

TIGER GOLD

Under the Oaks



I can think of no better way to express my feelings about the time we spent together at Holy Cross and what it means to me today than to share with my fellow HC '71 alums the salutatorian address which my son, Trey, gave at his Baccalaureate Mass in the gym at 4950 Dauphine Street in May of 2001.

I regret that since those Golden Years we all shared at 4950 Dauphine, we have spent so little time together. May each forever cherish the memories of our years at HC. I cherish each and every friendship I made - they are my friends for life.

Al Perry

Under the Oaks

For all of my adolescent life, I have walked this campus and proudly pronounced my faith and devotion for the interlocking HC. Our school code, "The Holy Cross Man" provides that our school is the training ground where each of us molds himself into a useful man.

A useful man, by definition, according to the Mission Statement and Shared Values of Holy Cross is The Whole Man: mind and heart, body and soul. The challenge that was presented to us as entering students was to learn the habits of the mind and the habits of the heart. Our parents walked onto this campus with us that very first day, but, in the true Holy Cross spirit, they did not leave. They nurtured us. They became involved. They participated in the sense of community and family that has created the legacy which makes Holy Cross such a special place. For that, each and every graduate here

today offers his thanks and appreciation.



It is from our Holy Cross teachers that we were taught the habits of the mind and the habits of the heart. We were taught the competence to see and we were given the courage to act. We were taught to think critically and to make informed choices. We were taught to take risks and to always own up to the consequences of our actions. In other words, we were taught strength of character - to be tender,

Al Perry with his son Trey and grandsons Cooper and Jackson at Disney Contemporary Resort. Trey was attending the annual conference of the Eastern Association of Trauma and Critical Care Surgeons.

strong and true. For this, we, the graduates of the Holy Cross class of 2001, as the many graduates before us, not only appreciate the lessons they taught us, but we will never forget them.

For all of us who are members of this, the 122nd graduating class of Holy Cross, when we first walked under the oaks as new students, we had dreams and we set goals. For some of us, there were dreams of victories on the field and goals of winning every game. For others, there were dreams of reaching our highest academic potential and goals of a quality education. Still, for others, there were dreams of being part of the rich tradition of the gold and the blue, and there were goals of making lifelong friends. But in each case, what holds true - is that for each and every one of us belonging to the Holy Cross class of 2001 – we first walked on this campus and under those oaks as young boys with dreams and goals.

Of course, as we all know, dreams are important and goals are good. But, what I have learned in my 8 years at Holy Cross, is that the real value of my years here at Holy Cross came from our efforts. For it was those efforts, which we, as students of Holy Cross, expended, that are the measure of the true worth of our experience at Holy Cross. Whether those efforts were in the classroom or on the field; whether those efforts were in student council or at a pep rally cheering her name in the stands - it is the shared experience of those efforts by each of us with one another, that was the true value of our experience at Holy Cross and what we take with us as we leave this campus today.

We did not become the men we are on our own. Rather, it was through our joint efforts and those shared experiences that we have become the men we are!

As young boys, some of us as young as 10 years old when we first walked on this campus, we had dreams.

As men, we now leave this place we love, the place we call “Our School,” with memories.

For today, each of us has come to realize that dreams are for young boys and memories are for men.

Trey Perry '01

Chalkboard

Paul Winters went into the field of Information Technology and has stayed with that through the years. He was the IT Director for a regional accounting firm based in

Pensacola for a number of years. For the last 5 years, he has gone out on his own as an independent consultant. Paul provides service to a number of small business clients as well as a few non-profit organizations.

Billy Arsenaux is managing corporate furniture operations for Dillard's Department Store in Texas. He's been with them for 29 years after working at DH Holmes during high school and college. Billy stayed on with them after the buyout. He's been married for 38 years, has a condo in Slidell and looks forward to moving back to the area when he retires.

Upcoming Unofficial Reunion at Rocky and Carlo's

Here's the current tally for the Fall unofficial reunion:

September - - 10 votes
October 13 - - 28
October 20 - - 21
October 27 - - 9

Cast your vote – multiple days are encouraged – either on the class Facebook page or emailing Dan McGovern at DPMcG@bellsouth.net

Where Ya At?

