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Cardinal Newman: 1990-1994

Cardinal Newman's 60th anniversary offers a chance to study the development and expansion of the school over time. By looking at the years 1990-1994, we can learn a lot about how our school's culture, customs and community shaped its identity and how those aspects link us to the present. We can look into the events that have shaped Cardinal Newman by speaking with Newman alumni and using the knowledge I have gathered from my time as a student. Even though the school and its community have evolved throughout the years, the same principles and customs have persisted.

In the early 1990s, Cardinal Newman experienced a time of growth and change. The campus continued to expand as the student body grew, and the school improved its facilities and academic programs. Through these years, Newman and Ursuline saw a consistent rise in student enrolment as well as the school's academic offerings. As a freshman, most classes were divided between boys and girls with few exceptions. However, by sophomore year, students began experiencing more co-ed classes, and by their junior and senior years, most classes had become fully integrated. This shows the growth that students would endure from year to year, not just academically, but also socially.

Similar to now, athletics and school pride had a significant influence on Cardinal Newman's culture throughout this time. Students took part in a wide variety of extracurricular activities, such as drama clubs, music, and sports. The strong sense of school pride was one of

the most significant aspects of life at Cardinal Newman in the early 1990s. Homecoming dances, basketball and football games, and talent shows were some of the events that brought students together to celebrate their school spirit and have a good time. Homecoming and other school dances were some of the most anticipated events. Students looked forward to the themes on dress-up days, pep rallies, and the feeling of togetherness that defined Cardinal Newman during this time. The excitement around school athletic events was high, with enthusiastic student sections and themed nights at games. Mr. DeBenedetti recounted that the level of school spirit was significantly greater in the early 1990s compared to more recent years. He highlighted that attendance and enthusiasm were much more vigorous back then, a feeling that has somewhat diminished due to circumstances such as the pandemic.

In the early 1990s, Cardinal Newman fostered many extracurricular programs. Numerous clubs and programs thrived during this period, including various language clubs, sports teams, and student government. Clubs focusing on Spanish, Latin, French, and Italian allowed students to learn about different cultures and connect to other parts of the world. The emergence of the Hip-hop club during this time shows the influence of culture and music had during this time. For students like Ms. Thompson and many others, dance was a big part of their lives, influenced by hip-hop music and the urban, hippie fashion trends.

For many students, athletics was a significant part of their time at Cardinal Newman. Many of the school's sports teams flourished, particularly excelling in track and field, football, and basketball. Coaches, who were often also teachers, were some of the most cherished faculty members. They contributed to the school's athletic achievements along with the school's close-knit community. This environment fostered a sense of pride and success where everyone was supported by their peers.

There are several significant parallels between Cardinal Newman in the 1990s and now, particularly about the school's emphasis on community, school spirit, and extracurricular activity participation. The Cardinal Newman experience is still deeply rooted in the customs that defined the school in the early 90s, including school dances, homecoming celebrations, and athletic events. Today's students still benefit from the school's commitment to academic success and overall development, which places a high value on extracurricular activities. The school's identity has also been shaped by its growth in terms of student enrollment and campus, but the principles established in the 1990s are still very much in place.

The Cardinal Newman community has also had to endure some challenges that have ultimately shaped the school into what it is today. After the merging of Ursuline and Cardinal Newman in 2011, Newman has faced multiple setbacks. In 2017, the Tubbs fire destroyed and severely damaged much of the campus. This ignited a rebuilding stage for Cardinal Newman. Since then, the school has built multiple new buildings that foster the learning of the students in attendance. Then, in 2020, COVID-19 hit, forcing students to stay quarantined in their homes. Online school was tough for many students, taking out the social aspect of school. Even though Cardinal Newman has faced some daunting challenges, the community has continued to grow and become stronger together.

As Cardinal Newman celebrated its 60th anniversary, it is clear that the school has undergone significant change since the early 1990s. However, the core values that defined Cardinal Newman in the early 1990s remain significant to this day. As it did for its graduates, the school's commitment to academic success, personal development, and student well-being continues to have an impact on the lives of its students. With all of this in mind, we can

appreciate Cardinal Newman as a place where students build lasting relationships, face obstacles head-on, and grow into confident, compassionate people by thinking back on the school's past.