



COVID-19 Stalls PMAAA Alumni Events

For the first time in 258 years, the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade was postponed. The decision to suspend the parade was based on the deadly outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19). The following press release was issued by the parade committee: *"The board of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade announces with a heavy heart, that at the direction of NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, the 2020 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade has been postponed due to coronavirus (COVID-19) activity in our region. The health and safety of the Parade's marchers which includes many members of our armed forces, first responders, schools and colleges, as well as spectators, volunteers, and staff is paramount. We thank the Governor for his leadership and concern for our community's safety."*

As a result, the usual PMAAA events associated with the St. Patrick's Day

holiday were postponed, including the Post Parade Party and the PMAAA Mass of Remembrance. As soon as the new date of the parade is announced by the parade committee, the Association will advise the alumni of the time and location that we will meet.

The PMAAA Mass of Remembrance, however, will be held in conjunction with the PMAAA Annual Mixer at All Hallows High School in June 13th, 2020. Given the current circumstances, though, this date may change.



Although the parade was officially postponed, members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee keep the tradition going by marching up Fifth Avenue.

2020 Hall of Fame Candidates Announced

The PMAAA Board of Directors have selected the following alumni who will be inducted into the Power Memorial Academy Hall of Fame at the annual reunion dinner scheduled for November 7th, 2020. The inductees include:

Louis Santos – PMA '65, **Mr. Jack Kuhnert** – PMA Faculty/Coach 69-70, **Ed Searcy** – PMA '70, **Jap Trimble** – PMA '70, **Robert Reeg** – PMA '70, **George Alexander** – PMA '70, **Roddy Mullin** – PMA '79.

In past years, the Hall of Fame inductees were announced at the St. Patrick's Day Post Parade Party. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Post Parade Party was postponed.

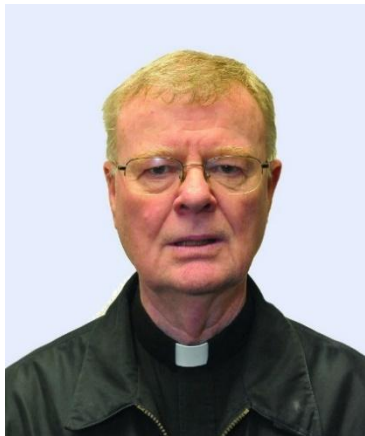
More information on the 2020 HOF inductees will follow in the next newsletter and in PMAAA social media.



Alumni Spotlight

Two PMA Alumni to be Elevated to Monsignor

Pope Francis has named two Power Memorial Academy alumni to the rank of *Chaplain of His Holiness*. Rev. John J. Gildea – PMA '57 and Rev. John E. Vesey – PMA '60 will be elevated to Monsignor later this year. This honor is given to those priests who have given extraordinary service to the Church. Both Fr. Gildea and Fr. Vesey served stints as missionaries during their careers in the priesthood.



Rev. John J. Gildea

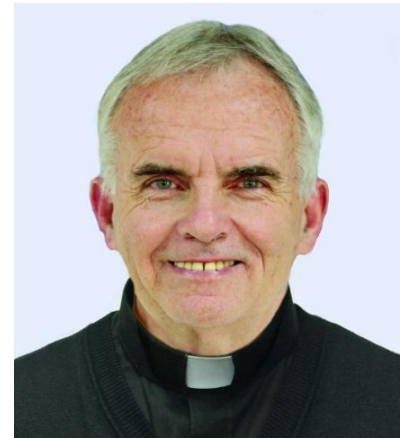
Fr. Gildea is currently assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Bartholomew's Church in Elmhurst. He was born in Brooklyn attending Holy Name School in Park Slope before he attended Power Memorial Academy. After graduating from Power in 1957, he went on to St. Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J. and Christ the King Seminary in Olean, N.Y.

Fr. Gildea was a member of the diocesan mission team in Paraguay from 1969 to 1975 and then again in 1981 to 1984. He also served at the diocesan mission in San Isidro, Dominican Republic from 1995 to 1998.

Aside from multiple assignments as an assistant pastor throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn, Fr. Gildea also served as pastor at Our Lady of Loreto, East New York, Holy Family, Park Slope, St. Martin of Tours, Bushwick, Sacred Heart, Fort Greene and Our Lady of Mercy, Brownsville.

Father John Vesey is currently pastor of St. Michael's Church, Flushing, NY. He was born in Brooklyn and attended Holy Name School, Windsor Terrace. After graduating from Power Memorial Academy in 1960 he studied at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. After his ordination, Fr. Vesey attended Catholic University, Ponce, Puerto Rico, St. John's University, Jamaica and Barry University, Miami, where he was awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree.