Here's the last batch of classmates that we're missing phone numbers/email addresses for. Dan McGovern is updating the class list which will eventually be emailed to everyone. If you're in touch with anyone on this list, please email Dan at DPMcG@bellsouth.net

Randy Frey, Kris Goelzenleuchter, Craig Gorbach, Donald Graff, Anthony Guardina, John Hauck, Dennis Hemelt, Glenn Herbert, Thomas Hoffmann, David Jemison, Lee Jones, Clifton Juan, Jerry Laciura, Nick Loiacono, Al LeBreton (aka Allen Breton), Gary Lonatro, Chris Long, Tommy Lottinger, Frank Marengo, Joseph Maylin, Roy Melara, August Metoyer, Donny Meyer, David Morere, Shawn Murphy, Steven Pearce, Charles



Pennison, George Plaeger, David Ponthier, Roy Prejean, Richard Ranson, Dorsey Roberts, Enrique Rodriguez, Kim Roos, Phil Siccone, Harold Smith, Tony Soto, Darryl Steel, Francis Thomas, Carlos Urmeneta, Tommy VanGeffen, Charles Vanek, Michael Veith, Harold Veith, Raul Viera, Eddie Webre, Garry Webre, Steve Worsham

The Esplanade Group

Spending two years at Louisiana Tech, and then transferring to the University of Montana, Dan Colomb has spent over 30 years in all facets of residential construction and sales.

His companies, Design Build Custom Homes and the Esplanade Group, have built homes in Charlotte, North Carolina and N. Myrtle Grove, South Carolina, where he now lives.

“Our company is dedicated to ensuring the highest level of construction quality while maintaining full adherence to all deadlines and specifications,” said Dan. “My previous partner draws up the plans and I get the house built.”



One of Dan's houses under construction

At its height, Dan built 30 plus custom homes a year.

“Now I’m content to build one or two houses a year and play golf 3 to 4 times a week.”

An interesting side note: Dan was among the first to meet a future Holy Cross Headmaster: Charlie DiGange coached him on his little league team at Carolyn Park playground.

Render Safe

When Frank Galle was serving in the Vietnam War, he was a member of an EOD Team. Explosive Ordnance Disposal were the guys who would go out and disarm bombs. Think “The Hurt Locker” without all that fancy protective gear.

One day he got the call that an F-4 Phantom was coming in with a hung rocket – a ‘bomb’ that was supposed to have been dropped but got caught and didn’t release.

Stenciled on the nose of the plane was the pilot’s name: ‘Christian Rogers.’

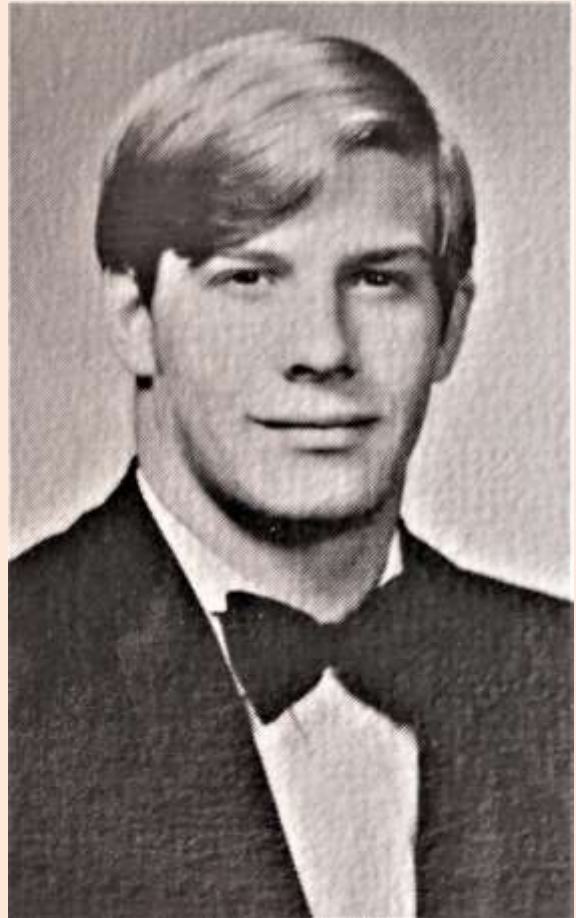
Frank plugged in to talk to the pilot and asked: “Brother Christian?”

