



# BLUEJAY NEWSLETTER



Spring 2015 Issue 29

## Students Commemorate the Reason for the Easter Season

While Easter bunnies and egg hunts and chickies and duckies fill the heads of young children during Lent, the true reason for Easter - Jesus' death and resurrection - fills the head of Christians who are old enough to know and understand the true reason for Easter.

The students at Danbury Catholic School helped Christians reflect on Jesus' last hours as they performed the Living Stations of the Cross. Older students portrayed biblical people while teachers Sylvia Friedrichsen and Amy Seuntjens led the Stations.

Prior to the Living Stations, students and staff held a Last Supper. Jesus (Father Dan Greving) explained the symbolism in the food and drink which the disciples, Jesus, and other members consumed.

Above, the DC students reenact Station 12 - Jesus Dies on the Cross.



## Happy Birthday, School Building

The old St. Mary's grade school building was built in 1899 and was torn down in 1963. It was replaced by our new St. Mary's Elementary School and Parish Center in 1964-65. The official dedication was held in May of 1965 so -big congratulations on 50 years of our "new school".

A re-dedication and celebration will be held later this year to mark the half century and salute the dedicated pastors, staff and families who continue to focus on our cherished values and make the financial sacrifices necessary to compete and excel in a changing world. We try to do our part in our community and watch the 'ripples' spread as our students move on to the higher education, jobs and families. Keep our school in your prayers as we pray for our families and the generous benefactors who make this all possible.



# The Many Adventures of Danbury Catholic

## Kindergarten

By Mrs. Michelle Drees

The Kindergarten Class has been extremely busy. We have been studying all about Springtime! We discussed the life cycle of the chicken this year again, hatching chicks. We were not as successful as in years past, but we still had a lot of fun learning about this amazing part of life. The students have been having fun being "scientists" and writing their observations and notes on the life cycle of a chicken. I would like to share their stories and observations.

My chick observation and The Life Cycle of a Chicken  
by Kinlee Colbert

I seen late wun chick was sleepn. (I saw that one chick was sleeping.) First, there (their) mom laid eggs. Second, they got takn (taken) away frum (from) mom. Third, it is hachich (hatching)! Fourth, it is bgr (bigger). The most important thing I learned about chickens...I liked when the chick was sleeping. They crack their egg to hatch.

My chick observation and The Life Cycle of a Chicken  
by Evan Hoffman

They spredid ther weingse. (They spreaded their wings). First, the eggs nedes wrth. (The eggs need warmth.) Second, it is stil (still) a egg. Third, it hachis (hatches)! Fourth, it is a chicin (chicken). The life cycle uf a cicks go on and on.

My chick observation and the Life Cycle of a Chicken  
by Sawyer Schmidt

Wakng in thery food. (Walking in their food.) First, they ned there mom so they have wormnisis! (They need their mom so they have warmness)! Second, the chick is in the incubator so they can be woum (warm). Third, the chick pox a ho. (the chick pecks a hole.) Fourth, when the chick hatches awt (out) of the egg, we have to noe (move) stos (them) to pen). The most important thing I learned about chickens...wen they have a egg tooth.

My chick observation and the Life Cycle of a Chicken  
by Kristen Shea

I sen them et thar food. (I saw them eat their food). First, an egg is laid. Second, the chick grose (grows) in the egg. Third, the chick is in the pen. Fourth, I sol (saw) them in a pen. The most important thing I learn about chickens.. How they hach (hatch).

My chick observation and the Life Cycle of a Chicken  
by Caden Maynard

My chick have hach (hatched). First, I have an egg and it is abade (about) to hach (hatch). Second, my egg have hashcht (hatched). Third, my chick is fufey (fluffy). Fourth, my chick is big. The most important thing I learned about chickens...we fith (fed) them.

My chick observation and the Life Cycle of a Chicken

by William Tarr

It pakt at ihe. (It pecked at me.) First, a egg is first. Second, the chick growz a beak. Third, it hach frum a egg! (It hatches from an egg)! Fourth, the chick flies omosyt. (The chick flies almost.)

