



The

Communique

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CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2010

“ CALGON TAKE ME AWAY ”

Some of you may remember the ad “Calgon take me away”, well, you can be taken away from it all when you join us July 18-24, 2010 in Colorado Springs for the annual CACI convention. Not only is it the yearly gathering, it is a very special gathering, the 50th Anniversary of CACI. We have planned our 50th in the very same city where the 1st convention was held. We are staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located just south of downtown not far from the airport. This is our base of operations for the week but we will be offering tours of the surrounding area daily.

Colorado Springs is located at the base of Pikes Peak so we are surrounded by beautiful mountains, luscious scenery and fresh mountain air, taking us away from the noise of everyday life and into a world of nature’s tranquil sounds. We will witness



Mother Nature’s splendor that she created millions of years ago. Not just the Rocky Mountains with the 14,110 foot summit of Pikes Peak reached by the Cog, the highest railroad in the United States, but, also the awesome power of tectonic plates and erosion which is Garden of the Gods. Not to be missed is the Air Force Academy with the magnificent Cadet Chapel with it’s architecture soaring skyward. On the free day a tour is offered to visit the Royal Gorge and Park and take in the view from the Royal Gorge bridge suspended 1,053 feet above the roaring Arkansas River. The park features the longest single-span Aerial Tram, steepest incline Railway and the most incredible quarter-mile journey through the clouds. Also featured on this tour is a visit to the Holy Cross Abbey Winery with tasting included. The winery has been attracting visitors from all over the world located on the pastoral and serene grounds of the Holy Cross Abbey. This tour includes the Royal Gorge, lunch and the wine tasting.

Our offsite night will be spent visiting the Flying W Ranch, a taste of the Old West. The Flying W Ranch is a true-to-life working ranch where you can get a genuine feel for the food, traditions, and lifestyle of legendary cowboys. We will enjoy a Chuck wagon dinner under the stars, see historic sites and get the chance to stomp our feet to the down-home music of the legendary Flying W Wranglers.

These are just the highlights of a week spent in Faith, Fun and Friendship. It is a six day convention with the cost not increasing from last year at a reasonable \$849 early bird, \$874 for the next deadline and \$899 until June 1. We are also offering a post-convention for those who plan to stay just a little while longer. On Saturday, July 24th, there is a bus tour heading to Denver for the weekend. It is a tour of Denver with lodging offered in Denver at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located near the 16th Street Shopping Mall in the heart of the city.

You can reach Colorado Springs by plane, train, bus and car. Several airlines fly into the Colorado Springs Airport and the hotel offers free transportation. Another option would be to fly into Denver and then make your way to Colorado Springs, with car rental available and there is a shuttle between them for a fee. For those wishing to attend the Post-Convention in Denver, airlines offer and “Open jaw” feature. That is where you could fly into Colorado Springs and then fly out of Denver, so check your airlines.

We hope to see you in Colorado Springs! It’s not to late to come.

For more information, contact, Barbara Accordino at (502) 969-2272 (baccordino@insightbb.com) or Rhonda Higgins at (812) 284-4349 (rhiggins4349@esagelink.com)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Fellow CACers,

Spring is here and we have two regionals and the Convention/Vacation in the works. These weekends and the convention/vacation give us all a time to be together and enjoy each others company.

I always look forward to these events. It gives me time to relax and to be with the friends I have make over the years that I have been a member of CAC. When I see everyone, its as if we saw each other just the day before.

That to me is what CAC is all about. Friendships that have been built over the years.

We don't have to see each other everyday but when we do, its as if we had.

In this electronic age, we still have to remember what it is that friendship and camaraderie are all about—people meeting people face to face and enjoying each others company.

So if you haven't made your plans yet, why not think about joining many of your friends at the regional weekends or at the convention/vacation.

If you can't join us for the upcoming Spring regionals or for Colorado Springs, why not think about joining us for the Fall Re-

gional in Asheville, North Carolina. Mike Kappel has outlined the Fall Regional for you in this issue of Communique.

Hope to see many of you at these upcoming events.

