

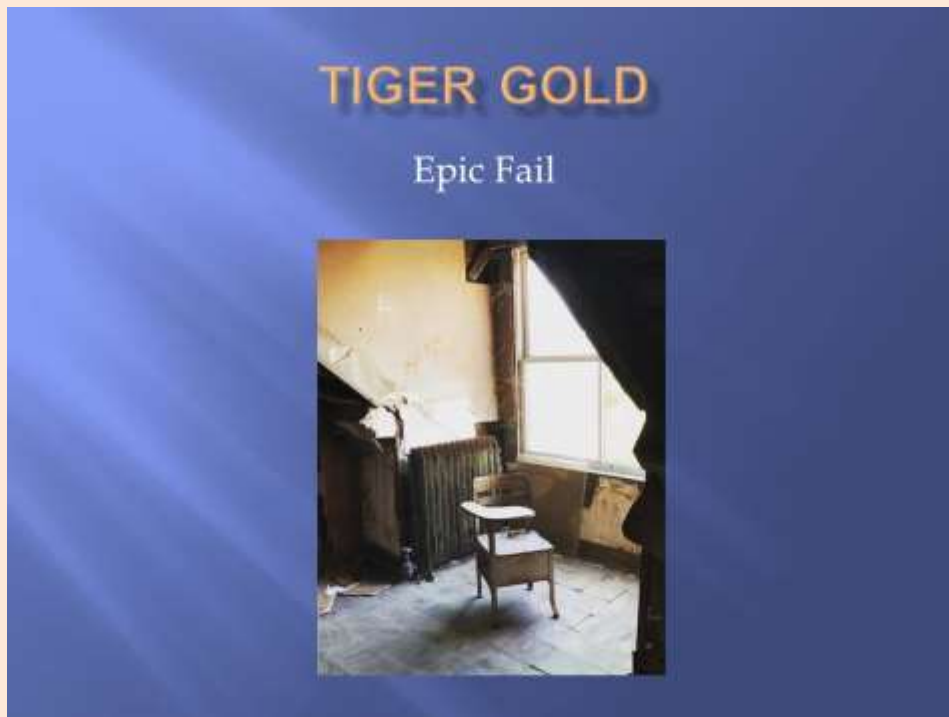
Epic Fail

I got an F . . . in Math. . . from Br. James Ryan.

You can hardly blame me for failing. After all, Br. James was teaching something called “New Math” invented by some guy name Pythagoras. To this day I still haven’t figured out how it could be “new math” when the guy who invented it died in 495 BC.

One day while putting books in my locker outside of Homeroom 6, Br. James comes up to me and says “You didn’t do too well on the test.”

I replied rather nonchalantly: “Everybody has an off day.”



“It seems all your days have been off days,” he retorted, with his usual smirking grin.

Apparently I had enough ‘off days’ to fail the second, six-week period. In those days of handwritten report cards, Br. James recorded my math grade as “FAIL” – in RED ink!. He didn’t write “F” – he spelled it out!

Guess he thought I would add another leg to the ‘F’ to make it an ‘A’.

Then I got a notice to see the Guidance Counselor – a guy by the name of Harry McKnight. He had me keep a log of how I spent my time and then went over it with me. He showed me how to list priorities and manage my time. The next six-week grading period saw me get a ‘C’ in Math.

I still make lists; I still prioritize – all because of the sessions with Harry McKnight. And he’ll never know how much he helped me.

Should I stop the story here, or should I spoil the perfect ending?

I'll spoil it:

During this same time frame, I had my eyes checked. Turned out I couldn't see the blackboard. Oh, yeah - and probably the most important 'Oh, yeah' - Barry Yokum, one of Ty's brothers, tutored me in math for a few weeks. That probably explains the improved grade more than anything.

Jeff Junker

Personalized Service

John Arms was the only Guidance Counselor in the High School when I got there. He asked me to think about becoming one and said that UNO had the best Master's program. I graduated with John Arms from that program.

As Guidance Counselors, we tried to keep the students on track. If they were having academic problems, we'd have them write out what they were doing with their time during a typical afternoon through bedtime. Then we'd get them to block out a time for homework.

We'd personalize programs for individual students and keep abreast of how they were doing. We'd tell them, "This is what you want to do and here's how to do it. Immerse yourself and keep to that schedule."

We also set up a career guidance room. When the students took the ACT test, they also took a Vocational Aptitude Inventory which showed what the individual was interested in. Using the information from this, we met with them to find out what they



Dave Hardin with Rick Perry

needed to do to reach that goal.

