



The

# Communiqué

Volume 32, Number 1

THE CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Autumn 2006

## Reflections on Calgary

### CACI's 2006 Convention 'Far Exceeded My Expectations'

As an elementary school teacher, I have traveled to many different places in North America and Europe, but the CACI Convention, from July 30 to August 5 in Calgary, was one of the best vacations I have ever taken. It far exceeded my expectations!

Our hotel, the Hyatt Regency, was luxurious. The rooms were spacious and lovely and the service was excellent.

The buffet breakfasts and the evening dinners were superb! A wonderful exercise gym and indoor pool were located on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor, which gave us an excellent view of the skyline. The hotel was within walking distance of the beautiful Prince's Island Park and the lovely Devonian Gardens, plus 30 quaint restaurants and shops on historic Stephen's Avenue.

Everyday was a new adventure. On Monday, I enjoyed a city tour of Calgary that included the awesome Olympic Village (site of the 1988 Winter Olympics). That evening a group of about 190 CACI members feasted on a delicious buffet dinner and had a "roarin'" time at a very funny wild west show in Heritage Park. On Tuesday, I joined a fun trip on the Whitehorn C Train, which took us to the fabulous Calgary Zoo.

On Wednesday, we journeyed two hours to the majestic Canadian Rockies, stopping at the aqua blue Moraine Lake, spectacular Lake Louise, and finally, breathtaking Banff. I loved the trees and the Scottish Banff hotel.

After lunch, we walked around the village, which reminded me of Lucerne, Switzerland. My biggest thrill was Banff's Gondola ride that took passengers 7,500 feet high to a beautiful summit. On Friday, I enjoyed a CACI bus tour to Drumheller with its miles of prairie land where many westerns, including *Open Range*, have been filmed. Drumheller is also the site of many

dinosaur and prehistoric mammal and fossil excavations. We spent about three hours at the Tyrell Museum, one of the world's best dinosaur museums. Very intriguing! Friday afternoon was spent at the historic Atlas Coal Mine, where our visit included a fascinating tour and a coal train ride.

In addition to the many CACI bus tours (they were great fun!), you could sit and relax at the hotel, take a walk to the famous Calgary Tower, or visit the third-largest Chinatown in the world.

Even though the scenery was fantastic, it was the *people* I met at this convention that made this trip so special. So many were warm, sincere, and friendly! I laughed every day and sang and danced every night. I only wish everyone wasn't so far away. A lot of comfortable bonding

takes place at a CACI convention. At a special Sunday reception for those who were attending their first CACI annual convention, we were given:



**Maureen Van De Moere** (right) enjoys a night of dancing at the CACI Convention in Calgary with her fellow Orange County CACers **Cindy Parker** (far left) and **Linda Deverman**.

(Continued on page 9)

## President's Message

One of the goals I set when elected CACI President at the 2006 CACI Convention in Calgary was contacting the President of each CAC chapter and asking how CACI can help build their memberships. In speaking to chapter Presidents, I am listening to their concerns and discussing how CACI can help attract new members to their chapters and retain their current members. Building membership can be difficult, and I want to share with chapter officers ways that have worked for other CAC chapters.

Another of my priorities for the coming year is to look closely at sponsoring a CACI Young Adult (ages 21-35) Convention that would allow young adults in CAC chapters across the country to enjoy a CACI convention with their peers (see page 3). Along these lines, a CACI Young Adult Steering Committee is being formed that will discuss CACI and young adults and the possibility of a Young Adult Convention. If you are a young adult in CAC and interested in being part of this effort, we would enjoy listening to your feedback and hearing your ideas. Please contact CACI's

Second Vice President **Polly Peoples** (Detroit) or CACI Secretary **Dan Gusewicz** (Pittsburgh) for more information. Their contact information is in the Young Adult article.

