



SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO
AND THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE (GUYANA) ALUMNI SOCIETY
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From the Toronto Saints Alumni Association and the Toronto Saints Charitable Society
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TORONTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND CHARITABLE SOCIETY ELECT 2014 - 2015 EXECUTIVES

SSC Alumni Association Toronto

At the Association's Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto on Sun. 28 Sept., 2014, the following were elected to the Executive Committee for the 2014 - 2015 year :

- President :** Paul Archer
- Vice-President :** Marcelline Ramcharan
- Secretary :** Albert Smith
- Assistant Secretary :** Godfrey Whyte
- Treasurer :** David Balram
- Assistant Treasurer :** Andrew Insanally
- Directors :** Paul Camacho, Errol Chapman, Tyrone De Abreu, Rupert De Castro, Des Jardine, Vibert Lampkin, Bunty Phillips, Sharwatie Ramsaywack, Beverly Vandeyar

SSC (Guyana) Alumni Society

At the Society's Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto on Sun. 28 Sept., 2014, the following were elected to the Board of Directors for the 2014 - 2015 year :

- Chairman of the Board :** Bunty Phillips
- Vice-Chairman :** Errol Chapman
- Directors :** Paul Archer, Joe Castanheiro, Frank Delph, Des Jardine, Vibert Lampkin
- The following were elected to the Executive Committee :
- President :** Errol Chapman
- Secretary :** Bunty Phillips
- Assistant Secretary :** Paul Camacho
- Treasurer :** Andrew Insanally
- Assistant Treasurer :** Beverly Vandeyar
- Public Relations Officer :** Godfrey Whyte
- Officers-at-large :** Hugh Hazlewood, Albert Smith

(Editorial)

A TIME FOR GIVING....AND GIVING THANKS

And entering into the house, they found the child with Mary his mother, and falling down they adored him; and opening their treasures, they offered him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew, Ch. 2 v. 11)

It's that time of year again when the act of giving comes prominently to the fore. This time of year is called **Christmas** as it honours and celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ after whom the period is named. Part of these celebrations commemorates the first Christmas gifts offered when the three Wise Men visited the Christ child and offered Him kingly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Throughout 2014, the **not-for-profit Toronto Alumni Association** and the associated **charity, the Alumni Society**, have given to the College books, equipment, supplies, etc. to the value of over \$10,000 (Can.). The money for this was raised in Toronto through fund-raising events which were supported by alumni and friends, for which we give heart-felt thanks to one and all.

These gifts have made a positive impact on improving the education of the students as the results of this year's CSEC exams (the school-leaving exams) have been the best ever for the school. To encourage this behaviour, the Toronto organizations have sent cash to the school's Board of Governors to be distributed as prizes to the best performing students in the school.

As students do not learn in a vacuum, some credit must be given to the teachers for the good results. These teachers are employees of the Guyana Government which is responsible for them and their remuneration and we, as legal corporations and outsiders, cannot interfere in this legal relationship. However, we, as individual alumni/ae, may be able "to go where angels fear to tread". **As Christmas is approaching, we would like to provide a monetary Christmas gift to the school staff (teachers and other administration personnel)**, the funds for this effort being raised by a general appeal to individual alumni/ae.

Therefore, **we are asking all alumni/ae to give something to this benevolent Christmas gesture** (Continued on page 7)

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(The following article has been taken (and edited) with permission from the archives of the British Province of the Society of Jesus, London, England.)

Biography of Jesuits at St. Stanislaus College - 8

FR. AIDAN GILL – GAMES, FRENCH AND RELIGION MASTER

Fr. Joseph Gill, older by more than three years than his brother Aidan, gives this account of Aidan's youth and early years in the Society.

"Aidan was the fifth child of the family, but two had died early and even I have no recollection of them. When I was born, we lived in Green Lane near Mount St. Mary's, Spinkhill, Derbyshire, but my first memories date from Norwood, a few miles away, where our father was under-manager in the colliery, and there Aidan was born on 20 January, 1905. He, like the rest of us, was baptised in the Church of Mount St. Mary's, our parish Church. In about 1908, we moved to a village near Normanton, Yorkshire, some 13 miles from Leeds, where, shortly before, a Jesuit day-college had been started. Like me, Aidan began his schooling at the local Catholic Elementary School about 2 miles from home. I began to attend the Catholic College (later christened St. Michael's College), Leeds, in 1912, and Aidan joined me probably in 1916. He went there because he had already expressed his desire to be a priest (before I did: it made me think) and, though he was not an intellectual, that settled the question as to whether or not he should have a grammar-school education, for our parents had to pay train-fares for both of us and tuition for Aidan, educate two girls, and feed five children. I left home for the noviceship in 1918 and so ceased to be in close contact with affairs at home. Aidan applied to enter the Society, and I believe a condition was made that he get a Northern Universities' Matriculation (the normal finishing exam then in Leeds). He got it — owing, I am told, to the prayers of a large group of family and friends — and, in his turn, went to Manresa, the Jesuit seminary in the Roehampton district of London, in 1922. Thereafter, he followed, I presume, the usual curriculum of those days — noviceship, juniorate, teaching. He taught in Leeds for three years and did one year's theology at Heythrop College, University of London, when, at his own request, he continued his theology in Fourvière, Lyons, where he was ordained in 1934.

