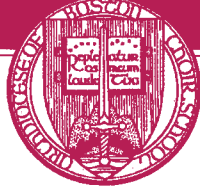


The
Boston Archdiocesan Choir School
Newsletter

SPRING 2005 VOL. XIX, NO. 2



BACS GOES TO ROME

On March 8th, BACS students, with accompanying parents, faculty, and friends arrived in Rome for the most memorable trip of their lives. **John Dunn, Sr. Kathy,** and **Msgr. Dennis Sheehan** helped to coordinate plans for the trip. The faculty developed and taught curriculum especially designed to prepare the boys for Rome. Parents **George O'Neil** and **Bill Murphy** created a remarkable guidebook to Rome for the boys. BACS parents, led by **Madeline Porcelli** and **Laura Ciommo**, worked hard all year to plan and organize a trip that the boys will never forget.

The Choir's first engagement was to sing Mass and give a concert at Santa Susanna, the American Bishops' Church in Rome. The concert featured works by Langlais, Vivaldi, Buxtehude, Vaughan Williams and others.

On Saturday the boys were thrilled with the opportunity to sing for the parish at St. Peter's, in the Vatican. The Mass took place at the altar honoring St. Peter's throne. For **Daniel Solomon** it was a very special occasion, "The event that I will probably remember for all my life will be the Mass at St. Peter's Basilica."

David Kohler spoke for all the boys when he said, "The thing I liked most about Rome was St. Peter's Basilica. It is beautiful. It was an honor to sing a Mass at the Pope's home church. It is centuries old and to sing there was a privilege. It was an amazing experience, and I hope to go back to Rome later in life."

The Choir also had the opportunity to sing at the Pantheon. **John Chiodini** was particularly impressed with this opportunity, "I will always remember singing in the Pantheon for lots of people."

Because of Pope John Paul II's declining health, it was a particularly moving time for the boys to visit Rome. The Choir had been scheduled to have an audience with the Pope, but because of Pope John Paul II's grave illness this was not possible. John Dunn had composed a "Papal Fanfare" for the Choir to sing for the Pope. However, the boys did have the opportunity later to sing the

"Fanfare" to an appreciative audience at a restaurant in Pompeii. Because they had been so recently in Rome, the boys felt deeply the death of the Pope, which occurred shortly after they arrived home.

Matthew Altekruise said, "It was like losing a family member, like a grandfather," as he explained, "I'm part Polish."



Timothy McGuirk said that he was impressed that John Paul II had reached out to other faiths, especially to Judaism. He said, "He tried to stretch the word of God around the world."

In addition to their singing, the boys toured Rome with guides, visiting all the major sights of the city, which included climbing the Spanish Steps and throwing coins in the Trevi Fountain. They also enjoyed a day trip to

Pompeii. **Frankie Porcelli** enjoyed, not only, the sightseeing, "My favorite things were Pompeii, and I also liked the food! I liked the catacombs. It was awesome to see how early Christians lived and worshipped God."

The trip was memorable for each boy in a special way.

Matthew Ciommo said, "I experienced such wonderful memories like singing at St. Peter's Basilica and seeing places like Pompeii and the Pantheon. Most of all, I think I will remember the paintings of the Sistine Chapel. They were amazing."

Timothy McQuirk remembers, "My favorite thing in Rome was seeing St. Peter's Basilica. It has amazing pieces of art like Michelangelo's *Pieta*, the beautiful 90 ft. canopy by Bernini, the throne, and the dome by Michelangelo."

Kurt Wetzel expressed the enthusiasm of all when he said, "The trip was awesome!"

Joseph Uhrig summarized not only his feelings, but those of all who went with BACS to Rome, "I honestly think that this trip will be a trip to cherish and remember for the rest of my life."

CONGRATULATIONS BACS CLASS OF 2005

On Friday, June 10, 2005, at a very impressive ceremony at St. Paul Church, thirteen choirboys graduated from BACS. John Dunn, headmaster, greeted the boys, their families, faculty, and friends. Rev. James Savage, Choir School chaplain, gave the Invocation. The boys then presented a delightful program of instrumental music with talented students Timothy McGuirk, Alexander Buiel, Edward O'Neill, Luke Paulino, and John Chiodini performing. The Grade 7 and 8 Recorder Consort, directed by Ms. Sheila Beardslee, then treated the audience to a performance of *Gabrieli's Canzona Septimi Toni*. This was followed by an address to the boys by Msgr. Dennis F. Sheehan, Pastor. In his message to the boys, he



praised them for the gift of their music which they have shared with so many, and which he hopes they will continue to nurture and share in the years to come.