## 3rd/4th Grade

By Mrs. Amy Seuntjens

Where did the time go? How often do you ask yourself this question? Teachers start asking themselves this question beginning in March, and really start panicking in April! The third and fourth graders have been so busy this year! Third and fourth grade years are pivotal years for any child. Learning to read with fluency and confidence serve as a foundation for the reading demands in later grades. Recognizing and understanding words will help our students read increasingly challenging stories and books and build knowledge about the world around him or her. By the end of the year, all third and fourth graders have made great strides in their reading fluency! We use Daily 5 during our reading block on a daily basis. The Common Core standards are met through Read to Self, Work on Writing, and Word Work. Academic standards are so important because they help make sure that all students are prepared for success in high school, college, or in the workforce. They help set clear and goals for students, parents, and teachers. Of course, high standards are not the only thing needed for our children's success. But standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students.

Reading is the foundation for all other areas of study. These include Math, Religion, Social Studies, Science, Art, and Guidance. Students participate in Daily 5 Math. They also take turns planning the weekly masses, visit Willow Dale nursing home, participate in the Living Stations and the Living Rosary, and learn how to lead the rosary. Third and fourth graders have been learning all about the different regions in our country. Of course their favorite region to study was the Midwest! They have also enjoyed learning about the solar system, living things, energy, and the human body in science. One area that makes our school so special is in the way students treat others. In guidance, we really focus on respect, responsibility, and character building. After such a full year of academics, I

thinkstudents and teachers are ready for their summer break!



# The Many Adventures of Danbury Catholic

## 1st/2nd Grade

By Mrs. Stacey Brown

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students have been busy learning throughout the curriculum during the 2014-2015 school year! The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students have been mastering making predictions, asking questions, drawing conclusions, and comparing and contrasting through the CAFÉ/Daily 5 reading program. They have been playing more partner math games and connecting math to real life in math writing through our Saxon/Daily 5 math. The students are also learning all about the earth's geography, pioneers, community, and economics in social studies; the human body in science; prayers in religion; the six pillars in guidance; and a study on colors in art. Besides these basics for their grade level, the students have enjoyed their participation in special occasions such as the MVAO Marching Band Visit, Red Ribbon Week, IPTV's Martha Speaks and Odd Squad specials, 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School, Catholic Schools Week, Dan Wardell Reading Road Trip Visit, and much more.

However, there is one particular learning process that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders enjoyed above all the others during this school year. We recognized Veteran's Day by reading the book America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven. A little-known tradition to the outside civilian world, "the white table" originated during the time of the Vietnam War as a symbol for the remembrance to service members held prisoner of war or missing in action. Solitary and solemn, it is the table where no one will ever sit. In the story, as a special gift to her Uncle John, Katie and her sisters are asked to help set this white table for dinner one night. When Mama explains the significance of each item place on the table, Katie comes to understand and appreciate the depth of sacrifice that her uncle and each member of America's armed services, may be called to give.

•"We use a small table to show one soldier's lonely battle against many."

•"We cover a small table with a white cloth to honor a soldier's pure heart when he answers his country's call to duty."

•"We place a lemon slice and grains of salt on a plate to show a captive soldier's bitter fate and tears of families waiting for loved ones to return."

•"We push an empty chair to the table for the missing soldiers who are not here."

•"We lay a black napkin for the sorrow of captivity, and turn over a glass for the meal that won't be eaten."

•We place a white candle for peace, and finally, a red rose in a vase tied with a red ribbon for the hope that all our missing will return someday."

The white table has been set across America in mess halls and at military events for almost 30 years. My husband of 18 years, Ben, who is a former United States Marine, visited our classroom to read this moving story to the students. Then, he assisted the students in the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom in setting up their own white table to help them understand the importance of remembering veterans on this day and every day in order to appreciate and honor our veterans. Led by the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders, the students at DC also wrote

letters to veterans who previously served and are currently serving to express their gratitude for our freedoms that we enjoy today. This activity was definitely the favorite memory of the school year for us all!