CACI is always looking to open new chapters. On Saturday, September 30, I flew to Fresno, California to help oversee an initial CACI meeting for those interested in establishing a chapter in the Fresno Diocese, and on Sunday, October 1, traveled to Bakersfield (about two hours away) for another initial CAC meeting regarding a chapter of young adults forming in that area. It is my hope that with the support of CACI, we can welcome two new CAC chapters at our convention next year in San Diego. If you know of someone who might be interested in establishing a CAC chapter, please have them contact me at [cac@caci.org](mailto:cac@caci.org).

Please drop me a note at the E-Mail address above if you have questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share about your chapter or CACI generally.

*Michael Coogan (Washington, DC)*

### Catholic Alumni Clubs International

#### 2006-2007 Officers

<i>President:</i>	Michael Coogan (Washington, DC)	301-916-6336
<i>First Vice President:</i>	Rhonda Higgins (Louisville)	812-284-4349
<i>Second Vice President:</i>	Polly Peoples (Detroit)	248-544-0658
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Susan Shearer (Detroit)	330-494-4613
<i>Secretary:</i>	Daniel Gusewicz (Pittsburgh)	412-605-8567
<i>Past President:</i>	Paula Hartig (Buffalo)	716-759-8262
<i>Eastern Region Vice President:</i>	Loretta Lovell (North Jersey)	210-723-6692
<i>Midwest Region Vice President:</i>	Barbara Accordino (Louisville)	502-969-2272
<i>Western Region Vice President:</i>	Christine Myers (Orange County)	714-774-3254
<i>Chaplain:</i>	Father Jack Frerker	360-491-6348

*The Communique* is published by The Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI), an umbrella organization for the more than 30 local Catholic Alumni Club (CAC) chapters across the country. Members of CAC chapters are college and nursing school graduates who are free to marry in the Church.

The purpose of CACI is to host an annual national convention, facilitate communication among local clubs, and represent the interests of single Catholics in our Church at-large. The annual national convention is held in either July or August and hosts more than 150 CACers from across the country. Smaller Regional Weekends across the United States are also offered, allowing CAC chapters in specific various regions of the country to come together for fun and fellowship.

CACI is a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the state of Colorado. The address of President **Michael Coogan** is 13517 Teakwood Lane, Germantown, Maryland, 20874-1034. *The Communique* Editor is **Lynn Sorbara** (Washington, DC).

## Next Up for CACI in 2007: San Diego!

It's got climate.

It's got 70 miles of Pacific Ocean beach with sparkling bays.

It's got several majestic mountain ranges and the breathtaking Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

It's got an international border with Mexico.

It's San Diego, and it's CACI's destination for the 2007 CACI Annual Convention from Sunday, July 22 to Friday, July 27 at the Kona Kai Resort and Spa, a spectacular waterfront getaway on San Diego's Shelter island.

Explore historic Old Town, where California began. Browse through dozens of museums with exhibits ranging from fine art and natural history to aircraft and sports memorabilia. Immerse yourself in Sea World San Diego and the San Diego Zoo, including Wild Animal Park. Downtown is an exciting showcase of department stores, specialty shops, and galleries. The historic Gaslamp Quarter boasts turn-of-the-century elegance. Along the harbor the waterfront theme village grows as more cruise ships

pull into port.

Sightsee on bay cruises, water taxis, and popular ferry rides, or sit back and relax on buses and trolley tours. Take to the skies in a hot air balloon. And a visit south of the border to Mexico is only minutes away — ole!

There are miles of biking, hiking, and scenic jogging trails. San Diego water attractions include water skiing, skiing, scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, and just relaxing on the beach. Disneyland and the Los Angeles metropolitan area are a mere 90 minutes North.

San Diego boasts a diverse array of acclaimed artistic and cultural offerings and world-renowned attractions. If you have never been on a CACI vacation, now is the time. Your CAC chapter will mail you more complete information in March. If you don't receive it, ask your chapter President. If you can't wait, contact Convention Coordinators **Janet Yntema** at 313-882-0990 or **Rita Walczyk** at 248-336-0391.