At the conclusion of the program, each graduate and his family came to the altar for the presentation of the boy's diploma by John Dunn and Sr. Kathleen Berube, CSJ, Principal. The parents of each graduate also received diplomas that acknowledged the four years of support, encouragement, and prayer that assured their son's successful completion of his years at

BACS. Undergraduates then sang to the graduates the very moving *Gaelic Blessing* by John Rutter, which is the traditional concluding song of the graduation ceremony. The Class of 2009 and their parents were then invited to the altar to be officially welcomed to the Choir School by the choirboys of the current four classes.

CLASS OF 2005 MOVES ON

Jeffrey Charles Beazley – off to Boston College High School

Sean Boyle – off to Boston College High School

Thomas Francis Buckley – off to Boston College High School

John Paul Chiodini – off to The Newman School

Michael F. Dunlea – off to Bedford High School

Mark Michel Cerveira Hajjar – off to Boston University Academy

Aidan Lynch – off to The Newman School

Joseph Lynch – off to The Newman School

Shane Lawrence McComiskey – off to Portsmouth Abbey School, Portsmouth, RI

Luke Paulino – off to Arlington High School

Richard Pugsley – off to Boston College High School

Robert Francis Sharpe – off to Boston College High School

Kurtis Wetzel – off to Boston College High School



Attention, Attention
Click on bostonboychoir.org
and find out what's going on at BACS.

HIGHPOINTS OF THE SPRING

BACS Gala and Auction – In February BACS parents, with **Barbara Pecci** and **Patricia McGuirk** as co-chairpersons, held a very successful fund-raising event. Everyone had a delightful evening.

BACS Open House – In February, during Catholic Schools Week, the Choir School held its annual Open House. The day began with Mass for guests and parishioners, followed by refreshments and a very informative program. There were reflections by students about why they attend the Choir School, and why they attend a Catholic school. Students then gave excellent musical performances, followed by an overview of classroom activities. Guests were invited to visit classes during the rest of the morning.



l to r: Tom Buckley, Joe Lynch, Kurtis Wetzel, Mark Hajjar, Jeff Beasley and Tina Hajjar at the Vatican

Congratulations to Kathryn A. McCarthy who was named recipient of the Theodore Marier Award. At the BACS Spring Concert, Kathryn A. McCarthy was honored for her long and outstanding service to the Choir School. She has also been a valuable member of the St. Paul community, serving as lector, extraordinary minister, and member of the finance committee.

BACS Graduation – On June 10, 2005, the Class of 2005 graduated. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

ON BEING INVESTED INTO THE CHOIR SCHOOL

John Chiodini, graduating BACS student, has written what it meant to him to be invested into the Choir.

Getting invested into the Choir is a very great honor. It is no small accomplishment. At my Investiture I felt a sense of relief that I had passed all the tests that the school demanded of me. These tests included playing the recorder and passing all of the songs that we were required to play perfectly, getting good grades on all of my music tests by staying in tune and singing the correct pitches, and, last but not least, keeping a good academic average. When Mr. Dunn called us down to receive our new surplices and new hymnals, I was very happy. At the end of the service, we were allowed to sit with the older choirboys and sing with the sopranos. I felt that I was finally part of the Choir School.



Members of the Class of 2008 before Investiture

BACS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

When she joined the BACS faculty this year, **Sheri Kenney** felt as though she had connected with her past and come home. BACS sang at her wedding at St. Patrick's in Watertown 25 years ago. Sheri has come to BACS to teach French and Language Arts after a very short retirement as vice principal at Blessed Sacrament School in Walpole. Previous to her years at Blessed Sacrament, she taught at Holy Name in West Roxbury. Patricia Christina, her friend and BACS administrative assistant, told her that BACS needed a substitute French teacher. Having been a French major and music minor at Providence College, and having received her masters in education, she is a wonderful fit for the Choir School. She thoroughly enjoys being at BACS and says that the boys are a joy to teach.