"Aidan had no great paper qualifications as a teacher, apart perhaps from the Pedagogy Certificate we got in those days during our philosophy training. He had enjoyed the teaching he had done: teaching was the life's work of many in the Province in those days. So, to fit himself to continue teaching, after long and deep thought, he determined to acquire a real proficiency in French — hence his request to go to Lyons. After 4th year theology at Heythrop, he made his tertianship at Paray-le-Monial, Burgundy, France, in 1936-7.

"About Easter time during his year at Paray, Aidan was

instructed to prepare to go to British Guiana (as it then was). He was upset as he rightly felt he had developed considerable aptitude for College work, in and out of class, as opposed to missionary work. It was a shock and a bitter disappointment that he had never envisaged, but, of course, he went after he returned to England at the end of his tertianship. He need not have worried. His skills were utilised for 25 years in our school of St. Stanislaus College in Georgetown, again in and out of the classroom.

"He was a natural sportsman — good at football, cricket, and running. For a long time in Georgetown, he ran the games at the College. After some time, he proposed modifications to the school's playing fields — levelling or something like that — which involved hard physical work. As is not uncommon, there was plenty of volunteer help promised and given in the beginning but, when that faded out, Aidan plugged away mostly by himself — which was typical of him. When he set himself to some task (which he did not lightly undertake), he saw it through. After half a life-time teaching in the school, he had various postings in the area, which are best described by others."

In 1937, Aidan sailed for Georgetown where he began twenty-five years teaching at St. Stanislaus College, interrupted only by intervals for leave and a short spell of teaching at the Mount in 1957. Fr. Patrick Connors, a colleague of his at St. Stanislaus, described him in action there.

"Aidan Gill was a very strict French teacher. It used to be embarrassing to have to give punishment to some great athletic hero at 'Saints' because of some minor errors in French. Some of his pupils never forgave him, even though it meant that nearly everyone passed their exams. A few of his pupils, however, remained dedicated to Fr. Gill for life so that, when (later) he did visit Georgetown from one of his country parishes, he was always out. It was difficult, therefore, for the community to get to know Aidan. And, if you did try to approach him, you had to get through a cloud of evil-smelling black Rupununi tobacco smoke! I knew him a little because I had to take him to the doctor a few times, and look after him when he was sick. He was a good patient and very grateful for any attention shown to him.

"To the end, Aidan retained his Yorkshireman's love of cricket. He would recount with delight how one of the West Indian fast bowlers knocked some Englishman's middle stump out of the ground twice in the same match - and how he had forbidden any of his first XI to field at short-leg.

Continued on page 3

FR. AIDAN GILL (continued from page 2)

One boy disobeyed him and took a catch which won the match. Aidan was reluctantly delighted.

“Aidan used to love his holidays in England. He spent most of his time studying theology with books given to him by his brother. I don’t think he had any real difficulty adapting to Vatican II, though he found it impossible to set up any lay ministry in Bartica even when it must have been clear that there would be no priest to succeed him. Sunday Mass was the foundation of the faith, and he would be there, at whatever cost, until he dropped.

“Aidan always had to struggle with the strict school master in him. He used to go and teach Catechism to about 100 children in Bartica School. Personally, he would have had no difficulty keeping order and making them all tremble but, as parish priest and catechist, that was not his job. He was disgusted with the other teachers who could not or would not really help him. Still, Aidan was enjoying himself trying to teach kids some of the wonders of the Book of Genesis!

“Most people seemed to find Aidan a very tense person. He was certainly very determined. The picture I like to remember is of Aidan going out in a tropical rain storm. He had an appointment and the rain would not stop him. He had Wellington boots and a black rain-coat down to his ankles, a black beret, a black umbrella, and some black tobacco in his pipe, and he saw no reason why he should not keep his appointment!”

Summarising his subsequent service, in 1962 Aidan left the College for work as a pastor in the Mackenzie mission. In 1967, he took over the parish at Mahaica from an Indian secular priest. He had a few months’ leave in the U.K. in 1969. On his return, he was posted to Main Street, and he became chaplain to the Mercy Hospital. In 1970, he went to Matthew’s Ridge, North West District, being the first priest to live there – Fr. Miles Lovell had visited it periodically. In 1976, he went to Bartica where he remained till 1981.

Among the tributes to Fr. Gill’s work at the College is this from Fr. Oswald Earle who also taught at the College.

“Wherever he went, Fr. Gill was a hard working conscientious priest. Whatever work he was given, he threw himself into it with all his heart. At the College, he was a very good Master, very strict, clear, and expecting high standards of work. But he was also understanding. There was a boy in his class who looked sick. Fr. Gill asked him what was wrong. ‘I have a fever.’ ‘Have you had it for long?’ ‘I always have a fever.’ Another boy seemed unable to concentrate. Father spoke to him and found he was almost starving. Father went to some friends who had shops, and they promised to send the family some free food every week.