The pilot turned out to be the Holy Cross English teacher and Frank’s old Prefect from the dormitory.

“I’m not a brother anymore,” said Rogers.

After rendering the bomb safe, Frank and Rogers went out for a couple of drinks – 9,000 miles away from the last time they saw each other.

“Brother Christian had a big influence on my life. I had a lot of respect for him.” said Frank.



Frank Galle

From the Cockpit

And what was Chris Rogers's recollection of his encounter with Frank Galle at an Air Force base in Thailand?

"When Frank called me Br. Christian I told him: 'It's Captain Christian', according to Rogers. "No one knew that I had been a brother and one of the general officers who overheard the conversation looked at me and asked 'What's he talking about?' I told him, "Let's just say I'm sending souls to heaven in a different way."

At the time Rogers left the brotherhood the Vietnam War was still raging. He lost his deferment and was automatically entered into the draft pool. His draft number was "1".



Chris Rogers and the Runes of Smaug crew

His father, who was General George Patton's Air Commander in North Africa in World War II, told his son "Chose the way you want to die."

He chose the Air Force, serving 2 tours and flying 300 combat missions. He stayed in the Air Force for 25 years attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. One of his assignments was as a Squadron Leader.

"I had a thousand men reporting to me for over 8 years and I knew all of them by their first

names. My unit was named Best

Maintenance Department of the entire Department of Defense two times in a row. I also investigated 41 military airplane crashes over a span of 2 ½ years. I never had a bad day in the Air Force - that's because I was always flying."

After leaving the Air Force he went to work for PacBell.

"I designed a cell phone system for PacBell that could handle a million calls. Nobody knew you could put 1 million people on a cell phone network. It had never been done before. I also installed similar systems in Hawaii, Iowa, and Idaho."

And the journey began at Holy Cross Miami where he attended high school.

"I admired the brothers there and I thought I'd like to be one. So I thought I'd give it a try. I majored in philosophy and took a couple of seminars at Duke University taught by T.S. Elliot (The Love Songs of J. Alfred Prufrock) and William Golding (Lord of the Flies)."

After he finished his novitiate at St Edwards, the Superior General asked Chris what he wanted to do.

"I told him that I wanted to be a farmer on Notre Dame's 10,000 acre farm. He told me 'You don't know how to be a farmer.' I told him 'I know how to run a tractor.'"

At that point, Chris was sent to Holy Cross New Orleans. At the same time, St Edward's High School closed and some of its boarding students also went to Holy Cross New Orleans. Frank Galle was one of those transfer students and he was reunited with Rogers, whom he knew from St Edwards.

"I was 21 and it was the first time I'd been to New Orleans," said Chris. "There's lot of things you could do in New Orleans, but wearing a black robe there was no fun." He fondly remembers The Runes of Smaug, the Lower School literary magazine of which he was moderator.

"We had to sell it for penny a copy to pay for a new IBM Selectric with a rotating ball tying head."

"You end up making choices and you have no idea where they will lead. I believe in giving people options and tools to find the truth. The young men of the future have to decide what's true on their own. I had a great group of kids in New Orleans." Rogers usually visits New Orleans twice a year.

Grotto Returns

Nestled by the old Brother's Residence on the Dauphine St campus, the Grotto suffered severe damage during Hurricane Katrina. It lay in ruins until the helping hands of



The Grotto under the oaks

architect Ron Blitch – and others - returned the grotto to its proper place: in the grove of oaks on Holy Cross' Paris Avenue campus.

The Dauphine St grotto was built in the mid-50s and relocated post-Betsy to make room for the Student Dormitory. It was built from broken concrete from demolished structures in the city. Although the original shrine was based on the Grotto from Lourdes, space limitations required that the new version be smaller.

“The plan kept changing and getting scaled down,” said Ron. “Originally there was going to be a concrete area around the grotto, but the size of the project kept being reduced to protect the oaks. Tree specialists were called in to address concerns about drainage around the roots of the trees since they sit on the lowest part of the campus.”

The final plan came about as the result of a photo that Dick Watson found in the archives of Holy Cross San Antonio's Grotto.

