

BELEN JESUIT

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



WINTER • 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Without question, the most exciting news to Alumni of Jesuit institutions this year, was the election of a Jesuit Pope. This news was received enthusiastically at Belen, where classes were cancelled and the school closed in celebration of the historic event. In the few months since his election, Pope Francis has exhorted

Catholics to serve the less fortunate, in effect to live the Jesuit motto of "Men for Others."

Over the years, Belen's Alumni Association has done just that. Through Magis, the Alumni Association's service arm, Belen Alumni and their families have collected funds to feed the elderly at Thanksgiving and Christmas at Gesu Church. The Toy drive that began at Santa Anna

Mission and now is at Gesu has become an annual Alumni Association tradition.

Belen Alumni also provided significant assistance thru *Yoyo's Fund* to Father Willie's project in the Dominican Republic. The small school near the Haitian border has a new classroom, computers and a basketball court.

Belen graduates also revamped Gesu's website and together with current Belen students, repainted the historic Church.

Alumni continue to help the school through pro-bono legal services and pro-bono architectural, engineering and construction assistance.

Perhaps the most exciting project undertaken by

the Alumni Association is the *Yearbook Project*. A team of Belen Alumni, with the help of their dedicated office staff, has scanned and uploaded all of the Belen existing yearbooks in our office, dating back to 1914. With this project, every Alumni Association member will be able to view their yearbook through the school's website, based on their class's commitment to the Project.

Belen Alumni also contributed financially donating over \$1 million to the school in 2012 and 2013. The school's buildings and grounds bear witness to the generosity of the alumni; to mention some: the Goizueta Athletic Center, the Saladrigas Art Gallery, the Garrido Family Plaza and more recently the Hernandez Family Field. Smaller contributions, when aggregated, are also critically important. Some classes such as the 1960, 1985 and 1987 collect funds annually to help the School Scholarship Program for needy students.

But we can do so much more. The service efforts are grand but more alumni are always needed to make those projects more successful. And while the financial contributions are significant, they come from a mere 11% of the alumni. Think how much more can be done if the other 89% chips in. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference. The possibilities are endless and the dream of a new cafeteria, chapel and fully funded scholarships would become a reality with your help.

Let us be "Men for Others" and follow our Pope's exhortation.

Yours Truly,

Carlos Batlle '80

President of the Belen Alumni Association



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BELEN JESUIT

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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YEAR II – NO. 2

CONTENT

FEATURES

A NEW ADDITION	5
The new statue of St. Ignatius is unveiled	
METEOROLOGY TRADITION	6
Students follow the footsteps of influential Jesuit	
CARLOS DIHARCE	8
An example of a man for others	
MAGIS	14
Jose Ignacio Rasco '45	
COVER STORY	16
The Catholic community celebrates their new leader	
10 QUESTIONS FOR 1 ALUMNUS	20
Cesar Conde '91	
A TASTE OF THE FUTURE	23
A look at the cafeteria renovation plans	

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY NEWS	4
ATHLETICS NEWS	10
CLASS NOTES	24
ANNOUNCEMENTS	26
GALLERY OF REUNIONS	28
LETTER FROM SCHOOL PRESIDENT	35
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	36

On the cover: **Pope Francis.**

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COMMUNITY

By: *Michael Chang '14*
Echoes Editor

- The sixth grade Lock-In took place Friday, November 8th. During this event, the sixth grade class stayed over night at the school. They also participated in numerous activities such as laser tag, watching movies, listening to alumni speakers, pizza, and breakfast. Also that evening, parents of the sixth grade class got together for the first ever Sixth Grade Gathering. The gathering, much like the Lock-In, allowed the participants to get to know each other better.



- During Grandparents' Day, the seventh graders and their grandparents come to the school and participate in a number of different activities including bingo, a tour of the school, dominoes, poetry reading, live music, and lunch. The event took place September 28th.



- The school's open house took place October 5th. An estimated 400 families toured the school buildings and learned more about the education and culture of the school and its community. The alumni had a booth to inform parents and potential students of their association.



- The entire community got together October 10th to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Students and their Modern Language teachers created the decorations that adorned the central patio. Students also brought Hispanic foods to share with everyone.



- The ring ceremony took place October 22nd in the school gym. All 222 seniors received their graduation rings and later celebrated in a reception in the central patio.



Senior Robert de la Hoz with his dad Jorge '80, and senior William Candela with his dad William, Sr. '80 immediately after the ring ceremony.

- Father and Son Day took place November 23rd. During this event, eighth graders and their fathers come to the school to participate in different sporting events such as basketball, flag football, dodgeball, sports trivia, and a father vs. son knockout. The event was a huge success.



- The freshman class and their families participated in family day November 16th. The families had a great time participating in events such as kickball. They also made sandwiches for the needy in the school cafeteria.



- The Wolverine 5K was a new event that took place October 12th on the school grounds. Participants ran a 5K around campus to raise funds for breast cancer awareness. Students also wore pink ties and bow ties during the month of October. Over \$12,000 were raised for the cause over the month of October.



Belen Director of Communications Teresa Martinez, Science Teacher Lidice Lascano, Tony Lascano '11 and Community Programs Coordinator of Baptist Health South Florida Daniel Rodriguez '05 at the "Battle like a Wolverine 5K" event to promote the importance of early detection.

A New Addition



Archbishop Thomas Wenski celebrated the first school-wide Mass of the year at Belen Jesuit September 11th. Following the solemn Mass, the archbishop blessed and unveiled a new statue of St. Ignatius Loyola the Teacher located at the entrance of the school.

"The Mass of the Holy Spirit is Belen Jesuit's tradition for kicking off the academic year and is core to the Jesuit, Ignatian values from which the school was established," said Jesuit Father Pedro Suarez, '58, school president. "This annual Mass is held at the beginning of the year to welcome the grace of a greater Being into our hearts and community as we journey through the experiences of the new academic year." He added, "We are honored that Archbishop Wenski has shared this important time with our students and faculty."

The statue of St. Ignatius was donated by the Zaldivar family whose son, Miguel Zaldivar, is currently a senior at the school. The statue was bronzed by local sculptor Lazaro Valdez.

"The statue is strategically located at the entrance of the school in order to inspire and motivate the students and educators in the Jesuit philosophy of education and social justice," said Father Suarez. "Everyone that walks through those gates will now be greeted by the founder of the Jesuits who believed that through education we can make the world a better place for the greater glory of God. This gift will be an inspiration for the entire Belen community and we are grateful to this family for their generosity."



Standing next to the new statue, Mr. and Mrs. Zaldivar, Lazaro Valdez, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, and Father Pedro Suarez, SJ.

Students follow meteorology tradition established by a Jesuit

By: Robert VanScoy '14
Echoes Editor-In-Chief

The science of meteorology has been a Jesuit tradition that spans centuries. Recently, the Father of Meteorology himself, Father Benito Viñes, SJ was honored for his scientific findings in the area of hurricane studies.

September 12 marked the day that the corner of 6th street and 128th avenue became Padre Benito Viñes, SJ Way. This was a tremendous moment in the school history. It not only recognized Fr. Viñes, but also honored the meteorology program and what it has brought to Belen since its inception.

Being one of the few schools in the entire United States that has a state of the art observatory and meteorology center, the foundation of Father Viñes' work is

still impacting the school and its students today. Evidence of his work can be seen through the astronomy and meteorology clubs that have been active for many years, and are still thriving even with the younger students.

"I am very excited that Father Viñes is receiving the credit that he deserves. He was definitely ahead of his time," said Father Pedro Cartaya, SJ, '54.

The event also provided an opportunity to remind the surrounding community that it was Father Viñes who, through research and dedication, was able to predict a storm that struck Havana, Cuba September 12, 1875. Had it not been for Father Viñes' work, the storm would have taken the country and its citizens by surprise, and many lives could

have been lost.

Just recently, CNN Latino called in house meteorologist Pedro Añon because they were aware that there was a meteorology center in the school and they wanted to work with students. Añon approached current television adviser Johnny Calderin '92 about the technical aspect of this endeavour. The school administration, Calderin, and Añon met with the CNN producers, and this led to the daily production of the weather report for CNN Latino in Miami.

It was agreed in this meeting that Belen students would record Monday through Friday a minute long report of the local weather. The students would do this in Spanish since this station caters to the Hispanic market, and they would also be responsible for the content.

"It is nice to be given the opportunity to not only study broadcasting but to actually have real life experience broadcasting for a national network," said senior Guillermo Saade.

Meteorology students as well as TV production students volunteered for this once in a lifetime experience. Every day, these students gather in the WBLN studio to produce the daily weather report. It is then sent to CNN where it is later aired during their noon news hour.

