

AUSTIN CATHOLIC PREP SCHOOL  
18300 E. Warren Ave.,  
Detroit 24, Michigan

May 26, 1961

Dear Senior Parents:

I am writing this letter to impart to you some knowledge which will perhaps clear up for you some of the misinformation that I think is going around. At the same time it will explain some of the actions I have been forced to take during these past two weeks.

For the past two years, the attitude of some of the members of this present senior class has left much to be desired. Unfortunately, this comparatively small group have been leaders.....in the wrong direction. Again, unfortunately, they have been intelligent enough not to give me sufficient cause for expulsion.

The culmination of a series of small nuisance actions occurred on Wednesday, May 17. On that day, I spoke to the entire student body at the Assembly. Among other things, I asked for the cooperation of the senior class in guaranteeing their good behaviour for the remainder of the year and particularly at the Senior Day Exercises sponsored by the Archbishop on Sunday, May 21. Fifteen minutes later about two-thirds of the class decided to skip school for the day. Apparently my talking to them meant nothing.

At about 11:30 A.M. that same day I received a call from the Grosse Pointe Farms Police informing me that they were over at the Grosse Pointe High School creating a disturbance and that some of them had stopped by one of the Grade Schools and had taken a Volley Ball from some of the children playing in the School-yard. Some of the others went over to Dominican High School and created a disturbance there. The police took the registrations of five or six of the cars and lead them back to the school. On the Monday before these events, the salesman who delivered the Graduation announcements distributed them to the class and some individuals took their announcements without paying for them. As a result of this, this man was \$75.00 out of his pocket.

On the following day I assembled the entire senior class and informed them that as a result of their childish actions I was forced to do more than talk to them. They were informed that they would attend detention class for the remainder of the year; that their diplomas would be withheld at the Graduation Exercises-----this as a guarantee of gentlemanly behaviour at the Graduation Exercises and also at the Party following. Letters of apology were taken to the schools annoyed and also to the Police. The individuals who took announcements paid for them under pressure of the others.

One of the petty nuisances we have had to contend with has been the setting off of

firecrackers. In my talks to the boys I have warned them of the possibility of injury to any of their schoolmates. In fact, about a month ago, a boy was injured on the leg by means of a thoughtlessly thrown firecracker. This injury required two weeks of medical treatment. This admonition has likewise been ignored. Last Monday one of the larger variety was set off in one of the lockers. This has also been traced to the Senior class. The individuals involved in this were not among those in the detention class. I have also been reliably informed that some kind of disturbance has been planned for the Graduation Party. Therefore, ~~I think you must agree that I would be foolhardy in the extreme if I were to allow this Party to be held as planned and cause further damage to our already sullied reputation.~~ The party was originally authorized as an accomodation to the parents to relieve them of the responsibility of house parties and is only of three years standing. If you wish to have a party, by all means have one but there will be no party under the auspices of the school. And, further, I beg you not to encourage the renting of another place where such a gathering can be held. In a word, support the position of the school. I am strongly of the opinion that the holding of a party can in no way be weighed on the same scale against the possibility of some disturbance which would forever bar us from using the facilities of the War Memorial in the future. I might add in support of this that we could not use this place last year because of annoyance caused to neighbors of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial by the setting off of firecrackers two years ago.

I sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause you and also the fact that so many innocent boys have to suffer along with the others, but I think I have been left no other course of action. Perhaps the benefit will be felt by next years class and the others to follow.

I have taken this means of reaching you rather than by calling a meeting because the meetings that we have called have been rather poorly attended. By writing, at least I can be sure that all of you have the true picture.

Once again, I am sorry that I have to do this and ask for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Rev. John F. Galloway, O. S. A.  
Rector