

St. Anthony Catholic School 95 Years of Excellence

*St. Anthony
Catholic School
develops Gospel values,
a commitment to service,
and strong academic
skills
in each student!*

SUBMITTED by GEORGE WILHELM ~

I attended St. Anthony School with my brother **Joe (RIP)** and three sisters **Jane (RIP)** and **Beatrice and Cecilia**. I graduated in 1953 and the nuns were the best teachers we ever had, dedicated and well appreciated. Pastors that were real good that I remember were **Father James** (the Prisoner Of War Chaplain from 1943-1946 I think it was) and **Fr. Albert Anita** and I sent our children, Albert, Nathan and Gwen (Betzen). We have three grandchildren who have graduated from St. Anthony – **Sarah & Matthew (Wilhelm)** and **Renae (Betzen)**, one more still attends, **(Rachel (Betzen) and Daniel (Betzen))** will start attending next year. Memories I have of those days are the home cooked meals in the school basement which was the cafeteria (now the Deaf Smith County Museum. It was the first location of St. Anthony school). Good meals were prepared and served by ladies of the parish, I remember **Mrs. Erdman and Mrs. Dupnik** – they cooked for special church holiday meals we had down there, too. RECESS was midmorning and mid afternoon. Others played baseball but I had a weak, sprained ankle so me and **Freddy Gallagher** rode bicycles around. I don't think they let kids do that anymore nowadays. (he said with a knowing smile)

SUBMITTED by ELMER REINART ~

with the help of daughter **Janie Banner**, also a student whose children & grandchildren followed to the 4th generation: **Angela & Bobby Baker (Reagan Strafuss, Lauren, Bo & London Baker) Renee Buse** (and husband **Kevin's children Brock, Baron & Belle Buse) Melani Bustos and Marcus Banner. Says Elmer: I** went to St. Anthony School around 1928-29. The southwest room of the museum was my 2nd grade classroom. They put several classes in one because there was only four classrooms in there. My teacher was a **nun** but I don't remember her name. They were all **nuns**. We played across the street in a vacant lot to the west. I stayed in town during the week with **Mike Koelzer** and his wife, **Monday to Friday, so I could go to school, since we lived so far out of town** (12 miles southeast of Hereford) **My brothers Arhart and Esy** (both RIP) lived with the **Franciscan Sisters** in the old convent north of the (new) church for a year, I think. My parents (**Joseph & Mary Lueb-Reinart**) wanted to make sure all of us kids got at least one year of Catholic education. (After second grade, **Elmer** finished his education at a small one room school building called Wyche Community on Rural Route 3 near where the family farmed.) **Me and Irene** sent all 7 of our kids (**Wayne, Janie, Roy, Paulette, Julie, Melinda and Rhonda**) for all 8 years of St. Anthony's School (or six when they dropped the 7th and 8th grades.) **Irene** added that their son **Wayne** went 'to St. Anthony school' for awhile in a garage, next door to the school/museum. The garage set behind the old church, before the one now was built – in 1951.

SUBMITTED by GARY KRIEGSHAUSER

Some of my memories from when I went to Saint Anthony School are:

- Every Friday morning we'd go to Mass. **Sister Geraldine** (our 3rd & 4th grade teacher) told us one time later that she noticed after we received communion on Friday (*Communion Day*) that we were better all the rest of the day. ☺
- After Mass some of the kids would walk down the street to the donut shop and get donuts; most **moms** would pack our breakfast and we'd eat after Mass. "Those donuts sure smelled good." ☺ We'd have cinnamon toast. **One girl's mom** called mom later for the recipe. She'd never heard of cinnamon toast and the girl liked how mine smelled. ☺
- There were only 4 classrooms so they combined 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th grds.
- **Jackie Brinkman** was a girl in my class. Her dad "**Fuss**" **Brinkman** was very active in the church and a generous man. One morning the church bells rang at 10 minutes to 11 and **Father Coleman** didn't know why (they were not set to do that) In awhile he got the call from **Marie Brinkman**; "**Fuss**" had died suddenly of a heart attack at 10 minutes before 11.
- **Father Coleman** would show us movies on Sunday afternoons in the basement and have popcorn for us. 15-20 kids would come. Christmas programs were held down there too & other special events . . .
- **The nuns** would dress us up in old clothes and make our faces black with vaseline and burnt cork ash a couple times a year because the people enjoyed seeing **us boys (me, David Albracht, Frankie Peters, Vincent Gallagher)** sing black songs - "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" and "Way Down Upon The Swanee River". It was fun!
- When we boys did something wrong and upset **Sister Frances Jerome**, she'd make us go over to the east side of church and pick bagworms off the cedar trees. For a long time ☺ I guess we deserved it.
- I was in the 5th grade when **Bill Albracht** came and jerked me out of line and said "Come on, you're gonna learn how to serve Mass." I was scared to death! ☹
- **Sister** would pick out the boys who couldn't say Latin prayers and get two from the upper class to teach us in the basement Oh, and on rainy days, we played in the basement. I wish it would rain . . . ☺