“In his first spell at the College, Fr. Gill was Games Master

and, in this capacity, he did a great deal for the College. He asked a friend who owned a sugar estate to help. With the aid of Mr. Vieira, he levelled, drained, and extended the cricket field to its present size. Mr. Vieira sent his men from the estate to do the work, and used to ride over on his horse to supervise. During his time as Games Master, he encouraged cricket, and some of his boys became very good cricketers, at least one of whom played for the West Indies. He was a strict Master, but the boys appreciated this as they usually do, and Old Boys, coming back to the College, always came to see Fr. Gill.”

Fr. Earle adds this comment on Fr. Gill’s work at Mackenzie (where Aidan started missionary work at the age of 57!).

“He must have had a very trying time when he was at Mackenzie during the racial troubles. For a few months, there was bitterness and violence between the East Indians and the Blacks. In some districts, the Indians were attacked or murdered by Blacks; in other districts, Blacks were attacked and murdered by Indians. Across the river from where Aidan was living, every East Indian had to get out and his house was burned to the ground. Besides that, there was rape and looting in the streets. I remember Aidan telling me how he had sat in his house and heard a group of men outside discussing whether or not to burn it down. Fortunately, they left it alone. So Aidan must have had a very difficult and anxious time with his own parishioners split into two camps. But he survived.”

Fr. Henry Hale writes from Plaisance, Demerara East District. (It will be noticed how often he uses words like durable: Aidan remained typically Yorkshire and grit was part of his nature.)

“Looking back over my years in Guyana, it seems clear that the wise but mysterious piloting of Providence led Aidan and myself into rather close contact, though never for long at a time; and the only word that seems to delineate him at all accurately to me is ‘craggy’ — of most durable material in himself, and he could be somewhat abrasive to others.

“My first closer contacts were made during the short visits I used to make from Mackenzie to Georgetown four or five times a year. Then, we used to have longish conversations, and the abrasiveness came into view. But, in 1962, I was given a close-up: he had to take over my parish in six days. I had been there for eleven years, so it was a scurry of farewells and welcomes, packing, and trying to find time to exchange something about the shape of the parish. Some locals took us for blood brothers. We were about the same height and build — or was it the Jesuit stamp? I learnt he had been in a parish a few years earlier and nearly died. He was rushed to the Mercy Hospital where the surgeon quickly made a hole in his throat, and he breathed again.

“His durability soon came into its own

MEMBERSHIP

The following is the list of alumni who are currently paid-up members in 2014. The names in *italics* are alumni who have paid since the last issue of the newsletter was published. Membership is based on the calendar year.

CANADA (114)	Benedict De Castro	Clayton Jeffrey	Winston Sparrock	Ronald Harford ²
Lance Alexander	Gregory De Castro ³	Anthony Jekir	Brian Hall Stevenson	John Jardim
Glenmore Armogan	Rupert De Castro ³	Desmond Kawall ³	Albert Sweetnam ⁵	
Leonard Arokium ⁴	Peter De Freitas	Aubrey Kellawan	Walter Tiam-fook ⁴	U.K. (4)
Bernard Austin ³	Andre De Peana ²	Greg Kellawan ¹	Arthur Veerasammy	Christopher Cho-Young ²
David Balram	Frank Delph ³	John King	Vibert Vieira ⁴	Desmond FitzGerald
Malcolm Barrington ¹	Vyvyan Deryck	Vibert Lampkin ⁵	John Vincent ⁴	Tony Gomes ³
Gerard Bayley ³	Neville Devonish	Geoffrey Luck ²	Howard Welshman	Neville Jordan
Rene Bayley ⁴	Frederick Dias ³	Dereck Mahanger ²	<i>Godfrey Whyte</i>	
<i>Teddy Boyce</i>	Jerome D'Oliveira	Michael Mendes de Franca ⁴	David Wong ³	U.S.A. (22)
Randy Bradford ¹	Terry D'Ornellas ³	Vincent Mendes de Franca ³	Raymond Wong ²	Luke Abraham ²
Ian Camacho ³	Edward Driver	Richard Miller	Gerry Yaw	Anthony Bollers ³
Paul Camacho ³	Paul Duarte	Perry Mittelholzer	Brian Yhap ⁴	Ronald Chanderbhan ³
Alfred Carr ²	Carlton Faria ³	Stan Niccols	John Yip	Brian Chin
Wilfred Carr ¹	Joe Faria ⁷	Clarence Nichols ¹	Angus Zitman ³	Ronald De Abreu ⁴
Joseph Castanheiro ³	Raymond Fernandes	Anthony O'Dowd ⁵		Joseph Brian De Freitas ⁴
Antony Chapman	Nigel Fisher ²	Malcolm Pequenezza ³	AUSTRALIA (2)	Bernard Friemann ³
Errol Chapman	Keith Fletcher ⁴	Leslie Pereira ³	Michael Wight ¹	Guy Goveia
Vernon Chaves ⁴	Leslie Fung	Desmond Perreira	Lennox Yhap ⁶	Philip Greatehead ³
Bob Chee-a-tow	Richard Gomes ³	Michael Persaud		John Grenardo
Sydney Chin	Trevor Gomes ¹	Bunty Phillips ³	BARBADOS (1)	Michael Heydon
Louis Cho-Young	Neil Gonsalves	<i>Carl Ramalho</i>	Geoff De Caires ⁴	Edwin Jack ⁶
Michael Choy	Orlando Goveia ¹	Linden Ramdeholl ¹		Kenneth Jordan ⁴
Tony Clarke ⁵	Ken Hahnfeld ³	Cecil Ramraj	BERMUDA (1)	Jolyon King ²
Paul Crum-Ewing ³	Albert Hamilton ⁴	Mary Rayman	Francis Grenardo	Carl Marx ²
Ken Cumberbatch ²	Hugh Hazlewood ⁴	Alex Rego		Neil Pereira
Edward Da Silva ¹	Paul Hazlewood	Ramon Rego	BRAZIL (1)	Evan Phillips ²
Ivor Da Silva ³	Monty Henson ⁴	Herman Reid ¹	Stephen De Castro ³	Brian Ramphal ²
Jerry Da Silva ²	Jocelyn Heydorn	Romeo Resaul ⁵		Peter Rodrigues
Terry De Abreu ⁴	Desmond Hill ³	Philip Rodrigues	DOM. REP. (1)	Keith Seaforth ³
Tyrone De Abreu ³	Ivan Holder	Peter St. Aubyn ²	Deep Ford ²	Leyland Thomas ⁶
Phillip de Barros	Andrew Insanally	Michael Singh ⁴		Horace Walcott ¹
Dennis De Cambra	Richard James ³		TRIN. & TOB. (3)	
Hilary De Cambra ²	Des Jardine ⁴		Richard Harford ²	

