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REDCOAT RUMBLINGS

GERARD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL • HOME OF THE REDCOATS •

SPIRITUS EST QUI VIVIFICAT

Volume I | March 1989 | No.7

Gerard to Close in June

This headline may come as a shock for out-of-state alumni. Arizona alumni have already learned that Gerard will have its final graduation this June. The out-of-state alumni, however, were not included in the mailing inviting them to attend the meeting on Wednesday, February 22, to listen to Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien explain his reasons for closing the school.

Parents and students, angered over the seemingly sudden announcement, refused to believe the Bishop when he told them that the closure was due to declining enrollment and escalating operating costs. Emotions ran high as students picketed the school while newspaper and TV reporters scurried to lap up the sensational story.

Much has been written, pro and con, as to the wisdom of the Bishop's decision. Only time will tell. But out of the dozen or so articles that were written about Gerard, the following editorial, which appeared in the Phoenix Gazette on February 23, stands out as the best:

A School Closes

"Gerard High School is closing its doors. The 27-year-old school became a victim, as they say, of the numbers game: high operating costs, too few students. Familiar facts. It has happened before. It probably will happen again.

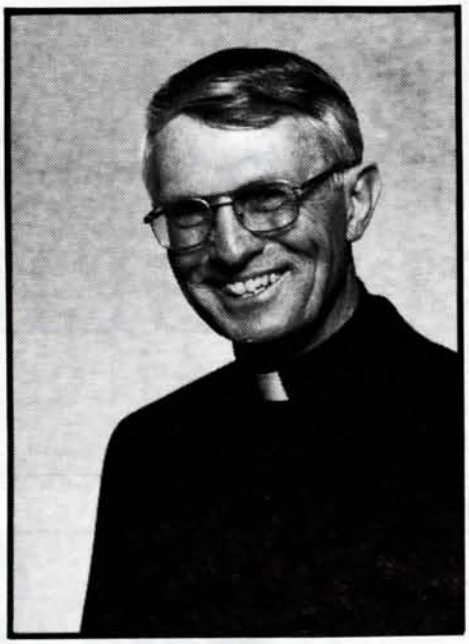
But there's more to this story. And the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, which decided last week to shut Gerard down, must think long and hard about how it happened and why. It is sad whenever a school closes. But there is a special loss when it occurs at a parochial school — built to serve a particular mission in society. A Catholic school isn't founded just to educate and train, but to pass on a set of ethical values and traditions. But in recent years the east Phoenix school couldn't persuade students or their parents that Gerard had anything special to offer, at least in comparison to its hefty tuition.

This was not always so. Founded in 1962, at the height of the postwar baby boom, Gerard took it upon itself to prepare a generation of Catholic children, teaching them biology, U.S. history and algebra, but also trying to instill in their hearts certain religious traditions and values, the same sense of purpose that inspired the Holy Ghost fathers who taught there.

In that sense, Gerard will live on, beyond its formal closing in June, through the achievements of its many graduates, the oldest of whom are reaching their 40's this year. Several already hold positions of influence — principals, attorneys, newspaper executives, teachers. One, Catherine Hicks, is a well-known Hollywood actress.

Not a bad legacy for a small parochial school, whose passing is mourned by all who cherish strong education and stronger values."

Father Hanley's Comments



Dear Alumni:

This is a difficult letter to write. Gerard Catholic will close its doors in June, 1989. More information about the closing is found in other sections of the "Rumblings."

The publicity in the media has fairly well pointed to the facts for such a decision. They are: increasing costs of operating the school while the enrollment steadily declined. We began this school year of 1988-89 with 252 students and the projections for next year were estimated at approximately 224. In order to maintain quality programs and a strong teaching staff we were going to sink more deeply into debt.

How did this all come about? Why closure?

We have not pinpointed any significant answer. Rather the decline may be found in a multitude of reasons. The "rumors" which swirled about the community that our school was being sold or about to be sold were very consistent for the past four years. The development of 44th Street and future development of Thomas Mall by Gosnell and realtors may have heightened this situation. The "reputation" of Gerard Catholic did not seem strong enough to attract students who in turn were by-passing us to go to Brophy, Xavier and St. Mary's or to public schools. Tuition was another reason. It has consistently climbed about eight percent a year. This year it cost student about $2,111.00 to attend the school. The area surrounding the school has declined in student population. Recall the fact that East High School closed a few years back and Arcadia and Scottsdale High Schools battled it out for survival. Arcadia won. Our feeder schools, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Theresa and Our Lady Of Perpetual Help in Scottsdale are drawing more and more of their students from the northern parts of Phoenix. St. Agnes, another feeder school, was just maintaining itself with one grade per class. St. Mark's had closed its school. So students who normally entered Gerard in the past from close parishes were now traveling greater distances.

