

HOLY CROSS BROTHERS AT RIVER GROVE:

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

1961-2004

By Brother Richard Shea, CSC

HOLY CROSS HISTORY CONFERENCE XXIV

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By Brother Richard Shea, CSC

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." wrote Charles Dickens in A TALE OF TWO CITIES. So it has been with Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Illinois. I was there for Holy Cross's birth, its dedication, its infancy, its adolescence, its maturity and its premature aging and death I came from Notre Dame, Indiana, for the ground breaking ceremony. I returned for the blessing by Cardinal Meyer. In 1963 I was assigned to Holy Cross and taught in the English Department, as well as was Head of the Department for seventeen years. For the next twenty-one years I remained at Holy Cross, for a total of thirty-eight years. During these years, I was assistant superior three times and two terms as superior for a total of sixteen years. Since Cross's closing, I have returned twice to see the now unused building for education of the Crusaders of Holy Cross. Just this past week of May 16th, I learned of the sale of the school building, the brothers' house, and the property to the Sisters of Providence for Guerin College Prep.

I wish to acknowledge Bros. Don Fly and John Kuhn for sending me material from the Archives of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province.

2.

I quote from 1981 yearbook, written in my own words in 1981, "On a brisk sunny day in 1960, I came from South Bend, Indiana, to observe the birth of Holy Cross High School. In a field that had once belonged to Elmwood Cemetery the first spade full of dirt was turned in the presence of Fr. Douarie and Msgr. Stockel. These two men had purchased twenty-two acres for the building of Holy Cross High School and later Mother Guerin High School. Also in attendance were Msgr. McManus (now Bishop) and Brother Donatus Schmitz, Provincial of Holy Cross, the brothers who were staff the Holy Cross High School

During the first year of its existence, the infant of Holy Cross High School, like all infants, struggled. Only the two hundred wing had been completed; it wasn't until winter the gymnasium could be utilized. Under the leadership of the first principal, Brother Walter Davenport, the school grew in academic, religious, athletic and social areas. By 1963, I was able to observe the growth of an institution and its people, since I began teaching at Holy Cross that year.

Through a succession of principals: Brother James Sullivan, Brother Raymond Dufresne, and Brother William Dygert. the school in a sense has passed through it adolescence into manhood. Brother Thomas assumed the duties of principal in 1979, it has befallen to him to carry Holy Cross through its early manhood in this its twentieth year."

3.

The following were principals of Holy Cross: seven brothers, and three laymen and one Resurrection priest. Brothers Walter Davenport, James Sullivan, Raymond Dufresne, Thomas Corcoran, Charles Drevon and James Spooner. Layman principals were: Mr. Gregory Mullins, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Lou Geraldi. Fr. Steve Bartczyszyn CR, was a Resurrection priest who had come from Weber High School, which had closed. The presidents were: Brother Thomas Corcoran, Brother Walter Davenport, Mr. Robert Brown, Brother Douglas Roach and Brother James Spooner. This post was created in 1987 and it ended with the closing of the school in 2004.

I do not wish to bore you with a lot of statistics, but to recall the number of Holy Cross Brothers, Priests and laymen that served Holy Cross High School I would also like point out the student population. Brother Charles P. McBride has provided me with statistics, his projection of enrollment, and photographs from yearbooks. These will be on display for your viewing.

From the first year, 1961-62, there were fifteen Holy Cross Brothers in the school and one Holy Cross priest. This grew to a peak of 39 brothers and two priests in 1965-66. At this time, Brother Walter Davenport was in charge of a school with over 1,100 students and superior of the total of 41 brothers in the faculty house. Some of the original brothers were: Bro. Andrew Sukenik, who had endless energy working with the students and the Associates of St. Joseph. We spoke of

ourselves, as a school for boys taught by boys. We affectionately referred to Bro. Walter as "Puff, the Magic Dragon", made popular by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Whenever Bro. Walter came on the PA system we heard this puffing sound and then a fearless roar. Bro. Bede Stadler was one long time serving brothers at Cross. He began as a Latin teacher and created the Holy Cross Library. Bro. Ralph Baird was a science teacher, who soon became a lifetime missionary. Bro. Richard Weber, a graduate of St. Edwards in Lakewood, Ohio, was a genius in maintenance. Fr. Joseph Doherty, CSC, was to help the orphans in Chile for most of his life.

During the second year, Holy Cross added Bro. Thomas Moser, who was later to become the Provincial of the Brothers, Midwest Province. Br. Donald Bailer joined the faculty and was later to work many years as the Provincial Steward.

