



50 Years Later, Saint Viator Students Find Camaraderie in the Commute

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Students wait at the Arlington Heights train station for the train home.

It's a common sight. Every morning, a group of students dressed in their khaki slacks and polo shirts take their place on the Barrington train platform beside commuters making their way to the city.

They disembark at the Arlington Heights station, where a shuttle bus takes them to their destination: Saint Viator High School.

A pair of Saint Viator alumni, Matt McAndrews '84 and Bill Carley '77 both of Barrington, fondly remember taking the train to school, and now their own children --- Mary Ann '12 and Katharine '14 McAndrews, and Wil Carley '12 --- do the same thing.

“Back then, it was different,” McAndrews says. “We didn't have a shuttle bus, so there was a fair amount of walking. But it was fun. It was a nice dose of adulthood for kids coming out of eighth grade.

“Now I get a real kick out of seeing all these Saint Viator kids out in force at the station every morning,” McAndrews adds. “It brings me back.”

Shuttling from the train station makes the school accessible to students coming from Cary, Fox River Grove, Barrington and Inverness, as well as from the opposite direction, from Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Glenview and Chicago.

McAndrews reminisced about those years at a recent parent meeting, where Saint Viator's mission of offering a college preparatory education was explained, and its pillars of academic excellence and faith formation were shared.

The year 2011 is a historic year for the school located in Arlington Heights. Saint Viator will begin its celebration of 50 years of providing a Catholic, college preparatory education to young men and women.

The Clerics of St. Viator founded Saint Viator High School as a school for young men in 1961 in an effort to fulfill their commitment to the Christian education of youth. In 1987, the school merged with Sacred Heart of Mary High School in Rolling Meadows to become a co-educational institution.

“This is a historic time for the Clerics of St. Viator and for Saint Viator High School,” said the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president. “We are proud of how much our students, faculty and families have accomplished and grown over the last 50 years. And we look forward to continuing to educate our students for life in the 21st century.”

Over the years, more than 13,000 young men and women have graduated from Saint Viator and Sacred Heart of Mary high schools.

Saint Viator will launch its 50th anniversary year on January 30th with a Mass that is open to the public. Throughout the year, they will host a series of special events, including the Night of the Lion Gala on April 9 at Navy Pier.

The anniversary year also will feature a series of entertaining and highly-interactive forums featuring renowned leaders from inside and outside the Saint Viator community focused on fine arts, technology and innovation.

For more information on the 50th anniversary celebration and any of its special events, visit 50years.saintviator.com.