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Brother Rice to celebrate anniversary

Friday, September 24, 2010

Dignitaries, famous alumni and five decades' worth of families and friends will converge on Brother Rice High School and the surrounding area the weekend of Oct. 8-10 to celebrate the renowned college preparatory institution's 50th anniversary.

Brother Rice, which was dedicated in 1960 by Cardinal John Dearden, has established a proud history of success in and out of the classroom. Roughly 9,000 graduates and a community of about 20,000 have been invited to celebrate "A Powerful Legacy and a Promising Future," as the slogan for the upcoming Golden Jubilee Weekend event.

On Oct. 8, Archbishop Allen Vigneron will preside over a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Regis Parish. Following Mass, the Archbishop and a selection of nearly 30 Catholic Priests and Irish Christian Brothers, the religious order that founded Brother Rice, will rededicate the school.

The following evening, the school will host the largest alumni gathering in its history.

Graduates from all 47 graduating classes, current and past faculty and staff and other prominent supporters will gather at the Centerpoint Marriott in Auburn Hills for the All-Alumni Reunion. Event coordinators expect an estimated 1,000 attendees.

On Oct. 10, Brother Rice will square off against archrival Novi Catholic Central in the "Warrior Classic" football game at 2 p.m. on Wayne State University's Adams Field. It is the 54th contest between the two state powers, which have combined to win 18 state championships. A crowd of 7,500 to 10,000 is expected.

Other weekend activities include the Great Debate at 11 a.m. Friday, between the top debaters from the current Brother Rice team and a select group of alumni from a program that has won state, national and world championships. The moderator for the event will be Chris Hansen, a 1977 graduate of the school and one of the faces of the award-winning Dateline NBC television news program. The event will take place in front of the entire Brother Rice student body.

Local radio personality Ken Calvert of the Brother Rice Class of '69 will host his WCSX-FM (94.7) morning show Oct. 8 from the school's gymnasium. Calvert was Brother Rice's first Warrior mascot during his time on campus, and has been an ardent supporter of the school since.

In addition, alumni from all over the country have signed up to participate in a series of events on campus throughout Saturday. Activities will range from alumni athletic contests — such as baseball, basketball, flag football, soccer and tennis — to a Saturday morning Mass, a pancake breakfast and more.

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