“One of the plans called for using real rocks from Montana. The rocks cost practically nothing. It was the cost to transport them here that killed that idea,” continued Ron. “Instead we went with steel reinforcing cages and modeling the rocks from concrete, finishing them off with a stain. This technique is used by zoos and amusement parks to create their environments.”

Ron said that no corporate or school funding was involved in financing this restoration – it was done with just alumni donations.

One item left on the school's Master Plan is to build a permanent chapel between the cafeteria and the main building. It will use the original 12 panels of stained glass from the brothers' chapel from Dauphine Street.

Trailhead Cook

Had you passed by the Mandeville Trailhead awhile back, you might have seen Harry Schmidt manning a booth. Every Saturday morning from 9:00 am to noon there's a crafts fair there, but Harry wasn't selling knick-knacks. His specialty was Red Beans & Rice and Lasagna.

“We put lots of meat in our red beans and people seem to like it,” said Harry. The other part of ‘we’ in Harry’s comment refers to his son Eric who teamed up with his dad for this project.



Harry Schmidt serving up some Red Beans & Rice

Although the booth wasn’t as successful as Harry would have liked, he said he learned from his rookie mistakes as this was his first attempt.

“It’s more of a social event. We met people from all over of all ages and families, too. It’s just a great atmosphere. The Trailhead booths are all covered which provides some protection from the element, but it wouldn’t keep you dry in a downpour” he continued.

He wasn’t deterred by his first attempt indicating that he was willing to try again.

“Next time we’ll try to have something more unique. I mean, everyone makes red beans and rice. We might move toward something sweet that you can eat while you walk,” said Harry.

Cajun Hideaway

Gary and Toni Ritzmann celebrated their 44th anniversary and Gary's retirement by getting away to Tennessee. They later had a celebration at their house with 52 people in attendance. It was the first time they had all of their grandchildren at the house at the same time.

"The day after I retired, we went to our cabin which we call our 'Cajun Hideaway' in Gatlinburg. We bought it 14 years ago and we rent it out during the year. We stayed for 6 days," said Gary. "Toni's sister and husband live up there. Then we drove to Norfolk, Virginia to visit one of our sons and granddaughters. We arrived in time for Valentine's Day and the girls had a Valentines Dance at their school. Jason and I were their dates."

"Our granddaughters did not know we were coming. When they got off of the bus and saw us, they came running and screaming."



Toni & Gary Ritzmann at their Gatlinburg Cajun Hideaway

Gary and Toni had 4 children. Gary Jr. works for Kentwood Water Company. Jason works for a beer distributor, and John works for Atmos.

"One time Toni said we have a water boy, beer boy and gas boy, to which Jason replied, "Mom, it's Beer Man". Our daughter Lori was born with heart problems. The

doctors did not give her 2 weeks to live and we had a great 5 years with her" said Gary.

Mardi Gras fell while the Ritzmann's were in Norfolk and he helped his son the "Beer Man" cook 100 gallons of gumbo with all the fixings for the guys who worked in the warehouse. Then they headed back to Gatlinburg for 4 more days.

Gary worked for Executone installing call system for the nurses' stations in hospitals and nursing homes. It wasn't uncommon for him to be on-call on his off days. That's all behind him now.

"Now I enjoy working on the house catching up on all the things I didn't have time to do while working." he said. "Toni says I look happy all the time now! Forty-five years ago Toni and I went on our first date. We ate at Ground Patti on Severn. We had a burger and a beer in the old pewter mugs with the bells underneath."

The Ritzmann's wedding 44 years ago had a Blue and Gold flavor to it: Don Maheu, Pat Wolfe and Harry Legendre were groomsmen.

Gridiron Mentor

Two things happened in October, 1963: Cuba was blockaded by US Naval warships to prevent the Soviet Union's deployment of nuclear missiles 90 miles off the Florida Keys.

The other: Holy Cross won the football State Championship.

At that time, Holy Cross's practice field was surrounded by a cinder block wall. One of the student's mothers knocked on the door and Coach John Kalbacher opened it.

The concerned parent said that President Kennedy informed the nation that we were on the brink of nuclear war and she wanted her son to come home.

Coach Kalbacher looked at her and said, "Ma'am, there's no better place for your son to die than on the Holy Cross practice field."