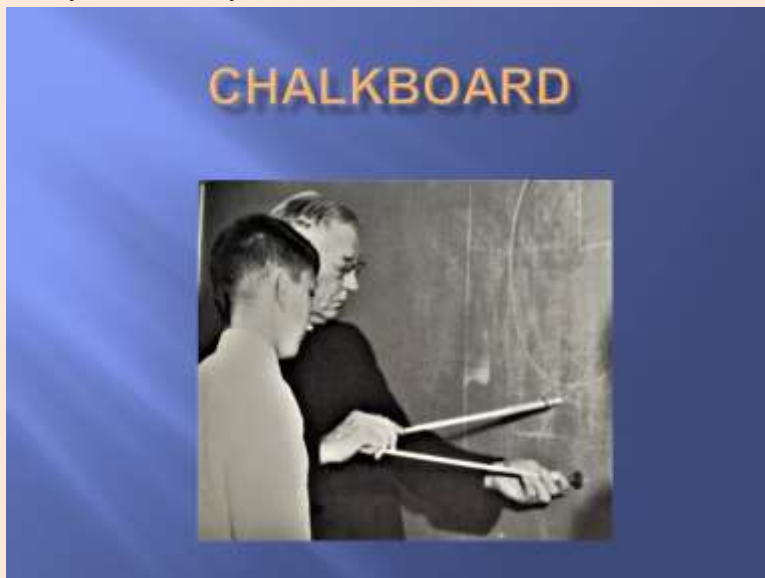
David Hardin

Chalkboard

HC71 online

HC71 publications are now online, embedded in my business's website. There is no link on the page to it – it can only be accessed if you know the URL.

An easy way to get there is to google "Hub Hobby New Orleans". After entering the site, type "Holy Cross" in the search bar. Takes you right to it. We still don't have contact with everyone. So if you run into one of our former classmates, let them know how to find out



how to keep informed of what's going on by telling them about HC71 Online.

Here's the direct link:

<https://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>

48 year reunion

A reminder that the Class of 1971's 48 year Un-Official Reunion will be held on

Saturday, 23 March 2019 - - - once again in the Sicilian Room of Rocky and Carlo's Restaurant and Bar, 613 W. St. Bernard Hwy, Chalmette, LA 70043, (504) 279-8323, from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM or until Tommy Tomasseo throws us all out.

Naturally spouses, HC faculty, friends of our class, etc. are all invited and the dress code is very casual. Please let us know if you can make it. If you are on our Facebook page please respond there. If you have already responded thanks! If you are not on the Facebook page please let Dan McGovern (DPMcG@Bellsouth.Net) know via E-Mail.

Spitales Deli relocates

Charlie Spitale announced that his deli has moved to a larger location. Here's what he had to say:

"It is with great pleasure to inform you that in early December, we opened our doors in more spacious and comfortable surroundings. Our new address is 3309 Division Street, but our phone number has not changed. It is still 504-837-9912, and our contact email address is Spitales@yahoo.com. The new location is near the Barnes & Nobles on Veterans Memorial Blvd."

Bob Turner New SWBNO General Superintendent

Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans Executive Director Ghassan Korban said, "On behalf of the Sewerage and Water Board, I stand with Bob Turner and look forward to the impact he will have on this the organization in this role. He has been instrumental in helping us address many of the issues faced by this organization and he is committed to helping us move it forward. He has proven his dedication to the Sewerage and Water Board and the people of New Orleans. His experience and education are top-notch and it is an honor for the Sewerage and Water Board to have him."

SWBNO General Superintendent Bob Turner said, "I am honored to have this opportunity to continue the good work we've accomplished over the past 18 months. I am struck by the dedication and knowledge of so many employees at the Sewerage and Water Board, and I am excited to lead them."

A Roman Holiday

In early November, we spent six days in Rome. Billie Kay and I had both been to Rome previously but not together. Since we had both already toured a lot of the more popular sights, we decided to try to focus on places new to both of us. Our flight arrived at Leonardo da Vinci airport about 9:30 a.m., so that day was mostly spent getting to our hotel, getting settled in, and then resting up.

Our first "official" sight was the Circus Maximus since we walked right by it getting from the Metro to our Hotel. We did venture out in the late afternoon walking in the direction of an area where I knew there were several good restaurants. On that first trek, we stumbled upon a great terrace overlooking the ruins of the Roman Forum built by Julius Caesar.



