

Solemn Blessing at Brebeuf

by Michael Da Costa '92

Brebeuf's reputation as a school of excellence and class was clearly evident on April 10th when Brebeuf College School celebrated the Solemn Blessing of the new building. Over 300 parents, teachers, alumni, students, and dignitaries were on hand to witness the event.

The dignitaries included His Excellency Bishop Attila Mikloshazy S.J.; Mr. Noel P. Martin, Director of Education; Mr. David Zimmer, Member of Provincial Parliament; Father Winston Rye S.J., representing the Society of Jesus; Brother Andrew Hickey F.P.M., Superior General of the Presentation Brothers; Ms. Maria Rizzo, Trustee for Ward 5; Mr. Michael Bennett, CSAC Chair; Frank MacGrath, Alumni Chairman; and Monsignor Ambrose Sheehy, Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish.

The Mass began with the entrance of students bearing crucifixes that would later be blessed by the Bishop. The students were followed by an honour guard of the Knights of Columbus. The singing and music of Mr. Paul Adams '71, Mr. John Macdonald '82, Mr. Tom Butash, and the stirring solos of Mr. Anthony Caviaola enhanced the beauty of the Mass. Current and former Brebeuf staff maintained the Brebeuf tradition of 'dressing the altar'; the Bishop's homily focused on the importance of faith in forming well-rounded students

Following Mass, our Principal, Mr. Nick D'Avella, noted that while we have a new and impressive building, Brebeuf is not a new school but one that continues the mission entrusted to us since 1963. The various dignitaries' speeches highlighted the Brebeuf legacy of academic excellence, faith, and service that will continue in the new building.

To honour the Jesuits and the Presentation Brothers who are largely responsible for Brebeuf's legacy of excellence, Brebeuf has renamed the library as the Jesuit Commemorative Library and the chaplaincy room as the Presentation Brothers Chaplaincy Centre. The Alumni Association donated two large wooden plaques to be hung in the respective rooms so that current and future students will be more aware of the contributions of these men of faith.

Alumni Fund New Fitness Centre

On November 1st, 2005, Brebeuf completed renovations to upgrade, expand and relocate its weight training and conditioning facility. These renovations began in 2004 and include the relocation and expansion of the facility into two lower-level rooms adjacent the school's gym. Support from the Brebeuf Futures Foundation replaced the strength training equipment, purchased 8 spinning exercise bikes and installed a new rubberized floor.

Special thanks to Dotmar Athletics (owned & operated by Brebeuf Alumnus Jamie Crane '86) for providing the equipment and to Eric Guy '82, staff member, who championed this project and oversaw its completion together with the Brebeuf Athletic Department.

A commemorative gold plaque will be mounted at the Centre recognizing the generosity of our Alumni.



Current Principal Nick D'Avella welcomes back former Principals Mike Pautler '76, Joe Brisbois and Fr. Winston Rye, S.J.

Brebeuf Website

The Alumni Association maintains a web site and email directory to help alumni stay in contact with the school and each other. Help us grow the email database by sending your email address to

brebeufalumni@yahoo.com

The Alumni website is:

www.brebeuf-alumni.org

Visit the new school website at

www.brebeufcollege.ca

Brebeuf News

- The Brebeuf student body continues to grow in the new building. The current population is 940 and the building can comfortably accommodate 1100 pupils. Brebeuf continues to attract competent students from across the city and York Region - a good sign of the enduring academic draw of the school.
- Brebeuf welcomed two new Vice-Principals this September - Mrs. Alex Pope from SJMP and Mr. Tony Belissario from Mary Ward (himself the father of a Brebeuf alumnus). Former Vice-Principal Shirley Gasparet is now Principal of Marshall McLuhan CSS and former VP Paul Coady is Principal of St. John's Catholic School.
- Any alumni who have sons currently in grade 8 wanting to attend Brebeuf in September, 2006 should contact John Murphy '81 or Michael Rogers '81 in the Guidance Department at 416-393-5508
- Alumni interested in becoming involved in the student co-op work programme should contact Rick Nacarato at 416-393-5508

Class of 1980 Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Joe Domoter '80 sent in the following class reunion note

"On Saturday May 7, 2005, some 25 members of the class of 1980 gathered at the Madison to celebrate the 25th anniversary of graduating from Brebeuf. While most came from the GTA, some came from great distances to attend, such as Ed Nowicki from Calgary and Larry Repar from Florida. A great time was had by all as we caught up on what is going on in everyone's lives and reminisced about our times at 211 Steeles Avenue East".

