

ST ADALBERT'S "ALL-YEAR" REUNION 2009

Saturday May 30, 2009

St. Adalbert's parish was blessed with the presence of hundred's of parishioners, former graduates and friends at this year's reunion. Many traveled from States across the country to attend. The oldest member to respond was 98 years old.

You cannot imagine the reaction of individuals when they would glance upon the name tags worn by guests and find a classmate of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years ago. Shouts of joy and screams of surprise filled the halls of the school building followed by hugs, sometimes tears and always the sharing of stories that began with the words: "I remember..." Sometimes people would say "You look the same" while others remarked "You had lots of hair back then". All spent time trying to "catch up" with one another's lives...finding out about the paths each one had taken (career, family, questions about the where-about of other classmates).

As they toured the school, each tried to remember where each classroom was and they retold stories of their former teachers....many of whom were Felician sisters. They were remembered for both kindness and stern ways...always with fondness and gratitude for how they made a difference in their lives. The younger graduates remembered Sr. Valentine, Sr. Mary Johnice, Miss Mary and Miss Lorraine...and were thrilled that Mary and Lorraine were still around...30 years later...to greet them, give them a hug, and share a memory or two.

It was like "coming home". No matter where you went in the school building--chatter, laughter and joy were present.

The same love of parish spilled over to the Basilica as all remembered the priests of the past. Everyone who toured remarked upon the beauty, awe and wonder of the Basilica. They were greeted by the sign that read: "Welcome home parishioners, former graduates and friends". Everyone expressed the fact that even though they've moved away...no other parish has ever felt like St. Adalbert's...home. Many vowed to visit more often and remarked about the warmth of the current parishioners hosting this event.

Judging by the numbers in attendance one would have to say that the reunion was a huge success. Throughout the day over a thousand people signed the guest books and toured the Basilica and school. There were about 800 in attendance at Mass and close to 500 at the evening dinner (Harvey Maron Post). Lines of cars stretched for city blocks—down Stanislaus all the way to Fillmore Avenue. Many asked: "Will there be another reunion?" "When will we meet again?" The answer...in two years, St. Adalbert will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary. We hope all will be in attendance and that many more will be able to join us!

God's blessings be upon all who made this event special.

Fr. Thad, Pastor

Lorraine Chojnicki, Parish Life Coordinator