San Diego. Where to be July 22-27, 2007.

## CACI Organizing Young Adult Steering Committee

Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI) is organizing a Steering Committee of young adults (aged 21 to 35 years) from CAC chapters across the country to examine the feasibility of sponsoring a yearly CACI Annual Young Adult Convention that would complement the organization's Annual National Convention.

The CACI Young Adult Steering Committee will closely look at whether having a separate Young Adult Convention for CACers aged 21-35 would be good for the organization, encourage young adults to join CAC, and generate interest in and enthusiasm for CAC among single, professional, Catholic young adults. The Committee would entertain ideas, suggestions, and comments – both positive and negative – on the concept of a CACI Young Adult Convention. A conference call in late 2006 – connecting all members of the Steering Committee from their respective homes – will allow a free exchange of ideas and opinions and provide immediate feedback.

If the Steering Committee agrees that the idea a Young Adult Convention should be pursued, then

the Steering Committee will also review whether the young adult age range is appropriate or should be adjusted.

A CACI Young Adult Convention would be researched, planned, and run by young adults in CAC and have the full financial backing and administrative support of CACI. Using CACI's vast experience of sponsoring yearly conventions as a resource, CAC young adults could enjoy a convention with their CACI peers across the country and find the fun, friendship, and camaraderie that are hallmarks of a CACI convention.

All young adults aged 21-35 who are members of a CAC chapter (or CACI At-Large members) are welcome to join the CACI Young Adult Steering Committee. Those who are interested or need further information are encouraged to contact *CACI Second Vice President* **Polly Peoples** (Detroit) at 248-544-0658 or via E-Mail at [p\\_peoples\\_48067@yahoo.com](mailto:p_peoples_48067@yahoo.com), or *CACI Secretary* **Dan Guzewicz** (Pittsburgh) at 412-605-8567 or via E-Mail at [cac dang@aol.com](mailto:cac dang@aol.com) no later than November 30.

# Happenings Around the Regions

## Eastern Regional

In early October, the East and Midwest Regions held a joint Regional in Pittsburgh. Traditionally, Regional Weekends are a way for CACers to get together and enjoy one another's company. Although it always seems that these weekends are much too short, they are always enjoyable and leave you with the excited anticipation of the next Regional Weekend.

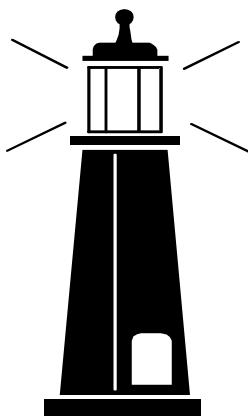
Speaking of which, the Eastern Region is currently in the planning stages for the Spring Regional that will



be held on Long Island. Contrary to popular belief, Long Island is not an island, but a sand bar. It is the home of **Teddy**

**Roosevelt** and the place where **Charles Lindbergh** took off to fly to Paris for that first transatlantic flight. So, start making your plans now for what promises to be an exciting and enjoyable weekend.

October also brings a new board to the Eastern Region, with **Mike Hopcus** (Baltimore) continuing as *Assistant Vice President* and **Patricia Dugal** (New York) as *Treasurer*. I want to thank **Bob White** (Central Jersey) and **Neal Hyatt** (Washington, DC) for their work on the Board this past year.



The Eastern Region is looking for a Regional Chaplain. Please contact your club Chaplain and ask if he would be interested in taking on these added responsibilities. You can then contact me and I would be happy to speak with him.

As always, you can reach me at 201-723-6692 or via E-Mail at [msbunkerville@yahoo.com](mailto:msbunkerville@yahoo.com) with any questions.

*Loretta Lovell (North Jersey)  
Eastern Region Vice President*

## Midwest Region

As the *Midwest Region Vice President*, I would like to thank **Sue Gentile** (Pittsburgh) for all of her work during the past year. She represented our region well at the National Convention and throughout the entire year.