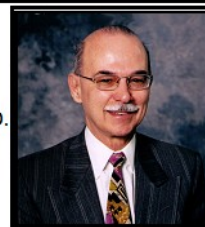
Of the 149 paid-up members, 133 are renewals from last year.

Notes to Membership List :

1. These (12) alumni have paid in advance through 2015.
2. These (19) alumni have paid in advance through 2016.
3. These (32) alumni have paid in advance through 2017.
4. These (19) alumni have paid in advance through 2018.
5. These (5) alumni have paid in advance through 2019.
6. These (3) alumni have paid in advance through 2020.

7. This (1) alumnus has paid in advance through 2022.

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Introduction to**GLIMPSSES OF A GLOBAL LIFE****By Sir Shridath Ramphal GCMG OM AC ONZ OE OCC QC**

On Friday 21 Nov., 2014, the historic memoirs of Sir Shridath Ramphal were launched at the Radisson Hotel Toronto East. *Alumnus the Honourable Judge (retd.) Vibert Lampkin* was invited to give an introductory presentation of the author and his book. The following is an excerpt of his introductory remarks.

The book is available through Chapters or Amazon at a cost of \$45 (Can).

When Sir Shridath, who in his humility and modesty prefers to be called simply 'Sonny Ramphal', invited me to speak at this launch of his book *Glimpses of a Global Life*, I was indeed not only honoured but also flattered by his request. This book will be many things to different readers but it is, perhaps first and foremost, an autobiography - the autobiography of a remarkable man whose life has touched the lives of many millions.

Sonny Ramphal describes himself as follows: "*I am Guyanese before I am Indian. I am a West Indian before I am a Guyanese*". I go further. I say he is Guyanese by birth, West Indian by osmosis, World citizen by adoption.

We, as Guyanese, as West Indians, are the beneficiaries of a decision that Sonny Ramphal made very early in his career. He told me many, many years ago that he was never interested in a judicial appointment because he felt that life as a judge was too boring. While I must disabuse his mind of the belief that the life of a judge is boring, his decision, while a loss for the judiciary, was certainly a win for Guyana, a win for the West Indies, a win for the Commonwealth, and a win for the world.

This book is also a textbook on diplomacy and problem solving between countries with very disparate views of the world.

It is also a book of history. And that is where I would like to begin. Sonny Ramphal was born on 3 October, 1928, in New Amsterdam, Berbice, but, within a year or so of his birth, the family moved to Georgetown. When he started elementary school, there was as yet no textbook of the history of British Guiana. In 1932, Guy De Weever, a young teacher, published *The Children's Story of Guiana*. In the Foreword dated 30th April, 1932, W. Bain Gray, Director of Education, wrote: "It is intended to be used not merely as a text-book in history, but as a supplementary reader in the classes of the upper divisions. Every school should also possess at least one copy in its library."

The book was revised and reprinted, and up to 1974, had gone through 28 reprints. It covered 56 pages, including 4 pages of a glossary. The entire history of British Guiana, taught to children in elementary school, was contained in just 52 pages! True enough, Sonny read *The Royal Reader* which contained great stories and *The West Indian Reader* with poems and anancy stories, but no Guyanese history or West Indian history. The Guyanese history he absorbed was oral history - from his parents and grandparents and

his teachers.

When Sonny proceeded to High School, first to Modern High School, which was founded by his father, the legendary James Isaac Ramphal (familiarily referred to as 'J.I.'), and, for a short while, to Berbice High School and finally to Queen's College, the history taught there was English history. There, he learned how many wives Henry VIII had and how he got rid of them one by one. The history of his native land came later in life from other sources - the poems of A.J Seymour and Martin Carter, the historical novels of Edgar Mittelholzer, the writings of Walter Rodney.

