

## **Don Felix '66**

### ***Cathedral Preparatory School President's Hall of Fame***



**D**onald L. Felix comes from a family large enough to field its own baseball, football, or soccer team. He is the second oldest of thirteen children born to Joseph and Kathleen (O'Hara) Felix. Ken ('65), Kitty ('68), Russ ('69), Joe ('70), Buzz ('72), Chuck ('73), Chris ('75), Kate ('77), Carol ('78), Mary ('80), Patty (82), and Janet grew up in a house where all the neighborhood kids wanted to play since there was always something going on. With Catholic education being a top priority in the Felix house, Don attended St. George Grade School before starting his journey at Cathedral Prep.

During his time at Prep, Don was a member of Student Council, National Honors Society, the football, basketball, and track teams and graduated eleventh in the class. He recalls his favorite memories were spending time with his classmates, Tarp, pep rallies, and the "buzz" of the day. After graduating in 1966, he continued his education at Edinboro University where he received his B.S. in Physics and then in 1971 earned his Master's from Gannon University.

Don married Renee Carlson at St. George Church in 1968. A year later, their twins Kevin and Joel were born, and in 1976, Jamie was born, completing their family of five. When speaking about his wife, Don says, "Renee is my biggest inspiration. She leads by example and gives and gives of herself. She built our foundation through her example of how to live and give." Don and Renee's biggest source of joy is their three children who grew up to be responsible loving adults.

Don worked at Zurn Foundry, taught and coached at Cathedral Prep and Dubois Central Catholic before moving into the construction field. He worked at Felix & Ferrick/Felix Construction, Tiffany Construction, and then, in 1987, founded Felix Construction in Mesa, AZ, starting with four employees and today, there are 250 employees with operations in Phoenix and Dallas.

Don firmly believes that at Prep, education is competitive. He says, "Prep not only motivates one to achieve his maximum potential academically, but also to work hard at what is important in life." What Don learned at an early age from his parents, was reinforced at Prep and throughout his entire life. "My parents were firm but fair and they led by examples in all areas, secular and religious. They held us accountable for our actions. Prep was a continuation of that. By the time I left high school, the values were ingrained in me, and they continue to reflect in me to this day," he says.

Even though Don resides in Arizona, he is still heavily involved with Prep. One way he showed his loyalty is by hosting the baseball team each year during their spring training. Don keeps in touch with some of his Prep brothers: Joe Bufalino, Barry Masterson, Jim Allburn, Mike McCoy, Gary Lillis, Ernie DiSantis and Andre Heuer; most of them traveling to visit him in Arizona. Additionally, Don is currently involved with "Save the Family Foundation", "Paz de Cristo" and St. Vincent DePaul School in Arizona and Africa 6000 in Erie.

Don is enjoying his retired life by traveling, spending time with his kids and six grandchildren, and hiking. In 2017, along with his brother, Russ, Don walked the 500 mile El Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage starting in France, through the Pyrenees Mountains and concluding in Santiago, Spain.

Thank you, Don, for your commitment to Cathedral Prep. Congratulations on your induction into the prestigious Cathedral Preparatory School President's Hall of Fame.