

# Church Family History

By Burnie Church

Also Look Up Chuch Under Description Below

Jerry Kirrene  
Archivist, Christian Brothers High School

You have asked me, on several occasions, to send you information regarding the history of the Church family and our association with CBHS. You have also asked me to write my own personal history for your archives. As you know, I have no problem speaking of or for my family but have been very reluctant to pass on my personal history. However, at your continued insistence, I have reluctantly included information regarding my high school life at CB, career and adult life as you requested. I feel that it is not necessary and/or important to include my personal history in any article you may write regarding my family and CBHS. If you feel the need to do so, please include this opening paragraph that I have written to you. Thanks for your consideration of this request, but more importantly, "Thank You" for your interest to include the Church family in the Archives of Christian Brothers High School.

#### James and Mary Church

Jim Church was a widower with three young children and a farmer in New Plymouth, Idaho when he met Mary Driscoll. Mary was the secretary to the Bishop of Idaho. In 1940 they were married by the Bishop in Boise Idaho and moved their newly combined family to Sacramento. They purchased a home at the corner of Alhambra and V Street. It was a two bedroom one bath house. That location now sits directly under Highway 50 and where the Capital City Freeway becomes Highway 99. In 1955 they were uprooted, because of the new freeway construction, and relocated to a home a couple of blocks away on Serra Way. That short street is between Alhambra Blvd. & 34th St. and between S & T St. Our mother, age 102, still lives in that home today in the year 2020. When they moved to Sacramento they became members of Immaculate Conception Church and enrolled their children in the parish grammar school. Mary would give birth to 11 children and raise all 14 children as her own, spoiling all of them. All 14 children would graduate from Immaculate Conception Catholic Grammar School in Oak Park. Both of our parents volunteered and gave significant time to various church, schools and community programs over the years. Some of these, but certainly not all, were such thing as: Boy Scouts, Altar Society, founded the Food Bank with Fr. Dan Madigan (now The Sacramento Food Bank), Friday Night Bingo, The La Salle Club, Sunday Breakfast for the Homeless, Mother's Club, Patron's Club, Parish Festival etc., etc., etc. The names of the children who all graduated from I.C., as we called it, were: Jim, Cathy, Bette, Jack, Mike, Bernie, Fran, Peggy, Kevin, Kenny, Monica, Terry, Tim and Maureen. The boys seemed to enjoy reminding their sisters of the final score, boys 8 girls 6. Jim and Mary Church had children enrolled in Catholic High Schools from Christian Brothers High School in 1946 until 1979 at Bishop Monogue High School, which eventually merged into CBHS.

Here are the years and the dates that the children graduated from high school:

Msgr. James Church	1950	Christian Brothers H.S. (21st & Broadway)
Catherine Church	1952	St. Francis H.S. (28th & K )
Bette Church	1953	St Teresa's Academy (Boise, ID)
Jack Church	1958	Bishop Armstrong
Mike Church	1960	Bishop Armstrong

Bernie Church	1962	Bishop Armstrong
Fran Church	1962	Bishop Armstrong
Peggy Church	1964	Bishop Armstrong
Kevin Church	1966	Bishop Armstrong
Ken Church	1968	Bishop Armstrong
Monica Church	1970	Bishop Monogue (21st & Broadway)
Terry Church	1971	Christian Brothers
Tim Church	1975	Christian Brothers
Maureen Church	1979	Bishop Monogue (21st & Broadway)

#### Bernie Church

Born April 2, 1944

At Mercy General Hospital where all the last 11 children were born.

1950 - 1958

Attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Grammar School

1956 - 1958 (7th & 8th grade) Played on the I.C. flag football and basketball teams

1952 - 1956 Played in the Oak Park - Elmhurst Little League

1956 - 1958 Played in the Oak Park - Elmhurst Pony League

1958 - 1960

Attended Christian Brothers High School (21st & Broadway)

CBHS at the time only had Freshman and Sophomore classes.

The Juniors and Seniors attended Bishop Armstrong High School.

1958 - 1959 Participated in Sophomore Basketball and Freshman Baseball

1959 - 1960 Participated in Sophomore Football, Basketball & Baseball

1959 - 1960 Student Body President

1959 - at age 15 went to work as a "bag boy" for Lucky stores and eventually became a clerk. Stayed in the grocery business part-time thru high school and college until I began my teaching career in 1968.

1960- 1962

Attended Bishop Armstrong High School (Junior & Senior years)

Played on the both the Varsity Basketball & Baseball teams both years.

Also played on the Southside Legion Baseball teams those two years.

1961 - 1962 Senior Class President

1962 - 1965

Attended Sacramento City College

1962 -1963 Coached the C.B. Boarding Departments first ever Basketball team which participated in the local CYO League.

1964 Lettered in Baseball at S.C.C.

1965 Graduated from S.C.C. with an AA degree

1965 - 1968

Attended California State University - Sacramento

1966 & 1967 Lettered in Baseball both seasons

1967 Graduated with a B.A. (Major:Physical Education, Minor:Sociology)

1967 -1968 Attended graduate school at CSUS and Earned a Teaching Credential.

In the Spring of '68 I Student Taught at McClatchy High School in the Subjects of Sociology and Physical Education. I also assisted with the Varsity Baseball Team.

1968 - Present

1968 - 2004 Taught and Coached at C.K.McClatchy High School

1968 - 1970 Assistant Varsity Football Coach

1968 - 1973 Managed Baseball Teams in the Night League and Winter League

1971 - 1972 Sophomore Basketball coach, Ass't Soph Football Coach

1972 - 1976 Varsity Baseball Coach, Ass't Soph Football Coach

1974 - On Dec.21, 1974 I married Jody Anchordoguy. My mother married a widower and I married a widow. Jody was only 23 years old when she lost her husband in a plane accident. Her children were 3 and 6 months old at that time. A friend introduced us and I took her as my date to a fund raiser for the school baseball program. Her daughter Jill was now 8 and her son Matt was now 5. Five days after our first date we decided to get married and nine weeks later we did get married. Seems like yesterday, but it's been 45 years. All the credit goes to her. Thanks to our two children we now have grandchildren and step grandchildren.

1977 - 1978 Varsity Baseball Coach and Varsity Soccer Coach

1978 - Masters Degree in Secondary Education from the University of San Francisco

1979 - 1988 Varsity Baseball Coach (1973 - 1988, 16 years as Varsity Baseball Coach)

1988 - Retired from Coaching, but still taught P.E. full time and was Dep't Chairperson

1988 - 1999 Parking Manager for ARCO Arena

2000 - Inducted into Sacramento Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame

2004 - Retired from teaching after 36 years at McClatchy High School

2007 - 2016 President of The LaSalle Club

2012 - McClatchy Varsity Baseball Field dedicated and named Bernie Church Field

2014 - Inducted into McClatchy High School Athletic Hall of Fame

2017 - Inducted into Sacramento Area Baseball Hall of Fame

2020 - Still enjoying retirement. Staying busy with family, golf, poker, softball and volunteering to different causes including The LaSalle Club.