Over the next several days we used three-day passes for a Hop-on/Hop-off bus which made continuous loops around the most frequently visited sights in Rome. This included an audio commentary throughout the bus ride where we learned several interesting facts about different areas of Rome. The first thing we did was make an entire circuit just to get a feel for where everything was situated. After that we started actually doing some "hopping off".

Our first stop was a brief visit to Vatican City. We had both previously toured the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. We viewed the square and basilica but didn't take any tours. From there, we ventured South on foot, enjoying some of the local architecture, churches, and parks ending the day with a walk along the Tiber to rejoin the bus. We wound up walking far more than we had planned, but that wouldn't be our last long walk of the trip. Based on my Fitbit tracker, we averaged over five miles each day we were there.

On the next day we rode the Metro to the Colosseum and walked by that and the Arch of Constantine before taking a different bus route that headed southeast from the main part of the city. We went outside the original city walls to where several catacombs are located. On that trip we toured the Catacombs, Church of San Sebastian and the Baths

of Caracalla. The Caracalla ruins are a Roman thermal bath complex used from about the 3rd through 6th century A.D. Billie Kay and I both agreed that the ruins of the baths was the most impressive sight we experienced on this trip. The enormity of this building was overwhelming. It was definitely not your local French Riviera Spa - big as the Superdome and about 5 stories high!

On the third and final day of our Hop On/Hop Off passes, we rode the bus to the Park Villa Borghese where we enjoyed some of the various statues and gardens scattered throughout the park before touring the actual museum. The Borghese Gallery and Museum is an entire villa that has been converted into a museum with every room housing very significant collections of renaissance art pieces by such artists as Bernini and Caravaggio. At the time of our visit the museum was also featuring displays of several Picasso pieces, but we both agreed that the art from the renaissance period was much more impressive.



The next day we used a combination of feet, Metro, and buses to visit several sights. We started with a couple of ancient temples within walking distance of our hotel: Tempio di Portuna and Temple of Hercules Victor. Then it was up the street to the Boca di Verita (Mouth of Truth). You might remember this from the movie Roman Holiday where Gregory Peck sticks his hand in the mouth and then pretends to lose it to scare Audrey Hepburn.

A visit to the Pantheon was followed by the Largo di Torre Argentina. The latter are ruins believed to be the area where Julius Caesar was assassinated. These ruins are also home to a colony of over a hundred cats. The cats used to roam freely among the ruins but several years ago a non-profit organization started caring for the cats, providing them food and medical treatment.

On the way to the Trevi Fountain we came across a large open-air food market. We spent a while meandering among the booths looking at offerings of locally grown produce, spices, and various types of cheeses. When we finally got to the Trevi Fountain, it was super crowded. Legend has it that throwing a coin in it, you'll return to Rome someday. We threw a coin in to ensure our return to Rome.

The last day was pretty laid-back. No specific objectives - just some "Rome-ing" around. We stopped for lunch at a place that was right next to a tram stop. So after watching the trams come and go during our lunch, we decided to hop on one and see where it took us. It crossed the Tiber and went through a neighborhood called Trestevere. After riding the tram for about a half-hour we happened to get off right by a HUGE flea market.

In all of our wandering, we peeked in on numerous churches. Most of these I didn't make a note of their names but all were very beautiful. The most noteworthy church we went in was Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major). This amazing church is one of the four major Papal basilicas of Rome - along with St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Wall.

Robyn Miller

Easy Rider

Cycling is a family affair for the Winters. Paul and his wife Mary try to get a 20 mile ride in every weekend weather permitting.

"We each have family members who also enjoy cycling and most of our out of town rides involve family in some way, said Paul. "For example, the "Bo Bikes Bama". This ride has become an annual fund raising event that begins and ends on the Auburn campus and is sponsored by Bo Jackson (famous Auburn alum and two sport all-star pro athlete). Bo Jackson initiated the first ride about five or so years ago in an effort to raise money for victims of several tornados that had touched down in multiple locations in Alabama. Bo does the ride himself and typically spends some time hanging out with the other participants before and after the ride. We have a nephew who is an avid cyclist and Auburn grad and now lives in Auburn. He does the ride along with his Dad

(my brother and cyclist out of New Orleans). My nephew and his wife are kind enough to host us all at their home in Auburn for the weekend.”

