



BENPOST



Bulletin of St. Benedict's College Alumni Association (Canada)

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JUNE, 2008

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following members were elected at a well attended 18th Annual General Meeting held on June 7, 2008 in Toronto, Ontario.

Patron : Rev. Bro. Granville Perera
Director,
St. Benedict's College,
Colombo

Vice-Patron : Nimal Dissanayake

President : Lucian Alles

Vice-President : Donald Bastiampillai

Gen. Secretary : Mervyn Doss

Treasurer : Bernard LeGrand

Social Secretary : Doyne Ramenaden

Sports Secretary : Maurice Joseph

Asst. Secy. Sports/Social : Brian Felthman

Asst. Secy. Membership : Priyan Ranasinghe

Committee : Anesley Xavier
: Brian Alles
: Bryan Wootler
: Jeffery Lovendhal
: Leslie Bastiampillai
: Nagendran Meiyappan
: Raj Fernando

Auditor : Tyrone Devotta

Congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected Council.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for the confidence you have placed on me by electing me once again to lead our Alumni Association for the next two years. I was the President previously in 1996. I assure you that with the support of my team, the Association will be able to move forward during the coming year. We are a team. If we work as a team, we are sure to succeed in our endeavors.

The Council at its 1st Meeting on June 14 has decided on a sports/social calendar for the year and I cordially invite all members to participate along with their families in all our activities. The tentative calendar of events appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. Your participation is essential to make our efforts productive.

Incidentally, I am glad to inform you that from the statistics compiled recently, it is confirmed that our Association has contributed over Cdn. \$22,000.00 to our Alma Mater for various educational and development projects over the past 18 years.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Lucian Alles



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All Bens are reminded to send in their Membership Renewal Fee of \$20.00 for 2008 to:

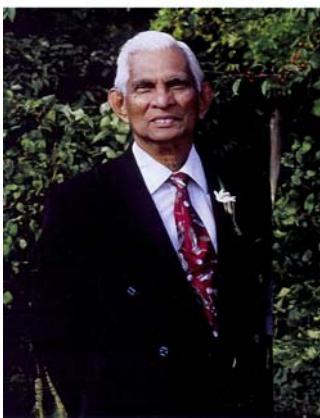
The Membership Secretary
1577 Geta Circle
Pickering, ON
L1V 3B5

Your support and co-operation is very important for the Association to continue its activities in a very effective manner.

To those who have already paid, we say thank you.

BENS' FATHER-FIGURE

Alumni stalwart and Bens' father-figure, Francis Reginald (Bob) Alvis former vice-patron, an older brother to late Merrill, Raphael, Mike and Justin passed away at the age of 89 on April 23, 2008 after a brief illness. He is survived by the brothers and three sisters, four children, grand-children and great-grandchildren.



The past president and other members of the association had sent their condolences to the Alvis family. May the soul of the dearly departed rest in peace. We pray that God will give those left behind the courage to bear the loss. A Mass was offered in his memory on Saturday, June 7, 2008 prior to the Bens' Annual General Meeting.

PRIEST-FRIEND

Reverend Father Hilarion Dissanayake, brother of Old Bens, Winston (Sri Lanka), Nimal our Vice Patron and Srilal, passed away in Colombo on March 28, 2008.

He celebrated his 70th birthday on October 20, 2007 in the company of his relatives and friends in Canada.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Joachim Pillai at St. Lawrence, the Martyr R.C. Church, Hamilton on April 5, 2008 with the Bens' choir in attendance.

Father Hilarion obtained his Doctorate in Theology at the Gregorian University, Rome. He was also an accomplished pianist.



GOODBYE TO A FRIEND



Past Vice-President C.T. Wijearajah better known as Wije, brother of C.T. Devaraja, passed away on August 7, 2007. Wije was an active member in the 1990's. He is a recipient of a Merit Award from the Mayor of Scarborough in recognition for his voluntary services rendered to the city. Wije will be sadly missed by us at our future events.

LEGENDARY DIRECTOR



Reverend Father Flavian the legendary Rev. Bro. Flavian, former Director of St. Benedict's College, Kotahena passed away in Durate, California, USA on June 11, 2008 at the age 89.

Wilathgamuwa Don Maximus as he was known was the son of a small village cultivator of Welivita. He studied at De La Salle College, Mutwal where he later joined the Novitiate of the De La Salle Brothers and thereafter became a teacher. He was transferred to St. Benedict's College and was in charge of the Commercial

Department before becoming the Director.

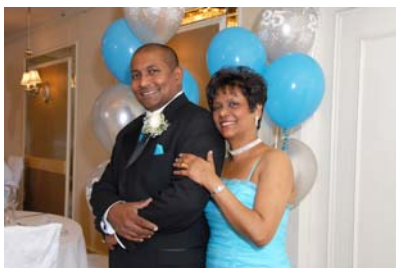
He was appointed the Provincial Visitor of the teaching sect administering schools in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. He was the first Christian Brother to be included as a delegate in the Ceylon (Sri Lanka) delegation at the United Nations in 1958.

In 1979 he became a Claretian Priest in the United States and was attached to St. Therasita Home Care and Convalescent Centre where he lived for some time before he passed away.

The loss of Father Flavian I am sure will be felt by many of his students all over the world. He was a great Director, a true patriot and a good friend.

SILVER JUBILEE

Assistant Secretary, Membership, Priyan Rananasinghe and his wife, Maryse, celebrated their Silver Jubilee on June 20, 2008.



The Ellas Banquet Hall in Scarborough was filled to capacity with relatives and close friends.