In 1974, Fr. Vesey was assigned to the diocesan mission in the Diocese of Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay. There he served as secretary of the Episcopal Commission on the Permanent Diaconate and executive secretary of the Episcopal Catechetical Commission. After Fr. Vesey served his obligation in Paraguay, he was then assigned as an assistant at St. Ann's, Brooklyn and Visitation B.V.M. in Red Hook. Fr. Vesey then began a 13-year stint in the Diocese of Sololá, Guatemala in 1984. In addition to his responsibilities as a pastor there, he also served as director of the Human Rights Office and Vicar General.



Rev. John Vesey

Fr. Vesey also served as the executive director of the Family Life Commission for the Conference of Bishops and executive director of the National Catechetical Commission.

After returning from Guatemala to Brooklyn in 1997, he was assigned as an assistant at multiple parishes including Holy Cross, Flatbush, Blessed Sacrament, Cypress Hills and St. Brigid's, Bushwick.

In 2005, Fr. Vesey served for nine years with Maryknoll in the Republic of China before returning to the United States and becoming pastor of St. Michael's Church in Flushing.



Special Events

Nassau Pops & Symphony Orchestra to Kick-off Their 37th Summer Concert Season

Provided that the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, and social distancing rules are relaxed, the Nassau Pops and Symphony Orchestra will kick-off their 37th Annual Summer Concert Series. The first concert will be held on July 10th at 8 PM at Greis Park located in Lynbrook, NY. Please see the schedule below for other dates and venues.



The NPSO is led by Maestro Lou Panacciulli. Lou graduated from PMA in 1968 and, as a member of the PMA Band, he was greatly influenced by the school's then music department director, Mr. Gene Morra. If you have the opportunity to attend any of the NPSO summer concerts you will immediately recognize the similarities in the musical arrangements to those we heard at the PMA Christmas Concerts conducted by Mr. Morra.

Nassau Pops and Symphony Orchestra 37th Summer Concert Season			
<u>Series I</u>			
Date	Time	Location	
Friday, July 10 th	8:00 PM	Greis Park, Lynbrook	
Sunday, July 12 th	8:00 PM	Heckscher Park, Huntington NY	
Wednesday, July 15 th	8:00 PM	Valley Stream Village Green	
Saturday, July 18 th	8:00 PM	Memorial Park, Mineola	
<u>Series II</u>			
Sunday, July 26 th *	3:00 PM	Malverne Station Park, Malverne, NY	
Sunday, August 2 nd	7:00 PM	Morgan Park, Glen Cove, NY	
Tuesday, August 4 th	8:00 PM	Memorial Park, Mineola, NY	
*Rain Date: August 1 st			

Visit the NPSO website www.nassaupops.com or call their office 516-565-0646.

Directions

Lynbrook – On Horton Avenue. Between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway.

Huntington - On Northern Blvd. (Route 25A) 1/4 mile east of Route 110.

Mineola - On Marcellus Rd. One block south of Jericho Turnpike. (Route 25).

Malverne – At Malverne LIRR Station on Hempstead Avenue Southern State Parkway Exit 17 South.

Valley Stream – Adjacent to Hicks Street and just north of the Valley Stream LIRR Station

Glen Cove – Take Glen Cove Road (Route 107) north to the end and turn right at the firehouse. Go three lights to Cottage Row and turn left. Make first left onto Landing Road, go one block and bear right at the fork staying on Landing Road for one mile. Turn left on Germaine Street and Morgan Park will be on your right.

PMAAA Board of Directors Meetings

The PMAAA Board of Directors meet at least quarterly. The next meeting will be held on April 18th at 10 AM. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the mandated social distancing requirements, the meeting will be held via teleconferencing.

Minutes of all meetings are posted on the PMAAA website:

www.PowerMemorialAcademy.com





Powerful Thoughts 7

by Dr. John R. Cleary, PMA '57

Before this anecdote is presented, my brother Jim asked me to correct a detail I disclosed in a previous piece. The day it snowed, Jim had an inkling that school was closed because he spotted, from the bus a block away, a brother shoveling snow, so he got off and walked home. So, Mom knew school was closed before I got home. Only I alone stayed to shovel.

This next account comes from Jim. I vaguely remember the incident, so I'll let Jim recall, through me, what transpired.

