

Tapella Family Newsletter

Catching Up Since 2004

Catching up is really hard to do, especially remembering things at our age. So we'll give it a try.

2005

Joe's 1st Communion



Our first trip to Rolla was to attend Joey Leach's first communion at St. Patrick's Church. The reception following was at Zeno's restaurant, really the only nice place for a good dinner in town. This would set a trend for subsequent years. After the party, we drove on down to Branson for the week to use a Marriott timeshare. It was our first time there in almost 30 years. Fran and Joe came with us for the early part of the week and we saw several shows. Later that week, the Leaches came down for the weekend.

We did the usual touring. The highlights for the kids was riding the "duck" boats onto the lake and playing miniature golf and beating grandpa.

Emily's 1st Communion



Two weeks later, our only granddaughter Emily McCrone made her first communion at Queen of Apostles in San Jose.

2006

Trip to Italy



We made our long delayed trip to Italy with our friends, the Osorios. Our flight on Lufthansa business class was great, taking us to Rome, via Frankfurt. We met our friend Fr. Gary Thomas who was studying in Rome at the time and became our immediate tour guide (the timing of the trip was meant to coincide with his week off). We saw sections of Rome that few tourists have the opportunity to visit, including the catacombs under the St. Peters. The highlight of the stay was a Papal audience with VIP seating, so the event was fabulous. The dining

at out of the way restaurants that Fr. Gary has discovered via his connections was among the best we had ever had.

Following Rome, we travelled by train to Florence where made like tourists visiting all of the usual site, especially the statue of David. Using Florence as home base, we took several day trips to nearby locations. We especially loved our trip to Assisi by train. We inadvertently met up with an American priest from Rome who just happened to be living in the same residence as Fr. Gary and had met him for the first time the night before. This was fortuitous as he became our tour guide for the day and led use to many interesting sites. We also spent a day in Siena which as enjoyable.



We next moved on to Venice for three days. As good luck would have it, we arrived at Carnivale time. The streets were filled day and night with locals and visitors who were decked out in extravagant costumes and masks, so every venture out was a fascinating experience. Doing all of the customary tourist adventures in Venice, St. Marks Piazza, a gondola ride, and glass blowing experience as well venturing into the less visited areas occupied our time. At this point, our train travel was complete and we picked up a car for the rest of the trip.

Our next destination was the Udine area to visit relatives of Elaine Osorio still living in the area. We were able to visit the Church where her father was baptized and met many enjoyable people who were able to help get old records for her. Finally, one of her cousins owns a nearby winery, Vigneti Pittaro, and gave us a special tour and tasting of their wines. It was a great way to finish our visit to the area.

We drove across northern Italy to reach the Tapella family hometown of Cuggiono, near Milan. Along the way, we visited Padua and later a jewel of a town called Sirmione on a narrow peninsula jutting into Lake Garda where we enjoyed lunch on a sun-draped patio overlooking the lake.



The great disappointment of the trip was our inability to gather any family information in Cuggiono where the officials were uncooperative and few people spoke English. So we quickly moved on after spending a day being tourists in Milano. So we decided to tour Pisa and Parma, which were not in our original plans, before hitting our final destination of the Cinque Terra.



We made our headquarters in the Cinque Terra in the town of Levanto, the first town north that had car parking at the accommodations. It was easy to use the local train to visit the five other towns. Unfortunately, the only rainy weather of the trip eliminated taking the hikes we planned, but we enjoyed wandering through the cliff towns. As usual, the food was fantastic. We finished the trip by going north by driving the cliff roads from Santa Margarita to Genoa finally ending in Milan. We flew home after a wonderful three and a half weeks of immersion into Italian delights.

2007

Tim's 1st Communion



April 2007 found us In Rolla for Tim's First Communion. We also spent the following week in Branson

Public Printer of the US

On November 5, 2007, our son Bob was sworn in as the 25th Public Printer of the United States. He assumed the position heading the Government Printing Office, responsible for printing virtually all government documents, except for currency. As you can imagine, we are extremely proud of Bob and his accomplishments.



Christmas 2007



We were home for this Christmas and spent it with Julia and Brian and the grandkids. Everyone got too many presents as usual, but no one complained except the parents who vowed to cut back next year.

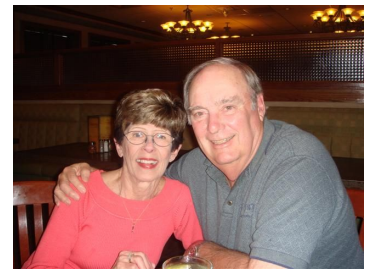
2008

Trip for Ben's 1st Communion to Rolla and Kansas City April 2008



We traveled To Rolla Missouri to celebrate our youngest grandson's First Communion. The Leach family, as shown above, is rapidly growing up and all attend St. Patrick's school and are actively engaged in baseball and soccer. After the event we went to a timeshare in Branson again to take in a few shows. The Leachs were able to join us for the weekend for some family companionship, including our usual miniature golf outing.

Leaving Branson, we journeyed to Kansas City to visit with the Ambrose Kelly branch of the family there. We made like tourists for several days including the Truman Library, the WW1 Museum, and Arthur Bryant's BBQ. While the ladies went shopping, Ambrose and Chuck tried to play golf one day, but were blown all over the course by 40 mph winds. Wish we could have stayed a few more days, but duty at home called.



Ambrose and Janice Kelly



Trip to Canada July 2008

We had not been to Canada for many years and never over to the glacier country. So in July we departed for the northwest, visiting cousins in Oregon and Montana along the way. Our tourist destinations were Lake Louise, Jasper, Glacier National Park, and Coeur D'Alene. We stopped in Sunriver to visit the Fee cousins and had a relaxing end to our vacation. We enjoyed a leisurely trip and many wonderful sites.

Fall Foliage October 2008

We were invited to the wedding of Bob's friend Ann Warner, so we decided to include a trip to New England to enjoy the fall foliage that we had heard so much about. The weather cooperated greatly and we enjoyed Maine's Acadia National Park, New Hampshire's White Mountain region, and Rhode Island's Newport area. We ended in Boston for a short day and took the beautiful train ride to DC, enjoying a relaxing day.

The wedding was beautiful and we also enjoyed being tourists in Washington and Alexandria.



Christmas 2008



The entire family was together for Christmas for the first in many years. We met in Washington DC with Bob's home as headquarters. We were looking forward to this event with great anticipation. We get so little time to spend with all of the grandkids at the same time. We spent a great deal of time visiting the sites, museums and monuments. Christmas with seven kids and seven adults was quite hectic. Unfortunately Lisa and Dave had to leave shortly after Christmas. We did have quite a New Year's Day party, with about 50 friends and business associates attending. Great food and wine and great conversation.

2009

Looking Forward

The big event this year will be our 50th Anniversary. Our plans are up in the air due to the economy. We have postponed our big trip and family get-together since we all just did Christmas in DC. We already plan to spend 2 to 3 weeks in the San Diego area in October, playing golf and enjoying the ocean.