



Crossroads



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ARCHBISHOP WOOD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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Father Van Thillo Steps Down As Principal

by Larry Mueller

After twelve years of dedicated service, Father Marcel Van Thillo is leaving Archbishop Wood. His order, the Missionhurst Fathers, has reassigned him elsewhere.

Father Van Thillo came to Wood in 1964 when the school first opened its doors. He became principal in December 1969.

Father Van Thillo had originally planned to go to China when he was a seminarian in Belgium in the early 1950's. His plans were changed when it

became clear that Red China would no longer accept foreign missionaries. Preparation for the United States preceded his arrival in this country in 1957.

Since the Missionhurst Fathers were highly involved in education, John Cardinal O'Hara wanted this order to administer and staff a high school in the Philadelphia area when one became available.

During the interim, Father Van Thillo and many of his colleagues received temporary assignments. A Spanish-speaking parish in San

Antonio, Texas was his first assignment. He then came to the Philadelphia area and taught at Monsignor Bonner High School.

In 1963, the Missionhurst priests were invited to take over a school the archdiocese was intending to build in Warminster. The order accepted this invitation and Father Van Thillo began preparing for his new job.

Many Sunday afternoons, Father would drive up from Delaware County to view the superstructure that was to be Archbishop Wood High School for Boys.

The subsequent opening of "that high school at the crossroads" drew many of the order's priests in America together for the first time. They finally got their school and Father received his first big assignment.

Both as vice-principal and principal, always striven to make this school achieve academic excellence. Believing education is not a static



Fr. Marcel Van Thillo

process, he always reevaluated school programs and policies.

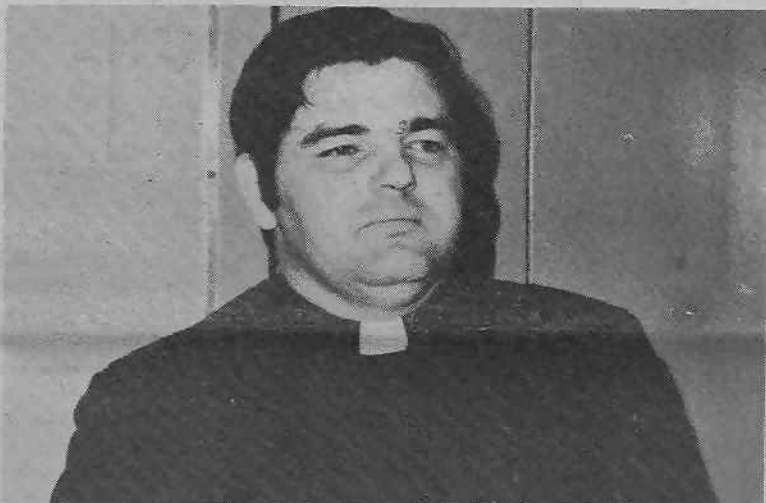
Father Van Thillo has seen a stark new high school, set amid cornfields near two quiet highways, mature into a well-known and respected institution.

He saw the Cross Country team soon establish itself in the Catholic League when it won the championships in 1969. He saw the football and basketball teams put this school on the map last year.

Father does not feel that his success should be judged on the material gains of this school. The important thing in his mind is whether the students have achieved a self awareness and have obtained certain basic God-oriented values.

The editors and the staff of this paper extend their thanks to Father Van Thillo for the fine job he has done and wish him the best of luck in his next assignment. Ave atque vale!

Father Quinn Receives CARE Award



Fr. Quinn CARES

Each year, the editors of Crossroads present The Crossroads Annual Recognition of Excellence Award to an individual whose spirit and dedication has been invaluable to the students of Archbishop Wood. The '75-'76 editorial staff is proud to announce that Father Edward Quinn has been selected to receive the C.A.R.E. Award this year.

Father Quinn was ordained at Saint Charles Seminary in 1969, and then was sent to Rome for additional study. After a short stay in an area parish, Fr. Quinn was assigned as a chaplain at Philadelphia General Hospital. He came to Wood in 1973.

