

For over 45 years, Dads' Club members, often in conjunction with the Mothers' Guild, helped spearhead the fund raising activities of Bellarmine College Prep. During the 1930s and early 1940s, most of their efforts were about keeping the doors open, and using sweat equity to improve the school, like digging the original swimming pool on campus. Later their activities focused on capital improvements such as the Senior-Junior wing of Old Town (completed in the late 1940s at a cost of \$232,000), the Jesuit residence (completed in 1954 at a cost of \$400,000), the Frosh-Soph wing of Old Town (completed in 1958 at a cost of more than \$500,000), the Liccardo Student's Center (completed in 1965 at a cost of \$840,000) and O'Donnell Hall Dormitory (completed in 1966 at a cost of close to \$1,000,000).

One of the last major fund raising activities led by Dads' Club members was the construction of the new gymnasium. In 1975, Fr. Mathewson appointed an advisory committee headed up by Roland Mangiantini, President of the Dads' Club, to begin plans for the new gym. Eventually, \$1,100,000 was raised for the gym, but more significantly, that advisory committee became the forerunner of the future Board of Regents, established in 1977. Roland Mangiantini, Mel Micheletti, and Rodney Martin, all former Dads' Club Presidents, and John deRegt, Lou Rosendin, and Paul Wattis, members of the Dads' Club, were members of the original Board of Regents.

Closing Prayer

"In order to stir in men's hearts the love of holiness, it is not enough to get angry with sinners and shout at them. Empty clamoring of that kind may, indeed, terrify simple folks, but its only effect on the educated is to make them laugh. In neither class will it produce any solid fruit. Therefore, we must first of all appeal to the minds of those who listen to us. Then, by our eloquence and earnestness – and all the aids which rhetoric affords – we must endeavor to waken in their hearts a serious desire for that which reason has already approved." St. Robert Bellarmine, 1600 A.D.