

Education '98

High schools nurtured graduates' success

By Lee Strong
DeSales, 1973

When people glance through their old high school yearbooks, they often notice faces that they have not seen in ages, or remember voices from long ago, or spot names they have almost forgotten.

But if a member of the Our Lady of Mercy High School class of 1966 were to watch the television show "Dharma & Greg," she might recognize classmate Mimi Kennedy.

Or a member of Elmira Notre Dame High School class of 1965 hearing the tune "Dance with Me" by the band Orleans might recognize the voice of fellow graduate John Hall.

And folks from the DeSales High School class of 1958 who read business periodicals might come across the name of fellow Saint Leo O'Neil, president of Standard & Poors.

These three individuals are among the multitude of graduates from the current Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Rochester who have made names for themselves in such fields as business, the arts, sports, education, religion, law and the government.

The list is so extensive, in fact, that it is possible only to scratch the surface.

... Robert Thomas (McQuaid, 1970) Kicker, Chicago Bears ...

Roberta Camardo, president of Zweigles, Inc, has little problem remembering her fellow members from the Nazareth Academy Class of 1958.

In fact, many of the local members of her class get together every six to eight weeks for breakfast.

"We were a good class and we were a close class," reported Camardo, the fourth generation in her family to work at Zweigles.

She noted that her alma mater had graduated many people who had gone on to success. "I think Nazareth Academy gave us a good education and gave us confidence in ourselves," Camardo said.

The fact that it was a all-female school helped to prepare the students for this success —

as they do today — Camardo noted. "I think young ladies have the opportunity to take on some responsibility and leadership," she said.

And the fact that it was a Catholic school helped to provide more than just an education, she observed.

"Nazareth Academy instilled a lot of good morals, values and caring for each other," she declared.

... Sister Mary Sullivan (Mercy, 1949) Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, author of Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Tradition ...

Donna Dedee also cited the values she learned at her high school as helping her to achieve success.

"It's a whole attitude," said Dedee, a 1981 graduate of Bishop Kearney High School and the news director at Rochester's

WUHF FOX 31.

"As a journalist, or whatever path you choose for your career, you have to have good values," Dedee said. "(They) make you a better person, and therefore a better professional."

Beyond values, Kearney helped her to develop the basic skills she needed to succeed as a journalist, she said.

"I had some wonderful teachers who fostered a love of the English language," recalled Dedee, who has maintained contact with the school, serving on its board of directors.

... Sister Rosemary St. Peter (Nazareth, 1947) President, Sisters of St. Joseph ...

Sheila Coyle has also maintained contact with her alma mater, Mercy High School, currently serving on the board of governors.

The 1954 graduate said her Mercy years helped to prepare her to become the founder and president of Monroe Ambulance, one of the largest women-owned businesses in the Greater Rochester area.

"I think one of the most important things I got from Mercy was the discipline and the steadfastness, the sticking to something," Coyle said.

In addition, she said, she learned that she was part of a community, "and it's important to give back to the community."

Coyle said her vision of that community expanded due to

her experience at Mercy because the students came from all across the Rochester area. This helped her when she set out to found Monroe Ambulance, she contended.

"There was a blend of all different walks of life (at Mercy), so I wasn't afraid," she said.

And because it was an all-female school, she also learned to be confident in her abilities as a woman to lead.

"You were taught to go ahead and do things," she said. "You felt women were leaders. You were leaders."

"There are no barriers," she added. "If you really want to, there's a way."

... Don Hollender (Aquinas, 1952) Athlete, War Hero ...

John Canemaker also credits his Catholic high school education with helping him to overcome barriers.

"I think the Catholic education was something that helped me in terms of personal strength and a belief that things would turn out okay," noted Canemaker, a 1961 graduate of Elmira's Notre Dame High School.

Things have turned out "okay" for Canemaker. Unable to go to college immediately after high school, he traveled to New York to be an actor, then, after a stint in the service.

went on to college and became an author, an award winning animator and head of the animation program at the film and television department of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He provided animation for the Academy Award winning film, "You Don't have to Die: Children With Cancer," and the Peabody Award winning program "Break the Silence: Kids Against Child Abuse."

Canemaker actually got his start in animation at Notre Dame, producing a film for a class. He also acted in school plays and in local theatre groups, which helped him prepare for his career in New York.

While his career has taken him out of the area, he has maintained contact with the school. Some of his books have been donated to the school, and he has even spoken at commencement services.

And when he goes back to Elmira for visits, he said, "I still see some of the nuns that I had in high school."

Ultimately, a Catholic high school education provided her with a key element for success in life, Dedee contended.

"It instills confidence in what you do, and that translates into a successful professional life, and personal life as well," Dedee said.

... Nick Quartaro (DeSales, 1973) Head Football Coach, Fordham University ...

Dick Buerkle (Aquinas, 1965)
Olympian, Indoor Mile Record Holder,
Elizabeth Frawley Bagley (Notre Dame, 1970)
U.S. Ambassador to Portugal,
Father Joseph Hart (DeSales, 1963) Vicar General, Diocese of Rochester

David Barry (Kearney, 1967)
Greece Town Judge
Ann Teddeo (Mercy, 1969)
Supervising Family Court Judge, Rochester
Mary Margaret Dwyer (DeSales, 1966)
Professional Golfer

Tom Tranter Jr. (Notre Dame, 1972) Chemung County Executive,
Jack Allocco (Kearney, 1968) Composer, Emmy Award winner
Eugene Goodlow (McQuaid, 1977)
Wide Receiver, New Orleans Saints

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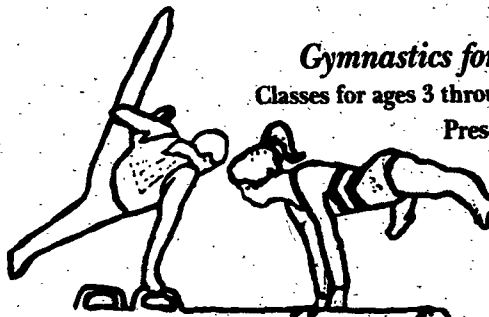
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