The students have gotten the hang of this production and have even reported on neighboring tropical weather that could affect the nation.

"It has been very important to the broadcasting kids because it gives them a real life experience to produce something for a news channel. As for the meteorology kids, it has given them an outlet to be able to report on the weather that they study," said Calderin '92.

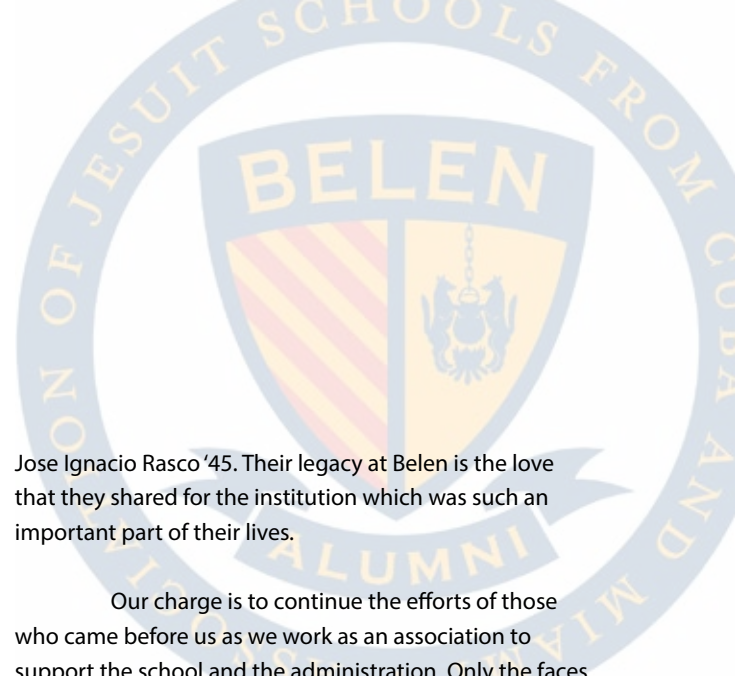


Senior Guillermo Saade reports the weather for CNN Latino Miami in the WBLN studios.



(Top) Julian Perez-Corzo '54, Father Pedro Cartaya, SJ '54, Alberto Li '72, Father Pedro Suarez, SJ '58, Jose Garrido Jr. '72, Mariano Loret de Mola '58, Charlie Torres '72, Thomas de Quesada '94, and Mario Martinez Malo '55. (Right) With Jose 'Pepe' Diaz at the street naming ceremony.





New projects for a new leader

By: *Thomas De Quesada '94*
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Belen has been an integral part of my life for the last 24 years, and I have always been proud to be a part of this great community. Over the course of the last 16 years I was blessed to carry out my vocation in assisting in the formation of the students at the school. A strong sense of gratitude has always driven me to serve Belen Jesuit, because I remember the Jesuits and members of the faculty were very supportive of my family during my years as a student. Now I am incredibly grateful to Father Pedro Suarez, SJ for giving me the opportunity to lead and positively affect the school in a new way.

Belen has always been my home, and the alumni and faculty, an extension of my family. In my short time working in this new capacity, I have had the opportunity to gather with classes to celebrate their reunions, visit with alumni who return to campus, and commemorate the lives of men who have given so much of their time and passion to the school. The most impactful experiences have been the recent funeral masses of our distinguished alumni Aristides Martinez '59 and

Jose Ignacio Rasco '45. Their legacy at Belen is the love that they shared for the institution which was such an important part of their lives.

Our charge is to continue the efforts of those who came before us as we work as an association to support the school and the administration. Only the faces of the students have changed in our hallways. The history, spirituality, tradition, and spirit remain the same. It is an incredible honor to be working with a group of men with such a strong vocation to a cause. When we were students at Belen we all benefited from the time and generosity of the alumni who came before us. It is now our time to help the school continue fulfilling its mission.

Our priority this year will be to support the school administration in its efforts to facilitate a new Dining Hall for the students, faculty and alumni. My sincere hope is for the alumni to be the driving force behind this project as we seek to positively affect the school's culture. In pledging our support, the Alumni Association stands to help the school meet its most pressing need, provide an opportunity to give back to the school family that gave us so much, and most importantly, inspire future generations of alumni with our commitment to serve. Our association's energy is contagious and our love for the school will help to motivate others to invest in the future of the school as well. This goal can only be realized with your help. I am excited about leading this effort, which will help to modernize one of the most important parts of the school.

The role of Director of Development and Alumni Relations is one that I accepted with great enthusiasm because of my strong desire to continue the tradition of improving the facilities, providing financial assistance for families in need, reaching out to and supporting the alumni, and ensuring the future of the school we love so much. I am excited about our plans as we build for the future, and I feel honored to be working with the members of the Alumni Association who have dedicated themselves to supporting the school. I look forward to an excellent school year, and seeing you all on campus and at our events.



“By their fruits you will recognize them”

Matthew 7:16

CARLOS DIHARCE: AN ALUMNUS AND JESUIT MISSIONARY IN THE JUNGLES OF PERU



“Maybe we should scrutinize the Scriptures not from our comfortable seats, but from these ancient jungles filled with water and life.”

-Father Carlos Diharce, SJ '59

Father Carlos Diharce Aguirre, SJ is a fruit of Belen. As most of our alumni he has lived his life in simplicity and in silence, doing good deeds away from newspaper headlines and TV news. He has shown to us the boundless generosity of God, who calls us Belen alumni to be “men for others”.

Carlos was born in Caibarién, Cuba. After graduating from Belen in 1959, he entered the Society of Jesus in Havana. He continued studies in Los Teques, Venezuela, followed by Philosophy in Spain. After two years as a teacher at the Colegio Loyola in Santo Domingo, he was sent to study Theology in Louvain, Belgium. He was ordained a priest in 1972 and then he was able to pursue the real vocation he felt called by God to follow since the Novitiate: to be a missionary. He dreamt of going to Africa, but his Superiors saw a greater need among the natives of Peru, where he has been assigned since his ordination.

What follows is an article especially written for the ALUMNI MAGAZINE by Fr. Diharce. It is a message in which he describes his life as a missionary and the lives of those around him. He dedicates it to all the magazine readers and fellow alumni.

Father Pedro Suarez SJ, '58

I arrived from Europe to the “High Marañón Mission”, in Northeast Peru in 1972. I was 31 years old and recently ordained. I think I was a typical Jesuit, deeply marked by post Vatican Council happenings, including student revolts and other signs of effervescence at that time. Deeply ingrained in me was my stubborn vocation to be a missionary since the time of my Novitiate in Cuba and Venezuela, although I believe that my missionary call originated when I was a student at the Colegio de Belén. For a long time I was searching for a wider horizon in which to live out my call, outside of my Jesuit Antilles Province.

I arrived, I saw and I did not win, unlike the Roman motto “Veni, vidi, vinci”. I was defeated by the surroundings of a thick jungle in the Amazon basin inhabited by the “jibaro” ethnic group of the native “Awajun” and “Wampi” Indians.

For many years, almost the only thing I did was to share life with the jungle and its people. I accompanied them in their everyday chores, their joys and fears... acting like a child among grown-ups. I learned the magic of living in the jungle and of the jungle. I was living among indigenous communities between the Cenepa and Santiago rivers, which are tributaries of the Marañón river.

FORTY-THREE YEARS IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE

Translated from Spanish by Father Pedro Suarez, SJ

These were years of political turbulence, in and outside of the area. I could recount many anecdotes and wild adventures that now seem so natural, like simple memories of a young Cuban who was growing in age and experience in the midst of a new world of its own.

Although living alone as a Jesuit for years, but accompanied by extraordinary religious women, I experienced a reality that was very different both from what I knew in Cuba and what I experienced as a Jesuit studying in other countries. It was not only a new reality, but something that helped me simplify the ideals that I had as a human person and as a Christian. More than changing my values, I was experiencing the possibility of rerouting my human and spiritual search in another direction.



Indigenous producers attending a course in Santa Maria de Nieva, Amazonas

How about my missionary work? Naturally, something must have transpired from my cultural and religious background, especially to a group of young catechists and future leaders, but everything was very limited in comparison to what I was receiving from them, that was causing a deep change on my inner life.

I was being interiorly transformed, while keeping the external appearance of an outsider who was sent on a mission. It was certainly a silent process of emptying my soul of past experiences and at the same time filling it with new likings, new preferences, a new love, new lights from the Gospel and a new way of looking at science... These

were times with no telephone, modern communications or Internet. I had to burn my ship, like Hernan Cortez did, and stay indefinitely, or leave the mission. There was no other option!

