maryellen, Peggy, Nancy

Class of 1961

L-R Julie, Alanna, Ruth, Nancy, Peggy, Kay, Joan, Sharon



The Class of 1980 celebrated their 30th Class Reunion at Dino's on Higgins Saturday, April 9, 2010.



Alvernia Glee Club CDs are available for \$12.00. This price cover the cost of the CD as well as shipping and handling.

The CD includes *Eternal Life* and *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. It is a copy of the recording made by the Glee Club in 1960.

Please send check or money order to: **Bernardine N. Olsen, 86 10th Avenue, Bartlett, IL 60103**

SNIPPETS AND MUCH MORE



Cindy Pontoriero Grimaldi '60, Chicago, IL, the first woman detective in 1972, is included in the book *“On the Job—Behind the Stars of the Chicago Department”* written by Daniel P. Smith and printed by Lake Claremont Press. The book, through stories from rookies, veteran officers and retirees tells of the struggle to balance faith, fear and family.

Pat Azzaline Wharry '63, Hampton, VA, “In the Fall of '06 my husband and I embarked on a nine month sailing adventure to the Bahamas. There are 700 islands there, mostly uninhabited and made up of limestone, not much higher than sea level.

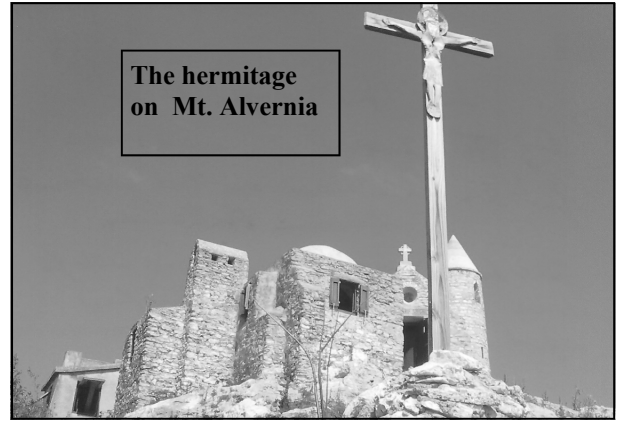
The highest hill in the whole Bahamian chain is 207' tall on Cat Island, called **Mt. Alvernia!** Father Jerome, a former Anglican priest who became a Catholic priest, built several churches in the Bahamas. For his retirement, in the mid 1900s, he built the Hermitage on top of Mt. Alvernia, and is buried there. It's a one story structure built by hand of rock and concrete (as were all his churches). It has small rooms all with windows cut into the thick walls, providing great breezes and water views. Along the path up to the Hermitage, he built the 14 Stations of the Cross, also by hand, out of stone. It was a powerful place to visit on Easter Sunday in April of '07.

I've been wanting to share this with everyone for years; guess I'm still on island time!

We are a bit “less alive” with our dear Sister Vitalis gone but how graced we were to have her for so long.”



Entrance to the Trail up to “The Hermitage” on Cat Island .



The hermitage on Mt. Alvernia



Janet (Holod) Natroci-Sudol '76

and Sue Nowak Peterson '67

Here we are again

– after all these years. Who would have known we would cross paths? Miles away from where we started; and when we talk of our **“Alvernia Days”**, it's like time stands still and we're back there again! We enjoy working together at **Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove**. Most of all, we love sharing stories of our years at Alvernia.

Sue Peterson – graduated in **1967**; on the Alvernia debate team and speech club; earned her BSN from Loyola University in 1973; married with one daughter, one son and three beautiful grandchildren (whom she babysits once a week); resident of Lombard, IL for 37 years and loves spending time “up north” at a cottage in Wisconsin.

Janet Matroci – class of **1976**; achieved her Associates Degree at Triton College in River Grove; married with two daughters, two stepsons, and 2 beautiful and talented grandchildren; always busy with family coming and going; residing in the far southwest suburbs, close to rolling fields and farm land; “after growing up in the city, this is beautiful – I could live here forever.”

Renee Kujawski Bauernfeind '70, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Has directed many Door County Productions, and in May 2010, had her acting debut as Vivian Bearing in **“WIT”** for Isadoora Theatre Company.

ALOHA ALVERNIA! LUNCHEON REFLECTIONS—APRIL 18, 2010

Attendees to our 19th Annual Luncheon quickly adapted to the theme when registering at the grass skirted registration tables adorned with silk orchids! Tropical fish and birds displayed beautifully on our dining tables enhanced the theme. Many of our alums "dressed for the islands" wearing muumuus, flowers and tropical attire. Leis were placed on each alum by our welcomers **Sister Michael Mary and Marianne Aiken '63**. (Pictured here)

Many thanks to all our volunteers who help the day of the luncheon. It would be impossible to have a well organized function without all your assistance. If you or someone you know would like to help for an hour at registration or raffles or help distribute some of the prizes, please email **Joann Lewandowski / lewjoann@hotmail.com**. We especially need help with distributing the prizes!



Sister Kate Brenner, Moderator of the Alvernia Alumnae Association, welcomed everyone with the following words:



"Aloha, Women of Alvernia! It is in the spirit of Franciscan joy and gratitude that I have the privilege of welcoming you to the 18th Annual Alvernia Luncheon!"

We are all aware of the tremendous amount of work involved in the preparation of this annual gathering. In the name of the School Sisters of St. Francis, especially your dear Sister Vitalis who celebrated her 105th birthday in February, I presented a small token of appreciation to the women who have worked tirelessly and so graciously these past 18 years. They have made every annual luncheon a memorable event. A very special Thank You is also extended to Class Reps and to all who make the day special by their presence.