They’ve also ridden in several MS150s, a 2-day event to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research. These rides take place at multiple venues around the country and offer multiple course lengths.



Paul and Mary Winters with Paul's brother

“Again, family comes into play. My sister-in-law and brother-in-law both ride. My sister-in-law lives in New Jersey and my brother-in-law in Pennsylvania. We did an MS ride in New Jersey where both sibling in-laws rode with us. We also did an MS ride in North Carolina where both sibling in-laws rode with us

again and we stayed at my father-in-law’s home in North Carolina. We’ve also done the MS ride in Orange Beach, Alabama where my brother and nephew rode with us and we hosted them at our home in Pensacola. And we’ve done the “Bike the Big Easy” ride a couple times as well. That ride starts in front of the Superdome, goes through the French Quarter, out through City Park and along the lakefront, finishing at Champions Square. My brother and nephew ride with us and my brother takes his turn hosting the out-of-town riders at his home.”

Their most ambitious and memorable ride was a fund raiser for AIDS Vaccine Research in 2001. Beginning in the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, the five day ride ended 400 miles away in Portland, Maine. Each night, they would stay in a “tent city” where race organizers also set up tents for food and showers. Their personal gear would be packed up the morning and loaded onto a truck for transport to that night’s destination.

Paul picks up the story:

“The ride was challenging to say the least. The mileage total was hard enough as we had never done that many miles in a relatively short time. To make matters worse the course actually went through the Green Mountains, an extra challenge for us flatlanders where a “climb” for us is often just an overpass. As you might imagine, we were not among the first to finish each day.”

“My sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and a couple of our very close friends from Pensacola all did that ride together. My wife and I rode on a tandem bicycle which enhanced our feeling of joint accomplishment at ride’s end. At the end, we were all pretty beat but feeling really good about the week we had just spent.”

That 2001 ride took place in September – they were going to fly home out of Newark on the 11th.

They had checked their luggage and were at the gate to board, when the day’s events began to unfold. The New York skyline is visible from the Newark airport and they saw the smoke coming from one of the towers at the World Trade Center. Within the airport, information was scarce and people were speculating on what might have happened. There was an announcement on the airport PA system, that flights “might be delayed due to the events in New York”.

“My wife was looking out the window at the New York skyline and saw the second plane hit the second tower. There was another announcement over the PA system that “flights will be delayed indefinitely due to the events in New York”. Then a short time after that, another announcement was made saying that everyone should “evacuate the airport”.

“While there was not mass hysteria and trampling of people as often depicted in movies, it was fairly intense and pretty hectic. As my wife and I were walking out, she spotted an elderly lady who was standing by herself and seemed a bit confused. My wife took her hand and encouraged her to come along with us. It turned out that this was the first time she was traveling without her husband of many years and she wound up staying with us for the next several days as events continued to unfold. Once outside the airport building, as several military fighter jets flew overhead, everyone was trying to figure out what to do next.”

They were eventually bussed to Grand Central Station. Paul finally made contact with his sister-in-law and they were able to come pick them up to stay with them at her house for the next several days.

In addition to biking, they are also avid boaters, making the transition from sail to power.

“After moving to Pensacola I purchased a Bayfield 32 sailboat. The Bayfield was a nice cruising sailboat with a big full keel which offered good stability. We had the Bayfield for about 5 years, then – fortunately - sold it a year before Hurricane Ivan hit our area doing a lot of damage. We then went a number of years without owning a boat. During that period we would get our boating fix by doing a bareboat charter in the British Virgin Islands every 2 or 3 years. The British Virgin Islands are a boater’s paradise. The water is clear and deep, the navigation is easy (mostly line of sight), the anchorages are well protected and plentiful, and the snorkeling is like being in an aquarium.



Sunset from the stern of Paul's charter boat at anchorage at "The Bight" off Norman Island.

In their aquatic travels, they have seen all the small, colorful reef fish, Eagle Rays, schools of squid, an octopus here and there, quite a few Barracuda (he says they always look angry), a lot of sea turtles (he says they are always fun to watch), and the occasional shark.

Paul's also done some offshore cruising as a crew member on a couple of deliveries. On one occasion he helped a friend sail his newly purchased 37 foot sailboat from Tampa back to Pensacola across the Gulf.

“That trip took us a few days as the wind completely died a couple of times and we were totally becalmed. We were able to jump off the boat and go for a swim out in the middle of the Gulf as the boat was going nowhere at those times.”