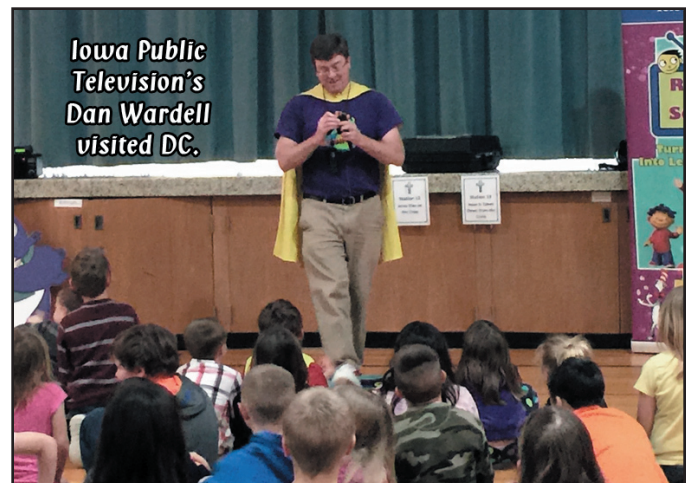
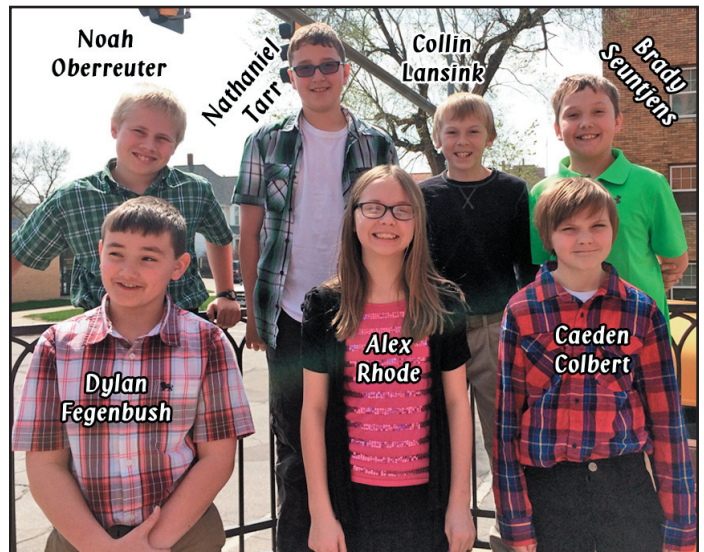
## 5th/6th Grade

By Mrs. Sylvia Friedrichsen

It's been a fabulous year in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Danbury Catholic! They recently finished their Famous Woman and History projects. The students researched, wrote a report, and created boards with pictures and a timeline on the life of a famous woman. Each student did a wonderful job on their project. They presented their reports and boards to a panel of judges. The judges chose 2 winners based on specific criteria. The first place winner was Nathaniel Tarr. Nathaniel presented fabulous information on Pat Summitt, the former Tennessee Lady Vols Basketball coach. Noah Oberreuter was the second place winner. Noah presented information about Kate Shelley.

Students were able to attend the Bishop's Mass in Sioux City. After mass, they explored Trinity Heights, had lunch at Pizza Ranch, and then a last minute trip to Palmer's Candy Co. It was a nice day.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will soon be taking a trip to Anthon to tour the school in preparation for next school year and having promotion mass and brunch.



# *From behind the desk of Principal Kristy Liechti.....*

It's that time of year at Danbury Catholic when the weather patterns are changing here is Iowa. Metamorphosis is happening right here in Danbury as this article is being written. As we are closing out the 2014-2015 school year, we are simultaneously making plans for the new school year! I would like to share with you some of the metamorphic happenings at Danbury Catholic:

**Danbury's Enrollment**...this year reached 59 students PK-6! That is up from the 28 students that were part of the K-6 system 14 years ago. While we realize that the reason we are seeing an increase in enrollment is due to the work of many people and the work of many who go unnoticed and not publicly thanked, I would like to give thanks to all who play even the smallest part in helping Danbury Catholic spread the word about our Christ-centered, top-notch, educational program!!

**Transportation**....is something that we have introduced most recently at Danbury Catholic. We now own a suburban driven by Benita Uhl, shuttling students from Mapleton to Danbury on a daily basis. Next year we have an Anthon family who will possibly need transportation to Danbury as well. The mileage on our suburban vehicle and the tires on this vehicle are seeing some wear and are in need of replacement soon. We have entertained the possibility of purchasing a smaller bus for transporting our 11-14 students from Ida Grove and Battle Creek, but have not found the right fit for our needs yet. With more and more students coming to us from the east, we may need to explore our options and review our financials to see if a bus would be possible. Currently, Danbury Catholic holds a contract with Siouxland Regional Transit System for our transportation needs in Battle Creek and Ida Grove.