Ms. Kenney with Class of 2007 during Catholic Schools Week

Sr. Jean Morris, a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence, has been both a teacher and school administrator. Her last position before coming to BACS was as a math teacher at St. Theresa School in West Roxbury. Previously, she had been principal at the Sacred Heart School in Kingston, MA. During her sabbatical in 2000-2001, she spent many months traveling in the Middle East pursuing her interest in scripture while studying scripture on site. At BACS Sr. Jean teaches math, as well as religion, which she prefers to be thought of as scripture based biblical studies. Sr. Jean has found that being at BACS is very centering for her. She said, "It is a place where people are encouraged to recognize and utilize their gifts. There is a real sense of community at the school. BACS lives its mission as the boys experience what it is to pray and reflect, deepening their faith every day. The school works to prepare young men to be leaders in the Church and in their communities, with music serving as the integrating force for the total program."

BACS MISSION STATEMENT

It seems appropriate at the conclusion of a very happy and successful school year to print here BACS Mission Statement. The graduates of the Class of 2005 are a testament to the dedication of the BACS faculty and staff who strive to achieve these goals.

The Boston Archdiocesan Choir School at St. Paul Church, Cambridge, a musically intensive, academically rigorous, Catholic day school for boys in grades five through eight, strives to engage young men in the development of their intellectual and musical talents and to inspire them to use their gifts for the greater glory of God.



BACS Memorial Cards

Enrollment cards for your deceased family and friends are available from the Choir School. Enrolled members are remembered at a weekly parish Mass. For enrollment call the Boston Archdiocesan School at (617) 868-8658.

CONGRATULATIONS BACS PARENTS' GUILD

There is no doubt that without the active participation of BACS parents in the life of the school, the school would have a very difficult time functioning. This year has been a particularly challenging year for the Parents' Guild. The major



BACS Parents Guild members Kevin Tam, Suzanne Fothergill and John Fothergill with Choir Boys at the annual gala fundraiser, A Grand Night for Singing

fund-raising event of the year, A Grand Night for Singing, was followed almost immediately by the school trip to Rome. Both memorable events demanded tremendous effort from all the parents. The gala was a delightful evening and the most successful fund-raising event to date. The Rome trip, in the words of the students, was "awesome," "fantastic," and "never to be forgotten." These events were planned, organized, and run with skill and dedication, as were so many other endeavors by the parents throughout the year.

Congratulations and thanks to the leaders of the Parents' Guild for this past year. They were: President John Fothergill, father of Matthew, '07; Treasurer Tom Yotts, father of Nicholas, '08; and Secretary Donna Gargiulo, mother of Frank, '06.

BACS welcomes the incoming officers of the Guild for the school year 2005-2006. They are: President Tom Yotts; Vice-president Denise Kenneally; Treasurer Beth Santella, mother of Nicholas, '08; and Secretary Donna Gargiulo.

WISH LIST

BACS is grateful to those generous benefactors who have responded to our Wish List in the past. Among pressing needs for the coming school year are the items listed. We hope that you can help us again. Please call the school office at (617) 868-8658. BACS appreciates your help.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Sponsorship of the 2 newsletters | |
| printing and mailing costs | \$7,000 |
| New office computer of Pentium-4 quality | \$1,500 |
| 1 network printer , comparable to Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 4000 TN | \$2,500 |
| Color laser network printer for office, comparable to Brother BRO-HL 2400 CEN | \$2,500 |
| Plastic comb binding machine | \$4,000 |
| Classroom bulletin boards | \$1000 |
| Choral music for a year | \$2,000 |



l to r: Jack Donovan, '08, Tim McGuirk, '07, Alec Murphy, '08, Ms. Beardsley at Young Players Recorder Festival on February 12th

ALUMNI NEWS

A message from Sue Carr, alumni parent of Michael '00 and BACS Advisory Board member:

Hello all my friends in BACS alumni land! It has been awhile since we have heard from one another. Whether you are a BACS alumnus or the parent of an alumnus, we would love to hear from you. Send me an email and tell us about yourself, what you are doing in high school, in college, in graduate school, and beyond. My email is SuMRCar@aol.com.

Rev. Peter Uglietto, '65 - Rev. Peter Uglietto has been appointed as rector of Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston. A graduate and loyal supporter of BACS, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1977, received his doctorate from the John Paul II Institute in Washington, DC, and was previously academic dean at Blessed John XXIII.

Tony McLean, '71 – Tony, former president of Broadway in Boston, is director of the production “A Grand Night for Singing,” a Rogers and Hammerstein revue which is the opening show for the Gloucester Stage Company. Tony was recently featured in a Boston Globe article. After a very successful career in theater management in New York and Boston, he has returned to his first love, the creative side of theater.