Having just returned from the Changeover Meeting with the new CACI Board of Officers, I see that the year is going to be very exciting. We are going to work together as a team to provide the best representation for the members of CACI.

In early October, we met in Pittsburgh for the Midwest/Eastern Regional Weekend. I would like to thank **Mary Kay Brailsford**, **Mary Cay Bulback**, and the Pittsburgh CAC for their help in sponsoring this weekend.

The Spring Midwest Regional will be held just outside of "The Windy City" in Schaumburg, Illinois from Friday, May 25 to Monday, 28, 2007 at the AmeriSuites. We'll be two blocks from Woodfield Mall and across the street from Ikea. The hotel offers shuttle service connecting with trains to downtown Chicago, making all of Chicago's cultural assets available.



The Memorial Day event will have us cheering for our favorite baseball team, rooting for the knights in the Medieval Times jousting event, dancing the night away, and having a grand time. Package prices are under \$300 for double occupancy. Chicago is within driving distance for most Midwest Region chapters. Chicago is a hub for United and American Airlines (O'Hare), Southwest Airlines (Midway), and Amtrak Railroad, so everyone should be able to obtain an affordable fare to Chicago.

Special thanks go to **Kevin Brown** of the Chicago CAC for chairing this event. For more information, contact Kevin at 847-358-6036 or via E-mail at [ktb4489@hotmail.com](mailto:ktb4489@hotmail.com). I can also be contacted via E-mail at [baccordino@bellsouth.net](mailto:baccordino@bellsouth.net). Hope to see you at one of our Midwest Region events or at the National Convention in San Diego.

*Barbara Accordino (Louisville)  
Midwest Region Vice President*

## Western Regional Weekend

The Western Region will be sponsoring a weekend event from Friday, February 16 to Sunday, February 18 (the President's Day holiday) at the *Best Western Carpinteria Inn* on 4558 Carpinteria Avenue in Carpinteria, California, only 10 minutes from Santa Barbara.

*The Best Western Carpinteria Inn* offers an outdoor heated pool, hot tub, lush courtyard, exercise facility, guest laundry, and other features. The weekend schedule is as follows:

*Friday:* Dinner is on your own. There are several wonderful restaurants in the area, with *The Palms Restaurant* noted for its steak. Later in the evening, you can enjoy an after-hours party back at the hotel.

*Saturday:* The group will be visiting the Danish city of Solvang, a shopper's paradise with its many bakeries, arts and crafts, porcelain, clothing, books, jewelry, souvenir stores, and, best of all, wine-tasting rooms. (The award-winning 2004 film, *Sideways*, was filmed in Solvang). Mass will be at the Mission Santa Inez at 5 p.m. After Mass, we will proceed to the Chumash Indian Casino, where the group will partake in beautiful buffet dinner at Creekside.

*Sunday:* Today, you will have an opportunity to enjoy the ocean, mountains, and engaging vistas. There is a multitude of activities from which to choose that include swimming, sailing, hiking, kayaking, whale watching, horseback riding, or just taking a stroll to the waterfront. Walk or take a trolley ride through downtown Santa Barbara and see the old Mission, the Courthouse, Botanical Gardens, and other sights.

The cost of this vacation is \$205 for double occupancy and \$320 for single occupancy. The package includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, one dinner buffet, and two after-hours parties. Transportation to Carpinteria can be made by flying into Burbank Airport (a/k/a **Bob Hope**) and then either renting a car or taking the Amtrak Railroad North ([www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)). Another option is to fly into Los Angeles and take a small commuter plane to Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara also has a great public transportation system ([www.sbmta.gov](http://www.sbmta.gov)).

For further information, contact **Marie Acebo** (Los Angeles) at 818-363-0621 or via E-Mail at [LACAC-1@socal.rr.com](mailto:LACAC-1@socal.rr.com), or **Dean Bayer** (Los Angeles) at 661-7113-6477 or via E-Mail at [debayer@qnet.com](mailto:debayer@qnet.com). To contact the *Best Western*

*Carpinteria Inn*, call 805-684-0473. Flyers and registration forms are available on the CACI website at [www.cac.caci.org](http://www.cac.caci.org).