Right now, they do a lot of coastal cruising where they most often go out on day trips and an occasional long weekend, overnighing either in a protected anchorage or at a marina along the way.

“We’ve never been interested in going particularly fast as we just enjoy spending time on the water. “

His current boat is a Mainship Pilot 30, a comfortable cruiser with a single inboard diesel engine. Top speed is 14 knots and he typically cruises at 10 knots.

“As far as sea life around here, the most common sighting is dolphin. We see dolphin almost every time we take the boat out. Sometimes they come pretty close to the boat and we’ve been lucky enough to have them play in our wake a couple of times. I never get tired of watching dolphin,” he said.

Boston Bound

Since retiring in 2013, Rene and Mary Ann Bull take short trips during the year and then do something big. Each year they’ll pick a city that neither of them has been and go there. This year it was Boston.



Rene Bull: if it's Maine, you gotta have lobster

“My plan was to get tickets to the Red Sox game when they were going after the pennant,” said Rene. “But by the time we got there, they had already had it wrapped up.”

Their alternative plan was to do the tourist thing and take a walking tour along the Freedom Trail. The tour group followed a brick path leading to historic sites with the tour explaining its significance. A tour of the USS Constitution was also on the schedule.

“Then Mary Ann wanted to go see Hamilton. I’m not a big musical fan, but at least I didn’t fall asleep watching it,” he continued. “We rented a car and drove along the coast to Maine where we spent three days. While there, we took a four hour trip in a 100 year old schooner. It was their last trip of the season before closing down the cold weather.”

Rene says that the next trip to Maine they’ll spend at least a week because there’s so much to see.



Rene and Mary Ann aboard a 100 year old schooner.

Through Fire and Flood

Through fire and flood, Rocky & Carlos has been a landmark in St Bernard Parish. The family owned restaurant plays host to our class's Unofficial Reunions thanks to the generosity of Tommy Tommaseo, who has red gravy running through his veins. The restaurant started the same year Tommy (and most of us) started at Holy Cross.

Who is Rocky and who is Carlo

Rocky was my dad and he came to the U.S. in 1953. Carlo was his brother-in-law and he came to the U.S. in 1952. My mother had relatives in Chalmette and was able to get them sponsorships. Because they had been cooks in the Italian army, they went to work for Angelo's, a restaurant about a block away from the current location of Rocky and Carlo's.

My dad, along with his in-laws, worked at Angelo's for about 5 or 6 years. Then they decided to build their own restaurant. They found a piece of property at about a block away and in April 1965 they opened it, naming the restaurant after the two oldest family members.

My dad and his two sisters married two brothers and a sister, so there were three Tommaseos who married three Gioes.

You were 12 when Betsy hit. What do you remember about that?

In September of 1965 Hurricane Betsy hit. I was 12 and had just started at Holy Cross. That night we all stayed at the restaurant. Surprisingly Betsy did not flood us. There was water all-around us, but we were dry.

We had been feeding the people at Kaiser Aluminum and they had their own power. They hooked us up to their electrical system and we gave away free food to everyone. The people in the Parish remembered us doing that to this day.

Now before every hurricane we prep up to get ready to feed the first responders. We gear up for the police department, civil defense, and the fire department. We keep them fed.

What's a typical day like for you?

I usually get to work in 5:30 am and leave about 10:00 pm. We start the prep work at 5:30 in the morning: grating cheese and making the gravy and the macaroni. We open up an 11. The older



Tommy Tommaseo and his red gravy

generation - my aunt and uncle - do all the heavy cooking. My job is answering the phone and doing the little things that keep the customers happy.

What's it like working with so many relatives every day.

It's fun working with my relatives. We're always hollering and screaming at each other. Being an Italian family, we're close. In Italy, whole families work together on the olive and tomato farms.

And Katrina?

I stayed home and got water in the house, so I stayed on the second floor. The restaurant had 3 feet of water. The deep fryers were filled with flood water. After my

family got back to Chalmette, we knocked a hole in the back wall and shoved stuff out of it.

It took us 18 months to reopen after Katrina. This was the first time in 40 years that the restaurant was updated. Whenever we'd see anybody they would want to know when we were going to reopen.

Before Katrina we were open seven days a week from 5:30 am until 2:30 am the next morning. We were running two shifts. After Katrina there were between 2,000 and 3,000 people in Chalmette. We switched to one shift running from 11:00 am until 8:00 pm.

We are very fortunate in that we have third generation customers. I'll probably see fourth generation. The parish lost a lot of people who moved away, but we're up to about 40,000 right now.

