

Vianney Salutes its Longest-Serving Faculty and Staff

The 30-Year Club

In a happy family, there are some things that are constant: love, welcome, acceptance, respect. In the happy Vianney family, there are some people who have been amazingly constant: Fr. Don Cahill, Charlie Eisele, Judy O'Connell, Jerry Stevison, Colleen Judge, Tom Stevison, Steve Travis and Charlie Walsh.

Each of these *current* faculty and staff members has tallied at least 30 years of service with Vianney.

Combined, the members of the "30-Year Club" have 262 years of Vianney service and, on average, they've each seen more than 5,300 Griffins don caps and gowns.

Here's a short peek at the memorable careers of four members.

Charlie Eisele



Charlie Eisele in 1970

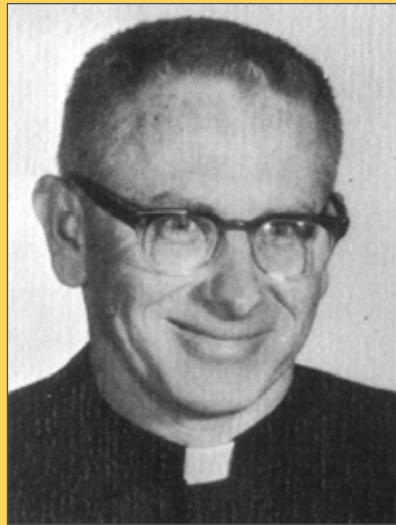
The Grand Master of the 30-Year Club would have to be Charlie Eisele. Eisele started as an English teacher at Vianney in 1962. He's been part of 96 percent of Vianney's history.

One of his early struggles was controlling his classroom. When Eisele asked Bro. Gerry Hyland for suggestions, Bro. Hyland told him, "Go into the room tomorrow, pick out the biggest kid and knock him out of his desk." When Eisele responded that he couldn't do that because he didn't have a reason to knock the boy out of his desk, Bro. Hyland responded, "make up a reason."

A dedication to Vianney and to teaching has been the reason Eisele has given so much of his life to this school. **"I don't know if I got any smarter as I got older, but the longer that I taught the more intelligent I found the students to be.** And they have to be. There are so many more challenges facing students now," Eisele said.

Eisele retired from teaching at Vianney in 1997. Since then, he's remained on staff part-time, assisting with faculty development and helping mentor new teachers.

Fr. Don Cahill



Fr. Don Cahill in 1970

A much-loved and respected member of the Vianney family, Fr. Don Cahill, S.M., had his first teaching stint at Vianney in 1962, when he was fresh out of the seminary. He was the school chaplain and taught Religion and French.

For Fr. Cahill, one of the memorable factors of that day was the imbalance of freshmen to upperclassmen. With 200 freshmen and about 35 or 40 in each of the other classes, Fr. Cahill remembers it as "probably the only time freshmen have really dominated Vianney!"

Fr. Cahill has left and returned to Vianney four times over the years for varying assignments. But it's clear that he is proud of the school he calls home, and he cites one example why. In January 1975, long-time teacher Jim John died after a battle with

cancer. A memorial Mass was held at Vianney, and the boys were asked to be quiet as they departed classrooms for the service.

"Those 700 boys, in every hallway of the school, were absolutely silent and completely reverent." Fr. Cahill said, adding, "Our boys have always risen to the occasion."

What does he miss about the "good old days?" Teaching, he says without a second's hesitation. Fr. Cahill currently serves as the after-school librarian, and once he gets through a health issue, he says he'd like to return to helping teach the freshman Hebrew Scriptures class.

Judy O'Connell



Judy O'Connell in 1987

Highlights of 1973 included the launch of Skylab, gas at 40 cents per gallon, the release of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" and the start of Judy O'Connell's career at St. John Vianney High School.

Just 21 and fresh out of college, O'Connell spoke her first "buenos dias" and "bon jour" to language classes at Vianney. She was one of just two female teachers. "It was tough at first," she said. **"We women were an oddity and the brothers didn't know how to treat us ... Let's just say that 'adaptation and change' were not emphasized as Characteristics of Marianist Education at the time."**