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Good News

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation

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Former Salem Catholic High Grad Goes Back To School Paul Kennedy Makes SCSF Part of His Will

Paul Kennedy's admiration for Catholic education started in the first grade at St. Vincent de Paul School. Kennedy fondly remembers his teacher Sister Agnes Eileen. "She had 48 six-year-old feral students in her class," Kennedy said. "She was able to teach us to sit up in class and not squirm in our seats, to hold a pencil, learn our numbers, alphabet and sounds, why not to make a fuss in class, and what homework was." Kennedy credits the rest of his education based on the principles and learning techniques he was taught by Sister Agnes Eileen. "She would be a saint if I were a Pope."



Jim Kennedy, Maria Palacio (St. Vincent de Paul Principal), Paul Kennedy, Dick Carney, and Kevin Mannix (SCSF President)

Kennedy attended St. Vincent de Paul school from 1947-1955 and Serra Catholic High School from 1957 until he graduated in 1959. Kennedy is one of five siblings who all attended Catholic schools. Kennedy's parents were strong Catholics and they preferred their kids to have a Catholic education. "Children learn to respect other people and authority, in addition to excellent academics," Kennedy said. Kennedy thinks having students wear uniforms (which current St. Vincent students still do) "takes away differences in family income, so judgments of students aren't based on the quality and style of clothing."

Kennedy visited St. Vincent de Paul School this year in October to tour the school he attended nearly 65 years ago. "Every room had many memories, of course," Kennedy said. Jim Kennedy, Paul's brother, and Dick Carney a St. Vincent's and Serra graduate joined the tour. It wasn't the only stop for Kennedy that day. Kennedy also toured Blanchet Catholic School. It was his first visit to the school. Kennedy said he was in awe of the size and quality of the campus. "Kevin Mannix and the Blanchet leadership have done an incredible job of creating a school that the Salem Catholic community can be extremely proud of," Kennedy said. What impressed Kennedy the most at Blanchet Catholic School were the students. "Their teachers are obviously doing a wonderful job of making outstanding adults of the students," Kennedy said. "You can build a good country on those kinds of students." **To read more about Paul's visit and his feelings about alumni's considering planned giving to Catholic schools, click [here](#). (We will contact Dick Carney for another story).**

Paul Kennedy's Brother, Former Catholic High Grad, Shares Memories Both Brothers Also Give Advice to Current Students

Paul Kennedy wasn't alone on his tour of the two Salem Catholic schools; his brother Jim also took the tour. Jim Kennedy attended St. Vincent de Paul School from 1945 to 1953 and Serra Catholic High School from 1956 to 1957.

Why the Kennedys Are Including The Salem Catholic Schools Foundation in Their Wills

When Paul Kennedy's parents came to Salem in 1942, they looked to the Catholic schools in the community to educate their five children. Catholic families in Salem supported, and continue to support their parishes, so that

Educators Honored at Annual Event

The Crystal Apple Awards were presented on November 7. Three Catholic school educators were honored with nominations:

- John Andreas (Teacher at Blanchet)
- Debilyn Janota (Principal at Queen of Peace)
- Marilyn Schroeder (Teacher at St. Joseph)

Blanchet Boys Soccer Team Finishes Season

The Cavaliers ended their season in first place in Special District 3 and third place in the state for 3A/2A/1A OSAA/Dairy Farmers of Oregon Academic All-State. The team finished the season at the OSAA State Quarterfinals in Boardman, Oregon, falling to the Riverside Pirates 4-1.



Salem Catholic Schools Foundation Mission Statement

The mission of the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation is to solicit, receive, and invest gifts to provide a continuing source of funds to support excellence of Catholic education in the greater Salem area.

And while Jim toured St. Vincent de Paul School, there were many memories going through his head about his Catholic



Jim Kennedy talks with Kevin Mannix and foundation board member Donna Garaventa.

education. Jim's memories ranged from playing softball nearly every day, to learning Latin to becoming an altar boy in the 7th grade, to finding out how well the students treated each other. "I do not remember anyone being the brunt of any personal bad jokes or bullying for any length of time," Jim said. "I am sure our teachers killed any negativity as soon as they identified it." Both of the Kennedy men remember the smell of gardenias at the schools' Mother's Day celebrations. The boys would sing a song to their mother in the school's hall and then hand out gardenias to her. "The fragrance of gardenias filled the room," Paul said. **To read more about Jim's visit, click [here](#).**

children like the young Kennedys could have a Catholic education. All five of them attended St. Vincent de Paul school and three attended Serra Catholic High School. Although Paul and his wife Susan no longer live in the area, they have chosen to include the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation in their estate plan because according to Paul, "Institutions like Catholic schools are a long-term proposition. Universities rely on estate gifts, so why can't Catholic grade and high schools do the same?". It's simple to do and the Foundation is helpful, professional and discreet. If you are interested in including a gift in your will, please contact the Foundation at 503-371-9068.

www.salemcatholicschoolsfoundation.org

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