Glimpses of a Global Life starts with the abolition of slavery in 1834 and the events leading up to the abolition. After emancipation and the departure of the slaves from the sugar plantations, the colonists brought new immigrants under a form of indenture to work on sugar estates - the Portuguese, the East Indians, and the Chinese. Sonny's great grandmother was one of the indentured labourers who came to British Guiana from India. She was a remarkable woman, and the strength of the Ramphal family could be traced back to her. Her name was Doolnie.

In the 1870's, the bubonic plague had ravaged India leaving Doolnie widowed with one son who had survived the plague. She and her husband were high caste Brahmins but poor. Although immolation on the husband's funeral pyre had been abolished by law, it was still expected of the orthodox. Doolnie refused to follow the practice and returned to her maternal home where she was spurned and treated as an outcast. She took her infant son to Benares where she was recruited to work on the sugar plantations in the West Indies. However, her ship was bound for Suriname, and she worked out her five year contract of indenture before returning with her young son to India. Despite six years of absence, her family still rejected her as the rules of caste were strict. She returned to Benares where she was recruited to enter into a second contract of indenture, this time to work on the sugar plantations of British Guiana. And so it was that she crossed the 'Black Waters' between India and the West Indies a third time, arriving in Georgetown on 1 January, 1881, with her nine year old son Ramphul.

Fast forward several decades to 1947 and we find Sonny Ramphal - great grandson of Doolnie, grandson of Ramphul - as a young law student

GLIMPSES OF A GLOBAL LIFE

(continued from page 5)

at the University of London. Law had been predetermined for him by his father J.I. who declared, when Sonny was still a teenager, that “*Sonny will do law*”. It was there in England that Sonny began to look upon himself not only as a Guyanese but also as a West Indian. Sonny’s awakening to West Indianism had been stirred by his first encounter with Norman Manley, Jamaica’s leading lawyer and a passionate advocate. He was the leading figure in the West Indian Federal movement. In 1950, Manley gave a lunch-time talk to West Indian students at the London School of Economics. Sonny was totally captivated by the man and the cause, so much so that his dissertation for his LL.M was *Constitutional Aspects of Federation in the British West Indies*. He became completely immersed in the issue of a Federation of the West Indian colonies.

In 1952, Sonny returned to British Guiana and was appointed a Crown Counsel and subsequently Legal Draughtsman. His life took many twists and turns thereafter. Following the political turmoil caused by the suspension of the Constitution in 1953, Sonny was assigned the role of ‘Advisor’ to British Guiana’s ‘Observers’ to federal negotiations on the West Indies, despite the fact that, in 1951, the British Guiana legislature had resolutely opposed joining in a Federation.

When the Federation was established in 1958, he was appointed to the position of First Legal Draftsman. Eighteen months later in 1959, a crisis in the Legal Department in Georgetown led to his being appointed Solicitor General of British Guiana. But, in 1961, he was back with the Federal Government as Assistant Attorney General. Sadly the Federation was short-lived. It was formally dissolved on 31 May, 1962 – ironically, the actual day it was to become an independent member state of the Commonwealth. It was particularly disheartening to Sonny because it had died as the result of a referendum called in Jamaica by Norman Manley who had so inspired his passion for federation twelve years before. The convoluted mathematics of Dr. Eric Williams, Premier of Trinidad and Tobago, a historian by profession but certainly not a mathematician, that ‘1 from 10 leaves 0’ deepened his disillusionment with West Indian politicians.

In May 1965 after some arm-twisting, Sonny returned to British Guiana to the post of Attorney General. He was immediately immersed in regional affairs and played a leading role in the formation of CARIFTA – the Caribbean Free Trade Area. At the same time, British Guiana was marching towards independence and he was involved in drafting the Independence Constitution. After independence, he served as Foreign Minister from 1972 to 1975.

In 1975, Sonny was appointed Secretary General of the Commonwealth, a post to which he was re-appointed

twice, becoming the only person to have served in that post for fifteen years. Those years captured the greatest achievements of his long life. It was a period marked by serious problems in the Commonwealth, and these years showed his skills of diplomacy in great measure.

Apartheid was in full swing in South Africa. Unilateral Declaration of Independence had been declared in 1965 in Southern Rhodesia. Both systems – designed to maintain white minority rule – were anathema to Sonny. He knew that he had to engage the white countries of the Commonwealth to break those systems. Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Brian Mulroney, Prime Ministers of Canada, and Bob Hawke and Malcolm Fraser, Prime Ministers of Australia, were on-side. But not Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, who was actively supported by Ronald Reagan, President of the United States – not even a member of The Commonwealth – in her desire to lift sanctions against South Africa. At the same time, he had to keep the African nations in line. He very often walked a very thin line but, eventually, victory was won. UDI was overturned and Nelson Mandela was on the verge of being released after spending 27 years in prison under the apartheid regime. Brian Mulroney has said that it was Sonny Ramphal’s patience and strong leadership that brought the Commonwealth nations together for the greatest achievements in its history.