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My name is Kaye Kershen Villalba. I am a 1953 graduate of St. Anthony's School. All six of the children of Andrew and Anne Kershen attended St. Anthony's School. The older three of us attended school in the original school building, now known as the Deaf Smith County Museum. The younger three attended school in the "new" building, the current school building. When I attended school, we started in the first grade, as there was no kindergarten in those days. There were four classrooms, two grades to each classroom. All the teachers were nuns. I remember **Sr. Francis Jerome** (who could forget her!) and **Sr. Vitalis. Sr. Francis Jerome** always had a ruler in her hand and would hit us across the knuckles if she thought we misbehaved. The nuns were strict, but we learned not only academics, but our religion and proper behavior, which has been a strong foundation for me during high school, nursing school and college and life. Every Friday afternoon, **Bob and Theresa** came to school, we all went down to the basement and they taught us Square Dancing. We had lots of celebrations, square dancing for the parents, and also just Square Dances. It was great fun. I am very proud to be a graduate of St. Anthony's School. I still remember fondly my classmates.

~ **Kaye Kershen Villalba**

*I graduated from St. Anthony's 8th grade in 1955. All of my 8 children graduated from St. Anthony's. The education at our school is great, and always was. The nuns who taught me, and the priests over the years, have shaped and helped my faith to grow. My classmates also helped each other to grow. When my youngest child was in first grade, I started working at St. Anthony's School. I taught kindergarten, then became the librarian, and finally became office manager under **Ann Lueb**. I spent 20 years, really good years working there. I have loved the school and parish my whole life. It is a wonderful place to become God filled people, caring for our faith, and for each other.*

With love, **Alice Hund**

FROM MARGARET ZINSER -

Starting school was a great adventure for me. I started in 1929 at the age of 5. My parents, (**Caroline & Bill Ohlig**) with the advice of the Sisters, decided to send me early so that my older sister, **Sister Helen** (of the Franciscan convent at **Graymoor, New York**) would go to school. * The parish was young at that time and there were not very many Catholic families. We had several grades in one classroom. By the time I got to the 7th grade there were 8 in the grade.

*One of my friends in the first grade was **Hope Zinser** who became my sister-in-law in later years. Another good friend was **Loretta Bezner**, now **Sister Loretta** (also of Graymoor, **Sisters of St. Francis**, now residing at Long Beach, NY)

***The Sisters** we had at that time enjoyed putting on plays. I was chosen to be a little black girl hiding in a tree eaves-dropping on some white folks. I was suspended in the air in a very uncomfortable position. Everyone loved the play and the name "**Kinky**" stuck with me for several years. ☺

*When **Father Nathaniel** came to be our Pastor, the Sisters had us make a long paper chain. Sisters had a welcoming program prepared to welcome him. They sat him next to one of the metal posts in the basement and we sang and chained him to the post. ☺

***Francie Goetz** sat behind me in the 1st grade and he wrote on my white collar with pencil. I think that was the last year he was in school. ☺

***Laura Mae Lueb** was a good friend of mine. So were **Agnes Albracht, Martha and Mary Ann Erdman, and Loretta Bezner**. We walked home after school through the (**Lake Park** – later named **Dameron Park** when **Mr. Dameron** became famous enough to have the park named after him. ☺ These are just some of my memories. School was a great experience for me and I enjoyed it very much.

Dear Parents and Friends of all Saints! I am ever so honored to be a part of a school rich with history and tradition that spans 95 years. Every time I listen to stories that tell of the beginnings of this school, I am truly humbled.

As I hear the story of **William Betzen (Great-grandfather to Victoria and Paul)** moving his family to the Panhandle in 1944 for the irrigation system found in this area, and how they chose Hereford over Plainview because of this Catholic school, I am reminded of the larger scope and far-reaching effects of that decision.

When you listen to the **Urbanczyk family** tell of the move **Felix Urbanczyk (Great-grandfather to Gavin and Colton)** made to Hereford in 1937 because it offered a Catholic education through St. Anthony School; again I find myself humbled and grateful to be a part of such a phenomenal heritage and legacy!

These families made life-changing decisions and sacrifices because they wanted to provide their children with a religious and moral formation, as well as, a high quality education. We are so excited and proud to be a part of "95 Years of Excellence in Catholic Education"! As part of the School's anniversary celebration, we're launching a 95th Commemorative Project which will document the recollections of faculty, staff, alumni and friends over the past several decades. We welcome your stories, memories, and observations.

May all that we do to shape the culture of our school give glory to God!

*Cheerfully in Christ,
Linda Aranda* ☺

2012-2013