2006 marks these milestone anniversary years :
1971 (35th), 1976 (30th), 1981 (25th), 1986 (20th),
1991 (15th), 1996 (10th) and 2001 (5th).

If you would like to hold a special anniversary alumni event for your year, the Alumni Association can help provide mailing lists and email addresses. Please contact Mike Da Costa '92
brebeufalumni@yahoo.com

Principal's Message

Dear Alumni,

In my second year as principal of Brebeuf College, I continue to marvel at the great affection you have for your school (the feeling is mutual, let me assure you). Almost all the alumni I meet tell me, in their own way, that their years at Brebeuf were among "the best of their lives." No doubt it so because they remember Brebeuf as a community wherein students, staff, and parents genuinely cared for one another. It is such a community today. If a school is measured by the involvement, generosity, and affection of its alumni, then Brebeuf College has been, and is, a monumental success.

Under the leadership of the Alumni Executive Committee, you continue to sustain us on a variety of levels, as we strive to fulfill our mission of educating young men. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the alumni, we ushered in the "Brebeuf News Network," a closed-circuit television system which broadcasts announcements continuously throughout the school day. Alumni support made our Solemn Blessing and Official Opening celebration in April 2005 an event worthy of the Brebeuf community. More recently, the Brebeuf Futures Foundation funded the upgrading of our weight training facility which now boasts new equipment and a new, more suitable location within the building. In the near future, we hope to name it the Brebeuf Alumni Fitness Centre. In October 2005, the Futures Foundation supported our "Harbours of Hope" PD Day, a major professional development initiative, by helping defray the cost of retaining respected presenter, author, and effective schools researcher, Wayne Hulley. It seems that we can count on the alumni to support us in almost every need. We are grateful.

Teachers often do not see the immediate results of their labours, but I know that Brebeuf teachers are proud of their alumni. You are a living testament to the excellent academic and moral education Brebeuf affords its students.

On behalf of the Brebeuf staff, students, and parents, have a happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

With gratitude,

Nick F. D'Avella
Principal

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Jesuit Reception Welcomes Alumni

Former Brebeuf Principal Fr. J. Winston Rye, S.J. and former Brebeuf staff member Fr. Len Altillia, S.J. hosted a reception for International Jesuit Alumni at the Jesuit Provincial office in Toronto on November 2nd.

Among the attendees was a large contingent of Brebeuf alumni and staff including :

Brother Henry Spencer, Staff	Charles LaFramboise '76
Claudio Gorrizan '79	Edward Moroney '68
Fr. Len Altillia, S.J., Fmr. Staff	Frank MacGrath '82
George Longo '86	Greg Smee '82
John Murphy '81	Larry Lancefield '75
Mark Des Roches '79	Michael Da Costa '92
Mike Daoust '67	Mike Wren '75
Patrick Belton '86	Paul Oulahen '75
Paul Whalen, Fmr. Staff	Rado Krevs, Staff
Ron De Appolonia '86	Serge De Miglio, Staff
Terry Sweeney '76	

Frs. Rye & Altillia invite all Brebeuf alumni to attend the Inaugural Partnership of International Jesuit Alumni Lecture on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 5:30 pm at 1325 Bay Street. The guest speaker is Father Phillip Chircop, S.J. speaking on "Jesuit Spirituality". Please RSVP to Fr. Winston Rye, S.J. at wrye@jesuits.ca or 416-481-9154.