, Bro. Raymond was added to the faculty, as a teacher of French, and he later became principal of Holy Cross High School. Bro. Robert Woodard, a gentleman brother from the South became the school treasurer.

As the years passed, the faculty changed, as well as the principals. Bro. Clarence LaMere, a colorful brother from Minnesota, joined as attendance director. , Bro. Richard Grejczyk, served as assistant principal. He spent his summers scheduling all 1,100 plus students by hand and reading THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE. Bro. Anthony Jorae, a brother of many talents, came to cross in 1964 and remained until it's closing. He was the only brother left teaching in the school for which

he had served for forty years. Bro. John Moore, known as the donut pusher, was in charge of the cafeteria. Bro. John Patrick Lahiff, dean of boys, brought his own colorful style to the office. Bro. Charles McBride joined in 1965, and he had articles published weekly in the local papers. The information covered every facet of Holy Cross, sports, social, education and fund raising. There were many years when the debate team won state honors, under the direction of Bro. Alfred Metzger. Bro. Augustus Patin taught math classes and was always remembered as a tough teacher with colorful language by the alumni. The school was always proud of the Crusader The Marching Band was under the direction of Bros. Roy Nash and James Rottenbucher. They marched in the Christmas Parade and Columbus Day Parade, with Bro. Walter was standing in the review stand with the Mayor of Chicago. Harold Ruplinger, began his colorful career as Head of the Art Department at Cross. Bro. Vincent Gross was head of the maintenance and later became a missionary to Africa for many years. He was not in the school, but Bro. Anthony Hauser cooked seven days a week, three meals a day from 1965 until his death from a brain tumor. His family was a really holy cross family: Priests, Brother and three Holy Cross Sisters. Bro. Celestis Mueller, is remembered for throwing out the ball for the opener at Holy Cross. He always complained of being sick and we didn't believe him. He proved us wrong. He died young of cancer in his foot. Bro. Raymond Kelly came as keeper of the grounds and bookstore manager. He also helped out at Holy Trinity with fund raising bingo. Bro. Anton Mattingly added his Spanish to the language department Bro. Quentin Hegarty, known as Cuz, because he was a cousin to Bro. Majella Hegarty, brought

Latin to the students and a friend to all. Bro. Joseph Dudek was the mechanical drawing teacher and has served in the Brothers' kitchen for countless years. Bro. Louis Mangini brought the computer age to the business department. Bro. Don Fly survived the "shh and paste" and the many showings of "The Bridge over the River Kiwi" during the Humanities period in religion. There were the two Brothers Martin, David and Donald. Donald Martin remained the longer of the two. He spent many summers supervising Gilmour Day Camp and more in Montreal giving tours to pilgrims to the Basilica of St. Joseph, founded by Blessed Brother Andre. Bro. Edward Wauchter loved to watch the parades in downtown Chicago. Bro. Viator just loved downtown. Bro. Paul Rosonke became the Rube Goldberg, as director on maintenance. Bro. John McMuldren had two stints at Cross. He was enthusiastic and beloved by the students. Bro. Thomas Minta taught English and assisted in the theatrical productions for Cross-and Guerin. Bro. Eugene Weisenberg assisted in the band room and with the musicals put on by Cross-and Guerin. Bro. Robert Fillmore, now Provincial of the Brothers of Holy Cross was noted for the fund raising by the Fathers' Club. Bro. Wilbert Leveling taught the "slow" students and often showed movies. Bro. Chester Rachel had the bookstore and hooked many rugs or hangings that are found on display throughout the province.

Bro. Julian Przybyla removed the snow and cared for the lawns. Bro. Thaddeus became a fixture in the school while handled the pop and candy machines. Bro. Maynard and Marius, the inseparables. There are many more brothers who contributed to the growth of Holy Cross High School.

There were numerous priests from Holy Cross and other communities that served at Cross. The Holy Cross priests were: Revs. Joseph Doherty, Roland Stair, Ralph Dunn, John Lubbers, Herbrt J. Kuehne, Robert Flyod, Thomas Markos, Edward Buenger, Francis Bennett, Richard Downs, Jerome Esper, and Milton Adamson.

The Servites were next in number: Revs. David Brown, Patrick Dunne, Thomas Greaney.

The Scalabrini Fathers also served: Vincent Generado and Angelo Moscato.

One Dominican served: Michael Garcia.

Lastly, our beloved chaplain Fr. Bernard, OFM

There were laymen who gave their entire lives to Holy Cross. From the very beginnings, Cross-had men like Bob Koleno who was coach and athletic director. Ed Jakuczyk, who held many positions at Holy Cross, from athletics to his devotion to the alumni of Cross. Myles Goddard, who had numerous hats to wear at the school from wrestling coach to CALM tutoring and archeology. Ed Brasouski was teacher of Honors English and Dean of Boys. Don Halverson was coach – Physical Ed. He taught only at Brothers' schools: Monroe, Akron and River Grove. And then there was Frank Kamayt, social studies teacher, and Dean of Boys.