When Sonny left the Secretariat of the Commonwealth, Margaret Thatcher gave a farewell Dinner for him. Her speech reflects his accomplishments and her gratitude:

Your fifteen years as Secretary General have been remarkable ones for the Commonwealth. It has grown from thirty-four members to fifty. You and I have not always agreed, in particular over the best way to deal with the very real problems of South Africa – although we always shared the aim of wanting to see the end of apartheid. And that is now in sight.

But where we have disagreed, you have always tried to find a constructive way to accommodate differences, and that has made it possible to avoid damage to the Commonwealth itself.

No one doubts that those were heartfelt comments from ‘the Iron Lady’, the person with whom he had the most ardent disagreements. Small wonder that Nelson Mandela has said of Sonny:

Sonny Ramphal is one of those men who have become famous because, in their fight for human justice, they have chosen the entire world as their theatre.

Every self-respecting Guyanese must have a copy of this book in his or her home. Every school in Guyana, every school in the West Indies, every institution of higher learning in the West Indies, must have a copy in its library. Every West Indian student, every West Indian politician, every West Indian diplomat must read and study it.

FR. AIDAN GILL (continued from page 3)

at Mackenzie. A few months after he came, race riots broke out — murders, shootings, choppings, house burnings, and even a bomb exploding in a Mackenzie boat in the Demerara River. East Indians had to seek police protection and flee for their lives, leaving almost everything. I heard from some, who had been there at the time, that Aidan was untiring and most competent, organising Christian aid to these people until things became more normal....

“Then he went off to two distant and rugged parishes, Bartica and Matthew’s Ridge. In the former, he was required to build people, in the latter to build people and a church with a presbytery. Matthew’s Ridge was formed to help people in a new mining project; but it failed and the miners turned to agriculture. That could not have been smooth going....

“For the last lap, Aidan went to St. Pius X parish on the border of Georgetown. There he was assistant, and became seriously sick. He was operated on at St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital and, when they could do no more for him, it was suggested that Aidan should travel to England for specialist treatment. Though he was very weak, he was durable and faced the trying journey. As I was due soon to take my long leave, I was asked to accompany him. I was not competent, but he stood up to the long journey patiently and uncomplainingly.... He did eat a little of the aircraft’s fare. I think it was the first solid food for a long time. At Heathrow, we were met by Fr. Marbaix and Tony Montfort, and Aidan was taken to hospital. What his suffering must have been I cannot imagine....”

On arriving in England after his ten-year stint at Bartica, Aidan was nursed in SS. John and Elizabeth Hospital in St. John’s Wood, London, and seemed to his visitors worn to a shadow. Investigations gave hope that the tumour discovered was not malignant. After convalescence, he was able to work for some eighteen months with our men at Wapping Parish, London. But, early in the summer of 1983, it became clear he was suffering considerably. Further treatment was unsuccessful. Aidan was transferred from the London Hospital to St. Joseph’s Hospice, Hackney, in September but, within twenty-four hours of arrival, he went

into a coma and died peacefully two days later on 24 September, 1983. His brother Joe and his sister and Fr. Bill Yeomans were with him at the end. The funeral was at Farm Street Church, London, the Mass and internment being performed valiantly by the elder brother. Fr. Brian Scannell, a life-long friend, gave a moving valedictory address. The people of Wapping were well represented at the funeral.

Fr. Bernard Brown adds a little valedictory of his own:

“There were many endearing qualities about this great little priest. Some, as with diamonds on discovery, were not so endearing at first sight. But all combined to show that ‘to live, for Aidan, was Christ’. He had a wonderful compassion for the weak, the poor, and the genuine. This, in him, was fascinating. One saw the love of Christ shine through a nature that was as brisk and perky as a London sparrow’s.

“There was one marked and constant theme in his life in Guyana as we all saw. Aidan was a teacher, a Gospel teacher, a teaching priest, always like his Master ‘a teacher come from God’. As he moved through the long years of his Guyana apostolate and his varied assignments, the grammar school classrooms, the wards where lay the weak and the poor of Mahaica’s Leper Hospital, the saloon main road of the miners’ wild-west town of Bartica.... he moved as the Gospel teacher. That dapper little figure carried one message, Christ, and everyone knew it.

“Aidan was one of God’s precision tools. Truth cuts no corners, and nor did he. Impossible to think of him muffing God’s Word with learned asides and personal opinions. He couldn’t use two words when one would do, but he would hammer that one word home. He was sensitive to others, and knew when to be gentle and let God take over.

“He suffered a lot from his own high standards. The heat and the damp and the flavour of oriental thought are not good for logic, and the little man met his mini-Waterloos. I don’t think Aidan was as widely known in Guyana as he deserved to be. He was too intent on keeping the Master in the limelight. But many loved him dearly, and his enforced return to England must have filled them with a deep sense of loss.”

R.I.P.

A TIME FOR GIVING...AND GIVING THANKS

(continued from page 1)

of appreciation to the staff. Individually, we cannot do much but, together, we may be able to “move mountains”. Your contributions (cash, cheques, or through PayPal on our web-site) should **reach us in Toronto by Friday 19 December** so that we can make arrangements to send the funds to the school before Christmas. If PayPal is used, please use the Membership option.