And then there was a fire?

In 2012 we had a major fire. A table caught fire. The acoustic tile caught fire. Then everything caught fire. The fireman flipped a table over and he said: "What did you put here?" I said "We put towels here." He said that it was spontaneous combustion from the towels.

It took four months to repair the damage. Everywhere I went, the first word that people say is "When you're going to open; I'm missing the baked macaroni." And they say they miss the Roast Beef and the Veal Cutlet.

How many pounds of macaroni do you cook?

We usually go through between 300 and 400 pounds of raw macaroni a week and the same amount of pounds in cheese every week. This past Thanksgiving we made 140 pans of baked macaroni and cheese for catering.

What is it that you like best about the restaurant business?

I love it when people come up to me and say that the meal was great. Or that it tastes the same as it did ten years ago. Sometimes people say “I remember your dad.” Of course you can’t please everybody. I like trying to make an unhappy customer leave happy. My pleasure is making people happy.

Have you had any celebrities or former classmates come in?

We’ve had some celebrities like Steven Segal, Mark Walberg, Irma Thomas, and the guy who played George Clooney’s best friend in Oceans Eight. I still get a lot of old classmates coming in. Although the names are a bit foggy, I remember the faces.

I enjoy hosting the reunions, but if you want to have any on the West Bank or North Shore so more people can attend that would be fine.

Baker’s Dozen

“I was probably the only person in the St. Maurice School that did not really know the Odinet family,” commented Dan McGovern. “I certainly knew OF them and recognized them when they showed up in two separate station wagons full of kids Everyone that did know them, liked the family.”

Those two station wagons – back in the dark ages before there were vans – were driven by Ken and Rosemary Odinet as they transported their 13 children. There were seven boys and six girls. . . And all of the boys- Kenny, Nick, John, Chris, Bobby, Michael, Bert - went to Holy Cross; the girls, Dominican.

John Odinet ’84 was on the wrestling team under the direction of Coach Ed Kavanaugh – but he knew Br. Melchior.

“Although Br. Melchior was not my wrestling coach, I did have him for PE in the sixth grade. One day he caught me with the wrong color socks on and told me to go into the weight room to wait for him. I was petrified. Br. Melchior was just trying to instill a sense of discipline,” related John.

Another wrestling Odinet was Kenny ’73.

Ricky Zimmer remembers him: “Kenny had a wrestler’s ethic. He was a hard worker – tough as nails.”

Most of the Odinet boys were involved with sports. They were wrestlers, football players, baseball players, track and fielders, and ran cross country.

So, what was it like to go to school with so many of one’s brothers? John says that it was just as if he were at home.

“I was among family. Several of my brothers were at Holy Cross at the same time I was there. We were close knit family and I felt completely at home. The other students would walk up to me and know who I was because they all seemed to know one of my brothers. These guys became my brothers.” continued John.

After graduating from Holy Cross and LSU, he taught for 25 years in the Jefferson Parish Public School System. After retiring from that, he volunteered to raise money for Holy Cross in his spare time. He did that for about three years and then they put him on the payroll.

“I told them that I’d do it for free, but they insisted!” he said.



John Odinet in his pre-Tiger wrestling days

John Glorioso taught most of Odinet boys. He even tutored one of the Odinet girls: “I went over to their house to tutor one of the girls in Math. There were 13 kids and everybody was running all over.”

It wasn’t a forgone conclusion that the Odinet boys would go to Holy Cross, even though they lived close by near Jackson Barracks. They almost went to Jesuit.

Miss Rosemary explains: ‘I wanted my sons to go to Jesuit. I worked as a nurse and the priest that married us would visit the patients at the hospital where I worked. The priest said that Kenny was getting old enough to attend Jesuit. When I told Kenny he was going to go to Jesuit, he said he

didn't want to go to that school. He wanted to go to Holy Cross. I told him that if you don't do well at Holy Cross you're going to Jesuit. Kenny did well at Holy Cross and I liked what I saw. So I sent the rest of my sons to Holy Cross."

Managing to send 13 children to a Catholic high school was a daunting challenge.

"My parents made it work. They sacrificed a great deal for us to be able to attend such a great school. They believed in the Holy Cross mission of the instilling faith, discipline, and character. They felt that it was the right thing for their children. The Holy Cross Brothers were very influential in my upbringing, particularly Br. Robert Hampton, Br. Timothy Hickey and Br. Iwasko Fischer," added John.