As for as the students, there were mostly of Italian or Polish backgrounds. From the start of the school they were excellent

students in studies, athletics and service. I have sent the last Alumni Directory with Brother Don Fly. In the back section, you read the names of outstanding men from Cross: heart surgeons, lawyers, dentists, and teachers.

As I conclude this paper, I can hear the sounds of The Crusader Fight Song that was played by the marching band and sung loudly by the students with pride:

***“Crusaders fight for Holy Cross,
Crusaders win for Holy Cross....”***

RIVER GROVE MESSENGER


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Guerin reaches agree buy Holy Cross

The board of directors of Guerin College Preparatory, Belmont Ave., River Grove, has signed an agreement with Holy Cross of South Bend, Ind., and the Archdiocese of South Bend to purchase the former Holy Cross High School building and adjacent property.

The sale includes 14 acres of property, including the former Holy Cross High School building at 3000 N. 80th Ave.; the brothers' residence located on the property; the former Holy Cross High School; and the athletic fields.

"This sale will enable us to ensure that Catholic education continues on the corner of 80th and Belmont and to develop plans to transform the building into Guerin Prep as a co-educational institution," said Sue Dindia, president of Guerin Prep.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of South Bend, Ind., that sponsors Guerin Prep announced in February that the mission of then-Mother Theodore Guerin High School, a Catholic college preparatory high school to become Guerin Prep, beginning in August 2004. This initiative enabled the school to close the adjacent all-boys Holy Cross High School, which was closing at that time, and preserved the 40-year bond between the two institutions.

Since Holy Cross closed in June, the Brothers of Holy Cross, who sponsored the high school, have been leasing part of the building, including the gym, cafeteria, band room and other facilities, as well as the athletic fields, to Guerin Prep.

"We will now be able to plan for the total and optimum use of the building," said Sue Dindia, chairperson of the board of directors of Guerin Prep.

School officials will take the next year to develop plans for the building, which will give us time to assess our needs and to look at a new way to support and strengthen our educational mission.

The land to build Mother Guerin and Holy Cross was donated by the sponsoring Roman Catholic religious orders - Holy Cross and the Sisters of Providence - in the early 1960s by the Archdiocese of South Bend.

with the stipulation that the land be used to benefit C
also agreed at that time that the religious orders wo
building costs and for the ongoing development of th

Officials of Guerin Prep and the Holy Cross Brothers
discuss the terms of the sale, saying only that both p
from this agreement and that the goal of using the la
education will be preserved.

Guerin Prep has a current enrollment of 740 studen

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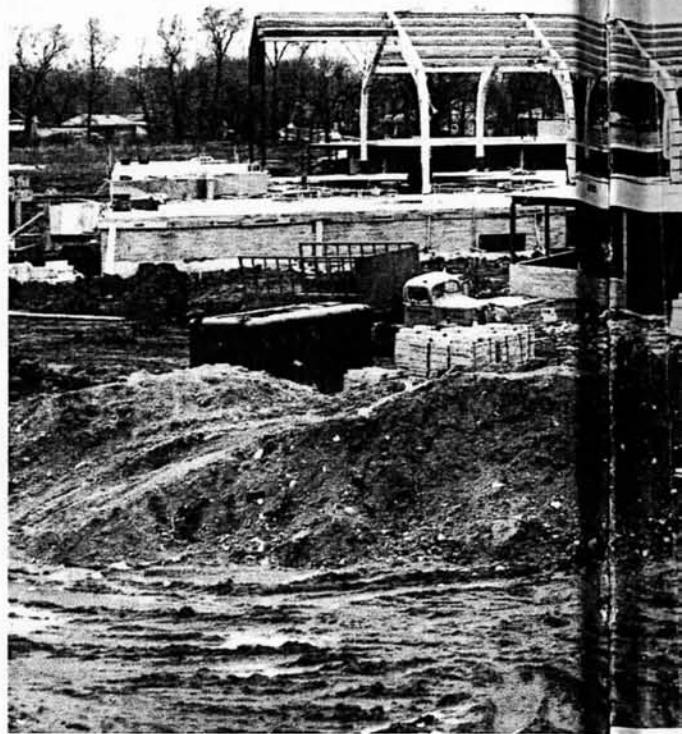
ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS FOR HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL, RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS

YEAR	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	TOTAL	Number & down from year.
-62	380				380	
-63	440	355			795	
-64	434	393	332		1159	
-65	378	350	335	301	1364	-79
-66	459	354	325	309	1447	-131
-67	396	419	326	314	1455	-120
-68	375	354	349	306	1384	-72
-69	410	360	341	355	1466	-140
-70	376	359	340	345	1420	-51
-71	387	349	333	320	1389	-55
-72	380	358	329	322	1389	-88
-73	347	338	346	318	1349	-58
-74	421	316	316	319	1372	-68
-75	378	399	297	311	1385	-69
-76	396	336	374	281	1387	-66
-77	347	310	348	355	1363	-74
-77 Ave.	394	357	335	320	1397	85

Br. C. Mc E



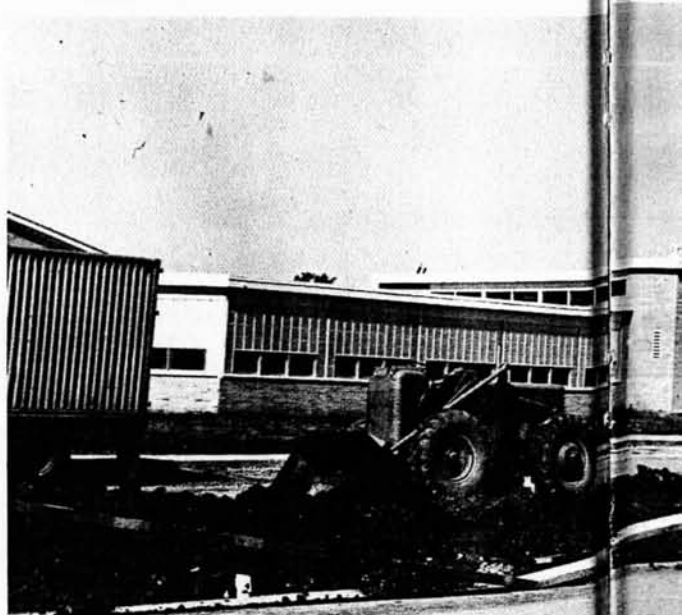
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1962-63

1 - Brother Francis Rotsaert, CSC, welcomes Tony Mazzulla, '65, during the school's first registration in September 1961.

2 - Brother Walter Davenport, CSC, spoke to the students on the occasion of the blessing of the classroom flags. The gymnasium, as well as the remainder of the building, was completed by the end of the first school year.

3 - During the 1961-1962 year, Brother Roy Nash, CSC, organized the first Holy Cross band. At their first Annual Spring Concert the band played Blue Moon and selections from the Sound of Music. Mr. John Loaf and Mr. Robert Koleno began teaching physical education the first year and organized a basketball team which found some limited competition.

4 - For the Christmas Dance of 1962 the gymnasium was decorated in a fashion which has yet to be duplicated. Notice that the visitors' bleachers had not yet been installed.

5 - Glenn Whitney, '65, took his date to the Spring Dance held in May. The rage during the first years of the school were formal dances. Brother Andrew Sukenik, CSC, was responsible for the lavish decorations. During the second school year the first class of Mother Theodore Guerin High School used our 300 wing for classes.

6 - Most of our present clubs were established during the second year of operation. Mr. Francis Kamaryt was moderator of the Current Events Club during the 1962-1963 school year.

7 - Brother Ralph Baird, CSC, moderated the Projection Club. Tom Hynes, and Rich Steinmetz were members.



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1966-67

1 - The 1965-1966 school year saw the student body grow to 1447. It was a great year in the minds of many students as the Guerin girls became cheerleaders for the Crusader football and basketball teams.

2 - A very normal year ended with the Senior Ball held at the Continental Plaza Hotel in Chicago. Mary Michael of Trinity high school was queen, her escort was senior Joe Gac.

