

Brother Nick has been Sacred Heart fixture since 1933

(From preceding page)

Monday through Friday. After the war, I was surprised how many kids returned and told me, 'Brother Nick, that was a great course. We were way ahead of the other guys.'"

Brother Nick began teaching at the Cor Jesu campus on Elysian Fields Avenue in January 1958, and he has been there ever since. He taught regular classes until 1981, when he finally grew weary of not being able to use his full arsenal of motivational

techniques.

"Before when I was teaching math and I had to call some kid back after school, I'd give him something to do that I knew he couldn't do and let him work on it for 45 minutes," Brother Nick said. "He'd bring it up and I'd say, 'It's close, but it's not right. Come back again tomorrow.' Do that for two or three days and they would understand very well what they were supposed to do."

"The reason I stopped teaching

was I lost all authority and the kids gained it all. Today, if you tell a kid, 'See me after school,' he's going to say, 'Brother, I can't. I've got a car pool.' You didn't have car pools before 1981. Or he'd say, 'I've got to go to work. If I don't work, I can't pay my tuition.' What he's actually paying for is his car, gas for his car, his driver's license, repairs. That's his tuition."

Brother Nick has been honorary president of the Brother Martin Parents' Club for nearly as long as it has been in existence, and he loves interacting "with so many wonderful people." In early June, he will be leaving the brothers' residence for another residence at St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

The parting will be bittersweet, but he will continue to keep in touch with old friends. Later this month, he will attend the 50th reunion of the graduating class at Catholic High in Baton Rouge. On the RSVP form that asked if he would be eating crawfish or fish, Brother Nick checked off both boxes.

"They understand my sense of humor," he said.

He loves seafood and Chinese food, but the only TV he watches these days are sporting events. "I don't go to any movies," he said. "I might learn some new words."

The crucifix which he wears draped over his black cassock, the one given to him by his community in 1939 at final vows, has been touched and rubbed for so many years that the face of Jesus is worn smooth.

He has run the good race.

Time for Brother Nick's favorite poem:

"I'm 90 years old; I'm still mighty bold; I'm not going to fold; my blood does not run cold. I don't smoke; I don't chew; I don't go with kids who do ... and I don't drink, either."

"That's from William Shakespeare," he said. "William Shakespeare's my pen name."

Brother Nick remains a huge but realistic Saints fan. Benson, his former math student, graciously gives him two tickets to each home game. Will he ever see the Saints make the Super Bowl?

"I don't think I'm going to live that long," Brother Nick said. "I'm 90, after all."



SACRED HEART Brother Nicholas Geisenberg makes change at the Brother Martin bookstore. (Photo by Frank J. Methe)



BROTHER NICK has been the Crusaders' biggest fan, attending almost every major sporting event in the last 40 years. "I played a little baseball when I was a kid," he said. "I always got put in left field. I didn't want to be fighting those ground balls in the infield." He recalled former St. Aloysius principal Brother Martin Hernandez as "an excellent principal and excellent disciplinarian. Some kids may not have liked him, but they'd never forget him when they went to college and did well." Brother Martin was principal of St. Aloysius for many years in the 1930s and 1940s, and when the school merged with Cor Jesu in 1969, the new high school was named in his honor.

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