Alumni Profile Nabil Tadros '74

The following is an excerpt from an article in the "Pursuit" Magazine, the alumni publication of the Faculty of Physical Health & Education at the University of Toronto, profiling Brebeuf alumnus (and U of T grad) Nabil Tadros '74. Reprinted with the permission of the U of T.

For over a decade Nabil Tadros has traveled to Egypt each summer to run basketball and tennis coaching clinics, and to help build basketball courts at an orphanage in Luxor.

For the past five years Nabil has been taking along members of his high school basketball team. They play exhibition games against the local clubs to provide them with the opportunity to fund-raise money, clothes and sports equipment for the orphanage.

Tadros then returns to his job as a physical education teacher at Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket. He has been with the school for twenty years and has coached the school's senior tennis and basketball teams since he began.

To add to his hectic schedule Nabil has also coached U of T men's and women's tennis teams for the last twenty-one years. One of the most successful tennis coaches at the Ontario university level, he has lead U of T to twelve OUA championships.

Nabil also continues to be an active and generous supporter of Brebeuf.

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Class of '74 Reunion - photo supplied by Nabil Tadros

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In Memorium



Fr. Edward Granville, S.J. and Fr. Winston Rye, S.J. unveil the plaque dedicating the school library as the Jesuit Commemorative Library.

Fr. Edward Granville, S.J.

Long time Brebeuf staff member, Fr. Edward Granville, S.J., passed away in August, 2005 shortly after celebrating his 60th year in the Jesuit community.

Fr. Granville's last visit to Brebeuf was on the occasion of the Solemn Blessing of the new school building in April, 2005, where he assisted in the dedication of the Jesuit Commemorative Library.

Mrs. Lucille Altilia, mother of Father Len Altilia S.J. (Former Staff), who passed away on March 3, 2005. Mrs. Altilia is also the grandmother of Jason Gennaro '94 and Steven Gennaro '98.

Donald Boyd, father of Joe '75, John Hugh '77, Andrew '79, and Stephen '85, who passed away October 11.

Mr. Patrick Byrne, who passed away on February 22, 2005. Father of Paul, Alan, Roy, Greg, and Michael.

Mrs. Antonietta Cornacchia, wife of Leo Cornacchia, head caretaker and mother of Joe Cornacchia '98.

Matthew Deluce '01, passed away in August, 2005 after suffering a severe reaction to an allergy.

Mr. Edward Haffey, father of Tim '78, who passed away on May 22, 2005.

William Kim '93, who passed away on March 25, 2005.

Mrs. Franca Sedran, wife of Mr. Rob Sedran (Staff)

Stephen Tate '77 passed away in June, 2005 following a lengthy battle with cancer

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Where Are They Now?

Paul Beamish '72 is a Professor at the Ivey Business School, University of Western Ontario.

Anthony Dale '88 is the Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs of the Ontario Hospital Association.

Mike Berry '82 is teaching at Michael Power/St. Joseph's and is living in Waterloo.

Jeff Fish '86 works with Filet Productions in Halifax, NS.

Mike Flint '89 recently completed his second degree (B.Ed in Adult Education) and is now pursuing graduate studies in music and finishing voice studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music. In his spare time he sings and acts with various groups in Toronto and works as a teacher and translator.

Alex Goinarov '93 is a Partner with Advanced Aerials in Washington D.C. His firm engineers unmanned aerial vehicle technology for clients such as the Department of Defense. www.advancedaerials.com

Andrew Kramer '86 is the Science Co-Op coordinator for the University of Guelph.

Pier Lombardi '89 is the GM of AgroPiemonte in Chile. He writes "I miss the cold weather in Canada and my friends from Brebeuf. Nice new look for the school, looking forward to seeing it in person."

Father Robert O'Brien '80 leads the Office of Lay Ministry and Chaplaincy for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Lou Paonessa, former staff member, is Vice-Principal at St. Elizabeth's Catholic High School in Thornhill.

Michael Smee '78 is the host of Metro Morning on CBC.

Mike Strimas '69 (and former Brebeuf staff member) will retire in December, 2005 as Superintendent of Schools with the Ottawa Carleton Catholic School Board.