These are some major answers for the decline of student body. I am sure there are others which can be cited. The closing brings a proud chapter of Catholic education to an end. However, as one editorial writer stated, the memory of Gerard Catholic will live on in the lives and actions of its Alumni.

It is my hope that none of you back away from giving your children the opportunity to attend a Catholic elementary or high school. Closure does not mean an end. Rather, the values you received in your faith and the quality of education gained will make you demand that Catholic schools continue to exist. But they will need your support in time, talent and resources.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father John Hanley
Principal

GERARD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Alumni Assoication

President	Terry O'Neill '69
Vice President	Rose Sieczkowski '68
Treasurer	John Sizer '80
Secretary	Kathy Arnold Byrne '68
Director	Nancy Contadino

Important Notes to Remember

Spiritus Award Nominations

You may remember reading in the June '88 issue of Redcoat Rumblings that Dr. Claire Wake, class of '70 received the Spiritus Award, which is awarded annually to an outstanding Gerard graduate. The December '88 issue carried a nomination form along with criteria for receiving this award. The deadline for accepting nominations is March 31. Please take the time now to complete the enclosed nomination form if there is an outstanding Gerard graduate that you feel deserves this honor. Return the form to the Alumni Office at Gerard.

The Future of the Alumni Association?

There have been many sentiments expressed regarding the closure of Gerard. One of these concerns the future of the Alumni Association and the disposition of the many trophies and awards which have collected over the years and are on display at Gerard.

This subject will be discussed at the **April 19** meeting of the Alumni Association. If anyone is interested in helping decide the fate of the Alumni Association, you are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend the meeting, we invite you to send your recommendations to the Alumni Association in care of Gerard. The meeting starts at 7:30 at Gerard.

In addition, since the next issue of *Redcoat Rumblings* may be the last, you are invited to send a few words in way of a tribute to Gerard for publication in the June issue.

Picnic...Picnic...Picnic

Make plans now to attend the All-Class Reunion Picnic at Eldorado Park on **April 23**. The park has been reserved for the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Lots of food, fun, and refreshments are in store for all who attend. You will receive more details in a flyer soon.

Class of '69 20-Year Reunion

April 22 -- 7:00 p.m.

The theme of this reunion is "Back to the Future." Cindy Timmons Fassel, Laura Preach Hubbs, and Terry O'Neill have been working hard to reach all of their former classmates to invite them to this gala event. There will be dinner, a no-host bar, and sounds of the sixties. A professional photographer will be in attendance to take a memorable class portrait.

The reunion will be held at Gerard in Thomas Moore Hall. For reservations and further information, contact Cindy at 602/866-9443.

Class of '79 10-Year Reunion

May 26,27,28

The class of '79 will hold their Ten-Year Reunion on the weekend of May 26-27-28 at LaPosada Resort. For reservations and information, contact Joe Larkin at 840-2381 or Julie Toney Sherman at 956-7016.

The reunion committees would still like to find the following graduates:

Class of 1979

Chuck Greenfield
Shelley Howells
Aida Fernandez
Andrea Franks
Liz Gates
Sherrie Looney
Kathy McGuire
Jackie Quinn
Leigh Stoughton
Brian Thomas
Mike Shaver
Dana Shirazi
Mark Turner

Class of 1969

Theresa Allen
Bob Bauman
Gary Blatchford
Hugh Campbell
Kevin Campbell
Maria Canalez
Robeva Chavez
Patty Coughlin
Ann Celo Dolezal
Greg Doran
Joe Dougherty
Debbie Feldhusen
Peter Gannarelli
Dan King
Ann Marie Kralovic
Tom Kucero
Barb McBride
Sharon McDonald
Natalie Milar
Charles Nafziger
Michelle Northrup
Chris Palmieri
Von Pelzer
Paula Romero
Mark Sanchez
Kevin Smith
Rick Smith
Rosemary Smith
Celeste Thibeuax
Mark Timmons
Larry Vanesky
Carolyn Zimmerman
Janet Zoller

Alum Notes

CLASS OF 1966

Jim Lara is alive and well! In a previous issue of *Redcoat Rumblings*, a list of deceased alumni was published, and Jim Lara's name was on it. **Jo Holtz Krueger** questioned the validity of Jim's demise since she had just seen him at their 20 year reunion in 1986. So this reporter wrote Jim's sister, **Mary Lara Roberts** ('78) and she confirmed that Jim is indeed alive and living in Phoenix. Welcome back, Jim...and sorry about that!

