

Preface to the 2010 Band Manual

2/11/2010

We're coming up on our 3 year anniversary of the band next month. As I reflect and look back at the past three years I have many good memories. Do you remember.....

JC Reilley playing "Tequila" on his chanter?

Our AM 1620 radio interview with Bob Dunning and Fr. Masutti?

Mrs. McAdam teaching the band with her baby Mary sitting at the table on her lap, & proud mama drumming away?

Our first band competition? The May procession? The Walk For Life? The band dinner? Greenhaven Eskaton?

The list goes on...

When we first formed the band, there was great enthusiasm amongst those who attended the March 2007 formation meeting. Sadly, many of the boys have come and gone, some to college, others to new bands—this is the normal progression of a growing “baby band”.

I am very heartened by the group as it stands now. Much of the same energy and enthusiasm I initially witnessed when we formed the band was again expressed to me at our business meeting last Saturday.

The boys and men of our current roster are the finest and most talented musicians I have ever had the pleasure to work with. They believe in the missions of the band, and work hard to provide a performance of high quality. This is no easy task with a bagpipe. Our instructors, Jane McPherson & Ryan Murray are at the top of their field and are helping to train our members in a safe, Catholic environment most every week at St. Stephen's Church. We are very blessed and fortunate to have this band.

Our chaplain, Fr. Stinson has been dropping in at practice and leading prayers, giving blessings, advice & counsel. (You'll have to watch out for him after business meetings when playing “Bang!” however!) He graciously led us in prayer on the Walk for Life 2010 in San Francisco as we bore our new processional banner to the end.

This manual I pray will be useful in answering your questions and help assist us in further growing the band. I offer it to you now as a beginning guidebook or framework. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Matthew White

Band Manager

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