By October, the Tigers were well on their way to the State Championship. It was for that state championship and a lifetime of achievement of the HC athletic department under his leadership, Coach Kalbacher was inducted into the inaugural class of the HC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015.

He was the winningest football coach in school history with 134 victories getting 100 of those wins in his first 10 years (1958-69) as a Head Coach.

Accepting the award was Mark Kalbacher. We'll let him tell the story:

"I got word from the school that there would be an awards presentation at a game in the Fall and a banquet at the school in the Spring. I went to the game with my brother and sister and some of my kids.

When we got to the banquet in the Spring, we didn't know we would be asked to speak. My brother bailed, so I decided to relate some things I remembered from the past. One of those things was the bus ride to and from the State Championship game, especially since Barry Wilson and Vic Eumont, two team members of the championship season, were going into the Hall of Fame at the same time as my Dad were in attendance.

A side-note: Dad's brother-in-law, Ken Tarzetti, was head coach at Holy Cross and hired my dad as an assistant coach. The following year my Uncle Ken took the Head Coaching job at Jesuit and my Dad became HC coach. My dad's other brother-in-law, Gene Tarzetti, was also a coach at Jesuit.



Mark Kalbacher and his daughter Erin at Tad Gormley Stadium

The award was presented at Tad Gormley Stadium prior to the game. The field certainly is a lot better now than when we played. It used to be either a dust bowl or a mud hole, depending on the weather, between the hash marks after the first month of the season as so many high school games were played on it.

The worst condition of any field was

a game we lost against Redemptorist of Baton Rouge when we sunk ankle deep in the mud and you couldn't see your shoes! Every other game in Baton Rouge was postponed that night but ours.

Dave Falgoust tried a field goal and John Glorioso was trying to handle the snap and the ball was floating. I thought "This can't be happening!" We started that year 8-0 and lost the next 3 games, although we did start to have some injuries at inopportune times that we just couldn't overcome.

Being the coach's son, Dad never wanted to show favoritism toward me, in fact he expected more out of me! He and I had a lot in common; we watched a lot of 8mm game film on the bedroom wall together.

Sometimes during the game I'd give Dad some insight as to what was working on the field and he'd discuss it with the coaches upstairs in the press box. Once, when my knee was hurt, dad sent me in with an "out-play" not remembering that I couldn't make that hard cut because of my injured knee. I changed the play on my own before telling Oso. I'm just glad the play worked or I would have heard it from my dad!"

And as far as the memories as a little kid:

"I remember when I was about 10 riding on the bus to go to the 1963 State Championship game against Jesuit, playing them for the second time that season. The first time was for the District Championship. The game had been postponed from the weekend to the following Tuesday due to extremely cold weather. We rode on the bus from the school to Sugar Bowl Stadium singing Hogan's Goat on the way.

My younger brother and I had on big parkas and were told to sit on the bench and not to move. I remember the game being very exciting and us winning 14-6, this after beating them for the District title 7-0. The bus ride back to school was very enjoyable, as we were singing the fight song. Ray Culotta who was the quarterback for the game and a 2017 Hall of Fame inductee, bounced my 6 year old brother on his knee as though it was an amusement ride!! We certainly lived Holy Cross football for many years!"

Mark's brother Gerald '74 also played Holy Cross football. Coach K retired after Gerald's last season.

Holy Cross Publications reported the "Mud Bowl" game against Redemptorist as follows: "The quick sinking Bengals were defeated by Redemptorist of Baton Rouge 7-0. The game was played in a driving rain storm and the mud bogged down both offenses, but Holy Cross gave up what opportunities it had by turning the ball over to the Wolves six times on fumbles."

Coach K - - - a tribute

David Falgoust: "In my view he knew how to bring out the best in his players individually. He understood that young guys could be motivated in different ways, and I think he did a terrific job with that. I have always been grateful for the encouragement and opportunities that Coach K gave me!"

Dennis Delaney: "He was best coach I ever had and was always good to me. I was proud to play for him."

But we were Holy Cross men that not only respected our coach and the etiquette of football behavior, but we never settled for second best. So unless the season was



*Coach John Kalbacher with
quarterback John Glorioso*

perfect we weren't satisfied. This is how a winner thinks. Kalbacher was my idol as far as coaches and human beings go.