**Vesting**.....financially in Danbury Catholic continues to grow. The MLTF program, which offers state of Iowa residents a tax credit on their donations contributed to this program, has been a blessing for our school, reducing some of the tuition burden to families in the spring. For the 2014-2015 school year we raised over \$25,000.00 in donations for this program. This spring our families will be awarded tuition assistance totaling over \$250,000.00 which is sent directly to our school! If you are interested in learning more about this program, please call 712-883-2244 and ask for Mrs. Liechti. I would be more than happy to discuss this program with you. We also have seen more people interested in investing in annuity programs written through the Diocese of Sioux City, naming Danbury Catholic School as the beneficiary. The most recent percentages of return on these investments are pretty competitive and actually, depending on your personal situation, surpass other like annuities. Asking about either of these programs may be worth your call and may help us to continue to offer a Catholic education to children in the Danbury communities.

**Staffing**....Danbury Catholic is blessed with a great group of people who help us educate the whole child spiritually, emotionally, academically and physically. Our teachers, classroom para-educators, secretaries, school board members, community members and other vested families and alumni all fit within the Danbury Catholic's puzzle of ministry. For the 2015-2016 school year we will have the following people as part of our school family: Father Dan Greiving, Pastor; Kristy Liechti, PK-6 Principal; Amy Seuntjens, Lead Teacher; Janelle Clausen, Secretary Parish/School; Anita Gaspers, School Secretary; Brenda Croghan, Preschool teacher; Michelle Drees, Kindergarten teacher; Stacey Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher; to be hired, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher; Sylvia Friedrichsen, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher; Teresa McMillen PK-6 paraeducator; Amanda Plautz, PK-6 paraeducator and Lana

Stoll, custodian.

**Invitation**....I would invite any of you to stop by and see how the school has changed over the years in order to provide a top-notch education for the children we serve. On a side note, if you are inspired to help us financially, with any of the many projects that we have in progress (new science textbook series, technology, building improvements, classroom supplies, tuition, etc.) please give me a call at school (712-883-2244). We are appreciative of the gift no matter how large or small!

Thank you to all of you who keep us in your prayers, send nice things to our school staff during Catholic Schools Week (TW), send our students materials, and so forth.

I truly believe that "it is in giving that we receive"! May God bless you and your family!

Kristy Liechti

## **Nature Study - Western Iowa Style**

If you are really observant, you have noticed we have an abundance of birds and 'critters' here all year long. We also have the seasonal migration as the weather changes.

I remember the first time I saw a bald eagle at a park along the Maple River near Castana. I was 40 something and not very observant, but what a thrill that was. I don't believe we had eagles in this area in the 50-60's when I was growing up.

Since then there have been many more sightings and my young grandchildren can spot them very quickly. The most recent ones are near the Maple River between Danbury and Mapleton, but we have a reliable source - an Ida County naturalist - that there is an eagle nest between Battle Creek and Ida Grove along the Maple. I am sure we won't be as famous as the eagle-cam in eastern Iowa that monitors the nest, eggs and hatchlings. Still, it is great, and the grandkids are excited about the nest. They have done some research (on the internet-of course) and discussed it with our family bird 'expert' grandpa.

We don't have bird feeders in our yard because they are a nuisance in his garden all summer. We have to cover the strawberry patch with netting, but the robins still get more berries than we do. Speaking of robins, I recorded on my calendar the first ones were back here on March 9 this year.

A big part of our double lot in town is evergreen trees, shrubs, and wild flowers. Our back yard has white fencing with chicken wire - to keep the rabbits out of the garden. The area is beautiful year round but during the summer when everything is in bloom, especially the purple cone flowers, the bees and butterflies are really busy!

I suppose you have already guessed

- the seed catalogs have come in the mail and I am anxious for spring! Some of my perennial bulbs were showing green shoots in January when we had the warm spell. Then we had cold and snow and now a couple rainy days. The red tulips are in full bloom now. As I write this it is early April and I have lived in Iowa all my 'young' life and I know we can get hit with a snow and/or ice storm anytime. I remember a late Easter one year when we had an ice storm on Good Friday that took down electrical power, and we missed all of the Holy Week and Easter church services. We had a big diesel generator at the farm for the house and the well for water to the livestock. We have a portable generator here in town for small electric heaters if necessary. Maybe I should't tell that, might have guests wanting to hang out here in event of storm! Bring non-perishable food items and your own sleeping bag--leave the movies at home. If you have a small gas grill that would help too!!!!

