

# Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School celebrates 40th anniversary

By Beverly Gallagher

A celebration in honor of 40 years of educational achievement at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School brought back some of the men who first walked through its doors as students or teachers.

The Indianapolis school, founded by Jesuit Father William Schmidt, commemorated the event with a reception on Sept. 4. The school was originally a college preparatory school for boys. On Sept. 4, 1962, 167 freshmen boys became the first class of Brebeuf Prep.

Four men who were teachers at Brebeuf Prep on that first day of school 40 years ago and five members of the Class of 1966 attended the reception.

"There were guys [in our class] who were absolute stinkers then, and now are absolutely involved with their faith today and show it in many ways," said John Hittle of Indianapolis.

Sharing 40 years of memories and success is important, said Jesuit Father Benjamin Hawley, president of Brebeuf Jesuit.

"We have much to rejoice about tonight," he said as former teachers and students greeted one another.

Jesuit Father Paul O'Brien has been serving at the school since it opened. Today, he is alumni chaplain.

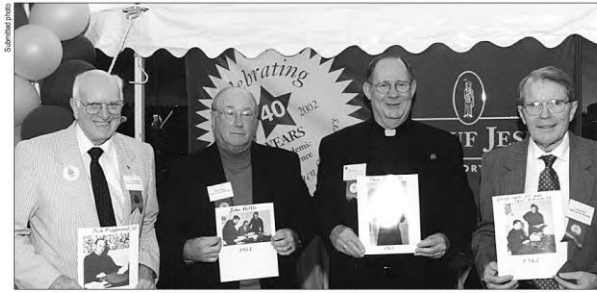
Speaking about the history of the school, Father O'Brien talked about how the teachers held students accountable for meeting the school's tough academic standards.

"In the old days" there was a rule that pens were not allowed in school, he said. Work done in class had to be written in pencil and homework had to be completed in pen.

Expecting three hours of homework from students each night, the school rule ensured that students were doing homework at home. If they were found with a pen at school, it was confiscated and the student had to pay a quarter fine, he said.

While the rule is gone, academic expectations haven't diminished in 40 years, but increased, said Father Hawley.

When the school's cornerstone was laid in 1961, Archbishop Paul C. Schulte



Former teachers and administrators from Brebeuf Jesuit's first day of school on Sept. 4, 1962, hold photos of themselves taken from the 1962-63 yearbook returned to the school earlier this month to celebrate the school's 40th anniversary. The faculty are, from left, Dick Middendorf, assistant principal; John Hittle, algebra and history teacher; Jesuit Father Paul O'Brien, English and Latin teacher; and Greg Foote, Latin and speech teacher.

predicted that Brebeuf would "in due course produce its share of eminent professors, businessmen, political and religious leaders," Father Hawley said.

Forty years later, his prediction is

continuing to prove to be accurate, he said.

*(Beverly Gallagher is the director of publicity for Brebeuf Jesuit.) †*