But you know I learned something else from Kalbacher that helped me. He didn't dwell in his accomplishments of the past. He was a 'move on' type of guy who never looked back. When coaching was over it seemed that whenever I saw him he had a tennis racket in his hand. Kalbacher made me respect and love the tradition of the game. When we had bad practices he would run us off the field, even during the playoffs. He made us feel that you had to be worthy of game and the school you represented.

When Larry Arthur went to see his dying family member in the hospital, he saw Coach Kalbacher. He walked up to him and told him that after he was shot by (Mark)Essex on top of the Howard Johnson that he couldn't move and in a few seconds more he would have been killed. But Kalbacher's words every 4th Quarter about gutting it out gave him the strength to get off of that roof. I have few heroes in my life, but he is one of them."

Harry Schmidt: "Coach K was such a positive influence on so many of us."

Bobby Wahl: "We played in the J. K. era which meant all business. Everyone knew their assignments; you did your job. Hardly a word was ever said in the defensive huddle except for the coverage. We were very regimented and disciplined - a characteristic passed from one year's team to the next. Like I said, we played in the J.K. System. We were always focused."

Entering the final game against Shaw (41-7) our defense had given up only 10 points! Only a 4th quarter bomb long after the game was decided kept us from besting the 14 points given up by the '67 squad, a team that featured 7 All-State players. The kindness of Coach K to let a senior DB who had been hurt all year play in his final high school game prevented that from happening."

The Glory Days

Ron Brocato
Sports Editor, *Clarion Herald*

As a senior on the 1963 Holy Cross football team, Barry Wilson – a center and linebacker – was a team captain. But that did not buffer him from the ire of the head coach, a hard-driving, chain-smoking tyrant of a man named John Kalbacher.

During a practice session, the coach was displeased with his team's preparation and decided to use Wilson as a symbol that no one was immune from verbal abuse.

"Wilson! You don't deserve to be on this team, much less a captain. Get out of my sight!"

Wilson recalled the incident many years later in the same coaches' office once occupied by his taskmaster.

"I was shattered. I hid across from the practice field by the pool. Then a few minutes later, I heard John yelling, 'Wilson! Where's Wilson?'

"When I ran back to the field, Kalbacher put his arm around me and said, 'Wilson, I'm glad to see you. There was some guy here impersonating you, but I ran him off.'"

Nearly 40 years and nine head coaches later, Barry Wilson became Holy Cross' 14th head football coach since 1955 when the Catholic League was formed.

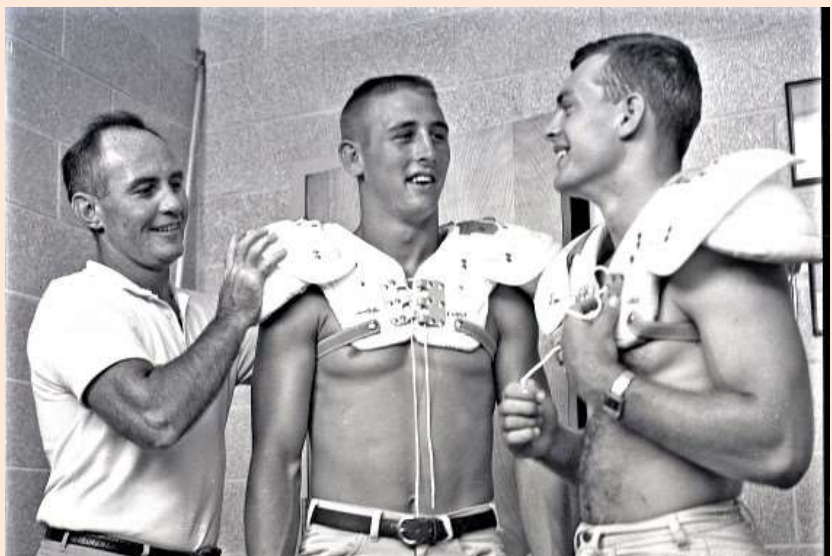


Photo: Holy Cross head coach John Kalbacher with standout center Barry Q. Wilson (middle), and end Bob Borison in 1963, the year they beat Jesuit for the Catholic League and state championship. 40 years later, Wilson became the Tigers' head coach, retiring from the post last year. Frank Methe photo