God Bless,

Loretta Lovell

CACI President
msbunkerville@yahoo.com

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

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- Chaplain: Fr. Joe Codori (Pittsburgh) 724-745-6560

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 during the Summer 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 Loretta Lovell, 19 Oakwood Lane, Thiells, NY 10984

EASTERN REGION HAPPENINGS

I hope to see everyone at the next Eastern Regional in Wildwood Crest, New Jersey during the weekend of June 11-13, 2010. No tours are scheduled, so it will be a great weekend to relax, check out the beach, and party hearty.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the CACI Convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs. If you have never been to a convention, this is the one! This will be the 50th anniversary of our CACI conventions. It should be very well attended because our alumni, the married couples, are invited. There is so much to see and do in the Colorado Springs area. The last time we had a convention there was in 1990, and people still rave about it. This year the convention runs from Sunday, July 18 to Saturday, July 24. There will be tours to the Garden of the Gods, the Air Force Academy, Pike's Peak, the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park and the Holy Cross Abbey Winery. A chuck wagon dinner at the Flying W Ranch is included in the package. A post-convention to Denver is also available. For further information, call Barbara Accordino (502) 969-2272 or Rhonda Higgins (812) 284-4349.

Have a happy spring, and I will see you in Wildwood.

- Evie Pullis



Midwest Region Update By Mike Kappel Regional VP Midwest Region Holds Special Meeting

The planned membership meeting was held March 20th in Columbus. 17 CAC'ers from 8 different Midwest Clubs were in attendance. In addition contributions from 4 Midwest clubs that could not attend were received. Only one Midwest Club did not respond. The Eastern Region and the San Francisco club also sent in contributions for the meeting. A lively discussion was held and a plan of action should be ready for all clubs to review by the week of May 2-8. It is important that all clubs read the report and implement a plan to increase their membership. The report will provide ways to increase membership that can be done without any changes in the clubs Constitution/By-Laws and some suggestions that may require a change in those rules. Please make sure you read the report and send comments or suggestions for improving the plan to me. Lets get our clubs growing. You may contact me at 618-397-2320 or mikek21798@aol.com

Upcoming Events

The next regional coming up is going to be in Peoria May 28th to May 31st, 2010. The cost of a double package is \$299. Three nights stay at the Grand Hotel in Peoria are included along with three Breakfast and two Dinner/Dances. The planned tours (optional) are a combined Wildlife Prairie/ Winery Tour on Saturday, and visit to the Cathedral along with a tour of the local Area on Sunday. Please plan to attend. The application is available for

download at www.caci.org.

Plans are underway for the next two regionals after Peoria. Currently the Fall Eastern Midwest Regional is being planned for Asheville Oct. 8-10, 2010. The Spring Weekend May 27-30, 2011 is being planned for Memphis. A contract has been signed for Asheville. This application is also available at www.caci.org.

At the writing of this article the Memphis weekend is still in planning. More information will be soon.

Fall in Love with Asheville Oct. 8-10, 2010 Eastern Midwestern Joint Regional

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn **ASHEVILLE - BILTMORE WEST** located at 435 Smokey Park Hwy Asheville, North Carolina 28806. Hotel Front Desk: 1-800-678-2161 Hotel Fax: 1-828-667-9744

Price for a Double Package is \$229, Single Package \$329 (2 nights lodging, 2 breakfast, 1 Dinner)

Featured Tour: The Biltmore Estate and Wine Tasting \$70. **A must see.**

There is Much to see and do. Please note this is Fall Foliage Season for Asheville. Plan to stay for at least one extra day. Come in Early on Thursday or Stay the extra day on Sunday. If you can do both you can take in more of the Beauty of Asheville.

About Asheville

The city earned an international reputation as a premier health resort in the 1890s. By the 1920s, Asheville was a destination for the rich and famous, including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Edison and

Henry Ford.

Today's visitors find a city steeped in history. Step back in time and experience Gilded Age elegance at America's largest home, George Vanderbilt's 250-room [Biltmore House](#). Relive the Victorian era at the circa 1840 [Smith-McDowell House-Museum](#), Asheville's oldest home. Explore the [Thomas Wolfe Memorial](#), the acclaimed author's boyhood home and the inspiration for his novel "Look Homeward, Angel."

Some other sights/ things to do:

Asheville Art Museum

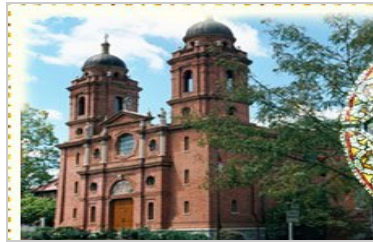
Be inspired by world-class special exhibitions and the Asheville Art Museum's outstanding collection, showcasing the very best of 20th and 21st century American art and the cultural heritage and contemporary art of Western North Carolina. This award-winning Museum presents 14 exhibitions and hundreds of public programs annually and welcomes visitors of all ages.