The result is that here I found my new family, my best friends, my home, my spiritual identity. In spite of being so far away, I feel completely happy! This is why I said that I was defeated. There is no religious conquest to report, no magisterial teaching to boast about, no extraordinary works to be proud of...

Years went by and then I entered an era of institutional commitments. I worked with SAIPE (Agriculture and Livestock Service for Research and Economic Promotion) and with the Center for Indigenous Spirituality TUNAANTS. Both institutions are in Santa Maria de Nieva, Amazonas, a small town which is the capital of the region, perched on the junction of the Marañón and Nieva rivers. Presently I am living in a small, but charming Jesuit community of four, and my only work is with very capable indigenous collaborators.

At this stage I am trying to balance that which is "ours" with what is "theirs." If I continue in this work it is because I believe we can arrive at what is common to both cultures. We want to make contact and enter into a significant intercultural dialog in everything that concerns a fully human life that is healthy, happy and productive within the jungle. There is no doubt in my mind that our Christian faith, in its essence, brings light and is good yeast to bring it about.

Personally, I have no prefabricated solutions. We must walk along with the people we serve, with the shell and the slowness of the turtle and with the patience of our trees. They know how to wait while they grow... I do not feel I am alone or a hero. I do not feel like an Indian either. Maybe I feel as an ordinary Jesuit who came as a young man and is ending his journey as an old companion of the beings that live in this jungle, doing what he can to serve his travel companions.

Now, once again, I feel linked to all of you, who are extending your generous hand to reach out to me. You are allowing me



Awajun Indian Children

to perform a greater service, a part of which is my option for the Peruvian Indians, that has turned me into one like them without really being one of them. This is an unfinished project, as I have had no other assignment in the Jesuit Order. I do not feel a dichotomy between thinking and feeling, as some may think a missionary feels. I am a realist. This limits me in some way, but it makes it easy to detach myself of previously accepted values, including some that present themselves as a saving paradigm. It is possible to speak of a spiritual syncretism. At times I feel alienated, sometimes uncomfortable, with my former culture, although I do not brag about it. I prefer to outwardly conceal this feeling, not out of hypocrisy, but because of an instinctive sense of closeness to my brothers and friends from other cultures.

However, my faith, wounded when I was in Europe, has been constantly renewed and strengthened, closer to nature as if it were a temple and a tabernacle, deeply Trinitarian, Marian and Ignatian, although I wonder what St. Ignatius would say about this. In this sense, my faith has been "globalized", concerned with all that is happening in our small planet.

Perhaps this is the right time to restore the bridge with my friends from Belen. Farewell, dear friends, until we meet next summer. I cannot think of better words than these to end my brief reflection: How quickly time passes by! How little we amount to! How beautiful life is! How great is our God!

ATHLETICS

By: *Carlos Jimenez '15*
Echoes Editor

- The Varsity Football team went 7-4 during the regular season and lost in the first round of the playoffs against Killian. They look forward to working hard and returning better than ever next season.



- The Junior Varsity Football team had a lot of potential for what will become part of the varsity team next year. They played hard and ended the season with a 4-2 record.

- The Middle School Football team ended their season with a 4-2 record. They look forward to a long and effective offseason to get better for next year as they will be losing half the team as they move onto high school.

- This has been the second 6th grade football team in Belen history. They finished off their season with a 2-4 record. They are looking forward to be playing with the middle school team next year.

- The Varsity Cross Country team had a great season, winning the state title for the fourth time consecutively. Their hard work and dedication as a team was demonstrated this year.

- The Middle School Cross Country team showed their potential in becoming state champions as they transition to high school athletes. They were undefeated this season with a total of 10 wins.

- The sixth grade Cross Country team had a strong competition but ended the season with winning 6 out of 9 races this year. They showed that they too can run with the big boys.

- The Varsity Golf team had a disappointing season, winning only a couple of tournaments. They got fourth place in the district meet, unable to advance to regionals.



- The JV Golf team had a fantastic season with a 6-1 record so far. They will try to finish the season on a good note and work hard for next year.

- The Middle School Golf team has had a strong season winning their first five tournaments. They will continue to work hard and try to end the season undefeated.

- The Varsity Swimming team dominated once again winning the state title for the seventh time in the last eight years. They completed their season undefeated.

- The Middle School Swimming team had a great season, with some first place individuals. They will work hard during the offseason, trying to get stronger and faster for next year.

- The Middle School Basketball team started their season in late October and has so far been undefeated. They are going to work hard and hopefully be undefeated this entire season as they transition to high school.

- The sixth grade Basketball team was undefeated with a total of 21 games this season. We are looking forward to what will be next years middle school squad.

- The Gold and Blue Middle School Volleyball team had a strong season winning many tournaments during their season.

- Competing for the second time in Belen history the Bowling team won 4 out 12 tournaments. They look forward to working hard and coming back with a better team next year.



2013 Varsity Cross Country Team with coaches Juan Rodriguez '79, Victor Arrieta '95, Michael Jalil '05, Rene Medina '05, Head Coach Frankie Ruiz '96, and Athletics Director Carlos Barquin.



Coach Kirk Peppas led the varsity swim team to its second consecutive and seventh overall State Title.

Hall of Fame Finds Permanent Home

By: *Juan Carlos Campuzano '14*
Echoes Editor

Despite its establishment in 2007, the Belen Sports Hall of Fame has not been a relevant subject to current nor former students of the school. According to Director of Alumni Association Mariano Loret de Mola '58, the Belen Sports Hall of Fame has been looking for a permanent home for the past three or four years.

The search came to an end this year when Loret de Mola, Francisco "Paco" Ruiz '73, and John Medina '77 came together. After several discussions and much planning, it was Loret de Mola's ideas, Ruiz's coordination, and Medina's architectural expertise that made the dream become a reality. Additionally and proudly, the Hall of Fame was paid for by loyal and dedicated members of the Sports Hall of Fame.

"The hidden inspiration was motion," revealed Medina about the designs of the Hall of Fame.

The original idea was to have a display that would be accessible to all students, so that they could have something to look forward to and strive to be a part of. Loret de Mola had in mind an electronic component to represent the future as well as some sort of interactive mode that could be updated as the years passed and new members are inducted.

The design was Medina's idea. As you walk in, the reflecting tiles shine with blue and gold around a large touch-screen computer. Today, students and visitors can walk in and easily look up the accomplishments of the Hall of Fame's members with the push of a button. Also, any passerby can look up statistics

of sports currently in season. With such an interactive display, it is not surprising to see current student athletes admiring it as they now aspire to be a part of it more than they ever have before.

Hall of Famer Alberto Acuña '93 appreciates the new display as it makes it real for current student athletes, and creates a goal for them. The overall objective of masterminds Loret de Mola, Ruiz and Medina was to maintain the legacy of Belen's greatest athletes with the expectation of future generations to carry on this new tradition.

By plugging in the past in a fashion that is pertinent to the twenty-first century, students are eager to add new members to the plaques and online. For the first time, the Belen Sports Hall of Fame finally has a stable home with an exciting hope for the future of Belen athletics.

"I sincerely hope someday to be a part of this amazing display," said starting quarterback for the Wolverines senior Jorge Pola. "It means a lot to an athlete to leave his legacy behind."

Every year the Alumni Association holds a selection and induction ceremony that begins with open nominations from October 1st through December 1st. The selection committee meets in January and the actual induction ceremony takes place during the varsity sports banquet in May.

"Our objective was always to inspire students to continue the legacy of excellence in sports in the school for many years to come," said Loret de Mola.

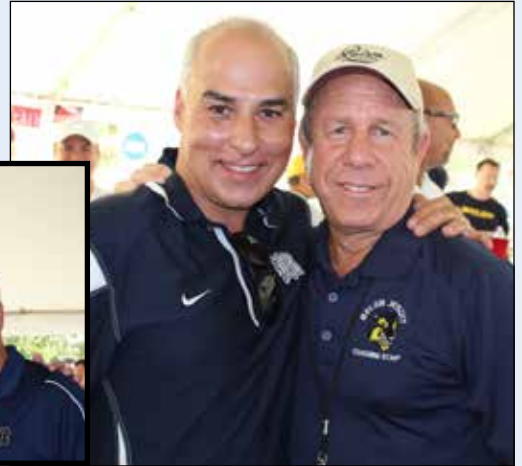


Starting quarterback senior Jorge Pola takes a moment to look at the new Hall of Fame wall located inside the school gym.



Director of the Alumni Association Mariano Loret de Mola '58, Francisco 'Paco' Ruiz '73, and John Medina '77 were the masterminds of this project.