*Christine Myers (Orange County)*  
*Western Region Vice President*

## Sweet Home Chicago

What is Chicago's leading tourist attraction? It's not the Art Institute. It's not the Downtown "Museum Campus," or the Adler Planetarium, or the Field Museum, or the Shedd Aquarium. It's not even the friendly confines of Wrigley Field. Chicago's leading tourist attraction is Woodfield Mall, located in Chicago's Northwest Suburbs.

So come shopping with us as the Catholic Alumni Club of Chicago invites you to *Sweet Home Chicago* — the 2007 Spring Midwest Regional on Memorial Day Weekend from Friday, May 25 to Monday, May 28, 2007 at the AmeriSuites in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The AmeriSuites is a new all-suites hotel that is scheduled for additional remodeling in early 2007. The hotel has a fitness center and pool. We'll be two blocks from Woodfield Mall and across the street from Ikea. The hotel offers shuttle service connecting with trains to downtown Chicago, making all of Chicago's cultural assets available.

Highlights of the weekend include a tournament at Medieval Times (included in your package) and the traditional Sunday Night Dinner Dance (black tie optional — Ladies May Wear Hats). We're also planning to attend a baseball game during the convention. Other tours are being planned.

For package and transportation information, please see the Midwest Regional article on page 4. So, hurry and make your plans now for *Sweet Home Chicago* next Spring.

For more information, contact me at 847-358-6036 or via E-Mail at [ktb4489@hotmail.com](mailto:ktb4489@hotmail.com).

Let's not forget that priests need vacation too! Here's an opportunity for your Chaplain to enjoy a holiday vacation. The Midwest Region of CACI offers special discounted rates for club chaplains attending the 2007 Regional. These rates give an approximate 20 percent discount. So, say "Thank You" to your club's chaplain for all he has done and invite him to *Sweet Home Chicago* in May 2007.

*Kevin J. Brown (Chicago)*  
*2007 Spring Regional Coordinator*



The 2006-2007 CACI Executive Board gathers in Calgary. Front row, left to right: First Vice President **Rhonda Higgins** (Louisville), President **Michael Coogan** (Washington, DC), and Second Vice President **Polly Peoples** (Detroit).

Back row, left to right: Midwest Region Vice President **Barbara Accordino** (Louisville), Treasurer **Susan Shearer** (Detroit), Western Region Vice President **Christine Myers** (Orange County), Eastern Region Vice President **Loretta Lovell** (North Jersey), and Past President **Paula Hartig** (Buffalo). Missing from the photo is Secretary **Dan Gusewicz** (Pittsburgh).

**Neal Hyatt** (Washington, DC) (left) from CACI's Eastern Region and **Rhonda Higgins** (Louisville) from the Midwest Region earned CACI Persons of the Year Awards, presented in Calgary. Also earning this award were **Rita Walczyk** (Detroit) from the Midwest Region and **Cesar Vasquez-Carrera** (Phoenix) from the Western Region.



Several CACI Past Presidents were on hand in Calgary. They included, front row, left to right:

**Barbara Accordino** (Louisville), **Paula Hartig** (Buffalo), and **Martha Strachan** (Boston).

Back row, left to right: **Jim Stammerman** (Louisville), **Bob White** (Central Jersey), **Bob Giardina** (Dallas), **Don Leubbering** (Cincinnati), **Evie Pullis** (New York), and **John Busch** (Buffalo).