Markus Thadaney '92 is working for Morgan Stanley in London, England.

Paul Whalen, former staff member, is teaching Latin part-time at Upper Canada College.

Former Brebeuf music teacher and band leader John Vople sends in an update on the Red Peppers Dixieland Jazz Band and invites all alumni and staff out to see them play. Full details at www.redpeppers.ca

The group plays regularly at K.C. McFly's on Victoria Park (second Saturday each month) as well as in various jazz festivals around Toronto.

Band members include alumni Mike Lewis '79 (now Head of Music at Marshall McLuhan CSS) and Kevin Rohm '77 (head of Technical Services at Cosmo Music). Another member is Vince Volpe, John's son, who accompanied the Brebeuf band on the famous 1974 trio to Europe as a "twelve year tag -along" is the Middle School Music Head at Crescent School.

Honours for Alumni

Phil Horgan '80 was awarded the TCDSB Alumni Award by the Toronto Catholic District School Board in October, 2004. Phil, a Toronto lawyer has been involved in the Thomas Moore Lawyers Guild, the Archdiocese of Toronto Finance Committee, President of the Catholic Civil Rights League and Chair of the St. Michael's Choir School Advisory Committee

James Lai '05 was recognized as the student with the highest academic average in the TCDSB.

Andrew Fonseca '05 is the inaugural winner of the Mike Tomaszek '82 Memorial Award in music. Andrew received the top music mark in Grade 12 as well as participating in the Senior Concert Band, Stage Band and Senior Jazz Ensemble. This new award was created by the Class of '82 in memory of classmate Mike Tomaszek

Troy Beharry '05 was awarded the Peter Knopfel '81 Memorial Scholarship and is now studying Commerce at Queen's University.

Shawn Kazar '05 received the Jim Morris '77 Award in Journalism and is now attending the University of Toronto.

James Murdoch '05 won the Fr. St. Clair Monaghan, S.J. Alumni Scholarship and is studying Biology at Guelph.

Michael McKendry '85 was recently recognized as one of the Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers in Canada. Michael is General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer for Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd

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“The Rogers Boys”

By Michael Rogers '81

"The more things change, the more they stay the same"

It has been 36 years since John '69 graduated from Brebeuf; Greg '72, 33years, Gord '74, 31 years, Mike '81, 24 years and James '86, it has been 19 years. It has been awhile since a Rogers boy walked the halls of Brebeuf College as a student. Many things have changed throughout the years but there have also been some common fundamental threads that have remained constant in our family.

Education has had a powerful impact on our family. John '69 can retire from 30 years of teaching English at Sacred Heart, St. Roberts and Brother Andre in York Region. Recently, John has coordinated a very successful 'true poets society 'with his unique literacy program at Shadow Lake. Greg '72 started his teaching career in Zambia and continued by teaching geography at Chinguacousy for two years and Brebeuf for over a decade. He is currently working at the Catholic Education Centre of the T.C.D.S.B. in teacher and student development. Greg and John have also taught courses at Camp Olympia during the summer. Greg also coordinates international education programs with Bob Lato '67 in Africa and India.

Gord '74 did not go into formal education as a career, after majoring in geography at The University of Toronto. Gord does display pedagogic characteristics as a manager at Bell Canada. He also has been working with a Canadian multinational, Simex, which allows him to travel extensively around the world. I took the safest route after Teacher's College in 1987 and went back to Brebeuf where I am a guidance counsellor. I have also taught English and geography through the years. James '86 seems to have taken a piece of everything. He enjoys traveling, has worked for Bell Canada for a number of years and recently completed his Bachelor of Education and teaches English in Ottawa.

The other main staple has been our common love of hockey. The Detroit Red Wings have rewarded our loyalty by having the highest cumulative wins since 1985 and won 3 Stanley Cups (you didn't honestly think that I was going to leave the Wings out of this did you?). revere Gordie Howe by celebrating his birthday every March 31st and also have equal admiration for Steve Yzerman. Although most of our children are female (16 of 21 children collectively), they still share a similar passion for the Red Wings and hockey. We also all still enjoy playing the game and we play together as often as we can.

