



The

# Communiqué

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CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

WINTER 2011

## RAPID CITY/MT. RUSHMORE AWAIT CACI CONVENTION/ VACATION 2011

The region is consistently one of the nation's Top Ten [vacation destinations](#) and is visited annually by more than three million people from every state in the US and several foreign countries and will be the site for the CACI 2011 Convention/Vacation July 10-16. The Rapid City/Mt Rushmore region and the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center make an ideal location for our annual gathering. And this year's Convention will be followed by a fabulous Post-Convention visit July 16-20 to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

Registration forms and details have been e-mailed to recent convention attendees and will be mailed to clubs and other individuals in January. The convention will begin Sunday afternoon, July 10 and continue through Saturday morning, July 16. The convention package will include a special buffet breakfast each morning; daily liturgy; four dinners (have you ever tasted buffalo?); dances; a casino evening; a bus trip, meal, museum visit, and attendance at the evening Lighting Ceremony at Mount Rushmore on Monday evening; the ever-popular after hours parties; and much more.

Regional attractions include historic Deadwood city, the dynamic Badlands, the beautiful Black Hills, Custer State Park (home to one of the world's largest buffalo herds), the Crazy Horse Memorial (which will be the world's largest

mountain carving), the Native American Educational and Cultural Center, historic Rapid City ("The City of Presidents") with unique life size bronze statues of all US presidents through Bush on downtown street corners; and the largest section of the Berlin Wall in the US in the city's Memorial Park; the quirky Wall Drug Store in the town of Wall; many unique shopping opportunities, and several outdoor activities from horseback riding to hiking.

Our Ramkota Hotel is the upper Midwest's largest hotel and conference center. It features a special Western decor and includes a large indoor pool and water park (both free to guests). The hotel houses the award-winning Minerva's restaurant and bar. It is located at exit 59 on Interstate 90 in Rapid City.

Mt Rushmore attracts millions of visitors each year from every state in the US and many foreign countries. The park contains a large museum and two theaters that tell the story of the concept and construction of the Memorial (one of the presidents was "moved" from his original location on the mountain after nearly a year's work on the carving). The monument lighting ceremony each summer evening is a moving experience.

The Crazy Horse Memorial is a private undertaking started by Native Americans in 1948. Its mission is to honor the culture, traditions and living heritage of Native American Indians. The Cultural Center is located at the base of the mountain.

Historic Deadwood now houses several casinos and is famous as the burial place of Wild Bill Hickok (shot in a card game) and

buried in the Mount Morahah Cemetery next to his girlfriend Calamity Jane.

Several airlines serve the Rapid City Regional Airport including Delta, American and United with connections through Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, Salt Lake and Phoenix. For those enjoying the Post-Convention, an "open jaws" agreement will enable them to fly from Jackson, Wyoming; or they may elect to return to Rapid City by the tour bus.

For your "All American vacation of a lifetime" start making plans now to take part in the 2011 CACI Convention/Vacation July 10-16 in South Dakota and the fabulous Post Convention July 16-20 to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Request the free 32-page "Rapid City Vacation Planner" at [www.VisitRapidCity.com](http://www.VisitRapidCity.com) or 800-487-3223. For additional information contact co-chairs Mike Kappel ([mike21798@aol.com](mailto:mike21798@aol.com)), Don Luebbering ([donluebbering@fuse.net](mailto:donluebbering@fuse.net)) or Jim Stammerman ([jstammer64@aol.com](mailto:jstammer64@aol.com)). Check the CACI web site for information and registration forms. The information and forms will also be mailed to clubs and directly to recent convention attendees who do not have web addresses.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

My Fellow CACers,

I want to thank the delegates who were in Colorado Springs for electing me to a second term as CACI President.

As with everything, it takes a lot to be President and without the help of the current Board and the local clubs, it wouldn't be possible to take on the challenges that face CACI.

I know that we have had a decrease in membership over the last few years and we are looking to reverse this trend. Steve Valko is in the process of contacting dioceses about CAC. Andi Brosch is also taking a hands on approach to

help in increasing our numbers. My thanks to them for this initiative.

On another note, we have made some changes to the administration of the Ed Webb Scholarship Fund. Information will be sent to the local clubs in February as to what the changes are and the awarding of the scholarship.

The plans are well underway for the Annual Convention/Vacation and the registration forms will be in the mail shortly. Hopefully all of the clubs will forward their mailing information to Teddi Trii and CACI will mail the forms for

both the convention and post convention directly to the membership.

The Eastern and Midwest Regionals are also planned. In addition, there is a Young Adults weekend being planned in St. Louis. So I suggest that everyone mark their calendars and plan on attending one if not all of these planned events.