CLASS OF 1968

Mary Tina Mooney Davis writes to tell us that she is living in San Diego with her husband, Allan, and their son, Nicholas. Mary does marketing and advertising for an entertainment/singing telegram company. She also once had a successful commercial singing career but now devotes her time to her son being room mother and baseball team mother.

CLASS OF 1969

Mr. Joseph O'Neill, the father of **Terry O'Neill, Joe O'Neill** ('71), and **Kathy O'Neill Carlson** ('67), died recently of a heart attack. Services were held at St. Agnes Church on Monday, February 27. Our prayers are with the O'Neill family.

Stephen Stark lives in Colorado Springs where he is an engineering manager. Stephen graduated from Arizona State University and the University of California-Santa Barbara receiving a B.S. in Engineering and a M.S. in Computer Engineering.

Dawn Erickson Pleticha worked as a Medicare claims analyst for 10 years before marrying Steve in 1975. They have four daughters. Steve is an operations supervisor with State Farm Insurance. Dawn enjoys swimming, bicycling, and volunteering her time to Arizona "Jump-It" Booster and the Parent Teacher Organization.

CLASS OF 1970

Robert David Bollard died January 31. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Lucille, two brothers, and his grandparents. Services were held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. May he rest in peace.

CLASS OF 1972

Jim Sieczkowski, Jr. lives in Bellemont, Arizona with his wife, Kelli Lynn, and their three children. Jim is a Fire Chief in Bellemont. Jim received his A.A. degree in Administration of Justice from Scottsdale Community College and another A.A. degree in Fire Science from Yavapai College. He enjoys fishing and hunting with his boys and volunteers his time as an instructor in a Hunter Safety Course, CPR Instructor, and working for the American Heart Association.

CLASS OF 1973

Tim Bourque and his wife, Jill, are the proud parents of Elijah Tucker who was born December 27 and a bit premature. His birth weight was only 4 lb. 6 oz., but Jill reports that he has "porked up" to nine pounds. Actually Jill had a rougher time than the baby. She was in and out of the hospital three times for complications, but both she and Eli are doing fine now. Congratulations!

CLASS OF 1974

Susie Warren Malloy and her husband, Paul, are expecting their second child very soon. In fact, by the time you read this, she probably will have delivered her baby girl. They have a son who is 3-1/2. Congratulations!

CLASS OF 1975

Cynthia Stark Conrath is an accountant in Phoenix. She attended Mesa Community College and Mohave Community College. Cynthia enjoys sewing for her two children.

CLASS OF 1976

Word on the street is that **Roger Elsey** of Baxter Springs, Kansas, is planning to move to Tucson where his wife, Diane, will be opening up a deli. We certainly hope he plans to bring his collection of antique footwear and undergarments!

After much ado, we have discovered that the real **Steve Deakin** (not the impostor) lives in Tucson where he is in Real Estate investments. Steve graduated from University of Arizona and enjoys bicycle riding. The information published in the December newsletter is not true.

Paul McGoldrick and his wife, **Regina Armstrong McGoldrick** gave birth to a girl on January 23. Her name is Haley Ann, and she weighed 7 lb. 12 oz. Congratulations, Regina and Paul!

CLASS OF 1977

Susan Danielson Stapleton lives in Glendale where she is a florist and her husband, Kevin, is a carpenter. Susan graduated from Queensborough Community College and received certification from the Floral Design School. She was a budget counselor for the Navy Relief Society, Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, while her husband was serving in the Marine Corps. Susan recently went into partnership at Sherwood Florist Inc. in Peoria. Her hobbies include reading, crewel work, and floral design.

CLASS OF 1978

Michael Dye recently became engaged to marry Sydney Workman. Michael owns and manages Dye Carbonics Inc. and Fly N' Hi Off Road Centers in Phoenix. His fiancee is employed by DuPaul Real Estate Development and Management Company. They plan an October wedding.

Elizabeth Boyle works as a D.J. on KOOL Radio. You can

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catch her on weekends midnight-to-six on Fridays and six-to-midnight on Sundays.

Rick Compau finally got hitched. Rick and his new wife, Colleen, were married January 6. Congratulations!

Marty Clem, the eternal bachelor, became engaged to Chris Still. They plan to marry on April 8 in Tampa, Florida, honeymoon in Texas, and live in Phoenix.

CLASS OF 1979

Melissa Clark Windle and her husband are the proud parents of Jordan Elizabeth who was born December 23, just in time for Christmas. Melissa reports that Jordan weighed 8-1/2 lb. at birth. Congratulations!