The proceedings commenced with the renewal of their marriage vows with Rev. Fr. Vernon Regis from Edmonton, Alberta, a close friend of the couple officiating at the ceremony. Rev. Fr. Vernon was also the celebrant at their wedding in Sri Lanka 25 years ago. The food was fabulous and the variety of music provided by the DJ had everyone on the floor until the wee hours of the morning.

Priyan and Maryse are proud parents of two sons, Haemish and Hans. Priyan is a loyal Benedictine and an active member in our Alumni Association.

Bens' Alumni Association congratulates Priyan and Maryse on their 25 years of wedded bliss and wish them good health and happiness for many more years to come.

FROM DOWN UNDER



During his short visit to Toronto, Old Ben, Max Perumal from Sydney, Australia (*in check shirt*) was greeted by the members of the newly elected council at their first council meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2008.

MARTYRS' SHRINE MIDLAND

The annual pilgrimage to the Martyrs' Shrine cum picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 17, 2008.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at Noon followed by a pot-luck lunch and a mini sports meet.

A special bus has been arranged on a first come first serve basis.

The bus will leave at 9 a.m. from Suvara Travels—3852 Finch Ave., East (Finch & Kennedy) and will return at 7 p.m. A tariff of \$15.00 per adult and \$12.00 for children under the age of 10 will be applied.

Please contact Mervyn Doss at (416) 491-9040 for reservations.

All those who wish to use their own transportation are kindly requested to gather outside the Shrine after the Noon Mass before we proceed to the picnic venue for our pot-luck lunch and mini sports meet.



KEEP THESE DATES FREE

July - A Cricket game for the Malcolm Mack Memorial Trophy will be played on a date to be notified later.
For further details contact Maurice Joseph at 905-427-9756

July 20 - Singing "Golden Oldies" at The Seniors Health Centre, North York, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Jul. 27 Family Picnic and BBQ
At the popular 'Simeon Park'
In Stouffville, Ontario.
For further details contact Doyne Rame-naden at 905-814-5351

Aug. 17 - Pilgrimage to The Martyrs' Shrine
Call: Mervyn Doss at 416-491-9040

Sept. Proposed TableTennis Tournament

Dec. 6 Family Christmas Party

Dec. Singing Christmas Carols at The Seniors Health Centre, North York

Apr. 25, 2009 "Benedictine Nite" Annual Dinner Dance

WE INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO PARTICIPATE

A VISIT TO MY COLLEGE - *BY AFZAL HAMID*

Like some old Bens, I had also not made great efforts to stay in touch closely with the progress of the College, even though St Benedict's College and the characteristics of its motto and teachings often reverberate in me. However, in the year 2000 I was introduced to the St Benedict's College Alumni Association, Canada in Toronto, Ontario by stalwart Old Ben Lucian Alles and that's the point at which I started my interest in the activities of the College through our Association in Canada. "Better late than never"

During my recent visit to Sri Lanka in May 2008, I had the privilege of meeting with Felix Dias whom I admired for his leadership and personality even from my school days. I consider this a once in a life time and rare opportunity of meeting with a great old boy who has devoted his time in the development process of St Benedict's College.

On arriving at St Lucia's square in the company of Felix, nostalgic memories began to roll in. Next was the view of the beautifully laid out garden and statue of St. Benedict. Then we entered the College Quadrangle and at this point onwards, one gets the impression of its heritage over 143 years.

1968 was the year I finished my career at St Benedict's College and today I was amazed to personally see the mammoth development that the College has undergone over the past 40 years. Be it improvisation of academic and non academic achievements, construction of new buildings for better and more spacious classrooms, landscaping, upgrade of tech-

nology, and sports and recreation facilities. "Even more plans for development are in the making", said Felix. The recent academic achievements which are considered top notch in Sri Lanka are the results of such dedicated and bold projects undertaken by an able team led by a dynamic Director in Rev. Bro Granville Perera whom I was happy to meet during my visit. There is no doubt that Bro. Granville's era will go down into the history of St Benedict's as the period of "restoration and achievement"

Felix Dias, very patiently took time to explain in detail the progress and future plans for the College. He said that the Alumni Association in Toronto is one of the most active with many an events in the calendar., He also mentioned that he is eager to work closely with our Association and was grateful for our assistance and support over the past 18 years.

We walked through almost every building, passing through the many class rooms especially the computer classes which are now available for students from all grades. The tour included the Primary Department and the newly reconstructed grounds. The College is gifted with very capable administrators, a great team of teachers, a disciplined set of students, an active O B U supported by many loyal Old Bens led by Felix Dias and Ravi Irugalbandara.

I also had the good fortune to meet briefly with another stalwart, Ravi Irugalbandara. Ravi represents the younger generation of old Bens and is a source of strength to Bro. Granville, in assisting him on the day to

day needs of the College.

The building with the clock tower requires some maintenance work and therefore some class rooms have been temporarily moved to the Brothers Quarters adjoining the College pavilion. The College grounds look great. It has an additional turf wicket and provision for matting, too. The three storey, Rogus Perera Building is now under construction. The water supply for the grounds comes from a twenty foot deep well designed by an old boy as a cost saving measure. Such is the diligence with which funds are spent. The swimming pool project is in its planning stages and the exact location is not decided as yet. The former bicycle shed will be removed soon for further development.

An interesting feature is the vast greenery on the College premises in spite of the absence of the memorable banyan tree. A new banyan tree planted in the nineties has grown to great heights.

I would like to appeal to all Old Bens to continue your support to make our College the very best. I would like to personally thank the Old Boys Union in Colombo, Donors and supporters, Development Fund Committee, and all Alumni Associations around the world for their untiring efforts in trying to bring back the College to regain its past glory.

UNITED WE STAND