



Members of the class of 1921 at Rochester's Immaculate Conception School gathered for this picture 70 years ago.



Father Edward J. Dillon (right) greets members of the class of 1921 before the Mass.



From left, Irene Coyle, Marie Vassallo and Liz Metzler pray during the June 21 reunion Mass at Immaculate Conception Church. The 17 graduates who attended the 70th reunion were part of a class of 91 students.

Courier
photos
by
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Marie Vassallo admires a photograph taken at the 20th reunion.

Graduates reunite 70 years later

ROCHESTER — As Immaculate Conception's class of 1921 gathered in the parish rectory for yet another reunion picture on June 21, Richard W. Lancer dismissed the tale of his past heroism that somebody brings up whenever he and his former classmates meet.

"They just made an issue out of it," Lancer recalled of his classmates. "It wasn't anything that amounted to anything."

Seventy years ago, Lancer, then an eighth-grader and a Boy Scout, rescued a young boy who had stepped in front of several oncoming horses. In honor of his bravery and swift thinking, Lavery became the first scout in the city to receive a Medal

of Honor from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

When the class of '21 meets again next year, "Saved by Lancer" will undoubtedly be one of the tales that weaves its way into the conversations between the former Immaculate Conception students.

The classmates have met on a yearly basis for about the last 15 years, according to Liz Metzler, who is listed as Bessie A. Quigley on the original graduation flyer from June 21, 1921. Among the notable members of the class, Metzler pointed out that four of her classmates went on to become religious sisters, and one grew up to be a priest.

The 17 graduates who attended the 70th

anniversary reunion on June 21 were part of a class of 91 students when they left Immaculate Conception. Class members first reunited 25 years after they had graduated, but in the 1970s, Metzler and her former schoolmates decided to make their reunions annual events.

"We're all getting older, and we decided that there weren't going to be many more (reunions), and we decided to have it every year," she said.

Marie (Scanlon) Vassallo echoed Metzler's observations on the yearly gatherings.

"I always say I'm thankful I'm still breathing a year," she said.

— Rob Cullivan