CLASS OF 1980

John Sizer and his wife, Colleen, welcomed their firstborn on February 13. They are naming her Christy O'Neil Sizer, and she weighed in at 7 lb. 3-1/2 oz. Congratulations!

Dale Sypherd and his wife, Sharon, were recently married. Dale is a Deputy Fire Marshal in Phoenix. He enjoys hunting, fishing, softball, and working out.

CLASS OF 1981

Colette Millstone is an account representative for PCS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. She received a B.S. in Health Sciences from Arizona State University. Colette volunteers for the American Cancer Society, Jail-a-thon, and the Community Action Team for PCS. She enjoys aerobics and swimming. We want to thank Colette for her $25 donation to the Gerard Alumni Association.

Tony Mack and his bride, Victoria Anthony, were married last November 20. Tony is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marines temporarily stationed in Twenty-Nine Palms, California. Vicky is a radiological technologist. For their honeymoon they vacationed in San Diego. Tony hopes very soon to be stationed in Yuma.

Tina Hoogervorst Mulhern lives in Irvine, California with her husband, Robert, who is Vice President of a development company. Tina volunteers as a secretary at their church and is expecting their first child the end of May. She enjoys gourmet cooking, crafts, and traveling.

CLASS OF 1982

Andrea Angulo recently married Tom Gutierrez at St. Agnes Catholic Church. Congratulations!



Andrea Angulo and her new husband Tom Gutierrez

Kathleen Jay and Gerard Kubek were married recently at St. Daniel's Catholic Church in Scottsdale. Congratulations!



Kathleen Jay and her new husband Gerard Kubek

Julie Allen Kral is an Engineer at Honeywell. Her husband, Dave, is also an Engineer at Honeywell. Julie received a B.S. in computer science from Arizona State University.

CLASS OF 1983

Ken Richards lives in San Diego where he is an Emergency Medical Technician for the U.S. Navy Hospital Corp. Ken attended Palomar College and Navy Technical Schools, and he is a member of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. He volunteers his time to help with Boy Scout First Aid Rallies and is a CPR Instructor with the American Heart Association. Ken's hobbies are photography, computers, bicycling, and rapelling.

Guy Lucas, who is a reporter for the Wilmington Star News, recently became engaged to a southern belle named Belinda Story. Guy has promised to send photos of their wedding in April. Congratulations!

CLASS OF 1985

Joe Knapp and Kristine Blanchard were married recently at St. Mary's Basilica. Joe is a Gerard graduate, and Kristine attended Gerard for three years. Congratulations!



Joe Knapp with his bride Kristine Blanchard

Curt LeBlanc wrote to let everyone know that he is still at Northern Arizona University and is now President of Pi Kappa Alpha, his fraternity.

CLASS OF 1987

The father of **Patty Reichenberger**, John "Ray" Reichenberger, died on February 20. Services were held at St. Agnes Church. Our prayers are with the Reichenberger family.

Eric Duggan is currently an officer candidate with the Marine Corps at Arizona State University where he is a student. He enjoys reading, running, and playing Trivial Pursuit.

Alum Notes

CLASS OF 1988

Jennifer Dreckman is a student at Central Arizona College where she is President of Residence Life.

Julie Hughes and her mother, **Mrs. Mary Ellen Hughes**, who is Gerard's bookkeeper, were deeply saddened by the passing of Mary Ellen's mother on February 8. She lived in Douglas, Arizona. A memorial mass was offered at Gerard in the chapel. Our prayers are with the Hughes family.

FACULTY — PAST AND PRESENT

Lou Emmanuel, Gerard's present Physical Education teacher and Football Coach, became a proud father on December 23. His wife, Jill, presented him with a baby boy, Nicholas Anthony, who weighed 7 lb. 2 oz. Congratulations!

Mrs. Jane McKallor, who taught business at Gerard from 1978 to 1986 is now in real estate. Her husband, Jon, is a teacher, and they have four children. Jane holds a B.S. in accounting and a M.A. in business education from Immaculate Heart College in California and Arizona State University. Jane resides in Scottsdale.

Gina Patch called to let us know she lives in Oakland, California and wants to be on the mailing list.

Kathy Kochevar taught at Gerard for 10 years, still lives in Phoenix, and would also like to receive the newsletter.

Mrs. Marge Schweikert lives in Phoenix and would like to be added to our mailing list.

Sister Marian Clare Valenteen writes from her home in Oxnard, California:

"I was so pleased to receive a copy of *Redcoat Rumblings*. As a member of the premier staff of Gerard when it opened in 1962, I have held it very dear in my memory. It was a pleasure to teach there for the first four growing years and keep in contact since 1966 with graduates from the first two graduating classes. I was very happy to be able to join the first graduating class of 1966 at its twentieth reunion.