Those living in Canada **should make out cheques to “the St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society”** as

every contributor will be issued a receipt which can be used to reduce income tax payable in Canada. All postal mail should be sent to:

St. Stanislaus College (Guyana) Alumni Society

Attention: Christmas Contribution

4544 Sheppard Avenue East

Toronto, Ontario

Canada M1S 1V2

Finally, we wish all alumni/ae and friends our best wishes for a holy, peaceful, and **MERRY CHRISTMAS**, and a safe, successful, and **HAPPY NEW YEAR** in 2015.

OBITUARIES

* **Alumnus (1938 – 1945) Theodore Arnold Bayley MD**

FRCPC – At home in Toronto on 9 October, 2014, after a long illness at the age of 87. Arnold was a dedicated physician, scholar, Associate Professor (University of Toronto), sportsman, and man of faith, who came to Canada from Guyana in 1949 to study medicine at the University of Toronto. He embraced his new home, learning to curl, skate, ski, and sail. During his over 50



years of medicine, he practiced internal medicine, endocrinology, and nuclear medicine, and co-founded the Nuclear Medicine lab at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jean Margaret (nee Hunter), and children Mark (Suzanne), Nicholas (Diane), Andrew (Fung), Chris (Mary), Anna (Larry) and Paul, and 10 grand-children. He was the elder brother of **alumnus Gerard (Doreen)** and **alumnus Rene (Anita)**.

* **Alumnus (1958 – 1965) Michael D’Ornellas** – In Belleville, Ontario, on 11 November, 2014, after battling cancer for the last 20 months. He was the older brother of **alumnus (1960 – 1965) Terry**.

* **Alumnus (1954 – 1961) Fr. Oliver Farnum** – At Mercy Hospital, Georgetown, on 25 November, 2014, of a ruptured aneurism in the aorta.

* **Alumnus (1945 – 1949) Rafiq Ahmad Khan** – In Kingston, Jamaica, on 10 October, 2014. Rafiq started reading the News at British Guiana Broadcasting Corporation, later Radio Demerara, during his last months at Saints, and went on to a full time job there at the age of 16 after completing his secondary education. He worked his way up through the ranks, becoming the Program Director, in 1956, of Radio Demerara, British Guiana's sole radio station in those days. In 1958, he set up and nurtured BGBS (which later became the Guyana Broadcasting Company) as a companion station to Radio Demerara. With both stations operating under the umbrella of GBS, he was appointed General Manager in 1970. Throughout all the changes, Rafiq coupled his management skills with a continued demonstration of his abilities as broadcaster par excellence and master of the spoken word.

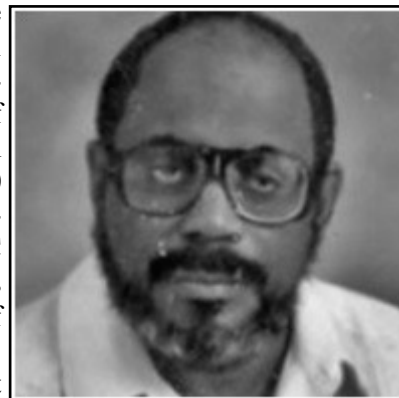


Notably, he led or participated in radio broadcast coverage of major national events in Guyana. He also nurtured local broadcast talents and, in some way, touched the lives of virtually all professional Guyanese broadcasters of that period. He encouraged the production of local radio drama, comedy, and music, always insisting on the highest standards possible.

Even while serving GBS, Rafiq became Management Consultant to the Rediffusion Group of Broadcasting Systems in the Caribbean. After resigning from GBS in 1978, he served regional communication organizations in various capacities. In 1979, he began a period of 13 years with UNESCO, 10 of them as Regional Communication Adviser for the Caribbean. He continued promoting excellence in radio and television as he advised governments as well as non-government institutions on the development and use of communications nationally and regionally, as he lectured at UWI and University of Guyana, and as he served as a Communications Consultant. After retirement from UNESCO in 1992, he went into private practice as an International Media Consultant.

Rafiq received many awards for his contributions to broadcast communications from governments and regional organizations throughout the Caribbean, and was inducted into the Caribbean Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1996.

* **Alumnus (1955 – 1962) Elvin Bernard McDavid** – In Kingston, Jamaica, where he was receiving medical attention, on 24 September, 2014, at the age of 70. He was born in Georgetown on the 10 June, 1944, and was educated at St. Mary’s RC School, St. Stanislaus College, the University of Birmingham, and the University of the West Indies.



Elvin was a former Political Assistant to the Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, Minister of Information and Culture (1971-72), and Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. He is credited with much of the pioneering work for the hosting of the first Caribbean Festival of the Arts (Carifesta) and the establishment of the Guyana National Service (GNS).

* **Alumnus (1952 – 1958) Aubrey Miller** – In Richmond Hill, Ontario, on 29 October, 2014, after a long bout with cancer since his return from Saudi Arabia a few years ago. He was the elder brother of **alumnus (1957 - 1962) Richard**.