So after 30 years we still find pleasure in two components that were very much alive during our time spent as students of Brebeuf College, education and hockey.



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Alumni Survey

By Jonathan Page '93

Tell us what you think- today!

Many of you will remember from Mr. Burke's Law class that participation is the essence of democracy. As your representatives, the Alumni Executive requests your participation - today! We recognize that participation comes in many different forms, organizing events, sitting on committees, visiting the school, attending events, contributing to campaigns - the list goes on - but regardless of your present involvement, we ask you to participate in the opinion survey.

As I'm sure you have noticed from the content of this newsletter, the alumni association continues to find new ways to participate in our school community. The executive is always seeking to improve our service to our alumni and our school. To do this we need to understand how you see your Brebeuf Alumni Association participating in your life and that of the school.

A brief survey has been created to get your opinions about our initiatives to date and new ideas. It also includes questions to draw out what you expect from us and how the Alumni Association could be more relevant to your lives.

To participate in the survey go to www.brebeuf-alumni.org and click on the Survey Link.

Ice Hockey '06

The Alumni Ice Hockey Tournament will be held on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th at the Ice Gardens at York University. The Friday night games will also feature a 'pub night' at the rink to which all alumni are invited to attend. Alumni interested in participating should contact Bryon Di Sera '81 at 416-717-3277 or disera@sympatico.ca

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Alumni Golf Recap

Malcolm Anthony '77 took individual low gross honours at the Brebeuf Alumni Golf Classic in June with a sparkling round of 77, while the Horgan family foursome lead by Phil '80 and Pat '78 took the team scramble title, edging out 2003 champions Pat Lumbers '75, Paul Goudy '74, Mike Malone '74 and Simon Kaptyn '74. Team 1980 lead by Joe Domotor, Dave Rivett and Brian O'Connor won the team portion of the "individual score" contest.

Congratulations as well to the gang from 1992 comprised of Daniel Johnston, Ziran Zivcovic, Andrew Sulatycki and Donald Wright who easily won the coveted "Most Honest" foursome.

The 2006 tournament will be held on Monday, June 19, 2006 at Sleepy Hollow. Please contact Frank MacGrath '82 at 905-726-4488 or fmacgrath@gtigolf.com for further details.

Brebeuf Authors

Two Brebeuf alumni have recently published novels to critical acclaim.

[Carolan's Farewell](#) by Charles Foran '79

A recent review of this book concluded : "Based on the life of Terence Carolan, a legendary blind composer and harper who traveled the 18th-century Irish countryside, Carolan's Farewell is gifted writer Charles Foran's most luminous-and mischievous-novel yet. A tender, funny, sad and utterly delightful story with priceless dialogue on every page, Carolan's Farewell is a note-perfect read." A noted author, Charles is currently living in Peterborough, Ontario.

Brebeufians were on hand to hear Charles read from his novel in October at O'Brien's Pub, including: Bob Lato '68, Mike Da Costa '92, and former staffers Jim Barry, Mark Burke and Hollie Doyle.

[Three Day Road](#) by Joseph Boyden '86

Reviews of his novel Three Day Road have been very favourable : "Joseph Boyden's first novel is the story of two Cree friends, Xavier and Elijah, who leave their pristine northern country to end up in the horrific trenches of World War I. Loosely based on the real life of a famous Canadian sniper, the story is told from two first-person views: those of Xavier and his old aunt and only living relative, Niska. After the war, Niska is taking her wounded nephew back home north to the bush in a canoe. Their trip is the three day road of the title, which also refers to the journey taken after death".

Joseph was recently featured in MacLean's magazine, writing about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina on his adopted hometown, where he teaches creating writing at the University of New Orleans. Joseph was recently nominated for the Governor General's Award in English Fiction.