Besides the financial commitment, Odinet's parents also did volunteer work for the school. Miss Rosemary was the president of the Athletic Association for over 15 years and spent most of her spare time volunteering at Holy Cross, a place she still holds close to her heart.

"I hated to see the school move because there was so much history at the old one. It's really hard to look to the old buildings and see what happened to them," she reminisced.

The elder Odinets also ran the concession stands for the wrestling and baseball teams for about 13 or 14 years and were involved in the first Blue and Gold Gala held at the Fairmont Hotel.

And one summer, when the football team slept in the gym for a week-long practice, Miss Rosemary cooked meals for the whole team – and then delivered it to them

"I became friends with many of the other students and athletes there. I had a big house by Jackson Barracks and sometimes the football team would come over before a game and eat. Once I got a call from one of the baseball players - the pitcher. He said 'Miss Rosemary, I left my cleats at the school.' So I got the cleats, drove to City Park and he was standing in the middle of the street waiting for me," she said.

The last Odinet graduated in 1991.

Glorioso recalls seeing Miss Rosemary in the business office at the beginning of that school year. "She was crying and I asked her what was wrong. She said that her last son was a senior and after 25 years of paying tuition, this was her last one."

John Odinet's title at the school is Vice President of Fundraising, a job that he takes seriously.

He explains: "I was with Br. Robert Hampton when he died. His last words to me were 'Take care of the school for me.' I promised him to carry on with that tradition. My mission is to continue what I know and love about Holy Cross. I love what I do.'

"I give money to the Annual Fund to continue Br. Robert's mission to help kids. My parents sacrificed, so I feel that we should help also – to pay it forward so others can create memories and lasting friendships. I give my blood, sweat and tears and all available time I have to Holy Cross," he concluded.

John says that should anyone wish to contribute, this is the link:

https://www.holycrosstigers.com/apps/pages/donate?fbclid=IwAR3JDf1wS_M5qrHevqUxNXaSLepW_9G3jNke3tRz4NlYmtgeBFci2D1kfVY

Escape from Pasadena

Over Thanksgiving, we visited my sister Roxy and her family in Pasadena, Texas. One of our activities while there was to attempt the challenges of an escape room - emphasis on "attempt". Escape Rooms have been gaining in popularity over the last several years and you can probably find at least one in any good-sized city. This is basically a physical adventure game in which players try to locate clues and solve various puzzles in order to progress through the room or rooms and ultimately (hopefully) . . . Escape! Each team is given an hour to accomplish this task.

Our team consisted of myself and Billie Kay, my sister, Roxy, and two of her daughters, Dory and Erin. The target team size at this particular site was 10, so needless to say, we were a bit understaffed.

Without getting in to too much detail, some examples of puzzles might include deciphering codes in a diary, moving or rearranging objects to release a lock, or determining the location of tools needed to solve other puzzles. We managed to overcome about fifteen challenges of varying types. According to the



Robyn and Billie Kay Miller, along with Robyn's sister and her two daughters

moderator, during our debriefing, we probably would have been successful if we'd have had another five or ten minutes.

Luckily this wasn't a life or death situation, so we were all released unscathed and in good spirits. We all enjoyed our adventure and agreed that we're definitely going to take a crack at another one next time we get together.

Robyn Miller

Rocky & Carlo's

By Helen Freund

Rouses Market Everyday

The sun is just beginning to rise over St. Bernard Highway, the long road that snakes through St. Bernard Parish past vast fields, refineries and the Chalmette dining institution Rocky & Carlo's.

At 6 a.m., Tommy Tommaseo is already up — removing pounds of perciatelle pasta from cardboard boxes before submerging it in the giant cauldrons of boiling water as he begins to make the restaurant's legendary baked macaroni and cheese.

Hanging in the back of the restaurant's kitchen is a single piece of paper nailed to the wall. The weathered sheet is covered in inky scrawls, a growing list of barely decipherable numbers and letters:

T 9:35. T 1:20. B 2:05.

For anyone else, the list might amount to little more than chicken scratch. But for Tommaseo, this piece of paper — which he uses to chart how long a dish has been cooking — is everything.

It's all about timing when making his restaurant's most revered dish, Tommaseo says. The pasta must be boiled for exactly 20 minutes so that the long, tube-like strands still hold up.

