

STEVEN CENTRON

'He Was More Than a Teacher'

Sacred Heart Cathedral was filled to capacity for Steven Centron's funeral Mass, celebrated by Bishop John E. McCafferty, Dec. 28. The Aquinas administration, its faculty, and over 300 of its students were among the mourners who paid their respects to the 25-year-old Aquinas English teacher who died in an auto accident on Christmas Day.

Assisting at the Mass were Father William Endres of the Cathedral staff and Father John Menner, Aquinas principal, who interrupted a Houston visit to return to Rochester to give the homily. Also present was Father Albert Gaelens, former Aquinas principal, now of Houston.

The bishop extended sympathy to family and friends on behalf of all the staff and parishioners of Sacred Heart, Mr. Centron's parish and where he had attended grammar school.

Aquinas students Bernard Blocchi, Vincent Pettrone, Louis Tomasetti, David Zimmer and Chris Barber acted as ushers. Michael Zimmer and Thomas Giliotti (teacher) gave the liturgical readings.

Though Mr. Centron had been teaching English and coaching football and basketball at Aquinas since 1974, his ties with the school began in 1966 when he entered as a freshman. A

sport enthusiast, he ran track and played football and basketball throughout his four high school years.

Father Menner, in his homily, referred to those days, recalling that he had coached Mr. Centron in his freshman football year.

"I knew Steve," said Father, "and the loyalty and dedication he gave to Aquinas was tremendous.

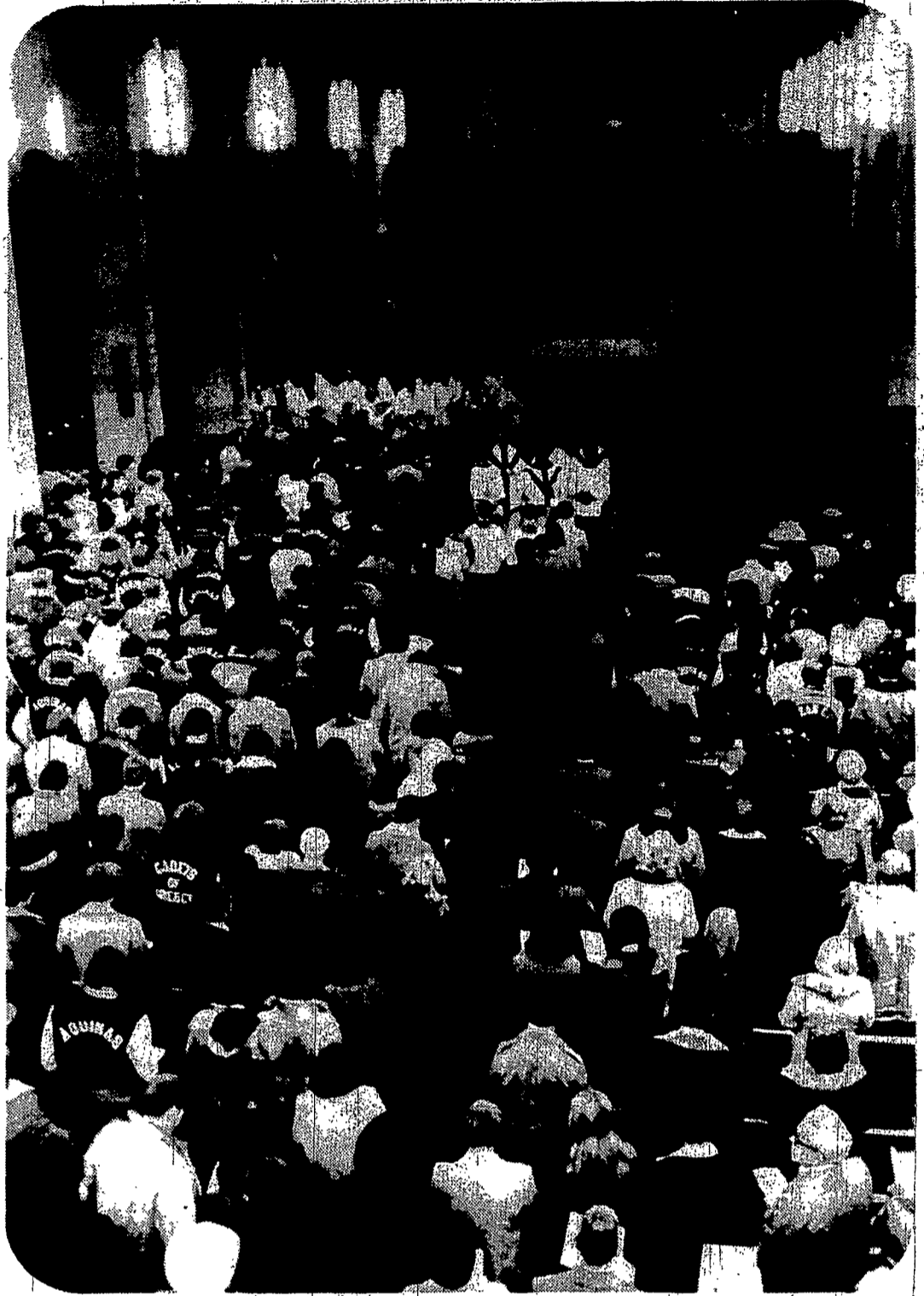
"When we lost a basketball coach, it was Steve who took over the job right away. When we lacked a ski coach, it was Steve who volunteered for the job because he knew the kids wanted to ski."

It was this enthusiastic rapport with the students which meant so much to them.

"Everyone looked forward to going to his classes," declared Louis Tomasetti. "He made teaching interesting."

"He was the coolest teacher," observed Bernie Blocchi and added, "He was hep to what was going on."

But it was Tomasetti who summed up his fellow classmates' unspoken sentiments. "He was more than a teacher to the kids — he was a friend."



Family and friends filled Sacred Heart Cathedral to pay their respects to Steven Centron. Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Fr. Hagerty

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was pastor also of St. William's, Conesus, and St. Margaret's Chapel on Conesus Lake. Earlier, he had been assistant pastor of St. Ambrose Church for nearly 20 years, following an initial five-year assignment to Holy Cross, Rochester.

He attended Immaculate

Conception School and the diocesan seminaries and was ordained to the priesthood in June 1927.

Survivors are two sisters, Mrs. Anna M. Dougherty and Mrs. Mary A. Welch, and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Alida Hagerty, all of Rochester; two nephews, a niece and two grand-nephews.

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