“Alumni Profile - Eddie Sabat '93

Reprinted with thanks to Freedom 55 Financial

Eddie Sabat '93 is a financial security advisor with Freedom 55 Financial in Toronto. In 1993, he was diagnosed with a degenerative heart condition that caused his heart muscles to restrict blood flow to the rest of his body. Not long afterwards, Eddie found himself on the list for a much-needed heart transplant.

"Knowing that my heart was failing, not being able to walk a few feet without losing my breath, and knowing that my life was dependent on receiving a transplant and my body accepting the heart was easily the scariest time in my life," says Eddie. In February 2003, Eddie received his new heart. "I never felt this good. It is just amazing what I have gone through. I can't thank the doctors, nurses, my family and friends and especially my donor and his or her family enough."

Eddie was assigned a mentor throughout the transplant process to help him get through some tough times. In their talks, they discussed the World Transplant Games, and what it would mean to compete. Eddie now had a new goal to focus on, beyond his surgery and subsequent recovery.

"I knew I had to compete in them," says Eddie. "I was always competitive before, and the idea of being able to compete again was attractive." Since the first "transplant Olympics" in 1978, The World Transplant Games have grown internationally. This year, they were held in London, Ontario, and Eddie was a participant. "The opportunity to share my experiences and challenges with others felt so good," says Eddie. "It was such an inspiration to me to see what could be possible, if I continued training."

Driven by his desire to say thank you to the donor's family, Eddie set goals to compete in golf and the five-km run. Eddie captured the gold medal in golf and completed the 5 km run in less than 45 minutes.

A number of factors contributed to Eddie's return to his role a financial security advisor. "I really saw the importance of the products we offer," he says. "I was lucky to have a disability and health plan, where others didn't. I got married, bought a beautiful house and I'm back to work more determined than ever to make it in this business."

Eddie actively promotes organ and tissue donation through the Trillium Gift of Life program. He is also a lead member of the executive committee of Heartlinks. A group of heart transplant recipients also dedicated to increasing awareness about organ donation as well as raising funds for transplant research and acting as a support group for this unique group of individuals. And, in his spare time, you can find Eddie training for the next World Transplant Games.

A further update on the Sabat brothers : Eddie now lives in Woodbridge and was married to Nancy in the fall of 2004. [Paul Sabat '96](#) is a financial security advisor and life product manager with Freedom 55 Financial/Great West Life. Paul was married this past spring to SJMP alumna Paola Mollo. [Allan Sabat '98](#) is an employee benefits consultant with The Consulting House in Toronto.

Staff Retirements

Michael Da Costa '92

Mrs. Ailix Will has retired after being librarian at Brebeuf since 1974. She started her career working as assistant to Father Lorne Trainor S.J. and worked her way up to Head Librarian, a position she held until last June.

I remember in 1987 having a tour of the library (which I thought was just the Reading Room of the larger library behind the back doors...) and Ailix telling us that this was the "Students' Library" because it was there for us. To me that sums up the kind of person Ailix was - always willing to help the students in their research and love of reading and to create a student-centred space. Ailix also encouraged students to become part of the library team and develop leadership skills.

The move from Steeles to Bathurst Heights affected Ailix more than any else! Thousands of books and materials had to be packed, unpacked, over and over again until we finally settled into the new Jesuit Commemorative Library at 211 Steeles. It would not have happened smoothly without Ailix's tireless dedication.

Ailix was also very involved in the planning of the annual Graduation ceremonies and Graduation breakfasts and helped establish the classy traditions that we still enjoy today.

Mr. Ivan Davis came to Brebeuf in 1987 from Holy Redeemer Catholic school after teaching in the elementary panel for many years. He quickly established himself as a popular English teacher, with his easygoing and firm but fair manner. I remember enjoying listening to his life stories and describing the literature that he loved. He had an effect on me becoming an English teacher.

Ivan coached many sports teams and also got very involved in the Can-Aid food drive. It is thanks to the efforts of teachers like Ivan that Brebeuf raised over 56,000 cans last year!

Ivan and Ailix now run the Archer Preparatory Academy and we wish them both much success in this new phase of life.

They are both missed very much!

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