



# SERAPHIM *Legacy* SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Gift Planning News—St. Bonaventure University

FALL 2020

## MOVING FORWARD

**T**he pandemic has created new word pairings (social distancing, Zoom meetings) and phrases (when can we stop wearing these masks?). One thing is certain, pandemic or not, your ongoing support of St. Bonaventure keeps the university strong.

In this issue, we highlight two great Bonaventure men: Dr. Robert Alico, '60, and Fr. Edwin Dirig, O.F.M., both unique in their own way—one as a noted professor and scientist, who did, in fact, discuss the possibility of a global pandemic, and the other as a guiding light for hundreds of Bonaventure students during his tenure.

In addition to these stories, you will also find information about the *CARES Act*, noncash assets and appreciated securities.

During the difficulty of the pandemic, many people have updated their estate plans. If you are one of them or are considering an update, please feel free to contact me by letter, phone, email, text—or maybe we could have a Zoom meeting!

*Robert F. Keenan, '74*

Robert F. Keenan, '74  
Associate Director of Planned Giving



## DID YOU KNOW?

FRANCIS HALL, LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF CAMPUS AND DESIGNED BY BR. CAJETAN BAUMANN, O.F.M., BEGAN ITS LIFE AS CHRIST THE KING SEMINARY IN 1951. TODAY IT IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE NEW HOME OF OUR SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS.

## A LIFE DEDICATED TO TEACHING AND RESEARCH



(Biology Department in 1964)

Left to Right: Dr. Anderson (chairman), Dr. Worden, Dr. Hartman, Dr. Bothner, Dr. Alico, Dr. Jacques, Dr. Eaton and Dr. Fincocchio.

**H**e once served as a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford, worked for NASA on extraterrestrial life detection and investigated a vaccine for tooth decay with a grant from the World Health Organization.

Today, Dr. Robert Alico, professor emeritus of microbiology at IUP, will tell you that a solid education in the sciences from St. Bonaventure University helped lead to it all.

“I was well prepared,” said Alico, a member of the Class of 1960. “The biology and chemistry departments are very good at St. Bonaventure.”

He also credits Bona’s strong liberal arts foundation for enabling him to publish a number of articles throughout what has been a distinguished career that includes 32 years of teaching biology.

Alico, who now resides in Naples, Florida, grew up in Buffalo, New York, with an artistic younger brother and parents who loved music. Joining the student newspaper and yearbook at Bishop-Timon High School led him to St. Bonaventure via the Press Day created by Dr. Russell Jandoli.

But microbes have always been his passion, specifically microbial genetics. He earned a bachelor’s, master’s and a doctoral degree in biology at Bona’s, with a strong concentration in chemistry, studying under noted professor Dr. Kenneth E. Anderson.

Spending hours in the labs of De La Roche Hall, he worked with archaea, a group of microbes once classified as bacteria and believed to have been on earth billions of years ago.

“The program was tough at Bona’s. You had to do your work,” he said. “I had six credits of physical chemistry each semester. I called it the ‘weeder outer.’ If you couldn’t pass that, you were done.”

Strict rules for studying were in place back then, and every weeknight from 7:45 to 10 p.m., Fr. Edwin Dirig, O.F.M., would patrol his floor in Robinson Hall, making sure everyone was at their desks studying.

He also remembers “long discussions with Dr. Anderson about a hypothetical case of a virus or bacterium that is new to us and could spread around the world very quickly.” That scenario is now a reality with the global spread of COVID-19.

But while the pandemic has kept him from his travels (he canceled plans to visit Spain and Portugal this past May), social distancing hasn’t stopped him from his daily five-mile bike ride or his volunteer work of gathering and testing water samples along Florida’s Gulf Coast.

When asked how he might sum up his intellectual life — from Bona’s through a long teaching career — Alico has one word to share: rewarding.

As he celebrates his 60th reunion this year, he is also proud to note that he is a member of the university’s Seraphim Legacy Society.

“I got the education I needed at Bona’s. Now other students need the help.”



# MAXIMIZE YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS

**G**iving careful thought to how you make your gifts at year's end can be beneficial both to you and the charities you support. Here are a few ways to consider making a gift to St. Bonaventure University as we wind down 2020:

▶ As a result of the *CARES Act*, the usual limit on deductions for cash charitable gifts (up to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI)) is suspended, meaning taxpayers can deduct up to 100% of their AGI on their 2020 tax returns.

▶ Giving noncash assets, such as highly appreciated securities, is a great way to support St. Bonaventure. If you have owned stocks for more than one year, you can deduct not just their original cost but also any “paper profit” in the shares. Best of all, St. Bonaventure pays no capital gain taxes on the full value of your gift of securities.

▶ If you have paid-up life insurance policies that are no longer needed for their original purpose, it might be beneficial to rededicate these policies to St. Bonaventure and generate a charitable deduction for part of the donated policy—up to 50% of your AGI.

By taking the time now to carefully consider what to give, you can help ensure your gifts for 2020 are made in a timely manner and in the most effective and tax-efficient ways.

## IN MEMORY OF A FRIAR

**Fr. Edwin A. Dirig, O.F.M.  
1926-1988**

For Fr. Edwin A. Dirig, O.F.M., a lifelong career devoted to serving others all began at St. Bonaventure University.

Born in Hancock, New York, in May 1926, Fr. Edwin initially had hoped to become a missionary in Brazil. Professed in 1949 and ordained into the priesthood in 1951, he became a professor of theology and a prefect in dormitories at St. Bonaventure University soon after.

Eventually assuming the role of assistant dean of discipline, Fr. Edwin was popular for his guitar-picking and singing skills on the third floor of Robinson Hall where he was a prefect. He picked up the hobbies while he was a cleric and used them to bring joy to many students. Fr. Edwin was also well known for his unique abilities to connect with a diverse number of people and for his storytelling skills.

His dedicated efforts over 12 years at St. Bonaventure led to additional leadership roles. He spent the majority of his career in the greater Boston area, serving at St. Anthony Shrine.

The selfless road he traveled, however, began right here in St. Bonaventure, New York.

By Michael Hogan, '21

*Michael Hogan is a senior journalism major at St. Bonaventure University. Along with his role in the Office of University Advancement, he covers local stories for TAPinto Greater Olean and the Tennessee Titans as an intern for AllTitans at SI.com.*



## BEQUESTS BY THE NUMBERS

**M**ore than 70% of American households contribute to charity each year, yet only about 9% leave gifts to charity in their estate plans. Those are surprising statistics when you consider how easy it is to include a charitable gift in your will or revocable living trust.

Your gift to St. Bonaventure University can be beneficial to you without jeopardizing the financial security of your family. When considering a charitable bequest, think of all the assets you own and how they can be distributed to those you care about. For example:

- 1. Investments.** You can fund a gift during your lifetime from which you retain an income. Appreciated securities can be sold with no loss to capital gain taxes – and it might even be possible to supplement your retirement income. You can also establish a trust in your estate plan that pays income to family members for life with the assets then passing to St. Bonaventure.
- 2. Retirement accounts.** You can avoid the income tax that would be owed on IRAs by leaving the funds outright for our benefit or to a plan that pays family members an income for life.
- 3. Savings or checking accounts.** In most states, you can name a charitable organization as beneficiary of such an account through what is known as a "pay on death" (POD) provision.



St. Bonaventure students welcome members of the Class of 2024 to campus during Move-In Weekend.

To learn more about these or other ideas for including us in your estate plan, contact your advisor or Robert F. Keenan, '74, at (800) 664-1273, opt. #3.



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