Asheville Historic Trolley Tour

You'll tour through Montford Historic District, one of the largest historic districts in North Carolina! You'll see Asheville's impressive collection of Queen Ann style historic homes, the exquisite Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa where six U.S. presidents and countless celebrities and historical figures have visited, see the Thomas Wolfe Home and Museum, travel through Battery Park shopping and restaurant district and the Grove Arcade, Visit Pack Square cultural area, Biltmore Village, River Arts District, enjoy fabulous mountain views and so much more. Our professionally trained tour guides will relate the history and lore of Asheville... the

Paris of the South. Your guide will combine humorous stories and historical information into a fun-filled tour. Asheville's Longest Running Trolley Line. Unlimited Hop-On & Hop-Off Privileges

Basilica of St. Lawrence



Completed in 1909, the Basilica of St. Lawrence D.M. is one of Asheville's architectural treasures and spiritual anchors. Designed by Rafael Gustavino and Richard Sharpe Smith, renowned architects on the Biltmore House, this Catholic church has the largest freestanding elliptical dome in the country.

Biltmore Estate



Discover the wonders of Biltmore™ in Asheville. Begin with the breathtaking beauty of 250-room Biltmore House – America's largest home® – and century-old gardens. Explore our 8,000-acre backyard through a variety of activities from horseback riding to rafting. Please your palate at our award-winning winery and restaurants, then browse our shops for unique items inspired by George Vanderbilt's estate.

Chimney Rock State Park



One of NC's newest state parks, Chimney Rock brings the best of the mountains together in one place. Stand atop the 315 ft. Chimney Rock and see amazing 75 -mile views of Hickory Nut Gorge, Lake Lure and the Carolina Piedmont. With unique hiking trails, the Park has something for everyone from the family-friendly Great Woodland Adventure trail with 12 discovery stations along the way to the more adventurous Four Seasons trail which climbs more than 400 ft. Be sure to hike the Hickory Nut Falls trail - the reward is the 404 ft. falls, one of the highest waterfalls in the East. Chimney Rock also offers guided rock climbing lessons for beginner to advanced climbers. The Old Rock Cafe and Sky Lounge Deli offer tasty sandwiches and snacks to get you fueled up for your hike. Souvenirs of your trip can be picked up at Cliff Dwellers or the Sky Lounge Gift Shop. The Park offers discounts for groups, and is pet friendly

Grandfather Mountain



Offering visitors easy access to its towering peaks, Grandfather Mountain is one of the most

biologically diverse mountains and in the world designated by the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve. Feel the rush when you cross the Swinging Bridge; marvel at 360-degree views from one-mile above sea level; photograph bears, otters, cougars, eagles and deer in natural habitats; hike rugged back-country trails or stroll gentle nature paths; eat in our restaurant or take your order out to one of many scenic picnic areas; chat with our entertaining, knowledgeable staff and let us help you find your own perfect mountain adventure.

For more of what to see and do go to:

<http://www.exploreasheville.com/what-to-do/historic-attractions-museums/index.aspx>

So send in your application now! This is a vacation opportunity not to be missed.

THANKS

As CACI President, I want to take this opportunity to thank Mary Arranz for all of the time that she has dedicated to insure that those members that are part of the Membership at Large are kept informed and updated on CAC activities.

The Board thanks you for everything and we hope to see you at our upcoming regionals and convention/vacations.

Once again, thanks.

We also want to thank Sue Gentile who has agreed to take over where Mary has left off. Thanks, Sue.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Midwest Region Chaplain Father Larry Ventline

HERALD HOPE THESE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER, Jesus rose from the dead against all odds. He emerged with his mission for us to stoop low and serve well washing feet and lifting life. Make someone's life more meaningful today and call him or her out of loneliness and enjoy a CAC event with him or her, or pool a ride with a group. Don't die, rise! All fifty days in Pentecost sing Alleluia songs and celebrate beyond Lent's fasting and penitential spirit that ended at the Mass of the Lord's Supper Holy Thursday.

Rejoice and be glad, this is the DAY the Lord has made.



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