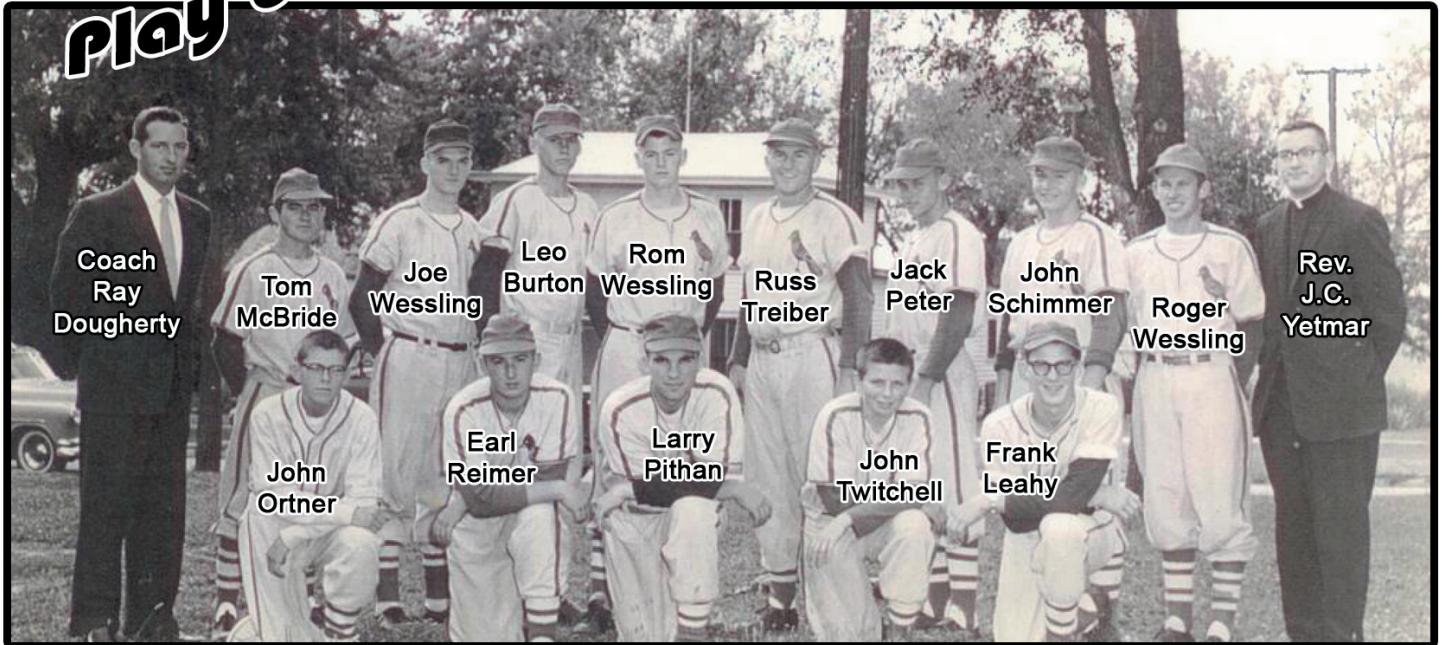
As we put together this spring Bluejay newsletter I am so enthused for this year's all alumni reunion. We are always looking for new and interesting things to do, decorations to accent the experience and getting to reconnect with friends and family. Some days the list seems long and then it comes together and I relax--a little--and check off something else on the "to do" list.

Notice the reservations return information is inside the last page of this issue. Send it and your money to Linda--she is keeping the records for the catering. Be sure to look over the agenda for Friday and Saturday and hope to see you July 17 and/or 18, 2015 in Danbury. We will be ready and excited to see all of you!

Mary Ann and Marshall

play ball!

# 1961 Baseball



## Schimmer's Estate Donates Artifacts to St. Mary's

The estate of Rev. Robert Schimmer donated to St. Mary's in Danbury his chalice and paten which he used during his life as a priest. Thank you for Father Schimmer's donation for St. Mary's parish, and we will keep him in our prayers.

Father Bob was born on October 3, 1941, in Danbury; he was the son of Clem J. and Mary (Gahan) Schimmer. He graduated from Danbury Catholic High School in 1960. He graduated from Loras College in Dubuque and Mount St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque. He was ordained on June 1, 1968, at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Sioux City. Father Schimmer received Master's Degrees from Aquinas Institute in Dubuque and Creighton University in Omaha. He received his Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN.

