

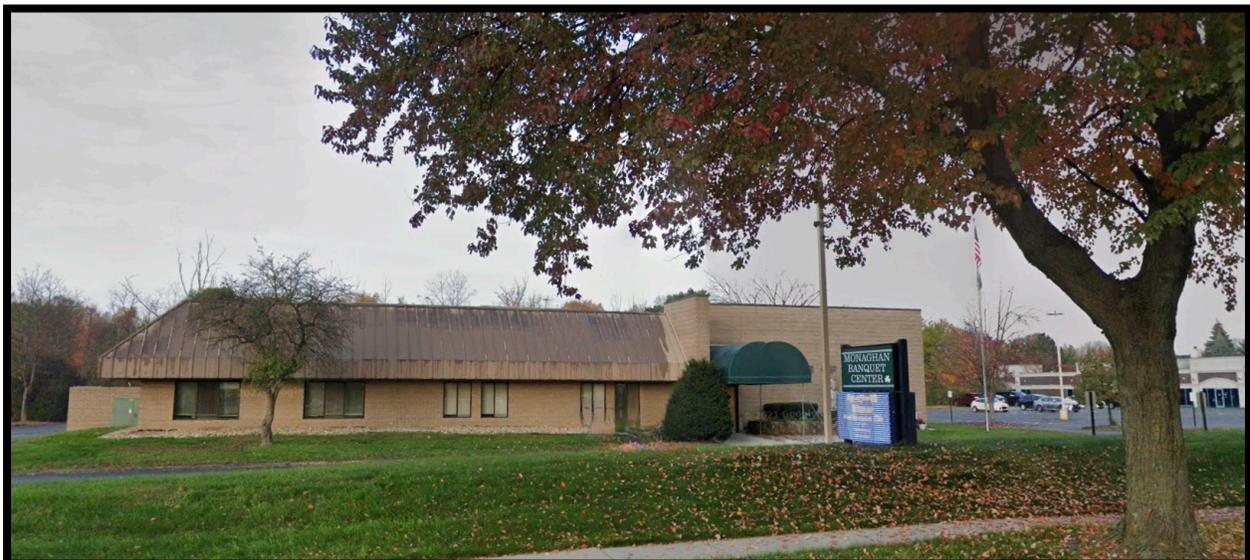
60 Years Later

Most of life transpires in six decades, yet four significant years of high school leaves footprints in one's memories that are deeper than the passage of time. With much anticipation and excitement, I and three other classmates coordinated the Sixtieth Reunion of the Visitation Class of 1962, known as the "Visi Class of 1962."

The planners chose to have the gathering at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall in Livonia, Michigan. How appropriate it was for a Catholic high school to patronize a K of C. Besides that, our planner, Trish, was able to reserve a private room at no cost since the manager of the K of C was somehow related to a Visi graduate.

Coordinating with the reunion, my son, John, had business meetings in Michigan that allowed us to spend mom-son time together in the Livonia area. So, on August 4, 2022, John drove me four miles from our Marriott Hotel to the Monaghan K of C Hall. Our drive to Monaghan's was a bit confusing and time-consuming due to a great deal of road construction.

Arriving at the destination, I was not overly impressed with the low-lying brick building that was level with its location on Farmington Road. Trees and landscaping were sparse and signage was unclear. Thankfully, there was plenty of parking.



I walked around all sides of the building searching for an unlocked door. I finally knocked on the front entrance door at the same time that my classmate, John Rusche, arrived. What a welcome face he was. Being members of the planning committee, John and I arrived early to deal with last-minute details.

We were welcomed by Cheryl, the caterer, the only person in the building. Staff shortage was obvious. Noticing the well-worn flooring and walls that needed refreshed/painted, I followed Cheryl with John as she escorted us through the bar area to our private room. Our reserved space was arranged with several round tables seating six to eight people as well as a very long rectangular table that was not conducive to socializing. No problem! John and I decided that memorabilia that classmates brought would be laid out on the long rectangular table. This would reserve round tables for more-suitable mixing.

BACK IN 1962

OSCAR Winners
Best Film - West Side Story
Best Director - Jerome Robbins
Best Actress - Sophia Loren
Best Actor - Maximilian Schell

60S SLANG
Gimme some skin - Shake hands
Hang Loose - Relax
Let's Jam - Leaving A Place
Outta sight - Awesdme
Going steady - Dating

MOVIES
★The Longest Day
★Lawrence of Arabia
★In Search of the Castaways
★That Touch of Mink
★The Music Man

US President
John F. Kennedy

NEWS
★Cuban Missile Crisis begins when a U-2 flight over Cuba takes photos of Soviet nuclearweapons being installed.
★Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points in a single NBA basketball game.
★First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy takes television viewers on a tour of the White House.
★Marilyn Monroe is found dead at age 36 from "acute barbiturate poisoning".

SPORTS
World Series Champions:
New York Yankees
NFL Champions:
Green Bay Packers
NBA Champions:
Boston Celtics
Stanley Cup Champions:
Toronto Maple Leafs

CELEBRITY Births
Tom Cruise
Steve Irwin
Jim Carrey
Steve Carell
Paula Abdul
Jon Bon Jovi

WHAT THINGS cost?
New house \$18,200
First class stamp \$0.04
Gallon of gas \$0.31
Dozen eggs \$0.54
Movie ticket \$0.70

POPULAR Music
Acker Bilk - Stranger on the Shore
Ray Charles - I Can't Stop Loving You
Dee Dee Sharp - Mashed Potato Time
Bobby Vinton - Roses Are Red (My Love)
David Rose - The Stripper



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John and I proceeded to place white linen tablecloths provided by the caterer on the tables. Joanne and Trish, the other planners, arrived and we wrapped up the preparations, including hanging a sign with memories of 1962 and placing stuffed eagles, our school mascot, on each table.

I had hoped to provide background music by connecting *Pandora Music* from my iPhone to the sound system at Monaghan's. To no avail ... the sound equipment at Monaghan's was antique-looking with no USB ports to allow connection. Oh well!

Conversation filled the air as classmates arrived, some with their spouses. A special guest was Renie Gnau, our own "Sr. Renella," who paid homage to classmates.

Although I would not give a high rating to the setting for our 60th Reunion, the camaraderie, socializing, reminiscing was beyond our expectations. It was wonderful to recall memories from our teen years, to acknowledge our Catholic education, and to update friends about our travels, families, and life. Yes, life was and is good.

