

Bonner 'Celebrity Week' Cites Homegrown Heroes

Cappy, Father Bill Honored By Students

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Msgr. Bonner High School paid special tribute to two of its alumni the first week in February with special "Celebrity Week" programs on the Drexel Hill campus. Monday, Feb. 4, was designated John Cappelletti Day in honor of the 1970 Bonner grad who received the Heisman Trophy in his senior year at Penn State while Friday Feb. 8, was designated as Father Bill Atkinson Day in honor of the ordination to the priesthood of Father Bill Atkinson, O. S. A. a 1963 graduate of Bonner High School and the only quadruple ever ordained a priest.

DURING THE special programs on each day both graduates were inducted into the newly designated Bonner High School Hall of Fame and both were honored by the creation of special student awards in their names to be awarded for the first time to a member of the present Bonner senior class.



AFTER MASS—John Cappelletti Sr., father of the Heisman Trophy winner, meets with Father Bill after ceremonies inducting the local priest into the Bonner Hall of Fame.

Joining John Cappelletti on his "day" at his alma mater were his football and basketball teammates from the 1969-70 teams; former Bonner basketball coach Paul Gallagher (now an assistant at LaSalle College); Mike McCormack, head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles; Betty Gottschalk, widow of Jack Gottschalk who had been Cappelletti's football coach at Bonner, his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Cappelletti Sr., and brother Joey. During the program Mrs. Gottschalk presented Cappelletti with the Coach Jack Gottschalk Memorial Award and the Bonner Alumni Association announced the establishment of the Annual John Cappelletti Award. The award will be presented to a graduating senior who has best demonstrated those qualities of character, dedication and athletic success at Bonner.

CAPPELLETTI BECAME the first charter member inducted into the Hall of Fame which was also formally established at the ceremony and the Bonner football Jersey Number 11, the number worn by Cappelletti at Bonner was permanently retired. As part of the ceremony, Cappelletti presented his Number 11 green jersey to school principal Father Harry Erdlen, OSA, while the alternate white jersey Number 11 was presented to Mrs. Gottschalk. Following the formal program Cappelletti answered questions from the students and the program concluded with Cappelletti leading the students and faculty in the singing of the "Bonner Fight Song."

FOLLOWING LUNCH for the special guests, each class presented Cappelletti with gifts and Joey Cappelletti was made an honorary Bonner student and received a Bonner jacket. Father Bill Atkinson's day at Bonner began with a mass for the students Friday at 9 a.m. in the gymnasium featuring special music by the Glee Club of Archbishop Prendergast High School and the combined Brass Ensemble of Bonner and Prendergast High Schools. The Student Council formed a Color guard to lead the procession which included class officers and members of the priest-faculty who concelebrated the Mass with Father Bill. Members of Father Bill's family, students, lay faculty members and representatives of Bonner Mother's Club and Altar Society participated in the Offertory procession.

DURING THE MASS, Father Bill urged the students to set their goals in life with confidence so that with determination and perseverance they will succeed in life. Following Mass the Senior Class officers announced that the Annual Father Bill Atkinson Award will be presented to a graduating senior who best shows qualities of courage, character and perseverance in their daily lives. The Student Council inducted Father Bill into the Hall of Fame and announced that Father Bill's brother Al, a 1961 Bonner graduate and former All-pro football player, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame later this year. Father Bill and his family and guests were also honored at a brunch in the school cafeteria and received gifts from the students at Bonner. At the conclusion of the program, Bonner officials announced that portraits of Father Bill Atkinson and John Cappelletti and future inductees into the Hall of Fame will be displayed at the high school.



FATHER AND CHOIR—Father Bill Atkinson poses with Archbishop Prendergast High School choir, which sang for Father's Mass and homecoming at Msgr. Bonner High School.



INTO THE GYM—John Cappelletti follows student officers and Bonner Principal Father Harry Erdlen into the school gymnasium for ceremonies honoring him.