

## House Banner/Shield Symbology



The horse on the House Allnoch shield recalls the character of Carl “Bucky” Allnoch whose horse was famous among students. Father Allnoch would ride his horse on-campus even coaching the football team from horseback. One memorable story has him getting the football team to clear the ground, where Hotze field is located today, of rocks all while directing the efforts from the saddle. It seems his efforts to whip the team into shape worked; he is one of the winningest football coaches in STH history including back-to-back-to-back state championships.



Father Carl Louis Belisch is the only non-principal among the Basilian House namesakes but he is no less deserving of a House dedicated to his name. He taught at STH for more than 45 years including 5000 students! The book on the shield represents his dedication to teaching English and Latin, his encyclopedic memory of student names and faces as well as his penchant for quoting Shakespeare at length.



Father Donald Theodore Cooper was principal of STH during a turbulent yet crucial time in American history, 1968-1976. The first fruits of the heroic leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, including MLK, Jr. who was killed the same year Cooper became the school's leader, were beginning to show forth. Father Cooper encouraged the integration of STH, ensuring that the sixteen black students at STH during the time were welcome with the same love and care as every other young man who passed through the halls of STH. These students said they loved St.

Thomas because Father Cooper was always respectful, understanding, and considerate of them. One of them wrote a reflection about Father Cooper upon his death which was published in the newspaper. He made it safe for them at STH and they truly felt like Eagles. The scales of justice on the shield is a reminder of Father Cooper's commitment to justice and the understanding of where the Church and by extension, the school, stood in regards to human dignity.



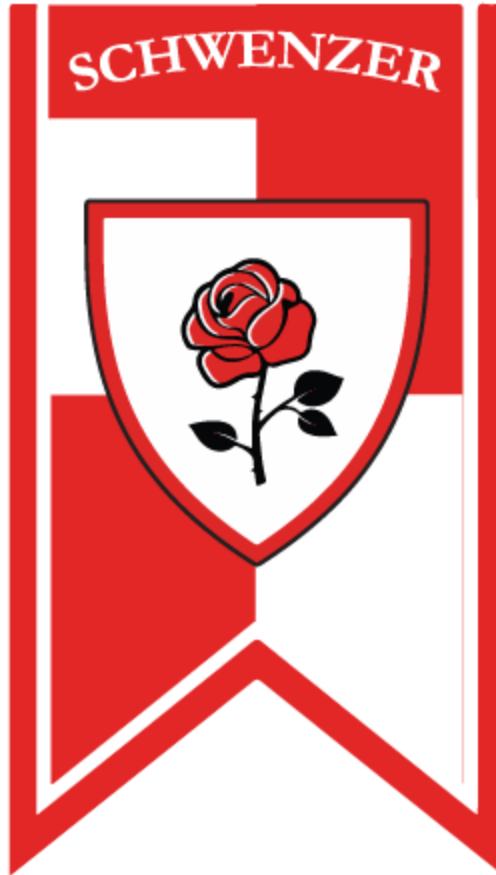
Father Ernest Paul Magee was a teacher, coach, and principal of STH in nearly 30 years of service to the school. But he was most known for putting the “D” in Discipline in the motto of the school. There are countless Father Magee stories in which his strict but faith approaches to student conduct are famous. One of most well-known involves how he dealt with a group of senior football players running a junior’s underpants up the flagpole; suffice it to say, he got those seniors up the flagpole in a hurry to retrieve the stolen article of clothing. Yet, a flagpole did not fit quite as well as on the shield as the dice which recall the time Father Magee caught a group of students gambling and throwing dice on campus. He inquired to the students what they thought their punishment would be and when they could not think of something, Father Magee made the punishment fit the crime; he threw the dice to determine how many days of detention they would get. He threw a seven.



Father Thomas Patrick (TP) O'Rourke was a minor celebrity in his day, with a local radio show and blood relations to Ronald Reagan. But his lasting legacy for STH was his foresight which secured the future of the school; he was responsible for the acquisition of the land at the corner of Shepherd and Memorial, the eventual address of where the school sits today of 4500 Memorial and where the school would relocate from downtown in 1940. The famous front entrance of the school which still welcomes all current and future Eagles to their home is a monument to the imagination and forward-thinking of Father O'Rourke.



The story of Father Nicholas Ernest Roche is about a young boy who belonged to a poor but proud Irish immigrant family of farmers who then became a missionary and trailblazer for the faith and church he loved, accepting an invitation from Bishop Gallagher of Galveston to go to Houston to found an all-boys Catholic school. Like the cornerstone on the shield, Father Roche is the cornerstone upon which the legacy and tradition of STH is built.



The rose, like anything worthwhile, needs to be carefully tended to and cultivated. Likewise, Father Schwenzer is a marked example of a great steward of the school, guiding, growing, and safeguarding it through trial and opportunity. He commissioned a major campus rebuilding project, grew the student-body, and made prudent financial decisions that secured the future of the school. He also was famous for planting and caring for the rose garden at the school, a literal manifestation of his legacy at STH.



Father James Francis Wilson is perhaps the most iconic and influential figure in STH history. He served the school for more than 50 years as a teacher, principal, and legendary baseball coach. For all of his incredible success on the baseball diamond, it is not the origin behind the handshakes on the shield, rather is it a testimony to the far-ranging impact Father Wilson had at STH. The “million-dollar handshake” as it is called involved an anonymous alumnus donor who gave a million dollars to STH in honor of Father Wilson. When asked if he gave it because of Father Wilson’s influence on him through baseball or Spanish class, he responded in the negative. Why then did this man give one million dollars to STH? The donor responded that Father Wilson would greet him each day at the door, shake his hand, look him in the eye, and ask him sincerely how he was doing. He credited Father Wilson’s kindness and authentic interest in him as the reasons for his success.