One day, at 12:30 P.M., Principal Pakenham announced over the P.A. system that all staff and students must leave the building and gather in the gymnasium. We all made a hasty retreat to the gym. We filled up the bleachers; then the parade of brothers and lay teachers marched in. As Mr. Flood entered, we cheered; he was one of our favorite lay instructors. Then Brother Delaney came in to a rousing accolade because he was the most favored brother.

After shouts of "Speech; Speech," from the student body, Bro. D. stepped to the stage and quipped into the mic: "If I knew I would have to address the school today, I would have quaffed my hair." The students roared with laughter. Brother Delaney was almost completely bald.

The perverse irony of the evacuation situation became apparent only after Brother Pakenham gave us the reason for the retreat. He announced, "Earlier today, at 12:00 noon, we received a call that there was a bomb threat to the building."

Wait; what? We exited the building at 12:30 P.M. because a bomb was scheduled to explode at 12:00 noon!

Go figure!

Note: Dr. Cleary has volunteered to author a series of articles reflecting on his experiences at PMA. Alumni are encouraged to submit articles and share their experiences at Power Memorial Academy. Send your articles to: brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com

Shop at *Amazon Smile* and Donate to PMAAA

The PMAAA Board has established a fundraising function with Amazon through "*Amazon Smile*." By selecting PMAAA as your charity of choice, 0.5% of each eligible sale is donated to the Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association.

It is important that you shop on smile.amazon.com for the donation to take place. **There is no additional cost to the Amazon shopper, so if you are already an Amazon shopper, why not sign up at Amazon Smile and, at the same time, donate to a good cause.**

Donate items
from our
Charity List

charity lists
amazon smile



All Power Alumni who are Amazon shoppers are strongly encouraged to register and shop [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) where the donations will add up for us. Please spread this information to your family members who shop Amazon, as well. Every little bit helps. **Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases.

The directions to start with [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) are simple: Copy and bookmark the following link:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/dashboard/ref=smi_se_ssr_btnr1_setch?ie=UTF8&pldnNewSubDash=1

On the registration page, there is a box/section to search for your charity. We are listed as Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association Inc. Once you make PMAAA your charity, you fill out some other minor info, then you are set.



Save the Date

Please save the date for the upcoming 2020 PMAAA activities:

- ❖ Annual PMAAA Mixer and Mass of Remembrance – June 13th, 2020*
- ❖ Annual PMAAA Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner – Saturday, November 7th, 2020

***NOTE:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the 2020 Mass of Remembrance/PMAAA Mixer is tentatively scheduled for this date. Check the PMAAA website and social media for the latest updates..

Milestone Anniversaries

The 2020 PMAAA Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner, scheduled for November 7th, 2020, will mark the milestone anniversaries for the following classes:

- Class of 1950 – 70 Years
- Class of 1960 – 60 Years
- Class of 1970 – 50 Years
- Class of 1980 – 40 Years

Celebrating these anniversaries at the next HOF Dinner held at the Immaculate Conception Center located in Douglaston, NY is a perfect setting for the occasion. In recent years, both the Class of '66 and the Class of '68 successfully held their 50th Anniversary reunion as part of the annual HOF dinner at the Immaculate Conception Center.

The PMAAA Board of Directors encourages members of the classes that have upcoming milestone anniversaries to organize their fellow classmates to celebrate their anniversary. If you wish to volunteer to organize a reunion for your class, please contact Brian McCann at brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com. The PMAAA Board can assist volunteers with alumni contact information, reserving tables and providing special recognition at the event.

Final Dismissal

The following Alumni and Faculty have gone to their final dismissal.

- ✚ John Clarke – Class of 1953
- ✚ Alexander J. Gargiulo – Class of 1953
- ✚ John Minton – Class of 1961
- ✚ Hector Hernandez – Class of 1967
- ✚ Jerome Burke – Class of 1971
- ✚ Peter R. Rae – Class of 1971
- ✚ Danny O'Keefe – Class of 1966 (COVID-19 Victim)
- ✚ Philip Leonard Pecora – Class Unknown
- ✚ Ed Lynch – Class of 1966

May they rest in peace.

Please Note: The association requests your assistance in keeping track of our Alumni. Should you know of any alumni who have recently passed, please notify Kevin McGeary at: Kevin.mcgeary@powermemorialacademy.com or Joseph DeFazio at: Joseph.DeFazio@powermemorialacademy.com. Kindly provide the name of the deceased alumni and the class year. All alumni who have passed will be acknowledged at the next Mass of Remembrance which is scheduled for June 13th, 2020.



President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alumni,

In this time of great national emergency, I cannot stress enough the importance of you and your families to stay safe by staying home. What we hear from the media is very upsetting, but I have taken note we are not hearing of the multitudes who have recovered from the virus. I guess they don't want to give us a false sense of security and let our guard down. It makes sense to be overly cautious.