I hope to see many of you at these upcoming events.

God Bless,

*Loretta Lovell*

CACI President

msbunkerville@yahoo.com

***Catholic Alumni Clubs International***

**2010-2011 OFFICEDRS**

- President:* Loretta Lovell (North Jersey).....201-723-6692
- First Vice President:* Susie Shearer (Detroit).....330-494-4613
- Second Vice President:* Steve Valko (St. Louis)..... 314-680-3303
- Treasurer:* Mike Kappel (MMRV) ..... 618-397-2320
- Secretary:* Teresa Walczyk (Detroit) ..... 248-336-0391
- Eastern Region VP:* Evie Pullis (New York)..... 201-342-5256
- Midwest Region VP:* Andrea Brosch (Cincinnati) ..... 513-821-2440
- Western Region VP:* Dorothy Hann..... 925-735-0208
- Past President:* Rhonda Higgins (Louisville) ..... 812-284-4349
- Chaplain:* Fr. Joe Codori (Pittsburgh)..... 724-745-6560

*The Communiqué* 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

The Eastern Region Officers elected on June 12, 2010 at the delegates meeting are:

Eastern Region Vice President— Evie Pullis (New York); Assistant Eastern Region Vice President—Margie Cronin (New York); Eastern Region Treasurer—Pat Dugal (New York); Eastern Region Secretary—Loretta Lovell (North Jersey).

The Spring Eastern Regional took place at the Shalimar in Wildwood Crest, New Jersey the weekend of June 11-13, 2010. On Friday night we enjoyed dining at local seafood restaurants followed by an After Hours Party. There were no tours scheduled on Saturday, so everyone could enjoy the beach, pool, boardwalk, etc. The participants attended Mass either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning at the Church of Notre Dame de la Mer. On Saturday night we enjoyed a buffet dinner and a dance followed by an After Hours Party. Sunday morning ended the weekend with a bountiful brunch. Many thanks to Ann Marie Schmitt, Loretta Lovell and their committee for the wonderful weekend.

The Fall 2010 regional was a Midwest/Eastern Regional which was held at the Holiday Inn Biltmore West in Ashville, North Carolina the weekend of October 8-10, 2010. On Friday evening we carpooled to local restaurants followed by an After Hours Party. The jam-packed Saturday began with the delegates meeting, after which we boarded a bus to

the Biltmore Estate. Wine tasting followed, and then we attended Mass at the Basilica of St Lawrence. After a delicious buffet dinner, we boarded trolleys for a “haunted” trolley ride. An After Hours Party followed. After breakfast, we left with wonderful memories of North Carolina. Many thanks to Mike Kappel and his committee.

Plans are well underway for the next regional in Manhattan. Friday Night at the Museum and a Harbor Cruise/tour of the Empire State Building is planned along with a traditional Italian dinner on Saturday. Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Broadway shows and the NYC Ballet will be available on Sunday. The price for a double is \$295, single \$425 (for 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner and 3 nights in Manhattan)! Don’t miss out on this one. Please keep the weekend of June 10-13, 2011 open.

‘Til next time, God’s blessing to all!

*Evie Pullis*  
*Eastern Region VP*



## MIDWEST REGION UPDATE

As I take over as Midwest Regional VP, I’m doing some thinking for some of the projects that I wish to put into action this year. One thing I would like to do is to continue to evolve “The Plan” (March 20th Meeting) and make sure it is available not only for the Midwest Region, but to all clubs. I want to see all the clubs reap the benefits of what was put in place so far.

One place we are weak is making sure that CACI becomes well known and a part of the Diocese again. We want all Catholic Dioceses to know us and our Mission and Purpose!

I would like to see CAC listed in every Diocesan Directory, so when a Catholic Single moves into your area and contacts the diocese, and is moving into a new community, that diocese should know us and be able to refer us to that incoming single.

Another idea I want to put into motion is to have a Weekend Retreat! No tours! No dances! We would have seminars, Masses, and prayer!

Yes, I know, I’m the new kid on the block, and I have many high expectations, but I believe in CAC and I remember why I joined! I believe that there are no old CAC members, just ones with more wisdom, and we need to take advantage of their Wisdom! The older members should be our link to the new, younger members and should help us grow our numbers again!

Have a great 2011!

*Audi Brosch*  
*Midwest VP/CAC of Cincinnati*

## MAKE MUSIC IN MEMPHIS MAY 27-30, 2011

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn, Memphis Airport located at 2240 Democrat Road, Memphis, TN 38132.

