

SALUTATORY SPEECH

No man is an island; no man stands alone. Each man's joy is joy to me; each man's grief is my own. Brother McKee, Reverend Fathers, members of the faculty, parents, friends, and members of the graduating class of 1966 these are more than mere words to a popular song. They are the very reason for our being here this morning. In our four years at Covington Catholic, I think that we have come to a realization of the real meaning behind these words as a result of the experiences that we have shared together while we were here.

On an April morning five years ago, over two hundred eighth grade students gathered at Covington Catholic for their high school entrance examination. Less than six months later we were assembled once again--this time as the Freshman class. As we entered the building on the first morning of school in September we were strangers to each other, timid, alone and confused by the enormity and complexity of the high school system.

It did not take very long, however, for these strangers to get to know one another. The seniors welcomed us to Covington Catholic by an initiation. This program successfully brought our class together as the Freshmen were compelled to join forces to survive the initiation stunts that were contrived for us. Soon after the initiation was completed we encountered for the first time the mysterious ways of our cafeteria, the memories of which have stayed with us throughout our four years here. Among the other highlights of that first year were a championship swimming team which brought home a runner up trophy from the state meet in Louisville, and our first Campbell Lodge Festival. It was truly this festival which taught us the meaning of the words "no man is an island" because we learned that we had to work together if we wanted it to be successful.

The Freshman year passed quickly into the Sophomore. This was a period of transition; a growing up for our class. We were now in a position to sneer at the lowly, incoming freshmen, yet we were not old enough nor wise enough to show the initiative and leadership of the upperclassmen. It was during this year that our class spirit began to really develop under the guidance of several interested homeroom teachers. The best example of this class spirit that I can remember was the sophomore picnic to Butler State Park.

In our junior year we copped the coveted spirit banner four times without much challenge from the other divisions. The juniors lead the way to outstanding contributions for the Seminary Drive and the Bishop's Relief Fund. It was a year of good basketball that took us all the way to the regional tournament at Campbell County, and it was the year that we put on and enjoyed our first prom. The junior year ended on a note of unity with the presentation of rings to the future seniors. The ring was distinguishing characteristic that made our class separate and distinct from all other groups and marked the entrance into our final stage as high school students.

As seniors we shared together for the last time the enjoyment of the Pumpkin Prowl, the Christmas Dance, and the Mardi Gras. None of us can forget the appearance of the Town and Country as tables, chairs, and dance floor lay buried under mounds of confetti when the last dance was over.

It was a year of remembering trig functions, Ohm's Law or learning about Shakespeare's Macbeth, and for those seniors who were looking ahead there was the added responsibility of filling out job applications or college forms.

Despite the hard work with the books, however, we found time to run the most successful Campbell Lodge Festival in our school's history. Once again the lesson of working together which we learned as Freshmen paid dividends when we were seniors. Then just one month ago the presentation of a powerful drama by high school students. Father McDermott said that it could be done. Under his inspiration and guidance we did it--THE POWER AND THE GLORY, one of the best of Covington Catholic's perennially great plays. Finally we concluded the year on a note of recreation as we enjoyed together for the last time the junior-senior prom.

These are the events of the past four years that stand out in my mind because they lead to the social, mental, and spiritual maturity of the individuals involved. They are experiences that taught us the necessity of depending on other people, our need for other people, and they taught us how to share together the joys and disappointments of others. By learning this we are able to push aside the barriers that keep us from communicating with one another and ultimately they have made us free.

These events and experiences were available to us because our parents made them so, and because we have an interested faculty and administration here at Covington Catholic. We owe them much. On behalf of the senior class then, I would like to thank all of them for the time and energy they have spent to teach us that no man is an island. Thank you.

Bill Hoppenjans
June 8, 1966