I know how deeply you cherish the times you come together, gathering with women so dear to you, reliving precious moments. The School Sisters of St. Francis want you to know how deeply we cherish YOU! Our retired Sisters have been the beneficiary of your gifts totaling slightly over \$2,000,000.00 through individual gifts, class reunions, the Annual Luncheons, your support of our Circle of Prayer Memorial Cards and the annual bequests we receive from those who have so lovingly and generously remembered us in their will/estate. Our gift to you is a daily remembrance in prayer."

MAY GOD BLESS YOU! MAY GOD'S FACE SHINE UPON YOU! MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE!

So grateful to be among you!

Sister Kate



Sister Bernardin Deutsch, Class of 1949, read the Grace before the meal.

"Oh God, although we at this gathering represent multiple generations, we come together to celebrate our common bond through our experiences and multi-leveled education at Alvernia High School.

We celebrate

- ◆ *Our shared individual memories of each other*
- ◆ *Our shared/common memories of what is important in life*
- ◆ *The joy of our common history—And our evolving, hope-filled future whatever that might be.*

May these memories continue to be a foundation for hope for ourselves, our continuing sisterhood and our world.

May this food nourish our bodies . May our conversations nourish our souls and may God be with each of us in a special way today. Amen."

Four of the Sisters present at the luncheon celebrated 60 year jubilees in 2010— **Sisters Kate Brenner, Bernardin Deutsch '49, Rita Mae Rabiroy and Marita Zeller '50**. Congratulations to all!

Pot-O-Gold Winners of \$100.00 each were **Christine Ostrander '80, Bobbie McGahon (guest w/class of '55), Kathleen Finerty Pater '55 and Marge Hohner Franzen '49**.

LUNCHEON REFLECTIONS—continued

Many alums purchased the beautiful “Alvernia” Crosses available for \$10.00 at our “Alvernia” table. They will also be available at the Memorial Mass or can be ordered anytime by contacting **Barbara Annoreno**. See **page 2** for contact information.

The decorating committee consisting of **Carol Carson DiLeonardi '59, Joan Gielarowski DuBrock '60, Cathy Biedron Eckart '60, Mary Grimes '65 and Pat Grimes '69** work on the theme all year! We are so blessed with their creativity. Just as the dining tables were so attractively decorated so were our raffle prizes tables. **Joan Gielarowski DuBrock '60 and Barbara Stefan Annoreno '60** were the primary shoppers and assembled baskets which were then wrapped by **Mary Grimes '65, Mary Kay Merkle '58, Marge Normoyle Wermich '58, Pat Kimberley '55, Mary Ann Rosso '55, Joann Lewandowski and Alberta Matulis '60**. (Sorry if anyone's name omitted!)

Joann Lewandowski, Alberta Matulis and Sharon Watt Scesniak, all class of '60, coordinate our volunteers the day of the luncheon. Special thanks also to **Barbara Dowling, Judy Skotzko, Barbara Petrowski, Kathy Bunce, Mary Ann Rosso** who work throughout the year keeping our organization running smoothly.

Please mark your calendars now for **April 10, 2011 (two weeks before Easter)** when we celebrate our **19th Annual Alvernia Alumnae Luncheon—Seasons of Alvernia**. More details about the 2011 Luncheon will be in the Winter Issue of **Alvernia Alive**. *Earlybird reservation form is on page 31.*

2010 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA—ALVERNIA HIGH SCHOOL



Our 2010 Distinguished Alumna, **Sister Patricia Suchalski, SBS, Class of 1965**, was thrilled to receive the award and to renew old friendships and even enkindle some new ones. Here are some excerpts from her acceptance speech.

Everyone here is a “Distinguished Alumna” of Alvernia or of any other school that you attended. Each here, I have no doubt, has put into practice what we learned as students at Alvernia. We were given an excellent academic education. We were also challenged to use the education we received to somehow make this world a better place.

Each here has done that in your life, and you continue to do that, day in and day out. You do that by your very lives as wives, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, caretakers, professional persons in all walks of life.

Each here has undertaken those various tasks rooted in the foundation that we received at Alvernia which simply put was to **LOVE GOD** and to **LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR**. My own life as a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS) has been abundantly blessed for 45 years. It was at Alvernia that I learned of my congregation when two of our sisters came to speak one “club afternoon.”

Sister Pat continued with a background of the foundress of her order—Sister Katharine Drexel (deceased in 1955 and canonized Oct of 2000). Their order was founded for the specific purpose of sharing the Gospel message with the poor, especially among Black and Native American peoples and to challenge the injustices in our world. Katharine knew that the invitation to come to the banquet, to eat at the Eucharistic table is given to all peoples regardless of race. To eat at the table as equals with one another as brothers and sisters—that is the heart of the Eucharist—to affect unity in community.

Sister Pat has served in Ohio, Louisiana, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Michigan and the Southside of Chicago as a teacher and principal. She has worked as vocation director and now as President. Since 1990 the SBS have a mission in Haiti. As president she has had the privilege of visiting all the missions. As this time there are ten missions on the reservations in the southwest (AZ and NM), inner cities of the North and South, three schools including Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans which is the only Black and Catholic University in the country.

So I say once again thank you for this opportunity to share with you my love and gratitude to all those who guided us at Alvernia and to share the story today of Katharine Drexel and the SBS. May we each in our lives as we were taught at Alvernia, always be “An Instrument of God’s Peace” in our families, our communities, our churches, and our society.