# 2006 CACI Award Winners

Presented at the CACI Convention in Calgary

## CACers of the Year

Boston — **Charlie Gallagher**  
 Central Illinois — **Mark Ferguson**  
 Chicago — **Marlene Jansky**  
 Detroit — **Polly Peoples**  
 Los Angeles — **Dolly Sanzone**  
 New York — **Olga Weinert**  
 Sacramento — **Paula Buchignani**  
 Washington, DC  
 — **Cheri Flemming**

## New Leader Awards

Central Illinois — **Barry Cassano**  
 Cincinnati — **Tony Mazzaro**  
 Detroit — **Bob Kuhn**  
 Los Angeles — **Nely Tingting Go**  
 New York — **Peggy Godfrey**  
 — **Kay Collins**  
 Washington, DC  
 — **Diane Schmidt**  
 — **Carmen Wong**

## CACI Persons of the Year

Region:  
 Eastern — **Neal Hyatt**  
 (Washington, DC)  
 Midwest — **Rhonda Higgins**  
 (Louisville)  
 — **Rita Walczyk** (Detroit)  
 Western  
 — **Cesar Vasquez-Carrera**  
 (Phoenix)

## Community Service Award

Class A — Washington, DC  
 Individuals to be recognized:  
**Stephen Wills** (Chair), **Jim Beauchamp**, **Bonnie Burgwald**, **Loretta Chi**, **Mike Genua**, **Anne Holbrook**, **Lisa Koshute**, **John O'Callaghan**, **Carol Patt**, **Patricia Rohan**, **Imelda Severdia**, **Jay Simon**, **Chris Troutner**

## Class B — Central Illinois

Individuals to be recognized:  
**Nancy Hoover** (Chair), **Mark Ferguson**, **Charles Owens**, **Rita Schwerer**, **Peggy Scott**, **Connie Tonsor**

## Mileage Award

(Club whose members collectively travelled the most miles to the convention)

Boston (23 members travelled a total of 48,000 miles)

## CACie Award

(Largest percentage of club members at the convention)

Mississippi and Missouri River Valley (33 percent)

## Charlie Award

(For friendship and hospitality)

CAC of Central Illinois

## Crying Towel

(A Token of Sympathy)

**Mary McGonigle** (New York)

## Convention Charities

A total of \$6138.20 was collected from attendees for distribution among five charities:

- ⇒ Support Our Aging Religious, Inc \$1258.65
- ⇒ Hospice and Palliative Care of Louisville \$1327.69
- ⇒ Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children \$1061.57
- ⇒ Bring Back St. Francis \$1191.85
- ⇒ Ed Webb Fund \$1298.44



## Newsletter Awards

### Class A (Clubs over 75 members)

First Place:	Washington, DC <i>Potomac Crossings</i>	<b>Don Bauer</b>
Second Place:	Detroit <i>Sparks</i>	<b>Carol Hofer</b>
Third Place:	Boston <i>The Hub-Bub</i>	<b>Diane O'Connell</b>
(tie)	Los Angeles <i>EpiCenter</i>	<b>Rich Borowy</b>

### Honorable Mentions:

Twin Cities	<i>Tales of Two Cities</i>	<b>Teddi Tri</b>
Orange County	<i>Taste a Slice of the Good Life</i>	<b>Irma Loera</b>
New York	<i>The Gotham</i>	<b>Joe Zecca</b>
Sacramento	<i>River City News</i>	<b>Dinah Ramiscal</b>
Chicago	<i>Insights</i>	<b>Fred Einsle, Jr.</b>

### Class B (Clubs under 75 members)

First Place:	North Jersey <i>Outlook</i>	<b>Loretta Lovell</b>
Second Place:	Arizona <i>Arizona Catholic Singles</i>	<b>Cesar Vasquez-Carrera</b>

## CACI Travel Club

Have you ever wanted to see Paris in the Springtime? London? Ireland? Tour Europe? Cruise the Mediterranean or the Caribbean? Take a river cruise down the Rhine or the Nile? Visit Australia or New Orleans during Mardi Gras? Visit New York at Christmas?

If your answer is “yes,” then perhaps the *CACI Travel Club* is right for you.

### **What is the CACI Travel Club?**

The *CACI Travel Club* is an idea, a concept that several CACers have suggested. CACI is looking for input that will tell the organization how much interest there is in organizing such a club.