Please keep me on your mailing list. It fills me with pride to read of the success stories of the graduates that I knew, especially."

Another Tribute to Matt Jahntz

The unofficial Redcoat Poet, Stewart "Andy" Blomeyer, has contributed a lovely poem about Matt Jahntz, class of '73, who died not long ago.

Aggressive in sports,
On the field and sorts,
He ran and played hard;
And at social gatherings,
He was considered a card,
Laughing and joking,
Happy and poking...fun
Soaking up the sun.

We'll miss him, our friend
He'll be that way to the end,
To our Friend – Matt
We tip our hat...forever!

by
Andy
Blomeyer

Aumni Information Policy

All information obtained regarding Gerard Catholic High School Alumni is the sole property of the Gerard Catholic High School Alumni Association. Information may be used for Alumni Association purposes only unless otherwise approved by a majority vote of the Alumni Board at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Association. Requests for information must be submitted in writing to the Registration Office, clearly stating the purpose, and bearing the valid signature of the requestor.

The Greatest Volunteers in the World!!

Heartfelt appreciation goes to the following alumni and Gerard parents who willingly sacrificed a Saturday evening on January 28 to help with an inventory at BEST Discount:

Terry O'Neill '69
Terry Sieczkowski Bollinger '71
Kathy Arnold Byrne '68
Marty Clem '78
Rose Sieczkowski '68
Jean Ajamie '80,
and her fiance Tim Keenan
Melissa Clark Windle '79
Tracy Clem '83
Craig Herrick '83
Shane Talak '83
Joe O'Neill '71
Mike and Katie (Moncher)
Baker '76
Lori Insalaco Smith '81
Rose Khoury Whitcomb '80
Jim Dunlavey '79,
and his wife Kim
Delores and Mike Brown
Mary Ann and Terry Gibbs
Tom and Betsy Donovan
Peter and Mary Duginski
Sharon Weisgerber
Sue Reiner,
along with Glen '89,
and Victoria '92
Elizabeth Spiker,
and Megan '89
Joe Contadino

Rummage Sale

April 29, 1989

Leslie Ullstrup
996-6732

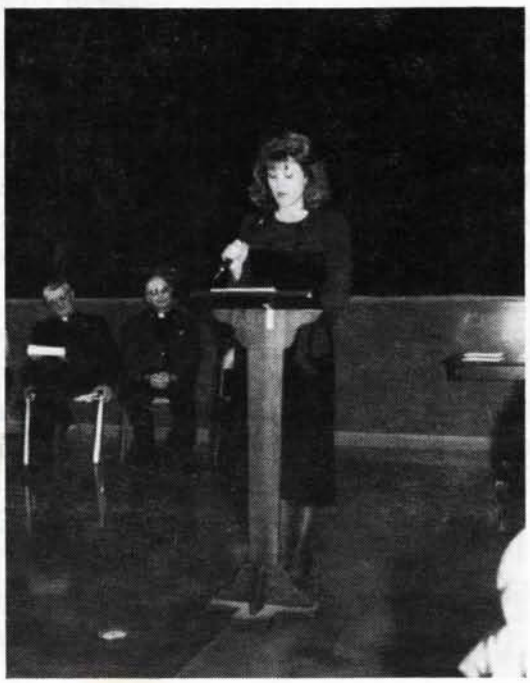
You're in the middle of that Spring Cleaning routine, and you've unearthed tons of "stuff." If you're not sure of what to do with it, bring it down to Gerard for the Rummage Sale. For large items, call the school to arrange a pick-up.

Honors Assembly Features Bobbie Sferra

On February 1, 1989, Bobbie Sferra, class of '68, came to Gerard to speak at the Honors Assembly. Bobbie is principal of Sequoya Elementary School in Scottsdale, and she commented on being more comfortable addressing a "smaller" audience. Her speech highlighted the rules which one learns in kindergarten, rules which apply to life — even into adulthood. The students showed their appreciation with a warm round of applause.



Bobbie Sferra, above, with Fr. Sternemann; below, as she addresses the Honors Assembly



TOM-TOM
JEWELERS
4605 N. Scottsdale Rd.
(602) 946-5110
at the
Safari Resort Hotel
Paul Hamra '81
Denise Hamra '83
Jeff Hamra '84

JIM CHAFE PHOTOGRAPHY
Phoenix, Arizona
371-0137
Jim Chafe
Class of 1970



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Steve Sikora '78
Walter Sikora '82

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