Rev. William T. Kelly, '76 – Father Bill is a spiritual director at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton. On weekends he visits at Holy Family Parish in Rockland.

Paul G. Kelly, '77 – Paul is the principal at St. Joseph School in Needham. He is also the Director of Music at St. John’s Parish in Quincy.

Stephen J. Kelly, '81 – Stephen works for the City of Boston School Department. He has used his training as a speech pathologist in the classroom. More recently he has been an assistant principal and at present he is the Student Support Coordinator at the Condon School in South Boston.

Nicholas Puleo, '91 – Nicholas, a graduate of BC High and Northeastern University, was featured in The Patriot Ledger for his work as a crusader for stem-cell research. The article reported that Nicholas is a cancer survivor who is now in remission and has endured years of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. He sees the promise of stem-cell research as the best hope for millions of suffering people. He addressed 2,500 delegates at the Massachusetts Democratic Party annual convention.

Ted Lombardi, '93 – Ted received his Masters Degree with distinction from Boston University School of Communication and is the TV sports anchor at Channel 7 WVII, the ABC affiliate in Bangor, ME.

Paul Murray, '96 – Paul is a graduate student at Manhattan School of Music and is Director of Music at the Church of the Holy Family (the United Nations Church) in New York City.

Mark Ferraguto, '97 – Mark graduated from Holy Cross College and played his senior piano recital. On the program was a Sonata by Beethoven which he began learning at the Choir School in grade 6. In the fall he will enter a Ph.D. program in Musicology at Cornell University.

Michael Sangalang, '97 – Michael graduated from Boston College and gave solo renditions of both the National Anthem and the Boston College song.

Philip McDavitt, '98 – Philip was appointed a Cambridge police officer on January 14, 2005. His badge was pinned on him by his proud mother, 1997-98 BACS Parents’ Guild President.

Matthew Anderson, '00 – Matt finished his freshman year at Notre Dame and is thinking about a major in either physics or music. He is a member of the Men’s Glee Club and has started an a capella quartet with friends from the Glee Club.

Patrick Carnell, '00 – Pat attends Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. He majors in Communications and is a member of the Republican Club and the Chorus.

Michael Carr, '00 – Michael is very happy at Catholic University and has finished his first year.

Frank Doyle, '01 – Frank, BC High, '05, has been awarded the Medeiros Scholarship to Boston University.

Derek Wetzel, '01 – Derek, BC High, '05, has been accepted to Harvard University.

BACS is very proud of its alumni!

SPECIAL THANKS

BACS is extremely grateful to the following supporters of the Choir School for their generous gifts:

An anonymous donor for a grant of \$38,000, making the 2005 trip to Rome affordable for all the choirboys.

Gregory E. Bulger Foundation for 2 grants of \$15,000 each underwriting the BACS Christmas concerts in both 2003 and 2004.



Schrafft's Charitable Trust for \$5,000 supporting the Working Scholarship Program.

The Christ Child Society for a grant of \$2,500 supporting the Working Scholarship Program.

Buck and Elaine Haberkorn for a grant of \$5,000 underwriting the cost of the orchestra for the spring concert.

Class of 2005 for a grant of \$500 for refurbishing the handbells.

An anonymous donor who funded the purchase of new French textbooks for all the boys in the school.

An anonymous donor who funded the purchase of tenor and bass recorders for the advanced recorder ensemble.

Seven individuals who wish to remain anonymous for grants totaling more than \$20,000.

John J. Bowen for \$675 underwriting one boy's expenses for the 2005 trip to Rome.



Ethan Madden as Michelangelo

BACS Academic Chair

A beautiful wooden armchair or rocking chair would make a wonderful gift or an elegant addition to your office or study. Both styles of chair are black enamel with cherry stained arms. The BACS seal decorates the chair back. Order from the Choir School and the chair will be shipped directly to you. The cost of \$375.00 includes shipping and handling.



BACS Academic Chair Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Shipping Address _____

Include check made payable to BACS for \$375.00. Mail order form and check to: BACS, 29 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Allow 8 - 10 weeks for shipping. Questions? Call the Choir School at 617-868-8658.

Boston Archdiocesan Choir School
29 Mt. Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 58999



BACS SINGS IN ROME

