RapAround RapAround RapAround RapAround

Artistry In the Kitchen

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Holy Cross Brothers at Cardinal Mooney aren't the only ones who benefit from Brother Parrish's culinary wizardry. The chocolate chip cool ies he was preparing were eyed by a few of the Mooney students who paid him a visit. Needless to say, they didn't leave his kitchen empty-handed.

By JOAN M. SMITH

Imagine feasting on potato leek soup, clams casino, stuffed shrimp, surf and turf with a Bearnaise sauce, green beans mixed with onions and spices and for dessert — cream puffs covered with fresh strawberries. This was the meal Brother David Parrish suggested as his favorite menu to prepare. If this tasty cuisine doesn't entice the appetite than perhaps another of his dishes might; roast of beef, roasted atop a mire poix (carrots, onions, celery) with the gravy enriched with a roux — a balanced mixture of flour and butter.

Brother Parrish is the resident cook for the Holy Cross Brothers' community at Cardinal Mooney High School. RapAround talked with him in the kitchen which has been his domain since 1971. Amidst the delicious odor of chocolate chip cookies baking in the oven, he discussed his art.

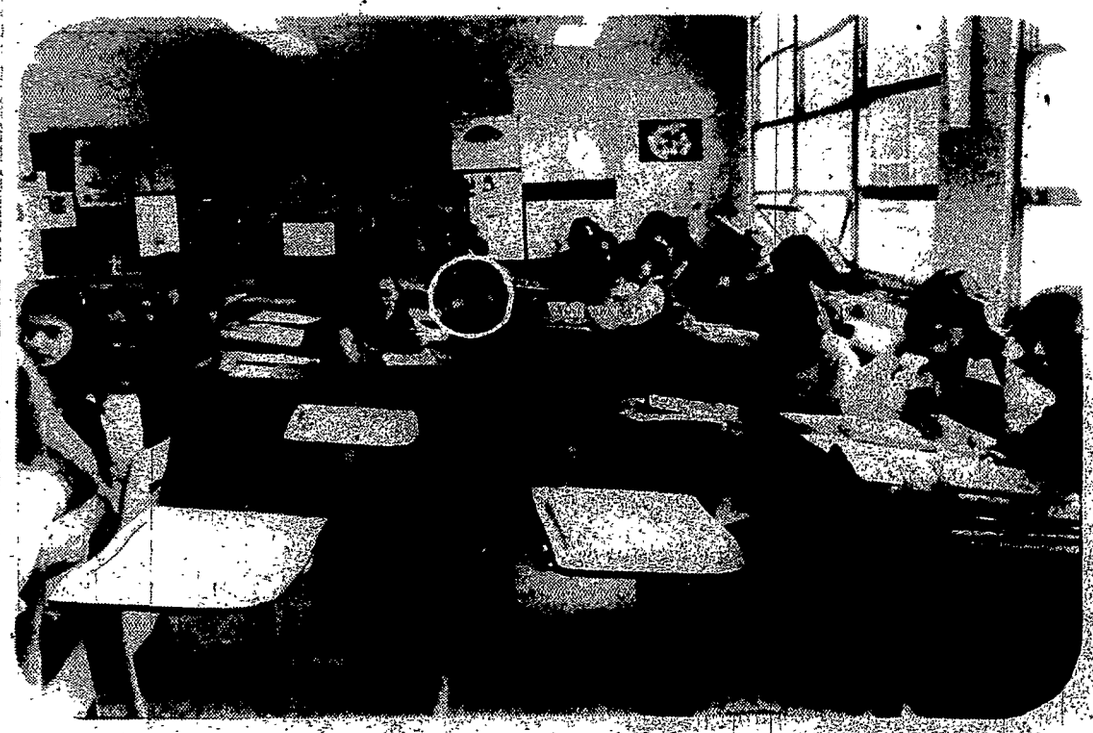
He explained he was the only chef in the order's Eastern Province who was still cooking full-time and that he became interested in culinary art when he was a novice. He attended Johnson and Wales Culinary School in Rhode Island and the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, N.Y. Cookbooks intrigue him and among his favorites are "The Joy of Cooking", "The Professional Chef", and Mama Leone's Italian cookbook. The more international the cuisine the better he likes it — Chinese, Italian, French.

The French, of course, have always been considered the epitome of the culinary world and Brother Parrish goes along with the opinion. Especially when it comes to fellow chef, Jean Roger from Nice, France. Brother Parrish admitted to taking a yearly pilgrimage down to Albany to see his friend who owns a restaurant which according to Brother Parrish, affords an experience in dining. It's a small dining house — seating only 35 — but to Brother Parrish's way of thinking that size is ideal for a chef to make dining a special event.

Whether small groups — Brother Parrish serves 24 every night at Mooney — or a large group — he has cooked for 300 people — Brother Parrish takes special care and delight in whatever dish he prepares. As far as creating his own recipes, he smiled and indicated that as with most chefs, he takes liberties with the recipes he uses, adding his own ideas as he goes along.

Brother Parrish was so calm in going about his cooking while talking and posing for pictures it looked as if he was immune from culinary disasters. He readily admitted that wasn't so. He recalled one instance in particular — the time he made cream puffs which he described as "rising like mountains" and looking exactly like the mountains used on model train layout boards.

It was not a major disaster, however, because he hadn't been making them for a special occasion. And to Brother Parrish, that's where his satisfaction as a chef comes in. "To prepare a big meal for a special occasion," he said and than smiling added, "and everything turns out right."



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive $5. This week's photo was taken at St. Agnes during class. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, May 16 to receive $5.

On The Go

AQUINAS
May 12-13 — School play, "The Smell of the Grease Paint and the Roar of the Crowd", performances, 8 p.m.

BISHOP KEARNEY
Thursday, May 11 — National Honor Society Induction, 8 p.m.
Friday, May 12 — Blood drive.
Saturday, May 13 — Auction.

CARDINAL MOONEY
Wednesday, May 10 — Sophomore Assembly, class elections, 1:15-1:45 p.m., Awards Night, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 11 — Men's Guild general meeting.
Friday, Saturday, May 12-13 — Carousel, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 13 — Spanish Club car wash, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Monday, May 15 — Interim reports due.
Wednesday, May 17 — Junior Assembly, class elections, 1:15-1:45 p.m.

DESALES
May 11-13 — School musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."
Tuesday, May 15 — Department chairpersons meeting.

NAZARETH
Thursday, May 11 — Fashion show assembly, 1:40 p.m.
Saturday, May 13 — Sophomore class picnic.

OUR LADY OF MERCY
Thursday, May 11 — Parents Board Dinner meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 12 — Student Government Elections; Father-Daughter Dinner Dance, Burgundy Basin Inn, 6:30 to midnight.
Tuesday, May 16 — Moderators meeting, 3:15 p.m.

ST. AGNES
May 12-13 — School musical, "Kiss Me, Kate", 8 p.m.

RapAround — Joan M. Smith, RapAround Editor