Here’s an idea of how it might work:

1. CACers would register with the *Travel Club* Coordinator by sending in their names, E-Mail addresses, postal addresses, and their CAC chapter affiliates.

2. Trips might come about two ways:

*A. Member-Initiated Trips* — If a CACer wishes to travel to a specific destination, has researched all the information, and sends this information to the *Travel Club* Coordinator, the coordinator can then broadcast this information to all registered members. Whoever wants to join the trip could respond to the initiating CACer.

*B. Travel Club Coordinator-Initiated Trips* — At least once a year the coordinator would solicit interest in a particular trip and at the same time ask for suggestions for future trips. Of course, this doesn’t have to be limited to once a year, although it probably will not exceed one trip every three months.

### **How Much Does it Cost to Join the CACI Travel Club? Are Fees Added to the Travel Costs?**

There probably would be no membership dues as such, although the *Travel Club* is open only to CAC members. With regard to fees, that would depend on whether CACI adds any value to the package that is offered.

Let’s consider two examples:

1. If the *Travel Club* simply acts as a communications channel to broadcast travel information that an initiating CACer has already assembled, then it would

seem that CACI should not charge a fee.

2. If the *Travel Club* Coordinator plans the trip and negotiates a group discount on airfares, hotel rooms, tours, etc., then it would be reasonable to assume that an additional fee would be charged by CACI for providing participating CACers with an offering that could not be obtained on their own.

### **What Are Some Other Considerations about the Travel Club?**

The *Travel Club* should be able to plan trips with only a few CACers. The *Travel Club* could open up trips to locations that are not particularly good choices for the CACI annual conventions because *The Travel Club* would not be limited to travel only in the Summer. Thus, weather considerations will be more flexible. The *Travel Club* could also plan trips that appeal to special interests, such as ski weekends.

Costs associated with the *Travel Club* should be minimal. The CACI Convention Coordinators print and mail reservations forms, hire bands and DJs, and commit large dollar amounts to hotel catering to secure a fee waiver on meeting space. The *Travel Club* would communicate through E-Mail (perhaps US postal mail for those without E-Mail); would not hold business meetings (hence no catering commitment); and would schedule dining and entertainment based on what would be available at the trip destinations.



### **How Does The Travel Club Compare to the CACI Conventions?**

CACI Conventions are highly structured and have significant costs (site selection, site inspection, printing, postage, publicity, contracted DJs/bands/entertainers, guaranteed minimums to the hotel on rooms and catering). The *Travel Club* would have none or next to none of these costs and, consequently, would have maximum flexibility in planning the trip.

The *Travel Club* could schedule a group of CACers into a publicly offered tour; as such, the CACers would be a group within a larger group. The

structure would be provided by the tour company. This would be true, for example, if the trip were a cruise.

*The Travel Club* could also schedule a block of rooms, presumably at a discounted rate, and offer these to CACers. Dining and entertainment would depend on what would be available at the trip destination(s) rather than being contracted by CACI.

Reservations could be made in advance, but those who might want less expensive meals would have that option.



### ***How Do I Sign Up for the CACI Travel Club?***

To sign up, send an E-Mail to **Bob Giardina** (Dallas) at bobgno@lycos.com. Provide your name, E-Mail address, postal address, name of your CAC chapter, and include any travel suggestions. If you are interested in being the CACI Travel Club Coordinator, indicate that as well. Please note that it is a strict CACI policy not to sell or in any way distribute addresses, phone numbers, or any other information that members provide.

### ***How Can I Obtain More Information?***

Contact Bob at the above E-Mail address or call him at 504-456-0303.

## **Singles Sunday, April 2007**

CACI's 2007 celebration of *Singles Sunday* will be Sunday, April 22.