GIVING BACK

“Giving back” is a hallmark of my upbringing and in my personal life. In the past, my wife and I have donated to relatives, friends, acquaintances, strangers, disaster relief funds, personal tragedy victims, US Armed Services personnel, Universities, and my High School *alma mater* St. Stanislaus College in Georgetown, Guyana.

As I was preparing for my trip to Georgetown, I wondered what I could do to help students at St. Stanislaus College. I shared my plan with the Toronto Saints Alumni Association and the St. Stanislaus College administrators. I got enthusiastic comments from one Toronto Alumni Association member.

In June 2014, I arrived in Georgetown and visited St. Stanislaus College and met with Mrs. Paulette Merell, the current Principal. I discussed my idea of sponsoring the 1st year tuition of two students heading to the University of Guyana in Fall 2014. Why this cause? My research showed that students transiting from High School to University have the most difficult task of figuring out how to pay University tuition while focusing on their academic studies. As a sponsor, I felt I could ease this difficulty.

During my visit with Mrs. Merell, I requested a follow-on meeting with teachers and several students applying to enter the University in Fall 2014, and Mrs. Merell agreed to organize the meeting. I returned to the College on the scheduled date and time to meet the teachers and selected students. The students were identified, and I listened to each of their stories to understand their personal lives, challenges, dreams, life goals, and their desire to attend University. Each student story was emotional, touching, and heart-felt. I knew it would be difficult to select only two students. After telling their stories, the students returned to class while Mrs. Merell, the two teachers, and I stayed behind to discuss each student’s merit, ability to excel at University, and my sponsorship. After much discussion, I selected Omefa Garraway and Oral McAllister who were

required to use Skype and e-mail to follow-up with me after I left Georgetown.

My trip was over and I returned to California. Omefa and Oral were busy completing their University applications, and, in August 2014, they received their University acceptance letters which they e-mailed to me. Their next assignment was to provide me with instructions for remitting their 1st semester payments directly to the University. Omefa contacted and met with Miss Dover of the University’s accounting office to discuss the payment methods, and he e-mailed me the wire transfer payment instructions and Miss Dover’s phone number.

I called Miss Dover on Skype and established my sponsorship commitment to Omefa and Oral. Miss Dover was very helpful and answered all my questions, and we exchanged e-mail addresses. I e-mailed Miss Dover with Omefa’s and Oral’s University student ids and the wire transfer instructions which I had received. Miss Dover responded with some additional wire transfer information to ensure that the payments would be registered on behalf of Omefa and Oral.

I provided my local bank with the necessary amount (including bank fees), and the wire payments were sent to the University on 4th September, 2014. Miss Dover confirmed the receipt of the 1st semester payments on September 9th, 2014.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Paulette Merell and Miss Dover for helping me to support Omefa and Oral in their education quest.

Brian Ramphal

REUNION IN TORONTO OF CLASS-MATES



Old school mates meet for coffee at Coffee Time, Bathurst and Steeles, Toronto — with Antony Chapman, Victor Sancho (in from Texas), Des Kawall, and Art Veerasammy.

OBITUARIES (continued from page 8)

* **Alumnus (1948 – 1955) Desmond Perreira** - At the Sunrise Seniors Living Home in Richmond Hill, Ontario, on 13 November, 2014, at the age of 79. He was suffering from cancer of the liver. He was the older brother of well-known West Indian Cricket commentator Joseph “Reds” Perreira. Desmond played first-eleven cricket for the College and first division cricket in Br. Guiana.

He is survived by Joan, his wife of 52 years, his children Simone (Louis), Nigel (Jillian) and Christopher (Alicia), and 4 grand-children. He also leaves behind his brothers and sisters: Victor, Joseph (Zandra), Brian (Claudia), Mary, Patricia, Joan (Bertie), Yvonne (Terry), and Monica (Vincent).

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St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, founded in 1993, is devoted to making St. Stanislaus College the best educational institution in Guyana. It provides financial aid and other aid to the college, which was founded by Fr. Langton S. J. in 1866. Formerly run by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests, the school was taken over by the Government in 1976, with Government-appointed teachers replacing the clergy in 1980.

Saints News & Views publishes four issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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The Association welcomes your feedback. Please direct your comments, enquiries, or articles you would like published to :

The Secretary, St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1V2. You may contact the Secretary, Albert Smith, by phone at home at 647-219-7644 or by email at al.smith@st-stanislaus-gy.com.

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Cost
Sat. 5 Apr., 2014	Spring Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	tba
Sat. 5 Jul., 2014 (Tentative)	Golf Tournament	Bethesda Grange Golf Course, 12808 Warden Ave., Stouffville	tba
Fri. 1 Aug., 2014	Caribjam	West Rouge Community Centre	tba
Mon. 4 Aug., 2014	Last Lap Lime	Woodbridge Fairgrounds	\$15 pre-event \$25 on the day
Sat. 18 Oct., 2014	Fall Dance	West Rouge Community Centre	tba

Alumni Association Membership Form

Please complete this portion and return it with a cheque for \$25.00 (Cdn) for 1 year, or \$100.00 (Cdn) for 5 years payable to:

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(Bus) : _____ Amt. enclosed: \$ _____ Year graduated: _____