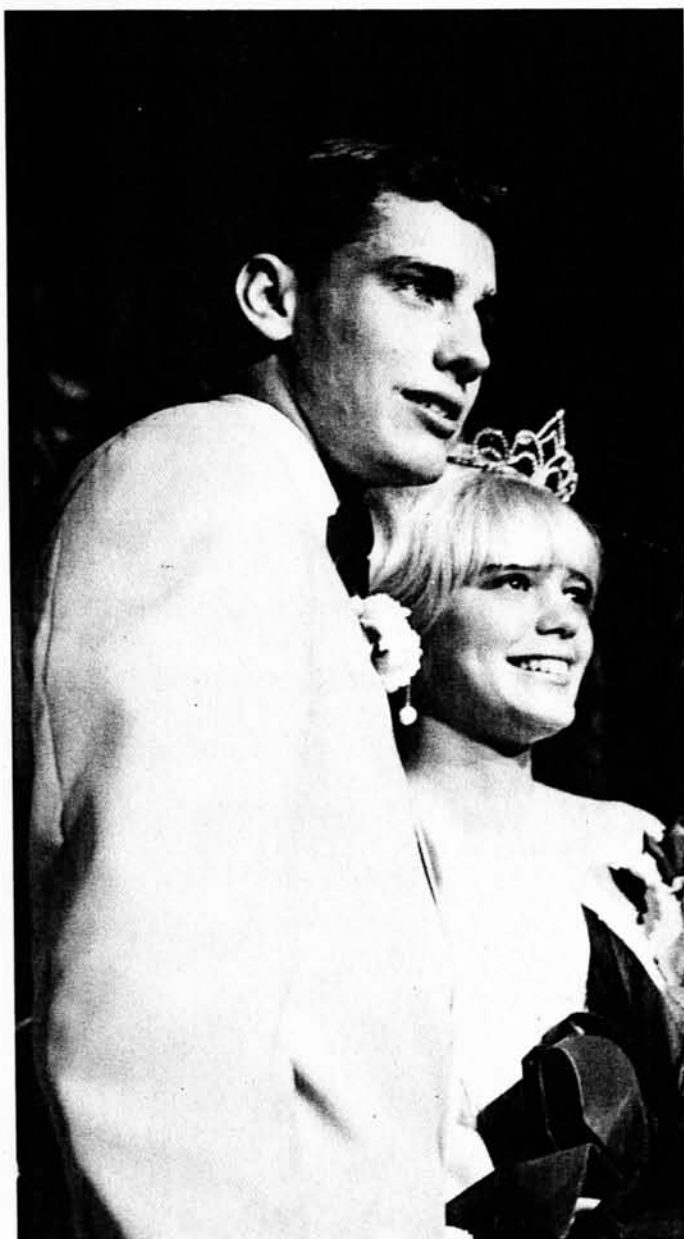
3 - C.A.L.M. (Chicago Area Lay Movement) began in September of 1966. Students, like Frank DeLuca, taught inner-city kids, Rickey Jones, at St. Mel's grade school.

4-5 - January 26, 1967 will go down in history as the day of the big snow. School was closed for two days after 26 inches of drifting snow inundated the Chicago area. Continuing snow caused school to open at 10:00 am for a week and a half after the initial storm.

6 - In September of 1966 Brother James Sullivan, CSC, became the second principal in Holy Cross history. Brother Walter Davenport, CSC, principal for the first six years went to Father Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Indiana as principal. During the 1966-1967 school year there was a record enrollment of 1455 students. Brother Raymond Dufresne, CSC, became the religious superior of the Brothers during the year. In September of 1966 the first language lab was installed through the efforts of the Father's Club and Guild drive. Mr. Francis Kamaryt became the Dean of Boys in the fall of 1966.



