



Clerics of St. Viator Headline Night of the Lion

April 11, 2011



Rev. Patrick Render, C.S.V. (left), Saint Viator principal 1971-1972 and president 1976-1983, and Rev. James Michaletz, C.S.V. (right), principal from 1968-1971, reminisce with current Saint Viator President Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V. (center).

Nearly 30 priests and brothers from the Clerics of St. Viator found themselves at the forefront of a black tie optional affair at Navy Pier on Saturday. The cause was one they knew well: honoring the 50th anniversary of Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights.

The religious joined more than 900 guests, including parents and alumni, as well as administration members, trustees, faculty and staff, who attended the event held in Navy Pier's historic grand ballroom.

"It's wonderful to see so many people here representing so many years at Saint Viator," said Dan Durbin of Arlington Heights, whose son, Peter, graduated in 1998, "but for me, it's all about celebrating the Viatorians."

In 1961, the Viatorians answered a call from the Archdiocese of Chicago to open a Catholic high school for boys in the rapidly growing Northwest suburbs, while the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, from Tarrytown, NY, later opened one for girls in Rolling Meadows.

Fifty years later, and after the two schools combined in 1988, more than 13,000 students have graduated and gone on to shape the community.

Several of the Viatorians and former faculty members were on hand Saturday to mark the occasion.

Included was Br. Leo Ryan, C.S.V., who served on the Viatorian's building committee in the late 1950s that designed the school on 80 acres of former farmland. He later served as the school's first president.

"I'm the oldest of the Viatorians being honored," Ryan said, "and yet it's a thrill for me to be the link from the planning and building, to the triumphal celebration of 50 years of Catholic secondary education in the Northwest suburbs."

During the evening, guests underscored their support of the school by donating over \$400,000 during a targeted auction aimed at raising money for scholarships and tuition assistance.

The event took on a news angle when the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president, announced the start of a \$10 million capital campaign designed to boost tuition assistance and upgrade its campus for the next 50 years.

"This is an important initiative for our future," Egan said of the *Shaping the Future with Faith* campaign.

In launching the fundraising effort, the Rev. Thomas R. von Behren, C.S.V., provincial for the United States, announced that the Viatorians had made a gift of \$3 million to help jumpstart the pledges.

“We wanted to make a public statement,” von Behren said, “that as Viatorians, we’ve been here from the beginning and we’re committed to being here for years to come.”