CAC clubs across the country join together one Sunday each year to be encouraged, and to encourage one another, in what often can be considered the "forgotten state" of single adulthood in today's society. *Singles Sunday* presents a wonderful opportunity to rejoice in the many gifts we bring to the church and explore how we can best use this time God has given each of us. The day also provides a good opportunity for new members of CAC, or those who are inactive, to meet new people and learn more about what CAC offers.

Materials for *Singles Sunday* will be mailed to chapters in early 2007.

For more information about *Singles Sunday*, contact **Polly Peoples** (Detroit) at 248-544-0658 or via E-Mail at p\_peoples\_48067@yahoo.com.

## **Chaplain's Report**

We had a fine convention in Calgary and I look forward to another in San Diego next Summer — which brings me to a piece of "business" for all chapters to address.

If your chapter does not have a chaplain, one helpful strategy is to tap the resources of your local retired priests. They have more time in their retirements, and your chapter should be able to find one with whom the right chemistry can be achieved.

Thanks to the 2005-2006 CACI *Treasurer* **Bob Giardina** (Dallas), who has provided assurance that chaplains can attend national conventions at a more reasonable cost. With Bob's help, Regional Vice Presidents have agreed to defray expenses for chaplains from their individual regions. This regional help, together with the chaplains' convention packages and the Chaplains' Fund, are promised to make for a relatively pain-free ticket for priests to attend next year's convention and all future conventions.

We had four chaplains attend the 2005 convention in Maine and three chaplains in Calgary. If we are able to have a few more attend next year in San Diego, we'll be able to have all the Masses and Penance Services, plus a seminar or two, without overworking any one individual.

Do your best to recruit a chaplain for your club — and bring him to San Diego, too!

*Fr. Jack Frenker, CACI Chaplain*

### ***Reflections on Calgary***

*(Continued from page 1)*

- ♥ An eraser and told we could erase any mistakes we made;
- ♥ A rubber band that signified we should stretch ourselves to the limit; and
- ♥ Two Hershey Chocolates — a hug and a kiss ... to remind us that somewhere, someone cared about us.

I love to travel and meet new people. That's why I'm looking forward to the next CACI Convention, July 22-27, 2007 in San Diego — a wonderful vacation spot (and where I was born!). Please consider joining me there.

**Maureen Van De Moere** (Orange County)

## CACI Q&A

***Does CACI provide CAC chapters with assistance in building memberships?***

Yes. CACI provides chapters with free promotional materials to help them with membership drives. These promotional materials consists of:

1. An 8½” × 11” flyer — with a space for a name and phone number — that can be posted in the back of a church or on a bulletin board; and
2. A brochure that describes CAC and contains a perforated card that a person can tear off and mail in (Chapters need to fill in their mailing addresses).

Also, sample letters to pastors — asking them to print a pre-written paragraph about CAC in their church bulletins — are available. CAC chapters have used these letters with great success to conduct membership drives.

For more information on the flyers and brochures, contact CACI Materials Distribution Chair **Georgia Mottl** (Orange County) at 714-974-6370. For more information on the sample letters to pastors, contact CACI Club Development Chair **Michael Coogan**

(Washington, DC) at cac@caci.org. Keep in mind that CACI also provides chapters with CAC membership cards at no charge.

***I would like to make a bequeath to CACI. Would CACI accept such a gift?***

Yes. For many of us, our years in CAC have allowed us to develop friendships, travel to new places, and enjoy the company of other professional single Catholics. Making a bequeath to CACI would be a wonderful gesture and a way to thank the organization. Presently, CACI has two main sources of revenue: (1) surplus from the national convention; and (2) dues it assigns to member chapters (currently \$2.50 per member). Like many nonprofit organizations, CACI keeps a close watch on its finances, and from time-to-time makes difficult financial decisions. A bequeath to CACI would help to ease the organization’s financial pressures. CACIers can also make a bequeath to the Ed Webb Memorial Scholarship Fund, newly created this year as a result of a gift from **Ed Webb** (Los Angeles), one of CACI founders. This fund, once fully established, will benefit Catholic students.