TAILGATE 2013



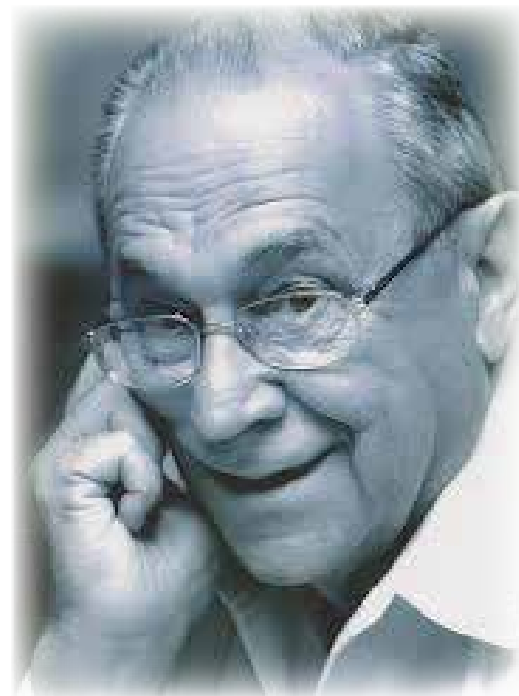


MAGIS

In Memoriam

DR. JOSE I. RASCO:

COMMITTED TO DOING JUSTICE



By: *Father Pedro Suarez, SJ '58*

One of our most distinguished and beloved alumni, Dr. Jose Ignacio Rasco, Belen class of 1945, passed away on Saturday, October 19, 2013. Dr. Rasco was a Belen alumnus, a lawyer, a politician, a journalist, a professor, a member of the Agrupación Católica Universitaria, a Catholic intellectual of the highest caliber and a dedicated husband and father.

He graduated in 1950 from the University of Havana, where he studied Law and Philosophy. Together with his brother Ramón, they founded the law office of 'Rasco y Bermúdez' in Havana, Cuba and from this office; he was a staunch defender of just causes. The span of his knowledge included the law as well as the Church's Social Doctrine.

Towards the end of the 1940's he founded a university group to fight for public transparency and against the penetration of gangsters in the University classrooms. In the 1950's he was involved in the foundation of "Liberación Radical", a political movement whose goal was to promote the political struggle in the public arena by means of votes and not with guns and violence. In 1959, he was the founder and first President of the "Partido Demócrata Cristiano" at a time when democracy and Christianity were threatened by the rise of a communist regime. As a political leader in exile, he became a member of the "Consejo Revolucionario Democrático", an organization that embraced leaders of major groups that opposed the repressive Cuban regime and worked untiringly for Cuba's freedom.

His journalistic career started in the newspaper "Información" in Havana. In Miami, he published numerous articles in "Diario Las Américas" as well as in many newspapers around the world. His style was defined

by short and incisive phrases, displaying his complete mastery of the Spanish language. He wrote several books, among them "Huellas de mi Cuba", in which he summarized some of his newspaper articles, "Integración Cultural de América Latina", that won an award from the Inter-American Development Bank and his latest book "Acuerdos, Desacuerdos y Recuerdos".



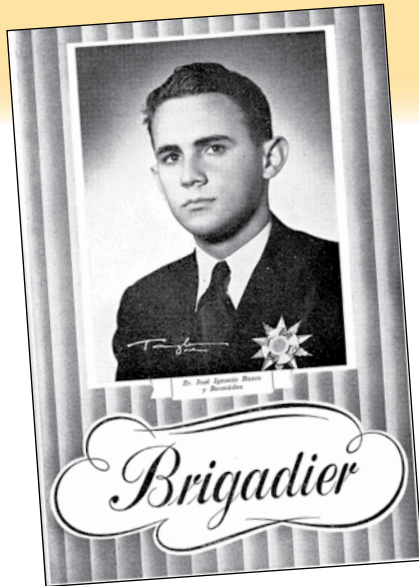
He received the "Sergio Carbó" and "José Ignacio (Pepín) Rivero" awards for his journalistic work and was made a member of the prestigious Order of Isabel La Católica for his outstanding work as a writer in the Spanish Language.

As an educator, he started his career in Cuba by teaching Civics at the Colegio de Belén and Social Science and History at the Universidad de Villanueva. In Miami, he was a gifted teacher at Belen Jesuit, and a professor at Florida International University and Saint Thomas University.

As a teacher and lecturer, he was elegant and humble, able to hold an audience captive due to his eloquence, his personal charm and his encyclopedic knowledge. He was a passionate admirer of French philosopher Jacques Maritain's "integral humanism" and was the founder and President of the Cuban Association that bears this philosopher's name.

At Belen Jesuit in Miami he worked in the Development Office as well as a member of its Board of Advisors and of the Ramón Guiterras Memorial Library Board of Directors. Perhaps José Ignacio's greatest legacy was the solid Christian family he built with Estela, his wife for 60 years, his children Maria and José Ignacio (Joe) Rasco and his 5 grandchildren.

May the good Lord reward this "good and faithful servant" with eternal rest in His Kingdom.



“En lo esencial, unidad; en lo dudoso, libertad; pero en todo, caridad.”

- Jose Ignacio Rasco



The best way to describe my Dad is: God, Cuba and Family. - Maria Rasco Lytle

His prodigious culture embraced the Law as well as Philosophy, History, Theology, the Arts and the Church's Social Doctrine.

- Father Pedro Suarez, SJ '58



Con José Ignacio Rasco muere un gigante moral de la historia cubana, por su bondad ciudadana, su apego a la libertad y su compromiso de servir a la Patria y a Dios.

- Alberto Muller '58

Something more that Cuba lost in its tragic 20th Century.

- Carlos Alberto Montaner



My father lived an exemplary life and died totally at peace.

- Jose Ignacio "Joe" Rasco

He will continue to be a source of honor and pride to the cause of freedom and democracy for all of us in the Americas.

- Father Ernesto Fernandez-Travieso, SJ

FRIENDLY
GENUINE
NEW **FACE**
PEACEFUL
INVITING
FORGIVING
ONE **OF** A KIND
LOVING
GENTLE
ASSERTIVE
CREATIVE
OPEN **CHANGE**
HUMBLE
IGNATIAN



It was a warm Wednesday afternoon in March when the white smoke billowed from the Sistine Chapel, and millions congregated in St. Peter's Square or in front of their TV sets around the world to take a first look at the man that the Catholic Church had chosen to lead its people as the Supreme Pontiff.

By: *Andreas Alvarez '14*
Echoes and Vincam Editor

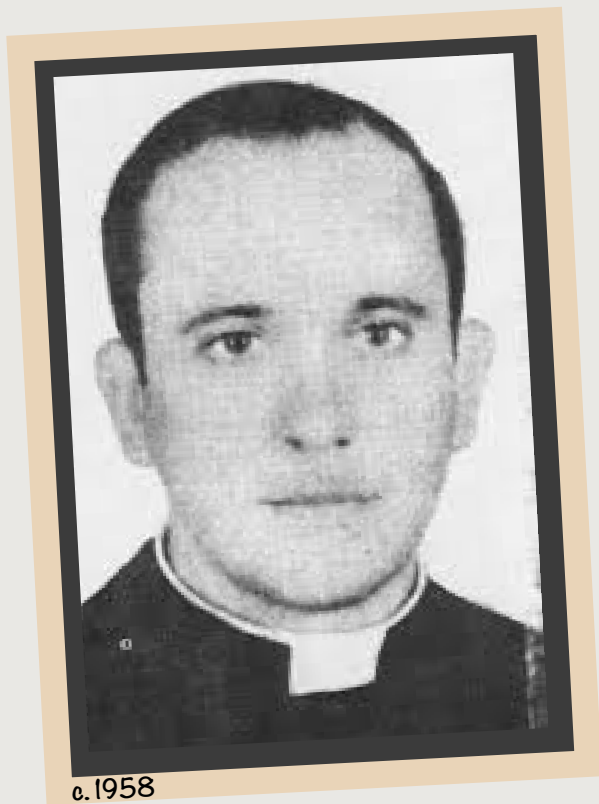
Jorge Mario Bergoglio, first pope of the Americas, comes from the Latin American landscape of Argentina. The Archbishop of Buenos Aires has much renown throughout the continent of South America, and still manages to be a humble minister, greatly appreciated by his congregation, through his devotion to the ministry and his willingness to take the time out of his schedule to visit each and every denomination within his diocese.

"The Catholic Church is truly universal and her universality is seen in the way that she has grown, especially in the Third World. The four most populous Catholic countries are non-European--Brazil, Mexico, Philippines and the United States. So, it was predictable, and not surprising, that the Church would reach out beyond Europe for her spiritual leader.