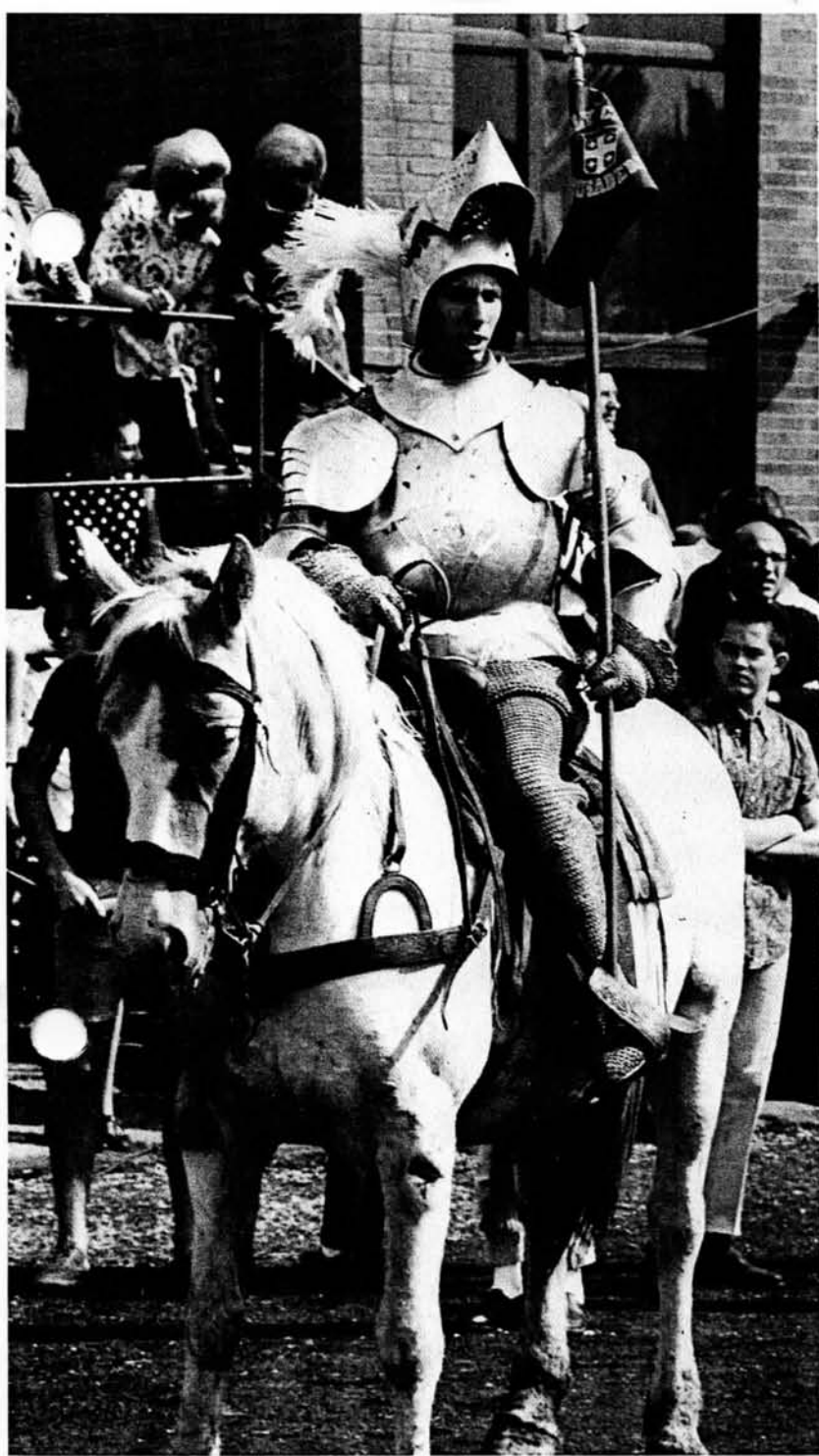
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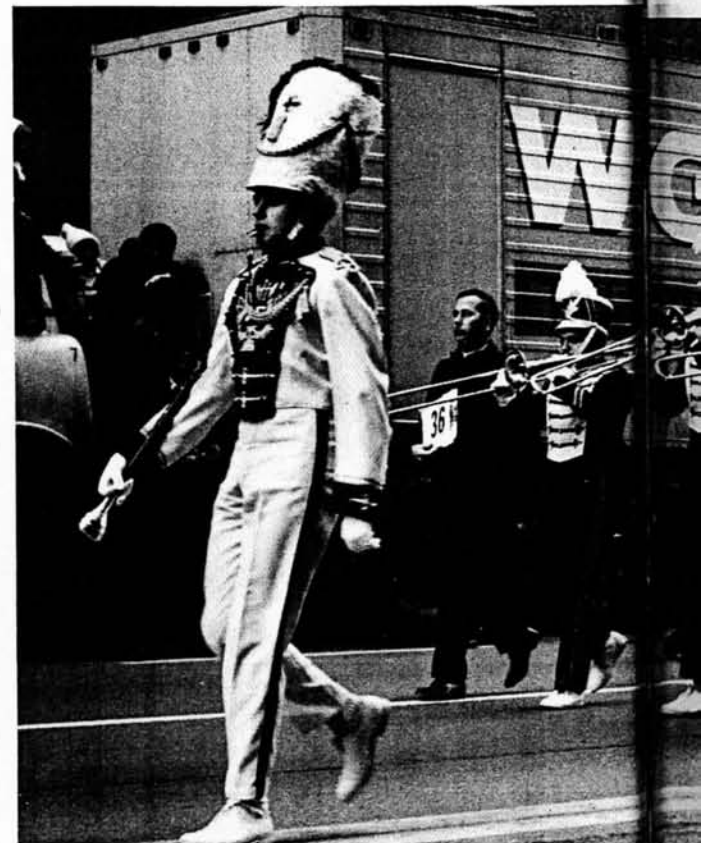
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1 - Holy Cross came of age during the 1969-70 school year. Four graduates from the Class of 1965 returned as teachers: John Leone, Donald Nitti, Victor Capron, and Donald Storino. There were 1401 students in school.

2 - On April 17, 1969 Brother Walter announced that Project: Renewal would build a Humanities learning center for the school. The \$122,000.00 grant provided a learning center, four discussion rooms, two guidance offices, and a Humanities workroom.