### Thank You!!!

We have received the following donations since our last newsletter:

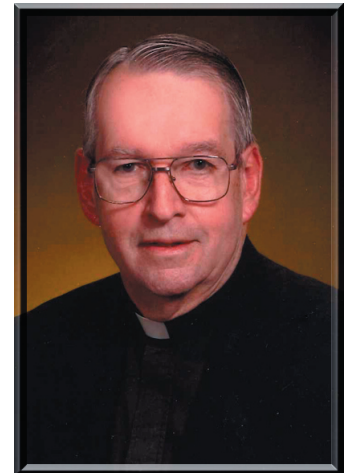
\$100 from B.B., Class of 1965

\$40 from P.F.J., Class of 1963

\$150 in memory of Rev. Robert Schimmer to Danbury Catholic School from M&MA Sohm.

**Thank you for these and any other donations for our continued work here at Danbury.**

Father Schimmer served at St. Mary's Parish in Storm Lake, Sacred Heart Parish in Templeton, at Kuemper High School in Carroll, St. Michael Parish in Whittemore, Bishop Garrigan High School in Algona, St. Joseph Parish in Struble, Gehlen Catholic High School in LeMars, St. Bernard Parish in Breda, St. Bernard High School in Breda, Bishop Heelan High School, Sacred Heart Parish in Sioux City, Chaplain at Trinity Regional Hospital in Fort Dodge, Chaplain at Marian Health Center in Sioux City, St. Joseph Parish in Sioux City, Vicar Forane/Dean, College of Consultants-Diocese of Sioux City, St. Mary Parish in Storm Lake, Vicar Forane/Dean, and St. Patrick Parish in Sheldon. He retired on October 1, 2010.



## In Memory of Alumni, Family and Friends

Rita Fitzpatrick	1925-2014
Allen Schrunk	1945-2014
Rev. Robert Schimmer	1941-2015
Helen (Boysen) Meier	1919-2015
Raymond "Coach" Dougherty	1932-2015
Walter "Bud" Rosauer	1934-2015
Duane "Red" Sohm	1931-2015
Donald Moser	1927-2015

*Our first Bluejay Newsletter was sent out on 1998 to the St. Pat's and Danbury Catholic Alumni with the guidance of our pastor, the late Father David Hogan. Our "staff" is made up of Marshall and Mary Ann Sohm. We are volunteers, and we do it for FUN. We also keep the alumni members mailing list and provide the mailing labels.*

*We have included news from the Danbury Catholic School, from the teachers, from our Danbury community.*

*Thank you to the alumni who sent us generous donations to help with the cost of sending out the newsletter. We really appreciate it, especially with the postage increase.*

*If you wish to donate to this cause, please send your donation to Mary Ann and Marshall Sohm, 402 5th St., Danbury, IA 51019.*

# DCHS Class of 1945

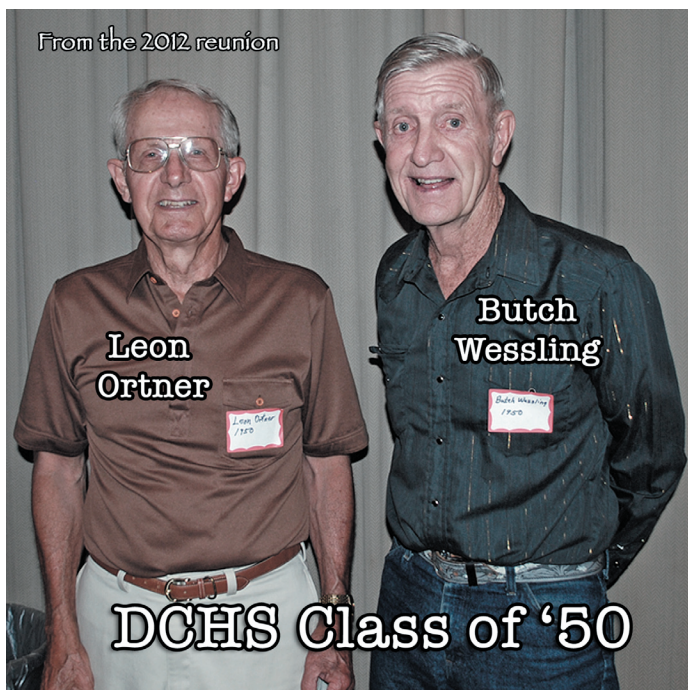


## Class photos taken during alumni reunion

As has been done for the past few reunions, The Danbury Review will be at the school to take class pictures. They will also be at the reception on Friday night from 6:00ish until at least 7:00. If your class will be getting together on Friday night, please find Lynn (she'll be the one with the camera). Thanks!