Father Quinn has always been involved with the students since his arrival. In his first job, he replaced Mr. Dick Bedesem as Athletic Director and held that

position for two years. This year he became Activities Director, replacing Father Tom Flanigan. He took on these extra responsibilities despite his duties as a marriage counselor, a resident at Our Lady of the Sacred Hearts parish in Hilltown and a religion teacher.

Although criticized at times, Father Quinn has gained the friendship and respect of students, parents, and fellow teachers because of his true, genuine concern for people as people. Though sometimes this concern is masked behind a two day growth, those students who have seen his warm smile and heard his gregarious chuckle, know that it is there.

Crossroads recognizes and congratulates Father Quinn for his devotion to the students. May it continue as long as he is here.

Bicentennial Class Graduates

Graduation exercises for Archbishop Wood's Class of 1976 will take place Thursday and Friday.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated on June 3 at 8 p.m. in Doylestown's Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Faculty members who will concelebrate are Father Edward Quinn, Father James Melle, Father Gerald Moore, and Father Andrew Robberecht, C.I.C.M.

Also concelebrating are two relatives of graduating seniors. Father Bothwell and Father Gerald Ronan.

Father Leo Blanchard, C.I.C.M. and Father James Fischler, C.I.C.M., the first graduates of Archbishop Wood to be ordained priests, will also concelebrate.

Father Marcel Van Thillo, C.I.C.M. will preach the homily.

The school's Commencement will take place on June 4 at 8 p.m. at the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown.

Monsignor Charles B. Mynaugh will address the graduates. The Class of 1976 Salutatorian will be William Cherry and Ronald Triolo will be Valedictorian.

Monsignor Mynaugh is pastor of St. David's parish in Willow Grove. He formerly headed the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program and helped organize the communication's office for the

Archdiocese.

Father Van Thillo will present awards for outstanding achievements in both academics non-academic areas to some of the seniors who are members of Wood's tenth graduating class.

Guerin Elected President

Bill Guerin, presently treasurer of Student Council, swept past Mark McMillen to be elected 1976-77 S.C. president. In other races, Joe Klinger, now Jr. activities co-chairman, was elected Vice President, Bob Hasson, secretary and Tom Lee, Treasurer.

This followed active campaigning by all the candidates. They visited homerooms, spoke over the television, and put up posters. Campaigning was wrapped up with the convocation in the gym on May 13.

Even preceding this was the nominating convention, held May 5 in the library. After Fr. Van Thillo's opening prayer, and the convention rules outlined, the convention began.

The nominations for Treasurer were held first. Tom Lee, the eventual winner, was nominated

on the first ballot. He was followed on the second ballot by John Von Leer.

Nominations for Secretary saw Bob Hasson elected on the initial ballot and Mike Murawski was chosen next.

After Joe Klinger was chosen on the first ballot, a lengthy balloting session followed in which no candidate got a sufficient number of votes.

On the fifth ballot, Joe Shockey was chosen, followed by Harry Brooks on the eighth, and Dan Troilo on the ninth. Joe Shockey withdrew before the convention was over, and Harry Brooks did the same a few days into the campaigning.

Bill Guerin was nominated on the first ballot and Mark McMillen, a candidate last year, was nominated on the second ballot for President.

Vincentians Coming To Wood

After 12 years of dedicated service to our school, the C.I.C.M. Fathers are stepping down from their administrative posts, and the Vincentian Order formerly of St. Thomas More H.S. will take over starting July 1.

The Vincentians have served the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 135 years, and have established themselves as a teaching order of the highest caliber. The order presently staffs Immaculate Conception parish in Germantown, St.

Vincent De Paul parish and the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, in addition to conducting St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y., and Niagara University, Niagara, N.Y.

Cardinal Krol officially commended the Missionhurst Fathers (C.I.C.M.) on their outstanding achievements at Wood, and in particular Fr. Van Thillo for his effective leadership in the educational programs here at school.

Of the five Belgian priests still on staff, only Fr. Van Thillo will be leaving. Fr. Dewale, Fr. Robberecht, Fr. DeCrits, and Fr. DeCorte will drop down from their administrative posts and remain on staff as teachers.

Many thanks to the Missionhurst Fathers for their guidance in the formative period of our school, and good luck and continued success to the Vincentians.



New Officers — Hasson, Guerin, Klinger, Lee