3 - By December of 1969 the Learning Center was opened. John Cardinal Cody dedicated the new wing on May 27, 1970 with the assistance of Father Robert Floyd, CSC, and Brother Walter. The Cardinal was well received at a student assembly. The Humanities wing was the first major construction since the school was built.

4 - The 1970 Student Council under the leadership of Joe Palumbo held the most successful food drive in the school's history. Headlines in the Chicago Tribune told of the \$11,836.86 effort on the part of the students.

5 - Rick Sievers was named the Leyden Township Outstanding Athlete of the year. Rick, shown with Brother Walter, lettered in three sports at Holy Cross and was the finest scholar-athlete in our history.

6 - Senior Class president Vincent Bufalino was named Holy Cross' 5th Man of the Year at the Annual Father and Son Banquet.

7 - Nancy Ginski was the 1970 Senior Prom queen. The prom was held at Pheasant Run in St. Charles.



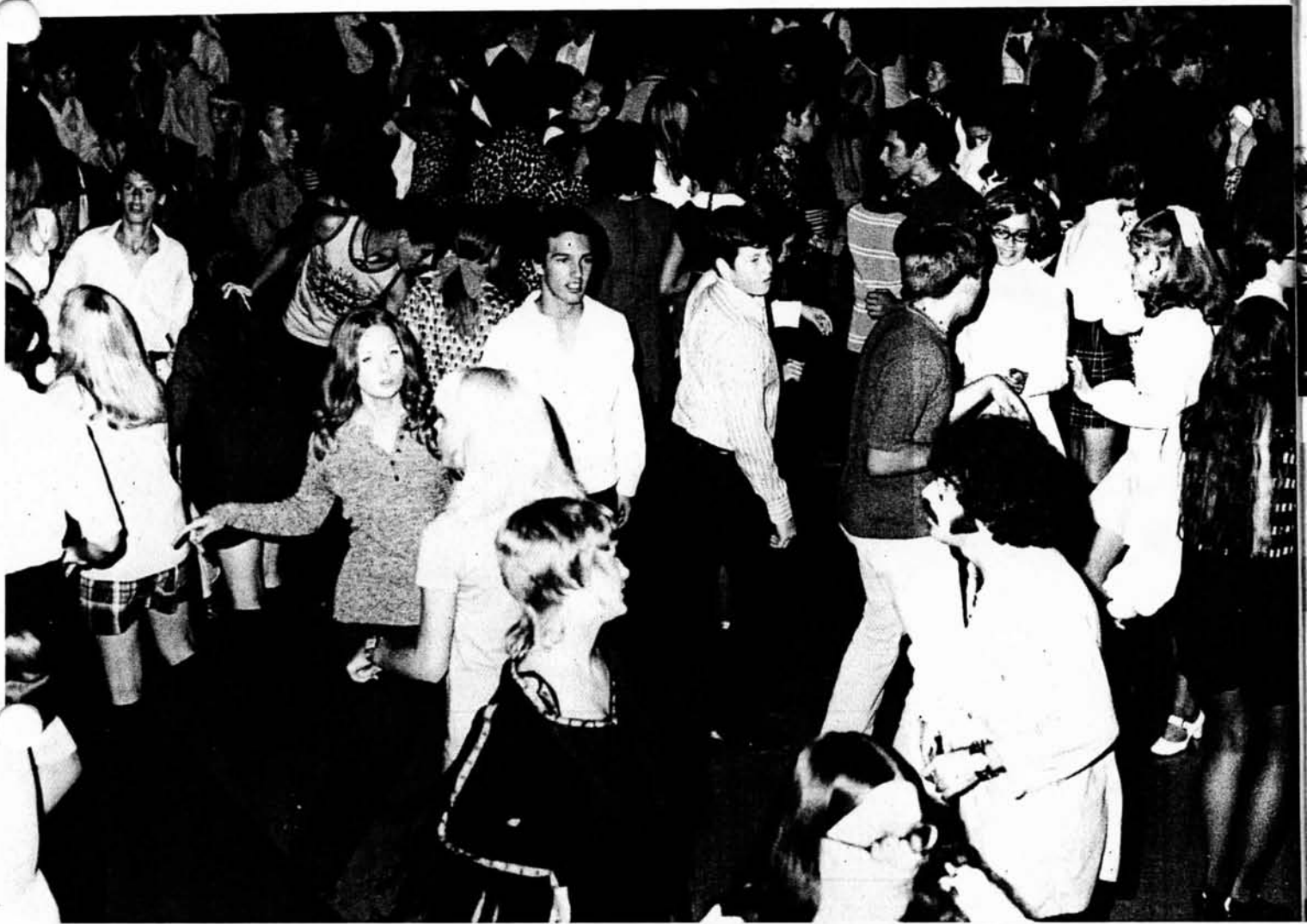
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1 - Coach Raymond Soucek along with members of the coaching staff played the Chicago Cubs in the annual event sponsored by the Lettermen's club. During the year a Horseback Riding Club and a Ski Club were formed. The Business Club got a new name, D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America). Holy Cross is the only Catholic school of the 150 D.E.C.A. chapters in the state. The Crusader changed its format and became a weekly newspaper serving student needs.