Unfortunately, this pandemic put a damper on our events. Our Mass is scheduled to be held at All Hallows in conjunction with the Social Mixer in June. Carl Hall, the Chairman, is working with All Hallows, who will be participating with us. Please keep in mind, this is tentative, depending on the status of the current situation.

We have already made the arrangements with the Immaculate Conception Center for the Hall of Fame dinner in November. Our board members are still doing the background work.

Here are some tips my police department has been issuing:

- Keep your distance from others
- If you must go out to shop for groceries, wear a mask or a scarf at the very least.
- Keep your hands clean. If you are lucky enough to have hand sanitizer use it frequently, especially after pushing a shopping cart around. Use it before you unlock your car and touch the door handle and steering wheel. Wash your hands again when you get home.

By following the safety protocols given to us, and having our deep Catholic Faith in God, we will get through this.

Please pray for our First Responders (Police, Fire and EMTs), our Nurses and Doctors, truck drivers, food industry personnel, grocery store clerks & stock personnel and everyone else keeping our lives as normal as possible.

Also, pray for our President, Governors and Mayors that God guides them in doing their very best to combat this pandemic. And finally, pray for our medical scientists to discover a vaccine as soon as possible.

Pro Christo Rege
Andrew "Chick" Pisani
President, PMAAA

Announcements

Submissions from the alumni for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send any articles, pictures, memories of Power, personal situations (including grandchildren, anniversaries, retirements etc.) to Brian McCann at brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com

Please let fellow alumni who may not be aware of the Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association or don't receive notices about association activities to register on the PMAAA website: www.powermemorialacademy.com with their contact information so that they receive future announcements of PMAAA activities.



Remember PMAAA in Your Will or Living Trust



You can make a bequest (or a gift from your estate) to Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA) to help sustain the organization and its mission to provide scholarships to deserving youth for years to come. You can make a bequest to PMAAA by including language in your will or living trust. Sample bequest language is provided below. However, you are encouraged to discuss this with your attorney.

Pecuniary Gift: Gift of a specified dollar amount

“I give to the Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association (“PMAAA”), New York, New York, a non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, the pecuniary amount of _____ Dollars (\$_____) to be used for its general purposes.”

Full Residuary Bequest: Leaves any remainder after all other bequests have been paid (“residuary estate”)

“All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, I give to Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association, New York, New York, a non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, for its general purposes (scholarship funds for students at All Hallows High School, Bronx, NY).”

Partial Residuary Gift: Gift of a percentage/share of residuary estate

“I give to the Power Memorial Academy Alumni Association (“PMAAA”), a non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, [Percent number] Percent (___%) of my Residuary Estate to be used for its general purposes.”

Safety Language: Language added to allow an alternate charitable beneficiary if PMAAA is no longer in existence or has merged with another organization.

“If at the time of my death PMAAA is no longer in existence or not a “qualified charitable organization” to which donations are deductible for income and/or estate tax purposes, then such organization’s share is to be distributed to its successor in interest, All Hallows High School’s general funds, or to such one or more qualified charitable organization(s), as my Executor, in his or her discretion, determines.”

Volunteers Needed!

The Association is seeking volunteers for the following initiatives:

➤ PMAAA WEBSITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In order to improve the PMAAA website, the Board is seeking volunteers with website design expertise to volunteer their time and knowledge to assist with this initiative. Please contact Rick Martin at: rick.martin@powermemorialacademy.com.

➤ SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISING PROJECT

Volunteers are needed to work on ad hoc committees that may be formed for special purposes. The Board is currently seeking alumnus who can bring financial expertise to the recently formed fund-raising committee. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact PMAAA Board Member Carl Hall at: carl.hall@powermemorialacademy.com.

➤ CLASS CAPTAIN INITIATIVE

Class Captains are still needed for each graduating class. Class Captains play an important part in communicating with their classmates and getting the word out on various PMAAA events. All Class Captain volunteers will be provided with contact information for their corresponding classmates. Alumni who may be interested in volunteering to be a Class Captain, please contact Kevin McGeary at kevin.mcgeary@powermemorialacademy.com or Brian McCann at brian.mccann@powermemorialacademy.com



Follow PMAAA on Social Media



PMAAA has taken to social media to help spread the word about the association. Board member, Rick Martin, leads the social media activities for the association. In addition to the PMA *Facebook* and *LinkedIn* accounts, PMAAA activities can now be tracked on *Twitter*. The PMAAA *Twitter* account that has been established by Rick is “#PMA4Life.”



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