# DCHS Class of 1950



## Places to stay during the alumni reunion

This is not an endorsement--just for your info:  
**Delux Motel**, Ida Grove, 712 364 3317 or 1-800-342-0336

**Super 8 Motel**, Ida Grove, 712-364-3988

**The Inn**, Battle Creek is back in operation under management of Neil and Lynn Bjorholm (son and daughter-in-law of the late Harry and Annetta Bjorholm, 712-365-4726.

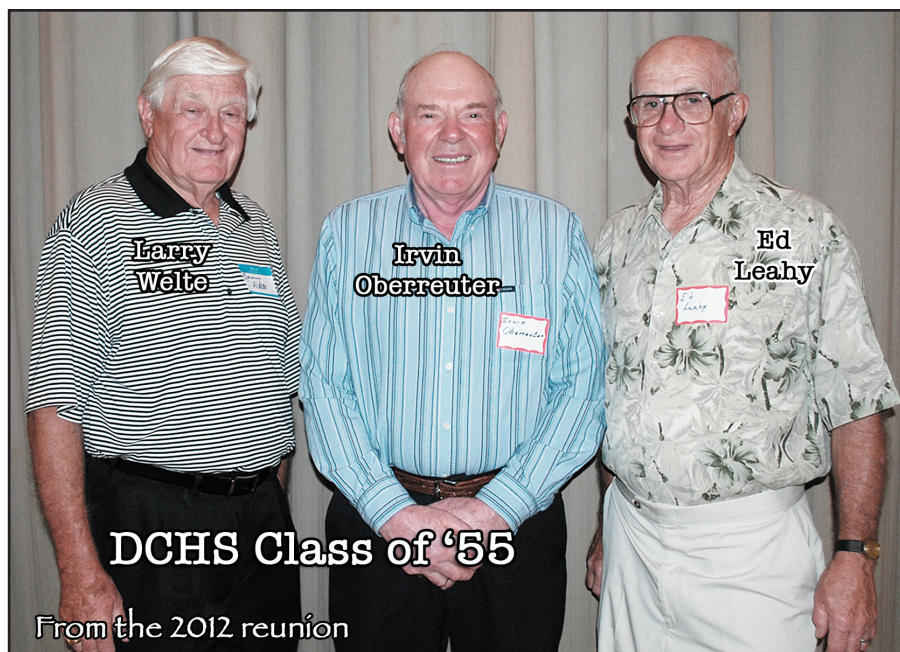
**Deb's B&B**, Mapleton, 712-880-1448

The motel at Mapleton is no longer in operation.

# DCHS Class of 1955



The Class of '55 will be celebrating their 60th anniversary with a get-together on Friday, July 17th, at Willow Vale Golf Club in Mapleton.