“See, you want it to look like this — like a straw,” Tommaseo says, holding up one of the long noodles, which are like bucatini, but thicker. “I don’t want a squishy top. Not like this,” and with that he pinches the noodle to mush between his short fingers.

Once the giant vessels of the assembled dish are put into the oven, Tommaseo carefully records the time they go in, making sure to take them out exactly two hours later. If the pasta stays in too long, it will be dry; if it’s not baked long enough, the dish won’t set right and will taste raw.

“We try to do it just right,” Tommaseo says with a proud smile.

At 81, Tommaseo is the last surviving member of the revered St. Bernard institution’s original owners. In 1965, the group of men, all recently emigrated from Sicily, included Tommaseo, his older brother Rocky and his brothers-in-law Carlo, Mario and Giuseppe Gioe. Growing up in a large family on a farm in Sicily, Tommaseo began cooking at a young age — the workers needed to eat, and there was only so much his parents could handle on their own. So when the time came for 25-year-old Tommaseo to leave his home and travel to America, opening a restaurant seemed like the most natural thing to do.



More than five decades later, Rocky & Carlo’s is still arguably the parish’s most iconic eatery, known for its heaping portions of stick-to-your-ribs, red-sauce-Italian food. Rocky’s son and Tommaseo’s nephew, “Mr. Tommy,” run the day-to-day operations and the register up front while Tommaseo, his 93-year-old sister “Nana,” and a group of extended family members and longtime employees work in the kitchen and throughout the restaurant.

Despite his age, the sprightly Tommaseo still moves with a general ease and familiarity of the space, something that can only come from years of repetition and practice.

Though the restaurant is known for its ridiculously large portions of spaghetti soaked in red gravy, veal Parmesan and towering plates of onion rings, it's the cheese-laden baked macaroni that has become the spot's calling card. On weekends, the restaurant often goes through more than 40 of the deep chafing dishes, which hold roughly 25 to 30 pounds of pasta.

Tommaseo recalls a day where they ran out of the dish 15 minutes before closing.

"We had a line out the door," he said. "But when they heard there was no macaroni, the line just disappeared. Nothing sells like the macaroni."

Part of the secret is the enormous amount of cheese the kitchen folds in. Pounds of cheese — a mixture of Colby Jack and sharp cheddar cheese — are grated and layered throughout the dish. Once the task is complete — with approximately three to four layers of cheese and noodles, plus a hefty sprinkling of the cheese on the top — a mixture of whisked eggs and milk is poured over, which helps the layers join and congeal into a custardy, cheesy casserole.

For the first 45 minutes, Tommaseo lets the dish cook uncovered, so that the thick layer of cheese on the top begins to brown and crisp. Then, the macaroni is covered with aluminum foil and continues to cook for the remaining time. The finished product is crunchy and bronzed on top and oozing with cheesy, creamy strands of pasta. Although it might seem hard to improve upon, many in-the-know regulars have learned that a heaping spoonful of the restaurant's sweet and juicy red gravy on top is what makes the meal truly decadent.

Over the years, the restaurant's owners have refused to divulge the exact measurements or recipe for the pasta dish, and that's just as well, because half of the joy of eating at Rocky & Carlo's is just being there — observing the generations of family members hard at work, always talking, laughing, and of course, eating.



Ready for Some Football!

Steve and Claudia Schulz have another grandson.

Christian was born 3 weeks ago and is ready for the Saints to go to Super Bowl LIV.

Flashback - - - *Eight years ago this month: 40 year Official Reunion*



More photos available at <https://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>

Clifton Neal Juan

“Clifton Neal Juan peacefully departed this life on January 22nd, 2019, reuniting with his beloved parents, Clifton Leo Juan and Madeline Ventriello Juan, who preceded him. Clif



had a lifelong love of music and was a member of the Tiger Band at Holy Cross High School, graduating in 1971.

He then attended Southeastern Louisiana University where he was a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia national music fraternity and graduated in 1975.

He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy. Clif was born and raised in Arabi, LA and relocated to Metairie following the devastation of Hurricane

He had a love of reading and learning, which continued throughout his life, and during his time in Metairie was a frequent visitor to the East Bank Regional Library. Clif selflessly cared for his aging mother during her last years, and will be remembered as a devoted son and brother. If there is one thing that could truly describe Clif, it is that he was a good, kind and considerate man, who never spoke an unkind word to or about anyone, and he will be sorely missed.”

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 Web Page can be found at:

<https://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 You Tube Channel can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2_US_UEwLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view_as=subscriber