

*By Joseph Vidmar*

I didn't know a single person at St Joseph High School. My grade school was in Parma at St. Francis and St. Anthony of Padua. We moved after grade school, moving to a new house in Mentor. I would have gone to Padua. I admit, I had not even heard of St Joe's growing up. To make matters worse, our new house wasn't finished before I started high school, so I lived with my aunt in Euclid for the first three months, walking about two miles to St Joe's each day. I was a little guy, about 5'6" and maybe 120 pounds. I was a starting wide receiver at St Anthony's where we played in the CYO west side championship game. But when I walked into the St. Joe's gym for freshman orientation, I certainly remember being overwhelmed with the size of our class, both in number and the size of many of the freshman students. I eliminated any thought of ever playing football at St Joe's...lol. My wisest decision and fondest remembrance is joining and attending the glee club for my entire four years. My first, and some lifetime, friends are from the glee club. To this day many of us have been meeting annually at Tom Montagna's "Deep Springs" Trout Club for over 30 years. I bring some of the old music and a CD of our record that we cut in 1969. Every year we gather in song, singing those tunes from high school days. Our teacher, Tom Weiss, still joins us at the trout club. We all think the best of him, our "Coach." Being in the Glee Club, also provided some further social activity participating in the school's annual musicals. I enjoyed the artistic and social experience as well as finally meeting some of the girls from the sister schools. I also had a great time with the schools "summer stock" musicals for two summers after we graduated! The cast and beach parties were memorable!

I always enjoyed the sciences, so my science and math teachers were instrumental...Mr. Hoenigman, Bro. Thomas, Bro Corrigan, Mr. Wroblewski and Mr. Bruening...and math teachers Mr. Macuga, Kristoff, and Mr. Robertson. I enjoyed history but I can't recall my teachers...lol. I enjoyed Mr Lancaster in English and definitely remember his rendition of Beowulf. Mr. Vick impressed me enough that I wore a closely shaved beard, similar to his, until





I was into my late forties. I decided to major in Physics at John Carroll, and enjoyed that for two years, but changed over to Engineering at Cleveland State for practical reasons, getting a BS in Electrical Engineering and a Masters in Industrial Engineering. I retired after 30 years from Rockwell Automation.

My only regrets are that I didn't participate enough in the clubs, extra-curricular, sports and dances because I lived way out in Mentor and having to take the bus soon after school. I was also a bit shy back then, and would have enjoyed more the social side. However, I did join the Cinema Club mentored by Brother Hollis, where I filmed the musical as a sophomore and was in a school film directed by Hollis called "the Ogre" starred by Jerry Cirino...lol. I also did play Viking summer baseball after my junior year. But took up tennis that summer as well, and started on the varsity tennis team my senior year with Coaches Tigue and Searson. I then started on the tennis team at John Carroll my freshman year.

Many of my best friends today were my classmates at St. Joe's that I really didn't know that well in school! I relish my friendship now with my old classmates and regret not taking the initiative to get to know them back in the day, and having to miss all those years. But, on the bright side, I look forward to my classmate's friendship through our golden years.



I felt great pride and growing confidence attending St. Joseph High School. The schools strong academic, athletic, and music programs, along with our dress code and discipline contributed to who I am today. It's why today I want to continue to help the school any way I can, especially in providing opportunities to those less fortunate.