The selection of Pope Francis is clearly a sign of the direction that the Church is taking in recognizing and representing the diverse cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds that make up the Church," said Deacon Robert O'Malley.

In spite of his capability to live a more affluent lifestyle, he made the decision to live in a small apartment and cook for himself, an action deemed most humble and honorable by his critics. He would always encourage the pastors of his diocese to exemplify traditional Catholic values, such as showing mercy and keeping their doors and hearts open to the people of their congregation.

He believed that developing an attitude of self-centeredness was the worst possible thing that could happen to those in the Church. In matters of social justice, he refers back to the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, proclaiming that



c. 1958



c. 1966

denying people of their human dignity to be one of the greatest sins.

Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires on December 17, 1936, to an Italian immigrant couple. His father, originally an accountant, found work in the railways. His mother was a committed stay-at-home wife, expending all of her time to raising their five children.

Later on, Bergoglio graduated from the University of Buenos Aires as a chemical technician. Afterwards, he decided to follow the path of ministry, joining the priesthood at the Diocesan Seminary of Villa Devoto. He entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus on March 11, 1958, and proceeded to complete his studies of humanities in Chile, returning to Argentina in 1963, graduating with a degree in philosophy from the Colegio de San José in San Miguel. He educated others in psychology and literature at Immaculate Conception College in Santa Fé, and proceeded to teach the same subjects at the Colegio del Salvatore in Buenos Aires.

He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Ramón José Castellanos on December 13, 1969. Between 1970 and 1971, he continued his training at the University of Alcalá de Henares in Spain. On April 22, 1973, he made his final vows, officially joining the Jesuit order.

He was appointed the Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina on July 31, 1973. He held this office for six years. After that, he continued his work teaching at universities. He went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis. His superiors then proceeded to relocate him to the Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires. He was then moved once more to the Jesuit Church in Córdoba as both a confessor and a spiritual director.

On May 20, 1992, he was given the titles of Titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires by Pope John Paul II. In

doing so, he was able to get close to Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Archbishop of Buenos Aires at the time. He received episcopal ordination from the Cardinal on May 27. His episcopal motto was "miserando atque eligendo," meaning "by having mercy, by choosing him." On his coat of arms, he inserted the letters IHS, symbol of the Jesuits.

Almost immediately after, he was appointed Episcopal Vicar of the Flores district. On December 21, 1993, he was given the title of Vicar General of the Archdiocese. At this point, no one was shocked when on June 3, 1997, he was appointed to the office of Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires. Continuing on his ever-rising path in the diocese, upon the death of Cardinal Quarracino, Bergoglio took over his position on 28 February 1998, as Archbishop, Primate of Argentina and Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who have no Ordinary of their own rite.

At the Consistory of February 21, 2001, John Paul II had him assume the role of Cardinal, assigning him the title of San Roberto Bellarmino. Being his charitable self, he asked not to celebrate his new title, but to donate the money that would have been used on the festivities to the poor.

He was given the title of General Relator to the 10th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Episcopal Ministry on October 2001, a mission given to him in a crunch for time in order to take the place of Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Edward Michael Egan, who was ordered to stay in the United States because of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In this new office, he emphasized the prophetic mission of a bishop, and paid special attention to his role of being a "prophet of justice." He felt that his duty was to preach ceaselessly about the social doctrine of the Church, and to express an authentic judgement in matters of faith and morals.

Even with his ascension in office and growing popularity



2013

in Latin America, he never let loose his grip on his approach to teaching, or his strict and humbling lifestyle. Continuing on the path of humility, he refused when asked to become the President of the Argentine Bishops' Conference in 2002. However, he took the posit three years later in 2008 and reconfirmed for a three-year mandate.

When he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Bergoglio created a missionary project primarily focused on communion and evangelization, asking many priests and lay people to work together. He essentially had four central objectives: the creation of open and family-like communities, a laity that has influence in the diocesan community, widespread evangelization within these communities, and heavy focus on assisting the impoverished and ill. He began the solidarity campaign for the bicentennial of the independence of the country in September 2009. In doing so, by 2016, over two hundred charities will have been created.

"He was so charitable with his time and I think that is very admirable for a man of his position," said senior Jason Miranda.

During the sede vacante (an expression, used in the canon law of the Catholic Church, that refers to the vacancy of the episcopal see of a particular church) of Rome, he was part of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Congregation for the Clergy, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

"Pope Francis's desire to live simply while an Archbishop is a strong and necessary testimony of the Gospel that our world needs today. It calls to mind St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9)," said Brother Michael Wood, SJ.

Although the future of the world and its population is tumultuous and uncertain, one thing is for sure: Pope Francis is ready to take on adversity and promote peace and tolerance in the world.



A Belen Jesuit in the Piazza

By: Father Christian Saenz, SJ '95

As a student of history, there is perhaps nothing more exciting than to witness history unfolding before one's eyes, and even more, to actually be a part of an historic moment. Since Pope Benedict XVI's historic resignation in February, this Belen alumnus and Jesuit found himself in the right place and at the right time for a view of events that will surely find their way into history books in the coming years.

This historic moment started for me on the first day of the conclave, as I, along with several other Jesuits, were front and center with cardinals at St. Peter's Basilica. We had volunteered to help distribute communion at the Conclave Mass and were situated right behind the main altar, having the opportunity to witness the entire College of Cardinals file past us as they went up to kiss the altar. I remember thinking to myself that one of those cardinals who had just passed in front of me would never be the same the next time he goes back up that altar. We all know now who that cardinal was, but two days later in St. Peter's Square, many people did not recognize the name Georgium Marium Cardinalem Bergoglium when it was announced—at least no one standing in a 50 ft. radius around another Jesuit who was also in front of the St. Peter's that night. When I started to say "jesuita, jesuita!" people around me began asking me if I knew who the new pope was and I certainly did.

For Jesuits, the election of Pope Francis has indeed been a momentous occasion because throughout our 473-year history, the possibility of a Jesuit pope was largely dismissed as something highly unlikely. That evening and throughout the following day, there was a large silence in the Jesuit graduate student residence here in Rome as we each tried to figure out the significance of what just happened. I felt like a deer caught in the headlights: I did not know what to say, or how to react, since perhaps no Jesuit had ever thought about this possibility. However, after seven months with history's first Jesuit Pope, I think that I can now offer some reflection about the significance of the moment in which we are all living.

Right now, the Church is showing to the world an aspect of her life of faith that has not been presented in such a way for almost two centuries. More significant than being the first Jesuit pope is the fact that Pope Francis is the first pontiff in 183 years to come from religious life; that is, from a religious order instead of the diocesan priesthood. Before him came Pope Gregory XVI, who was a Camaldolese monk and looked to reform the governance of the Papal States in the 1800s. Maybe it is not so much coincidental as it is providential that another religious, this time from the Society of Jesus, has taken up the reform of the administrative structures of the modern Church as his mission. While all religious priests, brothers, and sisters are called to be living signs of faith, hope, and charity in the Lord, the nature of the pope's office calls the Bishop of Rome to also be the living sign of unity and guidance in the Church. Let us not forget Pope Francis' first request to all of us that we always pray for him, so that he can faithfully carry out the many tasks and missions that will be asked of him by Our Lord.

10 QUESTIONS FOR 1 ALUMNUS

By: Michael Perez '14
Vincam Editor

Cesar Conde '91

is currently the Executive Vice President at NBCUniversal. After graduating from Harvard with honors and earning an MBA from Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Conde has spent the past decade working in the broadcast industry. Recently inducted to the Belen Sports Hall of Fame for tennis, Conde's recipe for success lies in the fine balance between the professional and the family life.



Cesar Conde

Q. What do you remember most about Belen?

"Belen gave me a clear sense of who I was and what values I believed in at a very young age. When I left Miami to go to school and pursue my career, I was always so grateful because I knew where I came from and what was important in life - it is a priceless gift and lesson."

Q. How did the school prepare you for your career?

"The values I learned at Belen, commitment to excellence and service to others, have been with me throughout my life. I apply those values in my personal and professional life to this day."

Q. What teacher influenced you the most during your time at Belen and why?

"Mr. Patrick Collins. He played an incredibly important role in my development as a student and as an athlete. I had the unique opportunity to have him as an amazing teacher in the classroom and an inspirational coach on the tennis court. In both, he taught me the importance of hard work and setting high standards for oneself. His support and belief in me both in and out of the classroom at a pivotal time in my development

allowed me to feel confident in the pursuit of my dreams. I will always be grateful for his sage advice and loyal support. As they say, a teacher can change lives. I would not be where I am today without Coach Collins' influence."

Q. When did you first develop an interest in broadcasting?

"My first experience with the media business was when I joined an internet startup earlier in my career. It was the first internet company focused on the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking markets. I became enamored with the positive impact media could have on our communities, if done responsibly. I have tried to bring the value of 'doing well by doing good' to my roles since then, including my time at Univision and now at NBCUniversal."

Q. What's your normal day at work like?

"No two days are alike, and I embrace that because it keeps things dynamic. In business, you have to be prepared to roll with things as they come up - I might have a 'to do' list and a day full of meetings, but if an urgent matter comes up I have to adapt and stay focused. The old saying 'find your passion and you'll never work a day in your life' is true - I love what I do, so I find each day fun and interesting."

Q. What advice would you give to students following the same path?

"Dream Big. Work Hard. Stay Humble. In that order. Dream big, because with a good education anything is possible in this world. Work hard, as nothing in life worth achieving comes easily. Stay humble, because none of us succeed without the help of others. We must always look to help the generation that comes behind us, just like those before us paved the way and created opportunities for our generation."

Q. How important do you think it is to take Spanish classes?

"I think it is very important to learn and reinforce Spanish. Being fluent in both English and Spanish has been incredibly important to me both professionally and personally. We live in an increasingly multilingual and multicultural country and global economy. Speaking Spanish and understanding different cultures is an asset and competitive advantage in the global workforce that all of us Belen graduates need to nurture."

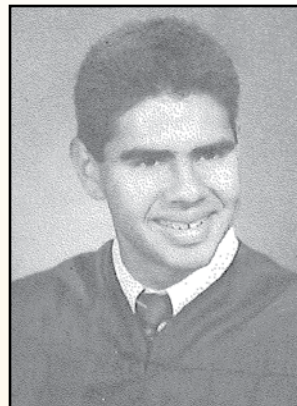


With parents and wife Pamela.

Q. What was your experience as a White House Fellow like?

"It was an honor to be selected for the White House Fellows Program, where I served as the White House Fellow for then Secretary of State Colin L. Powell from 2002-2003. That was an important time in our country's history, especially in the international arena. I learned about leadership from an incredible public servant who was running a large global organization like the State Department, as well as how the public and private sectors interact. Both are very valuable lessons that I have tried to apply throughout my career."

Q. Is there a charity or project to which you are committed?



Graduation Picture

"My two younger brothers and I founded a small non-profit over a decade ago called the Futuro Program. Its mission is to help young Hispanics maximize their academic potential by helping them through the college application process. We have worked with public high schools both in Miami and New York City throughout the years. Like so many in the Hispanic community, our parents are immigrants to the US, and they taught us that the only thing in the world that no one can ever take away from you is your education. The Futuro Program passes that value along to others and fortifies high school students' educational pursuits and dreams."

Q. What do you feel is the definition of success?

"The balance between family and professional life is key. I have the good fortune of drawing strength from a wonderful family that includes my wife, parents and brothers, as well as a career that energizes me."



Playing tennis while on the school team.



A Taste of the Future

By: Teresa Martinez
Director of Communications



It has become an art form or better yet a skilled game of shoving without getting caught; all with the intended purpose of reaching that coveted first slot in the lunch line. Students for over thirty years have been playing the game; alumni can remember the lunchtime rituals as if it were yesterday.

"I can picture Jimmy Perez with his arms folded and my buddies and I trying to use the phrase senior privilege even though we were just freshmen," reminisced Jose Garrido, III '99. "We used to come up with these crazy antics to not only get our food but serve ourselves as well."

It has been a bumpy ride but through the gaffes, tugs and pokes students have successfully engineered their way through the rite of passage, albeit out of sheer necessity, lunch at Belen.

"They think I don't see them, or think they can get by me but I've been here far too long for that to happen," said Jimmy Perez, Assistant Dean of Discipline. "The students get creative because we are so limited in space. It just gets too crowded. The cafeteria wasn't built for the amount of activities we have in it nowadays."

Whispers, rumors and hopes of a new cafeteria have been eluded too for the last several years but the project never had a driving force.

That driving force is Director of Development & Alumni Relations, Tommy de Quesada '94. "We launched the Taste of the Future campaign in October 2013," said de Quesada. "The entire school stands to benefit from the completion of this campaign, and I know we will surpass all goals."

Those goals include raising nearly \$3.5 million dollars to build an all new state-of-the-art and eco-friendly kitchen, overhaul the existing cafeteria completely by giving it a sleek and efficient design plus adding digital signage, meeting spaces and better functionality.

"The idea is to create an entirely new and forward-thinking space," continued de Quesada. "We want to incorporate technology and eco- efficiency so that we can achieve a lasting and impressive new space on-campus for our students."

The original facility has not changed much since it was built in 1981 when it was equipped to feed 500 people. Today the same facilities feed a community of close to 1,500 students, plus 200 faculty and staff.

"It is time to renovate the kitchen and cafeteria area, so that our students may enjoy a more modern facility for years to come!" said School President, Fr. Pedro A. Suarez S.J. '58.

"Going into the cafeteria is a free for all. Everyone is jam-packed inside," said Nicolás A. Suárez '19. "My friends and I have seen the pictures of what the new cafeteria will look like and I can't wait to have lunch there."

The campaign is up and running. On October 25 the kick-off event, Hops for the Hall took place in the Garrido Family Plaza raising nearly \$10,000. Additionally, over \$100,000 in pledges has been collected bringing the combined total to \$250,000 as of mid-December 2013.

"We are just tipping the iceberg, we still have a long way to go before we can break ground but I'm confident that it can and will be achieved," said de Quesada.

Upcoming events and activities include involving the students by producing homeroom challenges, film competitions and other initiatives. In the spring, we will host Belen's first ever Farmers Market on Saturday, April 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Garrido Family Plaza. "We also hope to rekindle the excitement and launch the Fr. Sardiña Memorial Fishing Tournament with proceeds to benefit the Taste of the Future campaign," said de Quesada.

Alumni wishing to flashback to their days as a student are invited to a complimentary lunch, courtesy of the Development Office, during a lunch period at the school and experience firsthand the need for the new dining hall. For those interested in accepting the invitation register online, <https://www.belenjesuit.org/LunchExperience>.

"We will push this campaign hard and we plan on being visible on-campus, online, through social media but what will ultimately make this project come to life are our alumni," said de Quesada. "We need every class to make a commitment, we need to see the strength of our alumni at events and we need the support of those that can make a significant pledge."



Class Notes

'48



Ramon Garcia with grandson **Alejandro Romero '13** at his 65-year reunion, weeks after not being able to attend Alejandro's graduation.

'50

Demetrio Torre-Rada was recognized by the Arts and Science Academy of Puerto Rico and the Cultural Centre of UNESCO for his contributions to Law, Jurisprudence, Arts and Culture.

'56



Class of 1956 in one of their luncheons the second Tuesday of every month in Casa Paco.

'57

Manuel Hidalgo's daughter Ellie was commissioned as a Pastoral Associate in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

'73

Former Miami Mayor **Manny Diaz** was chosen by UBM's Future Cities Program as one of the Top 100 City Innovators Worldwide.

'75



Manuel Dominguez's daughter graduated from the Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans.

'77



Alfredo Trujillo has been elected President and COO of the Georgia Tech Foundation.

'81



Patricio Gonzalez, Eusebio Garcia, Jorge Blanco, Tony Sanchez and **Eddy Hernandez** at

the Head of Indian Creek Regatta.

'83

Roland Sanchez-Medina was appointed to the Orange Bowl Committee.

'85

The Ford Foundation appointed **Xavier de Souza Briggs** as Vice-President of Economic Opportunity and Assets.

'86

Antonio Castro was named Managing Partner at Infante Zumpano LLC in Coral Gables.

'91

Cesar Conde was named Executive Vice-President of NBC Universal.

'93



Patrick Kokorian, a member of the Maronite Monks of Adoration, was ordained a Priest Forever in Petersham Massachusetts.

(Pictured here with Athletics Director Carlos Barquin)

'96

Eric Muñoz was named to the FSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors.



Frankie Ruiz '96 was named Miami Fellow by the Miami Foundation.

'97

Barney Flores has been hired to oversee Belen Jesuit's new Infirmary.

Class Notes

'99



Alexander Binelo was named partner at Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC. He was also named Miami Fellow by the Miami Foundation.

'00

Rigoberto Nuñez has completed his residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at The University of Texas Health Science Center and has joined a practice in South Florida.

'02

Adrian Correa graduated from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston and has started practicing in Dental Leaders in Coral Gables.

'05

Nicholas Ferreiro graduated Cum Laude from St. Thomas Law School in Miami and passed the Florida Bar Exam.

Andrew Otazo is an Associate Case Researcher at the Harvard Business School.



Manoach Lamarre graduated with a Masters Degree from Harvard University. He was selected as the 2013 Commencement Marshall for the

Education Policy and Management Masters program.



Jose Ortega with Fr. Juan Manuel Dorta-Duque SJ '40 at a Monthly Alumni Luncheon.

Christian Sanchelima graduated Cum Laude from FIU Law School and as President of the Student Body.

'07

Andrew Fernandez has been named an Associate in Transwestern, a Commercial Real Estate company.

'08



Nick Martinez was named the Texas Rangers' Minor Leagues Pitcher of the Month twice.

Michael Rios became the first-ever Belen alumnus to sign an NFL contract when he signed with the Arizona Cardinals.

'09



Michael Martinez is a Novitiate in the Society of Jesus.

'11

Ricardo Pita has been elected President of the Student Government Association of Springfield College.

'12

Alex de Goti was named to Canada's West Coast League All-Stars Team.

'13



Keonte Cash was the only freshman named to the Florida A&M University Rattlers' starting football team.

(Photo courtesy: FAMU Athletics)



Juan Lorido is playing #2 for Catholic U men's tennis and has been Player of the Week twice.

Miles Pope has been awarded an Honorable Mention from the 2013 Milton Fisher Scholarship for Innovation and Creativity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vocation to Marriage

- Ana de Ribeaux and **Edward Hillman '84**
- Cristina Garcia and **L. J. Rodriguez '93**
- Gabriela Ponce and **Steven Giralt '96**
- Stephanie Martinez and **Jose I. Fernandez '99**
- Katie Fogarty and **Jean-Paul Chavez '01**
- Frances Martinez and **Luis Llamas '03**
- Banafsheh Kiankhooy and **Alfredo Vargas '03**
- Veronica Garcia and **Rene Veliz '03**
- Giselle Jimenez and **Matthew Maranges '04**



- Graciela Garcia and **Ted Todoroff '04**



- Danielle Gongora and **Julio Jimenez '06**
- Melissa Caride and **Raul Moas '06**
- Kelly Smith and **Alexander Peña '06**
- Nicole Collazo and **Alejandro Fonseca '07**
- Claudia Arevalo and **Anthony Wood '08**
- Gloria and **Rafael Andino '41** 50-year Wedding Anniversary



- Aida and **Manuel Alvarez '50** 50-year Wedding Anniversary



- Gladys and **Orlando Alvarez Escudero '55** 50-year Wedding Anniversary
- Maria del Carmen and **Rafael Fernandez-Loza '49** 55-year Wedding Anniversary

- Caridad and **Jose Sentmanat '58** 50-year Wedding Anniversary



Vocation to Family

- Roe Alvarez-Liu, born to Yiran Liu and **Robert Alvarez '90**
- Manuel Corrales V, born to Ileana and **Manuel A. Corrales '90**
- Mateo Ferro, born to Ileana and **Carlos Ferro '91**
- Nestor Machado, born to Antonella and **Nestor F. Machado '91**
- Adriana Romagosa, born to Yvonne and **Rick Romagosa '92**
- Daniel Santiago Hernandez, born to Claudia and **Daniel Hernandez '97**



- Roberto Adam Garcia-Tuñon III, born to Alicia and **Roberto Garcia-Tuñon '97**
- Jonas Hernandez, born to Jennifer and **David Hernandez '98**



- Juan C. Alexander, born to Kasmira and **Juan C. Alexander '99**
- Alexandra Maria Saladrigas, born to Kathrina and **Jorge Saladrigas '99**
- Alicia Nicole Suarez, born to Jennifer and **Carlos Suarez '00**



- Marcus Llorente, born to Natalie and **Mark Llorente '00**
- Emma Paisley Sanchez, born to Natalie and **Mario Sanchez '02**
- Sophie Anne Moreno, born to Sarilu and **Eduardo Moreno '03**



- Alejandro Jose Rovira, born to Isabel and **Carlos Rovira '04**
- Iker Daniel Ayo, grandson of **Jesus Ayo '60**
- Mateo Felipe Mazerhane, grandson of **Felipe Martinez '71**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memoriam

In loving memory of our alumni friends

- **Hector Ortiz '36, Dolores**
 - **Roberto Alsina '38**
- **Jose Ignacio Rasco '45**
- **Hector Montesinos '46**
- **Jose Eugenio Miranda '47**
- **Raul Rodriguez Sora '47**
 - **Joaquin Comella '48**
 - **Pedro Tomas Celis '49**
- **Jose Miguel Alonso Soler '50**
- **Alberto Beguiristain Sampedro '50**
 - **Roberto Deus Alonso '50**
 - **Francisco Duran Bryon '50**
 - **Jorge Alberto Padilla '52**
- **Orlando Alvarez '53, Dolores**
 - **Joaquin Polo '53**
 - **Aristides Martinez '59**
 - **Antonio Navarrete '59**
 - **German Muñoz '68**
 - **David de Izaguirre, '86**



In Memoriam

Family and friends

- Joaquin Alemany, grandfather of **Joaquin Alemany '93**
- Sofia Arellano de Vilar, wife of **Alberto Vilar '44**
- Roberto Cambo, father of **Robert Cambo '77** and grandfather of **Robert '08, Richard '12** and **Nicholas Cambo '14**
- Raimundo Castellanos, father of **Ray '90** and **Alexander Castellanos '95**
- Marta Catusus, mother of **Roberto Catusus '72** and grandmother of **Gabriel '99, Daniel '02** and **Nicholas Bustamante '14**. She volunteered at Belen for over 30 years
- Catalina Celis, wife of **Tomas Celis '49**, mother of **David Celis '89**
- Berta Delgado, mother of **Antonio Bartlett '58**
- Olga Domenech-Vigil, mother of **Lucas Vigil '15**
- Cheryl Espinosa, wife of **Guido Espinosa '82**
- Josefina Fernandez de Acosta, grandmother of **Cesar Lago '87**
- Maria C. Fonts, grandmother of **Heriberto Cabada '99**
- Julia Gonzalez, mother of **Ramon Collado '72**
- Anacleto Herrera, grandfather of **Alberto Valdes '90**
- Alicia Herring, grandmother of **Erimar '99, Adrian '03, Mark '09** and **Gabriel Von Der Osten '13**
- Alberto Juliachs Sr., father of **William Juliachs '84**
- Robert Llama, father of **Robert '97** and **Alex Llama '99**
- Ofelia Lorenzo, grandmother of **Bryan Lorenzo '03**
- Maria Maseda, sister of **Jose Maseda '47**
- Luis Mendez, father of **Luis Mendez '85**
- Jose Milton, father of **Joseph '82, Cecil '87** and **Frank Milton '88**
- Carlos Ortega, grandfather of **Jorge Ortega '90**
- Oscar Otazo, grandfather of **Andrew Otazo '05**
- Zenaida Pluas, mother of staff member Ms. Rosario de Lemus and grandmother of **Ricardo '07** and **Alejandro de Lemus '11**
- Jorge Powell, father of **Jorge Powell '81** and grandfather of **Jose Garrido '99, Carlos '05, Jordi '07** and **Alec Macias '12, Jorge Powell '14, Alberto Cosio '15, Mariano Macias '15,** and **John Powell '16.**
- Elena Rivero, sister of **Jose Antonio Rivero '48**
- Joshua San Pedro, grandson of **Frank San Pedro '59**
- Marta Sanchez-Couto, wife of **Manuel Sanchez-Couto '56**
- Ana Maria Sowers, wife of **Antonio Sowers '60**
- Estrella Veiga, mother of **Jorge Fraga Sr. '58** and grandmother of **Jorge Fraga Jr. '91**
- William Wagener, former Belen Jesuit Science Teacher and Coach

GALLERY OF REUNIONS

1948



Members of the Class of 1948 with Fr. Juan Manuel Dorta-Duque, SJ '40



Reunion participants attending Mass in the Belen Chapel



Manuel Dominguez, Miguel Fernandez-Loza, Lorenzo de Toro, and Jose Marques



Delegates Miguel Fernandez-Loza and Ramon Fumero recognize classmate Manuel Dominguez



Former Class Delegate Lorenzo de Toro receives his award.



Belen Sports Hall of Fame Co-Chair and Inductee Julio Bordas

1958



Rene Sagebien, Mariano Lorete de Mola, Vicente Vazquez, Jose Raul Labrador, Jose Valdes-Leal



Members of the Class of 1958 with Fr. Juan Manuel Dorta-Duque, SJ '40



Members of the Class of 1958



Class of 1958 Group Picture in the Garrido Family Plaza



Eddy and Mari Goicolea, Jeanie and Armando Ferrer



Angela and Vicente Vazquez, Maria del Carmen and Omelio Sosa



Jose A. Rionda, Rene and Carmen Maria Sagebien



Reinaldo and Gloria Ramos, Salvador Miranda

GALLERY OF REUNIONS

1973



Class of 1973 Reunion Participants in the Garrido Family Plaza



Former Mayor of Miami Manny Diaz, Alumni Director Mariano Loret de Mola '58, and Athletic Director Carlos Barquin



Carlos, Teresa, Isabel, and Gladys Penin



Marilyn Hoyos, Frankie '97, Paco, and Barbara Ruiz



The Aguilera, Mejides, and Rivero Families



Bobby, Robin, Manny, Elisa, Natalie, and Elisa Diaz



Christina, Vicky, Donato Jr. '05, and Donato Arguelles with Mario Ruiz de la Torre



Members of the Class of 1973 gather around their celebratory cake

1983



Alex Novoa, Gabriel Buigas and Leonardo Rodriguez



Miriam Gusó, Jose Moreiras, and Jordi Gusó



Jose and Ximena Fernandez, Mary and Federico Macia, and Octavio Carreño



Members of the Class of 1983 at Casa Juancho



The Fernandez Family



Kyle, Miriam, Jake '13, Jordi, and Ryan Gusó '15



Fr. Pedro Cartaya, SJ '54 celebrating the Class of 1983 Reunion Mass



Julio Alvarez, Alex Rodriguez, Victor Gutierrez, Frank Roza, Jordi Gusó, Gus Busse, John Beltran, and Leonardo Rodriguez

GALLERY OF REUNIONS

2003



Members of the Class of 2003 with their families.



Members of the Class of 2003.



David Caballero, Derek Varona, Nicholas Alexander and Guillermo Vallejo



Felipe Ojeda and Alex Esteban with Thomas de Quesada '94 and his children, Ema and Branden.



Mike Gonzalez, Damian Penichet, Anthony Torrente, Gabriel Fontela, David Bustamante and Gaston Fontela



Members of the Class of 2003

2008



Members of the Class of 2008 with Thomas de Quesada '94



Rodolfo Trigueros, Alex Bandin, Douglas Chacon and Ricky Sanz



Iñigo Abaroa, Gio Rodriguez, Michael Rios and Anthony Diblasi



Joaquin Escobar, Alex Valdes, Chris de Goti, Lucas Calderon, Erick Echeverria and Guillermo de la Puente



Michael Newmeyer, Br. Michael Wood, SJ '04, Fr. Pedro Suarez, SJ '58, Ignacio Font and Nicolas Balseiro



Fernando Garcia, Eric Guasch, Andres Garcia, Diego Fernandez-Soto, Tony Quezada, Michael Newmeyer, Michael Garcia and Anthony Armas

Gatherings



Class of '46: Vicente Suarez del Real, Ernesto Prieto, Jose Bertran, Jose Manuel Delgado, Fr. Pedro Suarez S.J. '58, Fructuoso Pirez, Pedro Portela, Tony Garrido, Manuel Arvesu, Jose Garrido Mayor with Fr. Juan M. Dorta Duque SJ '40



Members of the Class of 1957 gather for an annual reunion



Class of '12: Michael David Lopez, Adrian Moya, Gabriel Mesa, George Mulet, Ricky Cambo, Nestor Montoya, Nicholas Vazquez, Jonathan Calles, Anthony Monzon and Guillermo Herrera



Members of the Class of 2012



Alumni President Carlos Battle '80 and Director Mariano Loret de Mola '58 with Provincial of the Antilles Fr. Fernando Polanco SJ at a monthly alumni luncheon



L.J. Rodriguez '93, Alvaro Coscolluela '61, Crescencio Ruiz '76, Alumni President Carlos Battle '80, Alberto Gutierrez '88, Alumni Director Mariano Loret de Mola '58, and Francisco "Paco" Ruiz '73 at the St. Ignatius Statue Dedication Ceremony



Jose Maria Bravo, Rafael Miyares and School Delegate Pedro Haber display the flag that flew over Colegio de Dolores in Santiago de Cuba



Juan Manuel Salvat, Sagua alumnus, celebrates his retirement with family and friends at a monthly alumni luncheon.

PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL

Dear alumni,

In 2014, we will celebrate the 160th anniversary of Belen's foundation in Havana, Cuba. This milestone forces us to stop and give thanks to God for the many blessings received over these 16 decades of continuous education. Few Jesuit institutions in the United States can boast of such a long and distinguished history as Belen.

Throughout this school year we are using the motto, "By their fruits you will recognize them" taken from the Gospel of Matthew 7:16. It invites us to highlight the hidden and productive lives of many hundreds of alumni who are men for others without fanfare or the limelight. Good husbands, good fathers, and good professionals are the pride and joy of Belen. We thank God for all of you!

Additionally, we collectively celebrate a milestone in the history of the Jesuit Order: the 200th anniversary of its' restoration by the Bull, *Sollicitudo omnium ecclesiarum* whereby Pope Pius VII brought the Society of Jesus back to life on August 7, 1814. In 1773, the Jesuits were suppressed by Pope Clement XIV under a wave of unjust and slanderous accusations emanating from Spain, Portugal and France. Clement XIV had decided to bring "peace" to the Church by suppressing the Jesuit Order.

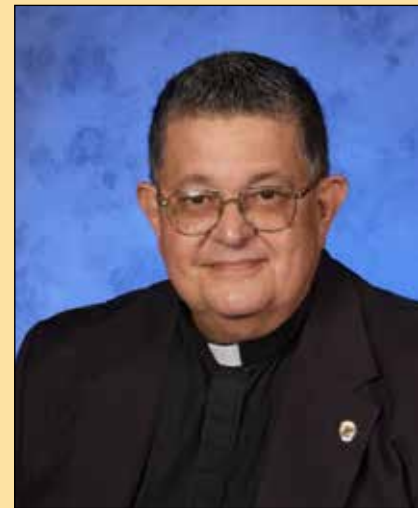
Since the restoration, a lot has changed

for the Society of Jesus; including the election of a Jesuit as Pope! We are rejoicing in the fact that former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, was made the Bishop of Rome. He is not only the first Jesuit, but also the first Latin American to occupy the supreme office of the Catholic Church.

His choice of name, Francis, after St. Francis of Assisi, the "Poverello", indicates his desire to remain a humble Pastor close to his flock, especially the poor. He has issued a call for all Catholics to turn to their brothers and sisters in need, so that the Church may become the "Church of the poor."

Belen Jesuit has received with gratitude the Pope's invitation/challenge and this is why we stress the service component of our Jesuit education, bringing our students and alumni closer to serving the poor and offering our best efforts to make this world a better place for all, especially during this holy time of Christmas.

Wishing you an abundance of Christmas blessings,
sincerely yours,



Pedro A. Suárez, SJ '58
Belen Jesuit School President

Belen Alumni Association of Jesuit Schools from Cuba and Miami
Alumni Office
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Miami, Florida 33184

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

Jan 3 Alumni Mass at Gesu
Jan 17 Belen/Columbus Game at UM Convention Ctr.
Jan 21 Our Lady of Belen Mass
Jan 24 Fr. Izquierdo Golf Tournament
Jan 27-31 Rebound Week
Jan 31 Monthly alumni luncheon

February

Feb 1 Alumni Mass at Gesu
Feb 7 Culinary Extravaganza
Feb 7-9 Tombola
Feb 28 Monthly alumni luncheon

March

Mar 5 Ash Wednesday Mass
Mar 6 Downtown luncheon at Northern Trust Offices
Mar 7 Alumni Mass at Gesu
Mar 10-14 Ignatian Week
Mar 28 Monthly alumni luncheon

April

Apr 4 Alumni Mass at Gesu
Apr 11 Monthly Alumni Luncheon
Apr 11 Living Stations of the Cross
Apr 17 Holy Thursday
Apr 18 Good Friday
Apr 21-25 Easter Break

May

May 1 St. Joseph the Worker Mass
May 2 Alumni Mass at Gesu
May 20 Wall of Martyrs Ceremony
May 21 Baccalaureate Mass
May 23 Monthly alumni luncheon
May 28 Alumni Pin Mass
May 29 Commencement Ceremony

June

Jun 2-6 Final Exams
Jun 6 Alumni Mass at Gesu
Jun 16 First day of Summer Camp
Jun 27 Monthly alumni luncheon

* All other activities will be announced in the weekly eNews bulletin.