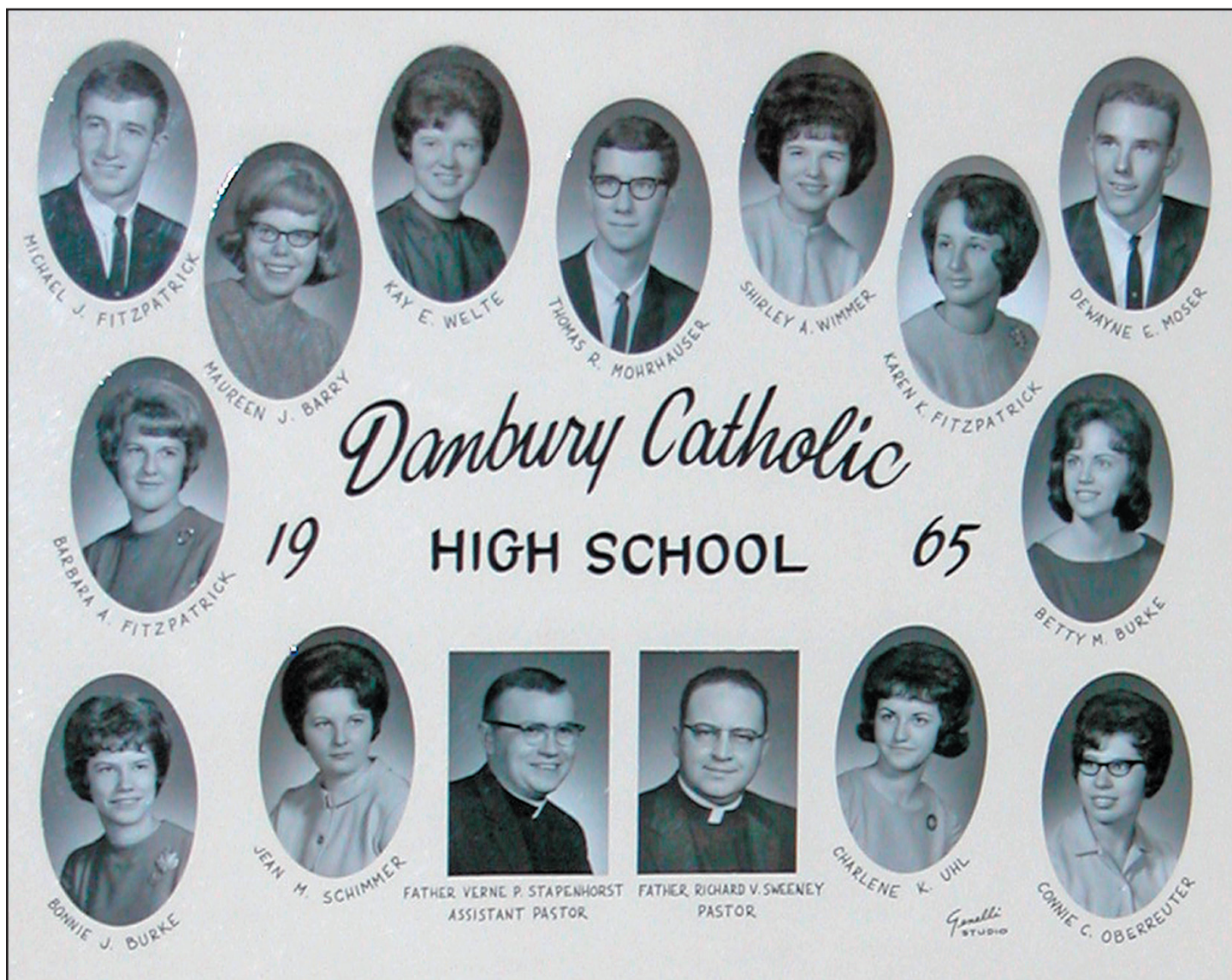
DCHS Class of '55

From the 2012 reunion

# DCHS Class of 1960



# DCHS Class of 1965



The Class of '65 will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with a get-together on Friday, July 17th in Sioux City.

## DCHS Class of '65



# 2015 All-School Reunion Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, 2015

## FRIDAY

Party in the Park - Beginning at 5:30 in the park shelter house with food provided for free will donation and beverages available from the Danbury Fire Department.

## SATURDAY

4 p.M. Mass at St. Mary's with Father Edmund Tiedeman presiding. Fr. Tiedeman is a former assistant pastor at St. Mary's. He is retired and lives in Carroll where he has duties at Kuemper High School.

Following the Mass there will be a social hour at St. Mary's Parish center. The banquet, catered by Staley's Food Service, begins at 6:30. There will be a program and roll call of the classes.

The dance will be held at approximately 9 p.m. at Dana Hall with the alumni of Danbury High School.

Please return the reservation form below along with the \$25 (per person) payment for the catered meal. Please return by July 1st to Linda Dirksen-Pickreign, P.O. Box 116, Danbury, IA 51019. Phone 712-883-2491.



## Save me/us some food!

Name(s) and graduating year of DCHS graduates

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ people attending in our party.

Please return this and  
your meal money  
(\$25 per person) to  
Linda Dirksen-Pickreign  
P.O. Box 116  
Danbury, IA 51019.

*Please write a memory that we may  
share in the next newsletter.*

Please let us know of any changes in your addresses so that the newsletter may be mailed correctly. When the address is wrong, we get the newsletter returned, and we have to pay double postage on the returns. Please keep us up to date on addresses. Call Mary Ann and Marshall at 712-893-0032. Thank you!

## **Is Your Address Wrong? Know of Any Alumni Who Have Moved?**



## **All School Reunion July 17 and 18 Are you ready to reminisce??? Details inside**

St. Mary's Parish  
604 Peach St.  
Danbury, IA 510195028

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED