



## I Remember When...my favorite St. John's Cafeteria story...

What cafeteria?

**Dr. Ralph Haehn '39**

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I remember my fourth grade. It was customary for the children to go to confession the day before First Friday. Father was hearing our confession. The children were getting restless. Father opened the confessional door, jumped out and lost all the candy in his lap. All the kids had a good laugh.

**Mary (Mericle) Buttelwerth '40**

4015 Forest Ave

Cincinnati OH 45212

Told all my stories years ago.

**Robert J. Metzger '41**

11195 Chickasaw Path, Lakeview OH 43331

Cafeteria? What's that? We brown bagged it. Hated picnics ever since but I like get together with everyone bringing a covered dish.

**Beatrice (Hempfling) Miller '45**

1102 William Ave, Delphos

The cafeteria opened in 1946 or 1947. Father Herr "hired" three of us from the basketball team: Danny Clark, Noodles Nolte and me. Danny took the trays and put the garbage in the cans. I rinsed off and put the trays in a rack. Noodles would put the racks in the washer and bring them out and slide them down the line. We were allowed to wear "overalls" and clod hoppers because of the water and garbage. When we finished we ate all we could (not the garbage), mostly sandwiches. Anna Mox was the chief cook. She and Mrs. Wahmhoff organized the festival dinners in October. We had part of our tuition paid for, I guess you could call that a basketball scholarship Ha!, and we got our meals free.

**Dave Schmelzer '49**

1713 Sumner Ave, Las Cruces NM 88001-2556

My very first meal there – no more dinner buckets!

**Vera (Falter) Stokes '53**

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Hot chocolate and filled sticks for breakfast after Holy Communion. It's still my favorite!

**Norm Vondran '56**

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I remember Leona Backus as the head cook who always cared about her well balanced meals. That was when we had sweet rolls and hot chocolate for breakfast after Mass. We had chili soup on Mondays. Oh how our lunches have changed. That was back when we didn't know about pizza.

**Valeta (Pothast) Siebeneck '56**

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Sometimes when the cafeteria meal did not fill the tummy, we could get a hot dog for five cents. Sometimes Mrs. Backus would plop it on the bun. Boy, were those dogs scrumptious!!

**John Grone '61**

5140 Dutch Hollow Rd

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Hot cocoa/milk and sweet rolls after Mass in the grade school. Going through the line and getting lunch ticket punched. Getting tray, utensils, then milk (from eighth grade girls). Being served entrée: chili, crackers and peaches on Monday. PB&J or fish sticks on Friday. Extra hot dogs were ten cents.

We're moving to Casper, WY for Bob's job in September. E-mail and write!!

**Marilyn (Scherger) Turner '64**

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There are so many memories of the cafeteria, but I do recall chili EVERY Monday. It's hard to not remember Leona Backus when you think of the cafeteria. She was the person I thought that must live there!

**Kathy (Rode) Young '65**

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My favorite breakfast in the cafeteria after Mass was hot chocolate and the big cinnamon buns. Next to my mom's crackers and coffee, it's still one of my favorites.

**Linda Bockey '69**

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One evening in 1968 I was driving my charming classmate Susan Metzger home after band practice. We were chatting and laughing as we drove. Suddenly my car was rammed by a large truck that had failed to stop for the traffic signal near the rectory. The car was badly damaged and we were both shaken up, but luckily no one was injured. As the tow truck took the car away, Sue found a ride home with someone else and I learned a valuable lesson: Drive safely or you walk home... alone.

**Dave Berelsman '69**

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First, thank you to all the hard working and pleasant cafeteria women who were able to tolerate all the noise and mess we made. I liked the cafeteria food when I want to St. John's. Chili and peaches, fish sandwich and peanut butter and honey sandwich were a few of my favorites. In high school Maureen Kaskel and I sold donuts at lunchtime. When we finished we would rush to the cafeteria, be pleasantly greeted by the women cleaning up and prepared a quick meal. I usually opted for a peanut butter and honey sandwich with a carton of milk. Today it still is my favorite snack. I enjoyed and remember fondly those brief conversations with those special women.

**Vicki (Nartker) Walker '71**, Columbus OH

Bishop Ottenweller and I were having lunch in the cafeteria when Sister Michaleen brought her second graders through, in perfect ranks, of course. But when the second graders saw Bishop Ottenweller they hollered, "There he is!", broke ranks and ran to the Bishop for hugs. There are some things that the discipline code just doesn't cover. PS: I am now the pastor at St. Ann's in Fremont and partly responsible for St. Joseph Central Catholic High School. We don't play against one another, do we?

**Rev. Thomas Extejt faculty '73**

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Four of us from Landeck made the transition to Delphos for junior high. The St. John's cafeteria was HUGE compared to what we had been used to. I started having lunch with girls who I still remain in contact with today. Several years ago we started getting together for "Girls Weekend". It started out being Friday night through Sunday afternoon. This past summer when we all met in Fort Myers, FL the "weekend" had expanded to Thursday morning through Tuesday night. Joining me were Cheryl Vorst, Sue Odenweller, Jeanne Rickert, Mary Kay Klausung, Annie Rahrig, Nancy Grothouse and Anne Watkins. Missing was Mick Mesker. It's always awesome to share each other's company.

**Judy (Bonifas) Thrasher '79**

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I remember when we had the leftover food from the church fair for about a week. The roast beef, corn, potatoes, noodles and especially the cakes were all delicious. From Wednesday through Friday before the church fair we were all "packers" (our moms packed our lunches), because the cafeteria and Little Theater had the extra equipment that was used only for the church fair. How Mrs. Backus, the cafeteria workers and all the volunteers did it and kept their sanity, I'll never know. The food got a lot better after DSJ and other parochial and private schools were allowed to use surplus cheese and food from the government when I was in grade school. Mrs. Backus did a great job with the limited resources she had.

**Mike Wrasman '79**

506 E Second, Delphos

This is not a fond memory but it comes back to me every time I smell Chef Boy Ardee tomato sauce. (The tomato sauce at school tasted just like it!) In fifth grade at the annex we were encouraged to eat everything on our plates. I had not eaten my spaghetti with tomato sauce and went to the window to turn in my tray. Sr. Vincent de Paul sent me back to a table with my tray to finish it. I told her that I really don't like it but she insisted. After eating one more bite I threw up. She never made

me eat anything after that.

**Janet (Shenk) Laird '81**

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My fondest cafeteria memory: Getting cut in front of in the lunch line for 3 years because of "Seniority" and finally having my turn as a Senior. Revenge....tastes so sweet :) Favorite Lunch was definitely the Chicken Patty (which my friends would sneak out to the playground in grade school to see if it would bounce....and it did!)

**Julia Pohlman 2006**

Sophomore at UD

My fond memory of the cafeteria was the creamed white rice with cinnamon. Mmmmm.... Loved it!

**Mary Kay Pohlman Klausung 1979**

## *Blue and Gold "Spotlight" cont'd.*

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where I worked as a graduate assistant athletic trainer in the Men's Athletic Department and worked my way toward a master's degree in Sports Management. During my two years at UT, I worked as a certified athletic trainer for the men's swimming and diving and football varsity teams. In the summer of 2004, my experience working with the UT Diving team allowed me the opportunity to attend the 2004 United States Olympic Diving Trials and assist in providing medical coverage for the event. Additionally, my work with the Tennessee football program enabled me to work the 2004 Southeastern Conference Championship Game and the 2005 New Years Day Cotton Bowl.

After graduating from UT in the spring of 2005, I packed my bags up once again and headed to Baltimore where I had earned an internship with the Baltimore Ravens. I spent the 2005 season working as an intern in the Athletic Training Department. Shortly after the conclusion of the 2005 season, I was asked to join the organization as a full time employee as an Assistant Athletic Trainer. I continue to enjoy my experiences here in Baltimore working with the Ravens organization.

As I have just spent the last hour reflecting on the last nine years of my life, I can honestly say I would not change a thing. I have been fortunate to be presented with some of these opportunities but I could not have done it by myself. Only with the help of others (my family, OSU athletic training staff, and the UT athletic training staff) have I been able to reach my dream of working in the National Football League. I just want to thank them once again for helping me reach my goal of becoming an assistant athletic training in the National Football League.