

Mary Blaney's note in the July Voice made me think that I should write about the Start of the Alumni from my point of view, that were the beginning of the great things that happened along the way. ("Thank you for the fantastic Alumni Voice, I have been a member of the Alumni for many years.

Ed McClain is/was the chairman. ("No, I just helped.")

We attended the first Alumni night at Manhattan College and many more after that.

Also was at the 100 year Anniversary of Ascension School.")

Thank you John McGuire '41

"I know that the crowd from 107th St. held their own re-union party around the early 70ths which was made up of many Ascension Grads from the years 1934 to 1942 and I know that my brother Bob had a list of names and addresses of the class of 1934

which he said he gave to Fr. Duffel.

Maybe Br. Greg got the list from him?

That is the best that I can remember

as I was not involved at the very beginning..

Ed McClain

I didn't know about the earlier get together with the older Alumni.

I remember Brother Greg Hunt getting some guys together who he called the committee.

They were from the earlier 40s. Maybe Tommy Loughran, John Driscoll, Matty Scott,

Ed Neary, Pat Flynn? and a few others.

I really don't know how I was included. ?

He took us to a restaurant in the Yonkers shopping center and we had lunch.

We might have had another meeting at Manhattan?

I think what might have happened, is that Brother Greg got together with these same guys and brought up the idea that he would like to get the Alumni together and have a reunion.

He must have recruited some help for mailing the invitations to the addresses on the Apple address list.

Maybe with a lot of help from some Manhattan students.

The next question would be, how can we get an address list of Alumni to mail out info about the reunion?

Somehow, somebody? figured it out and made an address list in the Apple format.

(Where did the names and addresses come from?)

Next was to plan a mass before the reunion and then the reunion itself.

I told Brother Greg that I could help with the music for Mass.

(I had been doing folk masses for some years.)

He planned for the mass. I think Mary's husband Deacon Jim Blaney was the lector?

I don't remember who the priest was, and we got some Alumni volunteers together to lead the music.

Brother Greg had booklets made with the familiar hymns we had picked.

We even had an Ascension Alumni banner at the altar.

After Mass there was some trapesing from the chapel to the hall for the reunion.

I think we had an Irish band for music.

The food was prime ribs I think and all the accouterments and drinks.

Imagine the planning and ordering that went into that???

For the reunion I'm pretty sure there were about 400 ? of us there,  
so the invitation was a fabulous success.

Most of us hadn't seen our classmates for years so there was some memory testing going on.  
Did we have name tags? I don't think so. There might have been tables assigned for each class.

It was a great success,

**Brother Greg had given birth to the Ascension Alumni!**

There was a second reunion at Manhattan, a year or two later?

Even Better! With the practice in the last one.

A side note.

I went up to the Brother's Residence 4415 Post Rd. Bronx off Broadway  
to see Brother Greg about the Music.

When I got there it was raining. I rang the bell and got no answer.

I went outside and looked up.

A brother was looking out the window, about 6 stories up.

I hollered up to him, "I want to see Brother Greg Hunt".

He said he would be right down.

I told him he didn't have to come down, just push the buzzer.

He came down anyway. We got on the elevator.

After some silence I asked him "Are you Brother Lewis?"

He said "I am." I said "I had you in the 7th grade at Ascension, I'm Edward McClain."

He said "I remember you. You were a good student."

How is that possible after about 45years???

Note, I was an average student.

I told him "You were the best English teacher in the city."

Brother Greg wasn't feeling well but we went over the music  
for the Mass for the second reunion at Manhattan.

I asked Peg McKiernan if she ran 2 reunions at the Polish Club in Yonkers.

Here's her answer.

"Yes I did with the help of Tommy Sheehan, class of 1951.

Folks were able to park at the Polish Center Yonkers, NY 10701  
and were bussed to Mass at Ascension.

I think it may have been early 1990's."

A few other things happened along the way.

The Alumni contact list was upgraded from the Apple  
list to Microsoft Excel.

A friend and parishioner of **Ascension** Parish in Bradley Breach NJ  
worked on it for 3 or 4 months.

There was a learning curve getting to use it!

We had committee meetings in the Ascension NY rectory. We began a campaign where we volunteered to call Alumni and asked that they make pledges. Matty Scott '41 was our treasurer until George Cisneros '70 took over. We raised \$147,000 dollars over a period of 3 years.

The Voice was born. We had committee meetings at Ed McClain's and Theresa "Kilcooley" Brazee's where we did sorting of the addresses for the Voice and decided to ask for your \$20 donations for the Alumni Membership and the Scholarship Funds.

A local print shop in Bradley Beach did the printing. An Ascension parishioner in Bradley had a mailing business in her basement. Her family did the mailing.

George Cisneros '70 became our treasurer, he also worked in getting the Voice mailed with trips to the Post Office.

We found an alumnus, Mark Kelcinski '52 who had a business in Mexico NY where he did the printing and mailing. Mark also made a collage of graduation pictures for us which you may have seen at some of the reunions at Ascension.

Now we use a company called 5 Star in Manhattan suggested by Matt Collins, Father Duffel's assistant, they had done some printing for Ascension.

### **Our website was born in 2001**

This along with the rest is history!  
You can find Reunion pics on the Alumni website in the [Old Links](#)  
Starting with the **2001** at the **China Night Club**  
which was owned by one of the Barrett brothers.