The hotel has 374 rooms with 24 hour shuttle service to and from the airport, full service restaurant, work out facilities, transportation to and from Graceland and 33,000 square feet of meeting space. It also has 13 luxurious suites. You will have lasting memories of the Holiday Inn Select Airport because of it's great, award winning customer service.

The following tours are offered:

**After Dark Dinner Tour (if you come in by 6:00 PM Friday)** See Memphis at night and Beale Street at its best. Enjoy food, drink and live music. We go to the best clubs on Beale! Includes 2 drinks, 2 clubs, 2 shows, cover charge, dinner (choice of barbeque ribs, chicken or catfish), blues and jazz—Memphis style. The cost is \$70.

**Walk In Elvis' Steps at Graceland Mansion** - Step inside Graceland Mansion and follow in the same steps as Elvis himself as you enjoy an audio-guided tour featuring commentary and stories by Elvis and his daughter Lisa Marie. See where Elvis lived, relaxed and spent time with his friends and family. The Graceland Mansion tour includes Elvis' living room, music room, parents' bedroom, dining room, kitchen, TV room, pool

room and the famous Jungle Room. The cost is \$65.

**Memphis the City with lunch** - this tour includes the famous Ducks at the Peabody. Modern-day Memphis stakes its identity on two things: musical history and BBQ pork. It delivers marvelously on both. The slick downtown area bustles with pilgrims who come to worship at the altars of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Howlin' Wolf and Isaac Hayes, to name just a few. While they're here, they can't help but stray from kosher living and indulge their inner love of slow-cooked swine. Some make a circuit, taste-testing dry versus wet, rib versus pulled.

There is much to see and do in Memphis. The double price is \$299 and the single price is \$449.



## POST CONVENTION TO YELLOWSTONE AND THE GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS AND MORE - JULY 16-20, 2011

Save the dates on your calendar and make plans to attend the Post Convention July 16-20, 2011 after the annual vacation/convention in Rapid City July 10-16, 2011. The post convention starts the morning of July 16th. The first stop will be Devils Tower, a location made famous in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." This Tower has much Native American history and legend behind it also. We then travel through the Little Bighorn Mountains and stay overnight in Buffalo, Wyoming, an historic western town. The next day we travel to Canyon Village where we will see the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and its Lower Falls. We will stay overnight in this area. The next day we travel to see Old Faithful and other nearby sights. We will stay overnight nearby. In the morning we move on to Grand Teton National Park and explore the Inner Teton Park Road, Jenny Lake Loop for some of the most scenic sights of the park. To round off the trip we will stay in Downtown Jackson Hole, another historic Western city. So pack your bags and come along on an exciting post convention. Please let Mike Kappel ((618-397-2320, e-mail mikek21798@aol.com) or Teddi Tri (952-797-6633, e-mail tedtri07@gmail.com) know if you plan to come as the number of spaces available is limited.

*Mike Kappel  
Memphis Coordinator & Post-  
Convention Coordinator*

**REPORT FROM STEVE VALKO  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, CACI  
PRESIDENT—CSAC —ST. LOUIS**

Greetings from St. Louis,  
MO!

There are many fun and exciting things we have planned for the Catholic Alumni Club International! The St. Louis Chapter has just agreed on hosting a Young Adult Weekend here in St. Louis from June 2-5, 2011! We will have more information by the January newsletter.

We are also planning on having a National "Eat and Greet" party for the first Friday in February. We will try to roll this out to as many local chapters as possible. As stated above, more information will be coming to your local chapter by the January newsletter at the latest.

We are also aggressively trying to gain membership in our existing groups and add new local groups around the United States. A letter has been sent to all bishops in the United States to ask for assistance in this task.

For any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to let me know. My e-mail address is valksr@yahoo.com. I look forward to bringing you these events in the near future!

*Steve Valko*  
*St. Louis, MO.*

**ED WEBB SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

As many of you know, the Ed Webb Scholarship Fund has been awarding scholarships on a yearly basis to a designated region of CAC.

At the delegates meeting held in Colorado Springs, it was decided by the delegates present that beginning in 2011, a scholarship of \$1000 would be awarded to a designated school, college or student in each region (East, Midwest and West).

During the month of February, a letter will be sent to each club via snail mail and e-mail asking them to submit

their nominee. The nominees will then be presented to the clubs for voting purposes.

Unlike in previous years, the winners of the scholarship will be announced during the Annual Convention/Vacation and the respective club who nominated the winner of the scholarship will be presented with the check.

I believe that this will make the Ed Webb Scholarship more visible to the local clubs.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give me a call at 201-723-6692 or e-mail me at msbunkerville@yahoo.com.

*Loretta Lovell*

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