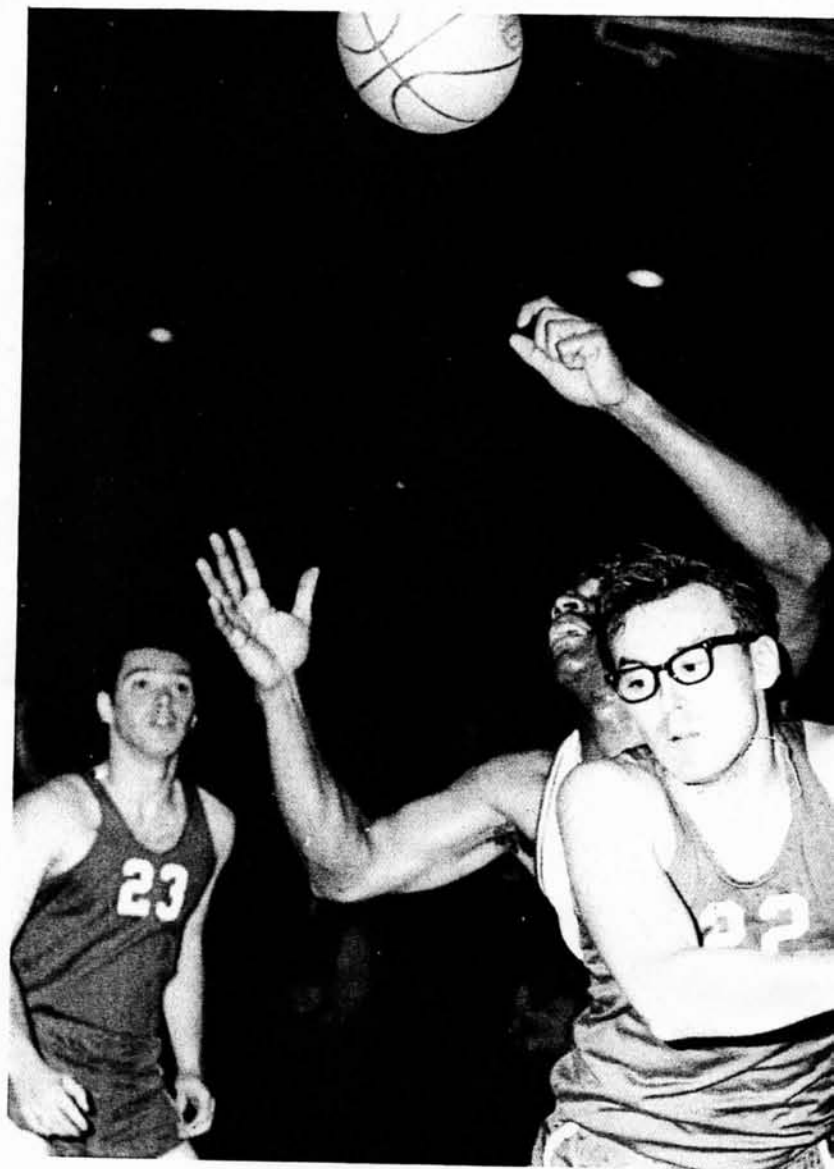
2 - The music department uncovered a new band during the 1970-71 school year, "Oldies but Moldies." The group played music of the Big Band era for parents' dances.

3 - It was a great day for the Crusaders on October 25, 1970 as they shut out Notre Dame of Niles 12-0 in football. It was the first varsity football win over the Crusaders' biggest rival.

4 - Sergeant Tarpey of the River Grove Police Department gave a talk on drugs to a student assembly. Holy Cross students learned that drug abuse could be found even here.

6 - The physical education department sponsored the first assembly for physical education in February. The Kenneth Allen volleyball club put on quite a show for the students.

6 - Jim Hynes brought honor to Holy Cross by taking 4th place in the state wrestling tournament in the 167 lb. class. Hynes was the first wrestler in the school's history to make it downstate. Hynes' individual victory was the most outstanding athletic performance of the school year.



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