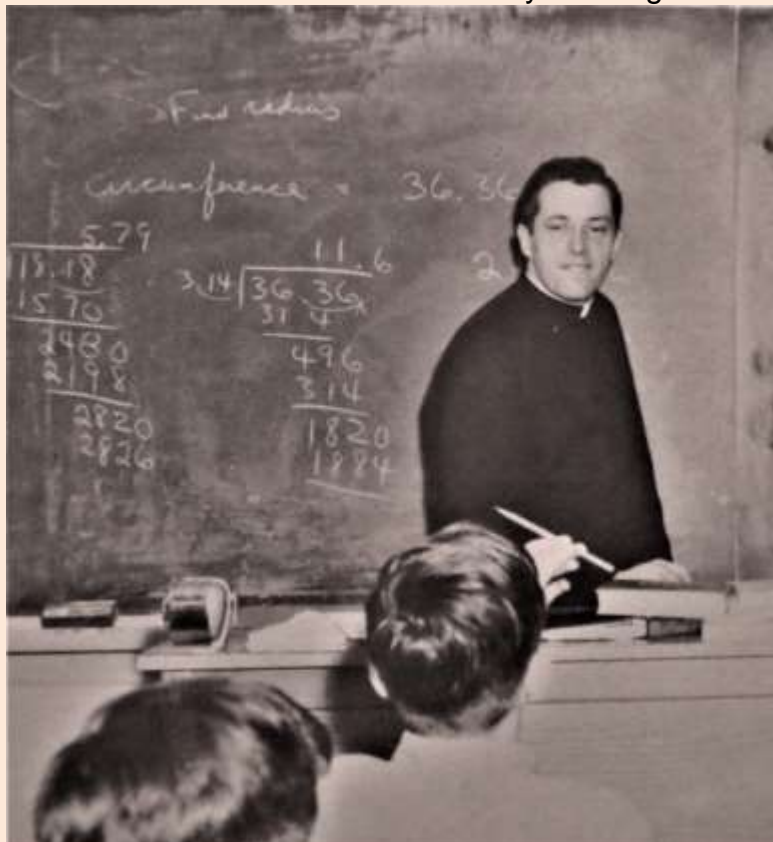
Follow up

The story in the last newsletter that sparked the most interest and comments was the one where John Fiorito was upended in his desk by Br James Ryan when reminded Br. James to fill out the absentee report via paper airplane.

Louis Reuther: And what about the time he charged down between the desks and picked up Nix and shook him for doodling in class!

Jeffrey J Junker: Those chord things on his cassock were flying back and forth. Ricky Zimmer, whose desk was across from Nix, had to dodge those swinging chords so he wouldn't become collateral damage.

Bobby Wahl: Here's one about Nix in Bro. Platypus' Civics class - - Nix, all the way in the back, would lean over and shoot spit balls through his Bic pen - - they kept missing and hitting the blackboard behind Brother- tons of spit balls on the board - - then finally he hits his target - - Brother says OK everyone on this side of the class is punished because it hit him on the right side of his face - - Nix says " Brother it wasn't me I would have to lean over to do that " - - "OK you can go" - - it's exactly what Nix did.



Charles Kothmann: One of the things that I remember in Br. James' class was when a wasp flew in through the open window. Dennis Krey was behind me. Br. James said to leave the wasp alone and it was flying everywhere. Well it came down by Krey's desk and he swung at the damn thing and missed. It got mad and came at my face so I slapped it with an open hand and it landed on someone further up front. Br. James threw me out of the class (literally) into the hallway. Who do I see easing down the hallway peeking into

Br James Ryan - in full "smirk"

rooms but Br. Timothy (Chief). I went to the very end of the lockers just outside the class and was able to hide beside them since I was so small. I was praying please don't go down the outside stairs, go down the inside stairwell. Luckily, he did after peeking into our classroom. I was maybe twelve feet away and he never saw me.

John Glorioso: I can't believe how "bad" y'all were.

Jeffrey J Junker: I think the word you're looking for is "inquisitive", John!

Vincent De Salvo: I was a good student

Louis Reuther: Sure you were Vince. And Charles, if the chief saw you, you wouldn't be writing your story. And was Br. Timothy checking on us or Br. Ryan to make sure he wasn't walloping one of us? That smooth smirk he always had.

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